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Acton ties to big race



Fifteen-month-old Piper Gibson, who suffers from a rare form of epilepsy and has been deemed palliative, is breathing a little easier these days now that the government has granted her long-term oxygen therapy at home. She's pictured here with big sister Kaeleigh, dad Matt and mom Erin, who is continuing to petition the government to change its oxygen funding rules for palliative patients.

Photo by Melanie Hennessey

## Acton mom in battle with Ontario health system for better palliative care for all

By MELANIE HENNESSEY  
*Special to the IFP*

A local mother whose young daughter suffers from a life-threatening condition has won a battle with the Ontario health-care system, which is now granting her little girl essential long-term oxygen at home.

But Erin Gibson isn't stop-

ping there. The Acton resident is continuing to fight for other palliative patients who are being told they can only receive home oxygen therapy for 90 days.

Gibson— mother of 15-month-old Piper, who suffers from a rare form of epilepsy known as infantile spasms— recently started a petition to the provincial government after her

daughter was denied long-term home oxygen therapy because she has been deemed palliative.

"Palliative does not mean dying in 90 days," she said. "Children like Piper, who need oxygen 50 per cent of the time, should be able to have that service regardless of what stage of her palliative condition she's currently in."

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## Halton is Canada's safest region

By DAVID LEA  
*Metroland Media Group*

Despite one fatal police shooting in Oakville and one murder in Burlington in 2013, Halton Region has again been dubbed the safest Canadian regional municipality with a population of more than 100,000.

The bragging rights, which Halton has had numerous times before, is based on numbers reported in the recently released Statistics Canada's 2013 Crime Severity Index. Statistics Canada introduced the program in 2009 as a measure of severity of crimes committed in Canada.

Crimes are assigned 'seriousness weights,' determined by the number of people convicted of the crime who spend time in jail, and how much jail time those individuals serve. To calculate the Crime Severity Index, the number of incidents for each offence is multiplied by the weight of that offence.

According to the report, when compared to communities with populations greater than 100,000 across Canada, Halton has:

- The lowest Crime Severity Index and the 13<sup>th</sup> lowest of all 304 reporting municipalities (25.54 in 2013, down from 28.39 in 2012 and 33.98 in 2011).

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