Family's dream wish comes trueDisney World trip provides lasting memories



By Dave Johnson

InPort Staff/WAINFLEET

Supplement to *The Tribune* in Port Colborne

Rob and Cheryl Robinson's children's prayers were answered when the family received a call from the Dreams to Memories Foundation saying their trip to Florida was a go.

Dreams to Memories is a foundation that gives a wish to terminally ill parents with children under 15-years-old, giving them an opportunity to have a family last wish experience.

About a year ago Cheryl Robinson was diagnosed with a rare form of terminal cancer.

"About a month ago my sister Frances said she wanted to do something for us. Maybe send us to Disney World," said Rob.

His sister searched the Internet and found a site that led her to Dreams to Memories, which is based in Fort Erie. She contacted the foundation and another sister sent information off about Cheryl and her cancer.

Information had to come from Cheryl's doctor and be sent to Dreams to Memories and Rob said the process usually takes some time.

"About two weeks ago my son Devon said to my wife that he wanted to make a wish," said Rob, as tears welled up in his eyes.

"My son said he wanted a Genie to make a wish on, for a trip to Florida. I told him to wish on a Genie, but to pray to God, He said 'But, mom, God takes too long'" said Cheryl.

She said Devon's prayers were answered within two weeks when Dreams for Memories contacted the family - which runs a gas station/convenience store and restaurant in Wainfleet - and set up an appointment.

Easter Monday the family was interviewed and their trip to Disney World was set.

"Our dream came true," said Rob. Dreams to Memories paid for airfare, passes to Disney World, rental car, accommodations and out of country insurance for Rob, Cheryl and their three children, Devon, Jenaice and Brainna.

The only thing Dreams to Memories didn't cover was daily expenses and that's where another prayer was answered.

"We had someone come through the gas station and pay \$34 US and that was a start," said Rob, who figured expenses to be about \$100 US a day.

A Wainfleet businessman, who Rob did not want to name, came forward and told the family that if Dreams for Memories hadn't set up the trip, he and his wife were going to.

"He asked us about spending money and gave us some American money," said Rob.

The couple said the businessman contacted others in Wainfleet and soon they had enough to cover expenses and bring Rob's sister from Nova Scotia along for the trip to help out Cheryl.

"We realized that prayer was very powerful," said Rob, adding the Wainfleet Community pulled together to help them out.

Rob's one sister was even able to gather enough volunteers to cover shifts at the gas station/convenience store and restaurant while the family is in Florida. The family left this past Saturday.

"We'd really like to thank those people and everyone who has helped us, especially Dreams to Memories," said Rob.

"This is very overwhelming," said Cheryl.

She said Disney World was chosen as the location for the trip because the family will be able to take a lot of photos and it will leave them all with a lot of memories.