



22nd HOPE tournament serves up \$730,000

An estimated 25,000 people hit the beach yesterday at Mooney's Bay for the 22nd annual HOPE Beachfest, bumping, setting and spiking their way to raising \$730,000 for charity.

The beach volleyball tournament is the biggest in the world, and a popular summer tradition in Ottawa.

An estimated 10,000 people played in the event, with thousands more people watching the action or volunteering.

In the late afternoon a brief rain shower cooled off the players, who had been working up a sweat all day under a hot sun.

Entertainment was provided by bands including Default and High

Holy Days and many relaxed between games in the beer garden.

All skill levels and abilities are welcome at the event, with youth, recreational, competitive, corporate and wheelchair divisions.

Several charities benefit from the event including the Ottawa Humane Society, Parkinson Society Canada, Citizen Advocacy, Ontario Lupus Association and the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

In excess of \$4 million has been raised by HOPE in the past 22 years, supporting more than 100 charities. In two weeks HOPE is taking Beachfest on the road to Halifax for the first time.