

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Event organizer:

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Gun-owning pastor organizes fundraiser to research a cure for rare illness

NIAGARA – 24 May 2022 – OPEN to ALL on July 9 the 5th Annual Shoot for Cystinosis research happens at Decew Gun Club, Cataract Rd, Fonthill. (www.decewgunclub.com)

There will be Raffles – prizes include a \$1,400 Traeger Pellet Grill and Smoker.

Draws for five firearms (draw winners must have a valid PAL)

There'll also be at least one 50/50 draw.

“As well as pastoring a church, I’m a member of the Decew Gun Club, which I guess makes me a gun-owning pastor” said John Rakich. “Club members want to help. And peaceful gun owners enjoy introducing new shooters to the sport.”

- Why a shooting day to fundraise?

More Canadians shoot than play hockey. It’s one of a few sports in which everyone can compete together – children, physically challenged, women, and men. Charities hold all kinds of events. Why not a shooting day?

- How much does it cost to attend?

FREE to attend. Spectators welcome. Come wander around and watch. Buy lunch if you wish... a T-shirt if you like... participate in the raffles... there is no cost to get in.

- How much does it cost to shoot?

Shoot for Cystinosis is \$25 to shoot a .22 long rifle at 25 yards.

To make it fair , everyone shoots at a blank page – a bingo card turned facing away from the shooter. That’s right – a first-time shooter can win.
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The \$25 includes lunch (burger or hot dog, drink, and a bag of chips) and a raffle ticket for prizes being drawn all day. It’s a great return for your \$25; maybe **the most economical fun you’ll have anywhere.**

That’s right – only 25 bucks for you to...

- 1. Shoot a .22 long rifle safely and legally.**
- 2. Punch holes in paper targets from 25 yards away.**
- 3. Shoot for a prize.**
- 4. Maybe win a raffle prize.**

5. **Feel good that by sending a box of bullets downrange, you've helped pay for research towards curing a cruel disease everybody wishes nobody will ever have.**

- **Who's hosting the Shoot for Cystinosis?**

Sponsoring the event are the Destination Church, Decew Gun Club, and Niagara Peninsula Pistol Club. Members loan their guns for the day and donate ammunition.

ALL workers are volunteers – car parkers, ticket takers, organizers, administrators, range safety officers (one for every shooter), cooks, servers, setter uppers and tearer downers. NOBODY gets paid...

100% of the money raised goes to the Cystinosis Research Foundation

[\(https://www.cystinosisresearch.org/\)](https://www.cystinosisresearch.org/)

In April 2019 FDA approved clinical trials of stem cell and gene therapy -- Research has passed the fantasy stage and is now reality, thanks to Dr Stephanie Cherqui.

[\(https://medschool.ucsd.edu/som/pediatrics/research/labs/cherqui/Pages/default.aspx\)](https://medschool.ucsd.edu/som/pediatrics/research/labs/cherqui/Pages/default.aspx).

- **How much has this event raised?**

2016: \$6,000+ 2017: \$8,000+ 2018: \$11,000+ 2019: \$16,000+

- **Why raise money for researching a rare disease?**

a) Researching complicated diseases like Cystinosis often leads to advancements in other, more common diseases.

b) Have you seen the images of cystinosis patients? Be grateful you're not suffering the way they are. Every day these young people prove their toughness.

Please use your influence to persuade your audience to attend.

What: Shoot for Cystinosis

When: 9 July 2022 10am - 4pm

Where: 3042 Cataract Road Fonthill, Ontario L0S 1E6

Why: Raise money for cystinosis research

How: Shoot guns and punch holes in paper

Who: 2,000 children worldwide living with cystinosis

Can we count on you to contact sources for interviews and grant earned media the week prior?

Can you attend and cover the event?

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