



Ulrike (Rikky) Thiel

CF victims face difficult life, student finds

by Diana Waltmann

After spending a full week simulating day to day life of a cystic fibrosis victim, 17-year-old AHS student Ulrike Thiel is glad it's over.

"I hated doing it," she said of the daily routine involving exercises and a specialized diet. "I looked forward to the end of it."

The week was part of a combined school and community project, in which Thiel got involved after she was approached by teacher Bill Taylor and the Georgetown Kinsmen.

Bob Malcolmson of the Kinsmen said they were looking for a new way to bring the realities of CF to the attention of the general public and teenagers specifically, especially at the club-sponsored Bump-for-Life fund raising dance later this month.

Having experienced CF as closely as possible without actually contracting the killer disease, Thiel could tell others what it is really like.

She presented her project at a school assembly last Wednesday. While she spoke on the experiences, her brother Andreas showed slides he

took of her going through the routine at home.

The first part of the study had Thiel visiting Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto back in March, for a tour of the CF wing, built by the Kinsmen Club, and a first-hand look at treatments and therapy with doctors specializing in the disease.

CF, she learned, is the high content of sodium chloride (salt) in the body's respiratory system. Victims suffer from thick saliva and mucus in the lungs, making them less flexible.

And since victims don't take nutrients from food, they also suffer from a digestive problem. They can experience bowel problems, bloated stomachs and gas. There is no cure.

The disease is terminal, a case sadly brought to point for Thiel last month when she returned to Sick Children's.

"I talked to a 13-year-old girl who has CF but she's not as sick as some others," said Thiel.

"She thrives on keeping active by swimming and running. It keeps her healthier and that's really important to her."

"She is thinking beyond the age of 20 (most victims don't live beyond 20 to 30 years old), even though her sister died of CF the week before I spoke with her."

Her sister was 17-years-old.

Despite the sadness Thiel said she felt much better after talking to the girl, who was a patient at Sick Children's with a bad cold.

"She is a bright, little girl and a real fighter. She won't give up. The whole family was helpful," Thiel added.

She said she found simulating CF hard to adjust to, especially the dependency on other people.

"But I met someone with CF," Thiel added, "who is able to do everything himself, so I thought if this guy could do it, so could I."

During the seven days, Thiel had to cut down on her activities and at mealtime eat 30 pieces of carrot, celery or raisins instead of the required 30 pills. CF victims must eat fatty foods at least six times a day. Thiel substituted water and juices for the extra meals.

She borrowed a portable compressor which, with steam, clears the bronchial tubes and lungs, although she didn't use the steam.

"I had to get up a half-hour earlier every day, go through the routine, go to school, come home and do the same thing all over again."

"It got to a point where instead of taking all those pills, you just don't feel like eating."

"But I did get the feel of what CF victims go through, although I didn't have the discomfort and pain and I didn't have to be careful about such things as catching a cold."

Thiel said she was left "aware" after the week was over. She still has to make a presentation on the subject next semester for her walkabout course. And the Kinsmen have mentioned a magazine article she might write. But Thiel said, besides working on fund-raising projects there's not much else she can do to help CF victims.

"I do realize now," she said "we need to raise a lot of money for research. Cystic fibrosis is not just a disease—it's people."

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Town asks restoration committee

Is town hall still worth saving?

The Acton town hall restoration committee must tell the municipality if they think the building is still worth saving in light of possibly lower than expected provincial grants and escalated restoration costs.

Halton Hills recreation director Tom Shepard will meet with the restoration committee later this week to further review the cloudy grants picture and will be seeking clarifications on Wintario, Heritage Foundation and Community Centres Act grants criteria. Escalated costs and possible building uses will also be on the agenda.

Shepard says the town needs to find out if the restoration committee feels saving the building is still a realistic project.

Then the ball will be in council's court. Council would have to allocate funds for an update of the 1977 consultant's report to look at building uses, and

escalated costs before anything further could be done. The grants eligibility condition that council accept all project costs is also an apparent stumbling block.

Monday evening chairman of council's town hall steering committee Terry Grubbe; committee members Pam Sheldon, Harry Levy and John McDonald; Mayor Peter Pomeroy; councillors Ross Knechtel, Dave Whiting and Russ Miller; restoration committee members Dr. George Elliott, Alice Duby, Yvonne Rosenquist and Doug Fread; Kathy Sanford from Actario; and Shepard, clerk-administrator Ken Richardson and deputy clerk Delmar French and Acton recreation co-ordinator Joy Gwilliam met to discuss the town hall for nearly an hour.

