



TASTY TREATS: Rhea Thompson and her children Shawnee, 5, and 13-month-old Ricky recently attended Trinity United Church's craft and bake sale. Selling their wares to the Thompsons were Trinity members Shirley McKeown, Helen Waterhouse and Ina Peterson. (Eve Martin photo)

Val Farrell's condition improving

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

After three weeks of a "touch and go" prognosis, Val Farrell, the Acton student hospitalized following an April 12 traffic accident, has been moved from intensive care.

Although Val, 18, is still in a coma, she has been taken

off a ventilator and is no longer receiving around-the-clock pain medication.

"I'm on 'cloud nine,'" Val's mother, Cindy Farrell of Matthew Court happily announced in a phone call on Friday.

"Val is holding her own and is now in a ward with fewer nurses because she

doesn't need one-on-one care anymore," Farrell said.

"We also found out that Val can hear because she jumped when somebody dropped a bowl in the hospital room," Farrell explained.

"The doctors don't know how much she can hear or if she can make out what we are saying, but it's a good sign that Val can hear."

After spending more than three weeks at Val's bedside,

her mother said the family's ordeal was made a little easier by all of the cards, letters and calls of support they've received.

"We would like to thank all of the people in Acton who have asked us about Val and said a prayer for her.

"I would especially like to thank the students at Acton High who have sent a lot of cards and also collected \$70 in loonies to help us pay for parking at Hamilton General," Farrell said.

Acton High students also sent Val a white stuffed toy which Farrell said Val keeps clutched under her arm.

Farrell said the next step is for Val to recover enough to be moved to the hospital in Milton.

"Val has a long way to go, but look how far she has come."

Val was struck by a van at the Main Street-School Lane pedestrian crossing.

BLOOMS AWAY

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NEWSSHORTS

Dealership cars damaged

On more than one occasion over the past two weeks, cars have been damaged at a Queen Street dealership. Police say three cars have had their paint jobs scratched by a sharp object.

Total damage to the vehicles amounts to \$1,000.

Camcorder stolen

A camcorder was stolen from a Main Street North business, sometime between April 20 and 26.

An RCA Pro850 model was taken from the store and is valued at \$1,200.

Victim services needs help

The Halton Regional Police Service maintains a Victim Services Unit to assist victims of crime or trauma. The unit provides support and referral to victims, liaison with community agencies and liaison between victims and police officers.

Unit members will also assist victims and their families in preparing for court appearances. The Victim Services Unit is available to respond 24 hours a day.

It is comprised of caring, empathetic volunteers who provide information and support to victims. The unit is currently looking for dedicated individuals to assist in Halton Hills.

For more information, call Noreen Heaney at (905) 878-5511 or (905) 825-4747, ext. 5035.

Grass fires

A grass and tree stump fire brought Acton volunteer fire fighters to 15 Side Road east of Hwy. 25 last Sunday at 8 pm. No damage was reported and the fire was extinguished.

Fire fighters were busy the next day, Monday, at another grass fire on 30 Side Road in Nassagaweya. A home owner had been burning rubbish on the property in the afternoon when a spark ignited some grass in the area and spread. Again, no damage was reported as a result of the fire.

Volunteer fire fighters also assisted the Milton fire fighters with a house fire on the Fifth Line in Nassagaweya last Thursday morning. A tanker was supplied for water purposes to help extinguish the fire. No one was home at time of the fire, but the family's pets were killed.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I used what I'd seen on television to help. I didn't know that what I was doing was right, but I knew that if I did nothing, it would not help."

— Al Cunneynworth, used CPR to save a life, Page 5

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A hummingbird can't stand on its own two feet. They're not strong enough to hold up the bird on a flat surface.

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