

**Dreams to Memories;
Adults have fun too!**



NIAGARA FALLS - The Bolger family got to see Mickey --and it sounds like the adults had as much fun as the youngsters.

James Bolger's wife Karen has a terminal form of cancer, though she refuses to see it that way.

The local family was sponsored by Dreams to Memories for an all-expense paid trip to Florida. The organization, based in Fort Erie, is the non-profit brainchild of Bob and Ann Richardson. They wanted to give adults with a terminal illness a chance to create lifelong memories for their families.

The Bolgers are examples of the success of this endeavour.

"We didn't realize how much we needed it. I think it made the world of difference. I'm really much more motivated now," says James.

Karen gave high marks to the total organization of the trip, from being greeted at the American airport and escorted to their hotel, to all of the attention from staff who ensured wheelchair access and gave the Bolger family star treatment at the different Disney World parks.

"The kids had smiles the whole time," James recalled, going through a stack of pictures from MGM Studios, Magic Kingdom and Animal Kingdom.

Fifteen-year-old Amanda and 11-year-old James had fun, but Karen insisted she had as much fun doing kid stuff with them.

Karen says the trip has made her feel healthier, particularly long soaks in the hot tub at the hotel where they were staying.

We met people from all over the world - in the hot tub and pool," she laughed.

She also found Florida was a perfect temperature and did not get sunburned underneath an enormous beach umbrella attached to her wheelchair.

At MGM studios, she says several Disney characters were driving around and sometimes when her umbrella was closed a bit with her still underneath, children of different nationalities would poke their noses under to have a peak at who was hiding there.

The family also took turns driving a hovercraft and Karen says it was equally fun crashing it.

The couple are extremely grateful to Dreams to Memories and James is working on creating a website for the organization at www.niagara.ca.org. He hopes people will get access to the site for information and make donations so other families can get the kind of once-in-a-lifetime experience they did.