



Thirteen-year-old Kathryn Stewart has been known to torment her younger brother Geoff sometimes, but the siblings are supportive of each other during her most-recent battle with neuroblastoma.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

Local girl showcased in SickKids new campaign, VS.

By Eamonn Maher
emaher@theifp.ca

The red beads are for blood transfusions, the blues represent each visit to SickKids Hospital, the wooden hearts signify bone marrow transplants and of course the ones for radiation treatments glow in the dark.

Georgetown resident Kathryn Stewart has a collection of Bravery Beads, given to SickKids patients for each procedure they go through. She has amassed several hundred of the trinkets over eight-and-a-half years and five battles with neuroblastoma, a childhood cancer that forms in certain types of nerve tissue.

The petite 13-year-old is featured in a new fundraising and awareness campaign called SickKids Vs. and while she's not in the hard-hitting television commercial, her image holding dozens of Bravery Beads above her head in both hands can be found wrapped around a Toronto Transit Commission streetcar and in the Eaton Centre concourse.

They took the photo just before I lost all my hair, so I was happy about that, said Kathryn as she bounces confidently on the living room couch of the family's home, wearing a bright green bandana.

(Cancer) is a part of my life but it's not who I am, so I don't like to have a lot of things about can-

cer around me, but I like the beads. They're cool.

The Grade 8 George Kennedy Public School Honour Roll student had been free of neuroblastoma for four years until its latest reappearance a few months ago, meaning she's had to undergo another round of chemotherapy treatments that have already eradicated 80 per cent of the growth.

But the treatments are scheduled to take place over a year, for five consecutive days per month. She has to travel to Toronto for the first day of treatment, although SickKids has made an arrangement with Credit Valley Hospital in Mississauga to receive the chemotherapy on the other four days of the week.

What's the prognosis? Following four relapses of the disease, the Stewarts are wary of getting too excited or upset over the latest results. Kathryn's case is uncommon because at some point, the treatments stop working.

We can't think that far ahead, said her mother Heather.

We just have to cope with the present and we'll cross those other bridges when we come to them. Going to Credit Valley helps a lot, but there are a lot of advantages at SickKids too. She gets her own room there with lots of kid things to have around, but to not have a two-hour drive is huge.

Continued on page 27

Locally Owned & Operated since 1958!

Freight? Call Fred's



Provider for CAA and all auto clubs.

Freight up to 20,000 lbs
Dock level or ground
Enclosed Trailer

FRED'S TOWING
SINCE 1958
905-877-4471
Georgetown



Your local **Halton Experts** and **Accident Specialists** for all your boosts, lockouts, fuel deliveries and towing needs.

16 YEARS IN A ROW!

46 Guelph St., Georgetown

Winter Registration

WOMEN NEEDED



Halton Hills Mixed Volleyball league is looking for Recreational Level Adult Women Players.

HMMVL
HALTON HILLS MIXED VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

Visit www.hhmvl.com
or email president@HMMVL.com

Come SKATE with SANTA!

OPEN TO ALL!

DECEMBER 22nd 6-7pm, ACTON ARENA



Learn to Skate • Power Skate • Figure Skate
Detailed program information, fees, and online registration at:
www.actonskatingclub.com

Come talk to us, in-person registration 6-8pm Dec. 8 & 22 at Acton Arena

TOUGH. SMART. CAPABLE. THE UNDISPUTED F-150



GET **\$8,000** IN REBATES*
ON MOST NEW 2016 F-150s
+ **\$500** YEAR-END BONUS CASH†
ON MOST NEW 2016 F-150s

PLUS ELIGIBLE COSTCO MEMBERS RECEIVE UP TO AN ADDITIONAL **\$1,000*** ON MOST 2016 AND 2017 FORD MODELS



F-150 SERIES
BEST-SELLING IN CANADA
50
AND COUNTING



FIND IT. DRIVE IT. OWN IT.
VISIT FINDYOURFORD.CA OR YOUR ONTARIO FORD STORE TODAY.

Our advertised prices include Freight, Air Tax, and PPSA (if financed or leased). Add dealer administration and registration fees of up to \$799, fuel fill charge of up to \$120 and applicable taxes, then drive away.



(SiriusXM)

Available in most new Ford vehicles with 6-month pre-paid subscription.