

# Telethon: Early indicators suggested big year

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"We knew the Baynes Sound Lions were still coming. We knew the raffle proceeds, the silent auction, everything else still to come. I guess it was around then that we thought we might hit \$100,000. But none of us had any idea that we would get as high as we did."

Long-time co-host Kenny Shaw was nearly at a loss for words.

"I'm breathless - I don't know what to say," he said. "This is such a giving community. I don't know what it is, but there's a magic here in the Comox Valley, and there it is, right on the board," he said, pointing to the tally board. "That's going to go a long way toward the programs for the Child Development Centre. It just gives you a warm, fuzzy feeling."

His on-stage partner, Gayle Bates,

echoed his sentiments.

"Isn't it incredible? Every year I hold my breath, because I think there's so much going on. But every year, the great people of the Comox Valley come through. Here we are, it's been a hard year for econom-

ics, Christmas is coming... but people are so giving. This is such a good heart story. We really are community minded."

The Telethon money is used for general costs. Any excess money this year will go towards building an addition to the

centre, specifically for The Autism Program (TAP).

"We will be able to cover what we budgeted in terms of our operating costs and everything over and above that will start to build the new (autism) building," said Schroeder.