

## Watson and Desci win 29th Darien Road Race

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Jeff Watson of Stamford and Shana Decsi of Darien were **the** men's and women's overall winners in **the** 29th annual Darien Road Race on Sunday, Sept. 21, which featured about 350 runners and hundreds of spectators. **The** race routes, which started and finished at Pear Tree Point Beach, stretched along scenic Darien waterfront roads, included a 10-kilometer (6.2 miles) race and 1.5 mile fun run called **the** Loop.

Sixteen-year-old Tommy Ross was **the** top 10K finisher among Darien residents. He crossed **the** finish line in 35:59, behind overall winner Watson, 27, who finished in 35:38. Darienite Jeff Zarrilli, 27, finished third at 36:26.

Darienite Desci, 31, led **the** women, beating fellow Darienite Heidi Mitchell, 42, by one second. Desci finished in 42:41, Mitchell in 42:42. Tina Frey of New York City finished third among women at 42:51.

Peter Maturo, 15, of Darien finished first in **the** 1.5 mile fun run at 9:58. He was followed by Mike Gosset, 48, of Norwalk at 9:58, and Alex Ostberg, 11, of Darien at 10:02.

**The** Darien Road Race raised more than \$30,000 this year to benefit **the** Bennett Cancer Center at Stamford Hospital, **the** Whittingham Cancer Center at Norwalk Hospital, and **the** Community Fund of Darien.

"We were delighted with this year's turnout of runners and supporters from all over Fairfield County and even out of state," said Mary Green, founder of **the** race that got its start in 1979 with a mission to help fight cancer. "This is a **community** event that attracts people and businesses who want to give something back to Darien and its surrounding towns. After this year's success, we are looking forward to celebrating **the** 30th anniversary of **the** race in 2009."

**The** 2008 Darien Road Race was made possible by **the** financial contributions of Wheeler Real Estate, as well as other sponsors including Tibbetts, Keating and Butler Attorneys-at-Law, Atria Darien, Merrill Lynch, David Lerner and Associates, BMW of Darien, Fitness Together, David Osherow, DDS, Heights Pizza, and **The** Moore Center.

Other key supporters of **the** race include **The** Darien Times, **the** official media sponsor, **the** Darien Boat Club, which provided **the** tent for **the** awards ceremonies, and **the** Darien Lions Club, which provided refreshments and food.

This year **the** race featured a new finish line under **the** big tent. Activity booths were designed to entertain kids of all ages. Wheels of fortune, face painting by clowns, bean bag toss and other games and prizes provided a great time for families before, during and after **the** race.

Following **the** race, race director Hank Morgan presented trophies and medals to **the** runners with **the** fastest finish times overall and in age categories. Kevin Fitzpatrick of Darien was awarded **The** Jim Fixx Award as **the** runner who collected **the** most in contributions for recipient organizations. Atria Darien, **the** senior independent and assisted living residence, presented awards to **the** oldest and youngest runners. This year **the** Atria Awards went to

John Dugdale, 72, of Ridgefield, and Alex Pardo, 4, of Darien. **The** Grand Prize, awarded to **the** individual top **fund**-raiser, went to Andrew Morgan, 11, of Darien, who won a 24-speed BMW bicycle valued at \$1,000 and donated by BMW of Darien.

For information on how to become a race sponsor or volunteer for **the** September 2009 Darien Road Race, contact Lisa Stout at 655-8775 or [lisa@communityfunddarien.org](mailto:lisa@communityfunddarien.org).