

MAR. 18/15

LOCAL NEWS



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BOWEN, Grace Elaine - On Friday, March 13, 2015 at the age of 9. Survived by her adoring parents Andrea and Greg, her loving sister MacKenzie, her cherished grandparents Joan and Jim Mills, Barb Bowen and Pat and Bj Bowen. Beloved great-granddaughter of Theresa and the late Jack Bowen, Marjorie and Jack Emerson. Dear niece of Jeff Mills (Pam), John Mills (Starr), and Doug Mills (Janette). Visitation will take place on Tuesday, March 17th from 4 pm - 8 pm at **MACCOUBREY FUNERAL HOME**, 30 King St. E., Cobourg, with a Funeral Service on Wednesday, March 18th at 12 pm at Trinity United Church, 15 Chapel St., Cobourg. Private family interment. In memory of Grace please consider donations to the Terry Fox Foundation, SickKids or The Children's Wish Foundation. Condolences received at www.MacCoubrey.com

■ **IN MEMORY:** Community was moved by Grace Bowen's courage

Cancer claims life of popular Grafton girl

GRAFTON - Grafton and the community beyond gathered around Grace Elaine Bowen to show their love and support after the nine-year-old was diagnosed with osteosarcoma.

On Friday she passed away, leaving behind parents Andrea and Greg and her sister MacKenzie.

Grace was an active young lady in Grade 4 at Grafton Public School before cancer struck. She loved dance, figure skating, soccer, swimming and, most of all, playing hockey. She had two seasons under her belt as a right winger for the West Northumberland Wild of the Lower Lakes Female Hockey League.

Her father described her as incredibly athletic, and very passionate about her hockey.

After a power skate in January 2014, she had a sore knee. It took visits to numerous doctors before they confirmed there was a tumour in her right femur, along with a pathological fracture. Young Grace displayed amazing courage through her six-cycle, 18-treatment, 30-week chemotherapy treatments at the end of April and her July surgery to remove the tumour and utilize her ankle to create a new knee in preparation for getting a prosthetic limb.

As awestruck as her family was by her courage, they were also amazed and grateful for the many supporters who found ways both big and small to show they cared.

The last year has brought one show of support after another, as people were moved by Grace's courage. And to help the fam-



PETE FISHER / NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY

Nine-year-old Grace Bowen sang O Canada prior to an Ontario Junior Hockey League game between the Cobourg Cougars and Kingston Voyageurs in February.

ily with the expenses associated with her care, thousands of dollars were raised.

The summer brought an element of fun to these efforts, like the Loonie Carnival at the Grafton

arena, with a silent auction, cotton candy, fun baseball games, dunk tank and wagon rides.

People lined up for hot dogs from the Schneider's Community Cruiser at Fisher's Foodland, and

placed bids in the silent auction, with all proceeds for the Bowen family.

The summer-school kids at Burnham Public School (where Grace's mother taught) desig-

nated all the proceeds from their big lemonade-stand project for the family.

Noting her love of hockey, some special heroes wanted to say hello. Justin Williams of the Los Angeles Kings paid a special visit to Grace when he brought the Stanley Cup to Cobourg, and Hayley Wickheiser invited Grace along when she was inducted into Canada's Walk of Fame.

Just last month, the Cougars welcomed her with their Pink in the Rink game. Grace was invited to sing the national anthem before the game.

She was also excited to meet up again with Williams, when he was in Toronto with the Kings for a match with the Maple Leafs. She was invited to the dressing room to take part in their off-ice warm-ups.

Her friends back at Grafton Public School honoured her last month as well, when they accepted a \$250 award from the Willow Beach Field Naturalists to establish Grace's Garden, dedicated to Grace Bowen for friendship, courage and strength.

Grace is the granddaughter of Joan and Jim Mills, Barb Bowen, and Pat and Bj Bowen; the great-granddaughter of Theresa Bowen and Marjorie and Jack Emerson; and the niece of Jeff Mills (Pam), John Mills (Starr) and Doug Mills (Janette).

Her funeral service begins at Wednesday at noon at Trinity United Church in Cobourg. In-memoriam donations can be made to the Terry Fox Foundation, Children's Wish Foundation or Hospital for Sick Children.

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