Grubbe, who said she was "thrilled" by the turnout for the meeting, said Shepard gave the citizens

an update on the status of deadlines and grants.

Mrs. Sanford reported Actario will raise \$27,000 for the town hall and the restoration committee noted they have \$7,516 "in hand or committed" for the project. A few years ago Halton Hills earmarked \$40,000, the cost of demolition at that time, to restoration if citizens could secure the balance of the restoration cost through fund raising and grants. The 1977 consultant's report pegged restoration cost at \$236,000 and that was updated to \$286,400 in 1979.

Fread has given the committee an estimation on the current restoration cost. That figure wasn't revealed in an interview with committee members after the meeting, however Elliott did say "I don't think \$375,000 is outrageous" even if the town paid the whole restoration expense considering the cost of the library-cultural centre being built in Georgetown or the town's contemplation of building a \$1.6 million municipal building possibly as soon as 1982. There was an indication the \$375,000 restoration cost Elliott referred to was Fread's estimate.

Shepard said after the meeting because of changes in grants criteria and costs which may have escalated "significantly" restoration of the town hall is "almost like a brand new project again."

Heritage funds may not be as high as the \$70,000 the restoration committee expected. Mrs. Duby noted they learned at the meeting they might get as little support as a letter of commendation.

Also, Pomeroy informed residents, to secure a Heritage grant the town hall must be declared an historical building by the province. This was learned only recently, Elliott said he couldn't understand why they might not get \$70,000 for the town hall from Heritage when Alymer and Milton have received in the neighborhood of \$100,000. Halton Hills has designated the building historical but the Heritage grant hinges on if the province thinks it is of historical significance. Elliott said he believes a good case could be made for the town hall being of historical significance because it is a "unique example of architecture of that period."

To qualify for a Wintario grant the town must

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IGA objection not dropped

Landawn Shopping Centres hasn't withdrawn its objection to the IGA plaza to be built downtown on the site of the Dominion Hotel.

Local contractor Doug Fread, who with a partner is building the new IGA supermarket and about six retail stores, said in an interview this week an agreement hasn't been struck with Landawn's president Jerry Sprackman.

In addition, Halton Hills planning board chairman Mike Armstrong said Monday Sprackman is expected to appear before councillors later this month. He predicted last week Sprackman will withdraw his objection and that may still happen.

A few weeks ago Sprackman lodged an objection to the town's rezoning of a small piece of the IGA plaza site with the Ontario Municipal Board, delaying the start of construction for an estimated three months or more. Fread had planned to start construction in June.

Fread said he and IGA owner Dave Manes received a letter from Sprackman this week and the developer doesn't like the wording of the two letters they wrote, which are identical, stating they wouldn't object to his plaza proposal for the east side of Acton. Sprackman sent back copies of two letters for Fread and Manes to sign, but they don't like his wording. Fread said he is now considering their next move. Manes is out of the country on vacation.

Sprackman, who has referred Halton Hills rejection of his plaza proposal to the OMB for a hearing, has offered to withdraw his objection to the IGA plaza if Fread and Manes agree to sign his letters saying they won't object to his plan.

Armstrong, speaking to councillors, said he has seen the letters Sprackman sent to Fread and Manes and is "given to understand" they will go along with Landawn's offer. He evidently wasn't aware of the latest hitch.

However, Armstrong said he was confused by part of the letter Sprackman's lawyer sent to him.

One paragraph says once the two local businesses sign their letters and they are executed and Halton Hills enacts the appropriate Official Plan and zoning bylaws for Sprackman's property east of

Churchill Rd. South he'll withdraw his objection to the IGA plaza.

Armstrong said he has never given any indication Halton Hills will approve the zoning and official Plan amendments for Landawn's project.

This appears to be a brand new condition for Landawn's co-operation on the IGA plaza, one which councillors seem to have no intention of complying with.



Billy Agazzino, 6, finds the bicycle of his dreams at the Y's Men auction Friday. Plenty of children's toys found new homes at the auction.

inside

A Limehouse area resident has sparked a controversy over Halton's plans for a deer hunt. Turn to pages 4, B3 and B7.

