



## AMHA aids HHAUG

The Acton Minor Hockey Association recently presented a cheque for \$30,000 to the Halton Hills Arena User's Group (HHAUG). Participating in the presentation were Bill Curry (AMHA president), Carolyn Thompson (AMHA treasurer), Angie Palmer (AMHA secretary), Brenda Geim (AMHA vice-president of rep hockey), Tammy Somerville (AMHA director) and Steve Highfield (Co-Chair Halton Hills Arena Users Group).

*Photo by Ray Lavender*



**TEAM OF THE WEEK:** Georgetown's under-14 boys' Impact captured top spot at a recent Ontario Volleyball Association tournament in Mississauga, going undefeated through pool play and playoffs. The Impact defeated Stratford and Waterloo in the preliminary round, then beat London's Forest City in the semifinals and a much-taller Richmond Hill squad 25-17, 25-13 for the championship. Team members (front, from left) are: Steven Abrams, Chris Bowen, Mitchell Hood. Middle row: Coach Aly Young, Andrew Kroeger, Ben Watson. Back row: Trevour Wyeld, Jake Albert, Ben Abram, Nathan Rothery, Josh Menheere, Nic Basilio, coaches George Albert, Dave Hood. Absent: Ryan Gibson.

*Submitted photo*

## Local centre testing for concussions

By EAMONN MAHER  
Staff Writer

As a former first-round draft pick of the Edmonton Oilers, whose promising National Hockey League career was cut short by injuries, the last thing local native Adam Bennett needed was to have one of his daughters experience what he did.

In fact, the concussion Kaitlyn sustained as a 13-year-old playing hockey was even worse than anything her dad suffered through.

Now 15, she will likely never play the sport again and continues to suffer symptoms from the back-to-back blows to the head.

After being accepted into Georgetown District High School's International Baccalaureate program for Grade 9, Kaitlyn had to withdraw from studies there and is now only able for an hour in the classroom each day, with the rest of her time spent in the library.

She has been receiving treatment at InFocus Rehabilitation Centre on Guelph St. in Georgetown, which recently became a satellite clinic of Shift Concussion, a Guelph-based organization that was the only Canadian provider to be designated as an ImPACT Centre of Excellence.

ImPACT has developed a globally recognized state-of-the-art concussion management model that involves conducting neurocognitive baseline tests before the athlete takes to the playing field, providing valuable information for treatment and return-to-play decisions should a concussion occur.

"We now have hard data and more information to diagnose and treat the concussion, rather than going off of, 'How do you feel?' or symptoms that may or may not be there," said Ben-



Town of Halton Hills Councillor Bryan Lewis congratulates Georgetown's InFocus Rehabilitation Centre kinesiologist Kirstin Schenk (left) along with owner and physiotherapist Jenni Veneruz for recently becoming a certified satellite clinic with the Shift Concussion management program.

*Photo by Eamonn Maher*

nett, who said he was diagnosed with a concussion four times during his seven-year professional hockey career.

"As a parent of a daughter with Second Impact Syndrome, we've driven all over the place to take her to specialists and what-not, so it's more convenient to have a clinic in town. There's no excuse not to get the baseline test and the sports associations in town need to adopt this program. Hopefully it'll save some kids the trouble we've gone through with our daughter, because it didn't have to happen. It was mismanaged and could have been prevented."

Bennett pointed out that it's mandatory in a growing number of organizations to get the baseline testing done and InFocus has approached local groups about having their registrants incorporated into the Shift program.

Cost is \$25 per person for the 30-minute test, which Bennett describes as "priceless brain insurance."

InFocus owner Jenni Veneruz said she's treated hundreds of "dizzy" people in this area and beyond. She was impressed with the Shift Concussion model and its affiliation with stopconcussions, an awareness organization founded by former NHLer Keith Primeau.

The ImPACT model was developed 11 years ago in part by Dr. Michael Collins of the University of Pittsburgh, who was asked by the National Football League to help determine safe return to play.

"They're the concussion gurus. They've developed the ImPACT testing and the management protocol and we're just bringing that to Canada," said Veneruz, whose InFocus clinic opened three years ago and offers a variety of services including physiotherapy, massage therapy, vestibular and neurological rehabilitation and dietitian services.

"We've been referred so many concussions from doctors like Katie, who just slip through the cracks. I thought that there had to be a better way to manage these kids and get them back to school. Rather than reinvent the wheel, Shift has already done all the legwork so as a facility we decided to join forces with them. There are so many levels of injury and we have a big resource pool of health professionals who we can refer to."

Veneruz added that the encouraging initial response to the inclusion of the Shift program likely means she'll be soon looking for a larger operating space for the centre.

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