

Father pays \$50,000 for bear in memory of dead daughter

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WHISTLER — A Vancouver dad paid \$50,000 this week for a Whistler spirit bear sculpture named Jeanie, in memory of his daughter.

It was one of several bears the unidentified buyer bought during a charity auction of 30 bear sculptures in Vancouver.

When Jeanie, the Whistler bear, came up for auction the man shared a gut-wrenching story.

He said he was buying the bear in memory of his 29-year-old daughter who had died recently after a battle with an eating disorder.

"His daughter's name was Jeanie and he [and his wife] had come to the auction intent on buying a number of bears . . . and he asked if [the spirit bear] Jeanie would be put up [for auction] and he said he would come in with a \$50,000 bid right off the top," said auction producer Stephen Miller.

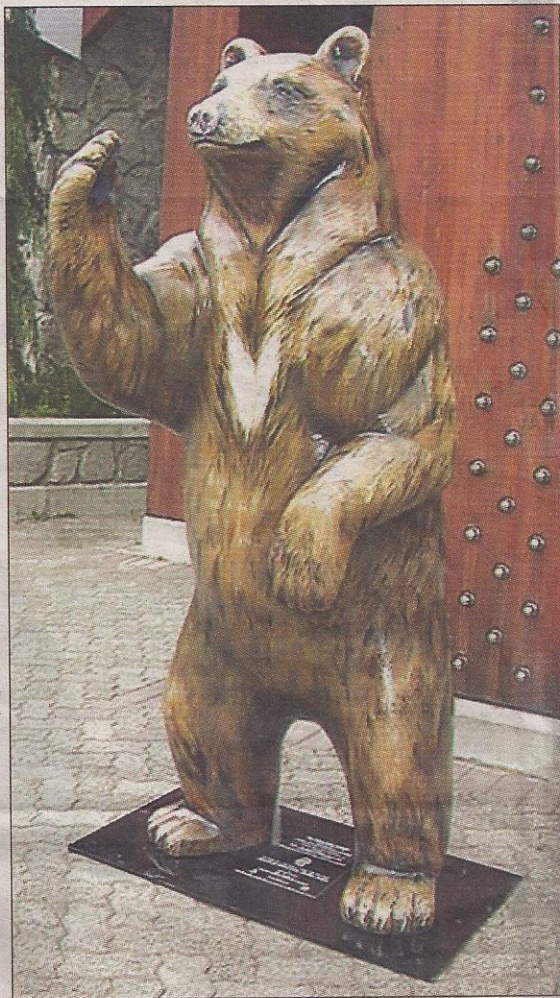
"His motivation was to do something in honour of his daughter, but more than that he wanted to provide funds to children with disabilities who are in need all over the province, and he is a true philanthropist."

The daughter had battled back from her eating disorder only to succumb to heart problems a month ago.

The auction of the 30 bears raised close to \$600,000, which will go to the B.C. Lions Society's Easter Seal Camps and House and the Canucks for Kids Fund.

More bears will be auctioned off in Terrace, Prince George and Surrey. They can also be bought online at www.GoBid.ca.

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Jeanie the bear sculpture was bought by a father for \$50,000 in memory of his deceased daughter, Jeanie.