

# Christmas wishes come true?

The Gerrard family of Acton says it is forever thankful for the outpouring of offers of a hospital bed and lift for Doug Gerrard who could not be discharged from a Bram-

pton hospital without the equipment. Gerrard has battled Hodgkin's Lymphoma for 12 years.

After reading about the family's plight in The New Tanner, an Acton couple

granted Jennifer Gerrard's Christmas wish to have her husband home for the holidays with the gift of a hospital bed and lift.

"I'm overwhelmed that so many people are will-

ing to help," Gerrard said on Monday, adding seeing the hospital bed set up in her living room helps her believe her husband will be home today (Thursday) as scheduled.

She said her husband has a "I'll believe when it happens" attitude, because he's almost afraid to get his hopes up that he will come home, but is buoyed by all of the community support.

Gerrard said the wait for Doug's discharge is frustrating, but there was

a time when she thought he would not be coming home. "Eighty-six per cent of people who have a failed stem cell transplant die - he survived eight years. Six months ago, they gave him three months to live. His doctor said he won't make any more predictions."



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**SANTA SMILES:** Madison Viozzi, 5, a Senior Kindergarten student at McKenzie-Smith Bennett School, was all smiles as Santa Claus invited her to tell him what she wants for Christmas this year. (She wants a Zombie Lab.) - Frances Niblock photo

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The Pee wee AE Tanners are champs.

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