There won't be a second hydro corridor in the Acton area. More on page 3.

A reader thinks money saved on snow plowing should be spent on mosquito spraying. See page 6.



Chrissy Poulsen, left and Leigh Whiting were just two of the many brownies and guides cleaning up local parks Saturday. Chrissy and Leigh cleared the parkland around the library and Robert Little School of refuse.



A partial cast of the Robert Little operetta His Majesty's P' rehearse a scene for tonight's production. The cook has just baked a delicious pie for the king while the villainous chancellor and his sidekick the secretary scheme to make trouble. Left to right back row Mary Moore (secretary), Paul Campbell (chancellor), Michelle Perry (princess), Tracy Flindell (herald), Jane Ball (cook), Kim McCallum (page). Seated Jill Briggs (troubadour), Ole Fisker (king) and Bill Wirth (knight). The Operetta is a Canadian production, written by Keith Bissell. Music teacher Lenora Vickery directed the grade three, four and five students. It runs tonight (Wednesday) at 8 p.m. and tomorrow night, also at 8.

Bears seen north of Acton

Bears have again been spotted just outside Acton. Jean Johnston, RR3, Acton, said in an interview this week she and a companion spotted a pair of bears near Highway 25 Thursday morning around 7 a.m. The sighting was made about four miles north of town.

Last year a large black bear was killed after it attacked livestock in bush east of the First Line of Erin Township. Later in the summer a bear and cubs were sighted in the same area. A few years previously cubs were also seen in the Ballinfad area.

Mrs. Johnston said one of the bears was near the woods while the other was in the yard of property next to her home on Highway 25 where a new house is being built. She noted the bears were only about a

mile away from where the bear was shot last summer.

One of the bears was only about 50 feet from the road, Mrs. Johnston estimated.

She said at first she thought the bear was a big shaggy dog but as she got closer it became obvious it was a bear. She has seen bears before in Nova Scotia. She passed the bears and came back for a second look, but they were gone.

"The closer I got I could see it was a big, lumbering bear. They couldn't have been out of hibernation for long because their hair was too long. They appeared to have been half grown so they were around last year," Mrs. Johnston said.

"It sure shocked me. I had seen some big footprints in my own back yard so I won't be camping out."

Winter was mixed blessing for Halton crop prospects

With the early spring the outlook for Halton crops this season is pretty good, according to Halton Agriculture Representative Henry Stanley.

About two-thirds of the spring grains—oats, barley and mixed grains—have been put into the ground. Seeding took place between two and three weeks ago.

Some of the corn crop was planted in the north end of Halton, however, farmers are still busy planting the bulk of the crop.

The early frost threatened some of the apple crop, however, there was "not excessive damage," according to the agriculture representative.

The hay crop looks good. "They look to have come through the winter well."

The very cold winter plus high winds and a lack of snow killed off much of the winter wheat crop. This was especially true on the open fields. When there was some protection, the winter wheat survived.

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Student workers grant research leather history

The federal government is going to give the Leathertown committee a big hand in researching Acton's leather history.

A grant of \$9,072 is coming to Leathertown from the Summer Canada 1981-student employment program for the hiring of three students.

The grant was confirmed in a call from Halton MP Otto Jelinek to Leathertown chairman Chip Petrillo last week.

Petrillo said he has been working with Employment Canada official Barbara Heller, a former resident of Acton and relative of the Heller family which operates a large leather industry here, to secure the grant for several weeks.

The grant covers the wages and benefits for the three students, one project manager and two project workers, for a period of 16 weeks.

Leathertown hopes to hire the three students soon so the pile of work can begin.

The trio of students will research Acton's leather history, the development and in some cases demise of local leather firms, history of

local leather landmarks, how the leather industry ended up here and how Acton grew up around the industry. In short their goal will be to compile a "factual, historical account" of Leathertown.

The research will be carried out by searching the files of The Acton Free Press, doing research at the Ontario archives and interviewing long-time residents about their recollections. Assistance will be sought from the Ontario Heritage Foundation, Halton Business Development Office, Ontario Historical Society and other sources.

The project is a major step towards making the walking historical tour of Acton's leather industry a reality. The students will also do some of the art work needed for the various plaques and exhibits which will make up the walking tour.

Petrillo noted Ms. Heller said this was the first project application she could recall ever seeing from Acton in the five years she has worked in student summer employment.