

# Fight for the Cure – White Collar Boxing

March 2011

On New Year's Eve this year we sat with friends playing a little question and answer game about personal ambitions and things. One of the questions was, what would be your dream job? My answer was to be a professional hockey player. I started playing hockey when I was thirty five – I never even had a chance. One week later, I was recruited to be a participant in a charity fundraising event for cancer research called "Fight for the Cure.", who are hosting a night of amateur boxing, with a little twist – they will also feature four rounds of business men called the "White Collar Events". Here is the deal. If you join the program, they will teach you how to box, and you will have the opportunity to fight in a grand spectacular event in front of 750 people, with great fanfare – just like a professional fight. People will be paying over \$300 for ring side seats.

So is this a dream opportunity or, is this a nightmare?

Before you get the idea that I have any great physical qualities that qualify me for this amazing opportunity, think again. The organization (Fight for the Cure) was looking desperately for a fifty something year old business man that had the approximate dimensions of one of its participants who had been signed up since November – (Kevin Dee CEO of Eagle) – to set up a fair match. If you can pass a medical, commit to the training – you are in.

So here is my challenge. On January 13<sup>th</sup>, I had seventy three days to get in "boxing form", for my pretend professional fighter career, that will last for all of eight minutes – three rounds of two minutes, with two one minute breaks, if no one gets knocked out! Why would I want to do this? I don't enjoy being on stage, let alone getting hit in the head.

I won't do it for myself, I will do it for other people. I will do it for my father (Tony Senior) who died of cancer in 2003...and many other relatives and friends of mine that should still be here, had it not been for cancer. I will fight for the cure so less will die in the future of this nasty disease.

And, I will get some inspiration from my grandfather, Albert Chappy Carmanico a.k.a. "**Rough House Chappy**", who was a professional wrestler back in the 1950's.

## Rough House is back in the ring



Chappy was born in New Jersey about a hundred years ago. After he moved to Ottawa, he and his friend formed the Preston Athletic Club. Their goal was to train young boys to box and wrestle. By 1940 the war was intensifying and Chappy became a Canadian citizen in order to join the army. With his past experience as a boxer, wrestler and his knowledge of ju-jitsu, Chappy was sent to assist in the training of new recruits. After the war he became a professional wrestler, and travelled North America till he was in his late forties. My brothers and I were always fascinated with those wrestling stories when we were growing up.

So, if I survive the boxing boot camp (very intense!), Anthony Albert Carmanico a.k.a. "**Tony Rough House Carmanico**" will make his debut on Saturday, March 26, 2011 at the Hampton Inn Conference Center, and; Fight for the Cure, my old man/Tony Senior, and my grandfather, the original Rough House Chappy.

PS. I won't be boxing in a shirt and tie.

Wish me luck

Tony Carmanico

President

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