

# Local duo create CD to raise Muscular Dystrophy funds

A couple of 12-year olds from Georgetown, Ethen Edwards and Blaine Abel, have recorded a four-song CD called "Tonight, The Ford Fairlanes" to help raise funds for Muscular Dystrophy.

The red-headed Ethen, whose singing style is said to be reminiscent of old-time American recordings, is a Grade 6 student at Silver Creek Public School in Georgetown South who is also fighting his own stoic but deteriorating battle with Muscular Dystrophy.

Last November, Ethen mentioned to Silver Creek educational assistant Bart Manierka how Muscular Dystrophy once benefited from a great deal of public attention.

Unfortunately, he said, that support is now often going towards cancer research and autism instead. While acknowledg-

ing those are both very important causes, Ethen couldn't hide a heartfelt wish for a little help with his own burden, Muscular Dystrophy. In that moment, the idea to record a CD took root.

Ethen and guitarist Blaine Abel first came together in the fall of 2014 under rather unlikely circumstances. Manierka had recently started teaching Blaine the acoustic guitar and after a few lessons, Blaine's natural ability caught Ethen's attention.

Hearing the faint strumming of chords coming from behind a closed door, he politely knocked before asking what was going on.



Guitarist Blaine Abel and singer Ethen Edwards formed The Ford Fairlanes to raise cash for Muscular Dystrophy—a disease that Ethen is battling.

before

Upon hearing that Blaine was learning to play the guitar, Ethen

instantly replied, "I can sing"

It was a sincere self-appraisal, without boasting or attempting to draw attention to himself. Ethen was immediately invited to join the session and The Ford Fairlanes were born.

The two young musicians were absolutely determined to learn the songs Manierka introduced. Twice a day during school recess, they devoted themselves to memorizing song lyrics and guitar chords. Blaine began taking the guitar home every night to practise, while Ethen kept pages of lyrics on his bedside table. Before long, they began to im-

press one another. The Ford Fairlanes cover tunes including *Blue Christmas*, *I'll be Home for Christmas*, *Mad World* and *Evil Ways*. On the strength of *Blue Christmas* alone, Ethen's plaintive vocals against Blaine's steady hand on the guitar, make this recording a small miracle. The Tears for Fears song, *Mad World* is another melancholy number performed.

The Ford Fairlanes have pressed 300 copies of their debut album. The CD is priced at \$10 with proceeds going towards Muscular Dystrophy. The boys are thrilled with the beautiful sounds they have created together and for the support they hope this CD will bring to Ethen's important cause.

For information on how to obtain a copy of *Tonight, The Ford Fairlanes*, send an e-mail to Bart Manierka at manierkab@hdsb.ca

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