

Deidre's scrapbooks

By ANN KORNUA

It has been over eight years since Deidre Scholtz's story captured the hearts of everyone in Milton with her quest to find a suitable bone marrow donor. In 1996 Deidre was diagnosed with Severe Idiopathic Aplastic Anemia when she was only five years old. For reasons unknown her bone marrow had stopped functioning. Deidre was one of the few lucky ones for whom a suitable donor was found. She is

now a pretty fourteen year old. To look at her, no one could guess there had been anything wrong. The only evidence is three scrapbooks and a foundation created in her name.

Three oversized binders hold every scrap of information that her father, Clem Scholtz collected from day one on discovering that his daughter was ill. From directions on how to get to Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto to letters of support from community members it's a treasure he can't place a price tag on. "It's to let her know what really happened because she had no idea when she was young what was going on" Clem said. Page after page tells the little girl's struggles and triumphs with the disease and the ceaseless efforts of the community. Some of the photos in the scrapbook show volunteers at fund drives selling baked goods and little 'Deidre' dolls. The saddest photos in the album are of friends Deidre made when in the hospital, who were not so lucky and who have since passed away.

There was something about Deidre's story that caught people's imagination. Maybe it was the newspaper article showing a school photo of a cheery little girl and a sad message stating she may not have long to live. Maybe it was the realisation that life-threatening illnesses can happen to anyone at any age. Whatever it was, it created a wave of support in the community and soon everyone was talk-

"IF SHE HAD DIED, WOULD I HAVE HAD THE STRENGTH "

ing about Deidre and how they could help the little girl..

After the worst was over, Clem sat down and painstakingly organized the scrapbooks for Deidre. As she was very young when she was ill she had no real comprehension of the amount of hard work that community put in for her and the foundation. "When she is older it will be important for her to see what she went through. Years later the story can come out garbled, but what is in the scrapbooks is fact." Clem said.

When Clem started the foundation his family didn't know what was going to happen to their daughter. He made a commitment that no matter what happened, there would be a foundation. "When we didn't know if Deidre would live or die, we decided to create a foundation. The reason we chose to do it at that time was because if we waited and she lived we might be tempted to just move on and not bother with a foundation." Clem said. "And if she had died, would I have had the strength to start a foundation?"

Clem thought it was really important to form the Deidre Foundation to help other families needing information on bone marrow illnesses. Clem knew from his own experience that when he was looking for information, it was impossible to find it.

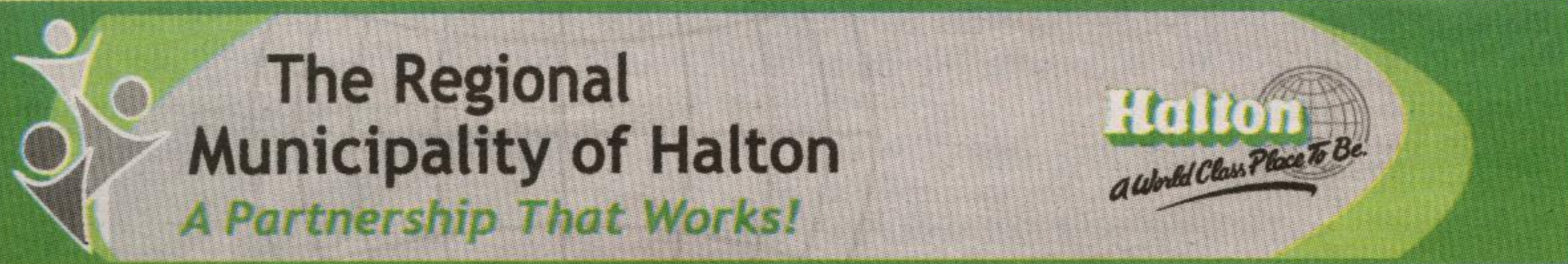
"We know we were very lucky. We were helped mentally, emotionally, spiritually and financially by the community. Without them I don't know how we could have survived... How does a town give so much?" Clem asked.

In 2005 the Deidre and Friends Foundation invites you to come out to the 5th annual charity race at Woodbine racetrack on February 13th 2005. It's a chance to have fun and give support for the Deidre Foundation to help their quest for Bone Marrow research. To find out more information on the foundation or Deidre's story visit www.deidrebmt.ca or Email: deidre.friends.foundation@sympatico.ca



PHOTOS BY ANN KORNUA

Deidre (left) with mother Liz holding younger sister Désirée and at the head of the table, Clem Scholtz look over the scrapbooks that hold Deidre's story from start to finish.



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF HALTON AND THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #3

Maple Avenue (Regional Road 11) Improvements Trafalgar Road (Regional Road 3) to Mountainview Road, Town of Halton Hills (Georgetown) Class Environmental Assessment Study, Schedule "B"

The Region of Halton is conducting a study with the Town of Halton Hills to look at what can be done to improve the safety, operation and appearance of Maple Avenue (Regional Road 11) between Trafalgar Road (Regional Road 3) and Mountainview Road in Georgetown. (refer to map).

The study is being conducted in compliance with Schedule "B" of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Document.

The Maple Avenue (Regional Road 11) Class EA Study is examining ways to:

- Improve the existing pavement and driving surface
- Enhance the safety for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers
- Improve traffic operations and roadway efficiency
- Improve the appearance of the corridor



The map above shows the approximate limits of the study area.

Following recent Council direction, a bicycle path/multi-use pathway is being proposed to enhance the safety of cyclists along Maple Avenue from Trafalgar Road to Mountainview Road. To accommodate the cycle path/multi-use pathway, revisions have been made to the recommended design presented at the June 24, 2004 Public Information Centre (PIC). These revisions include changes to the sidewalk and boulevard layouts. Additional minor amendments have also been made to the other study recommendations presented at the same PIC.

An additional Public Information Centre has been scheduled to provide the public with an opportunity to review and comment on the revised design. Public comments obtained from the PIC will be incorporated into the final preliminary design and study documentation. Following this PIC, a Project File will be completed and made available for review by the public for a thirty (30) day review period. You are invited to attend this PIC scheduled for:

**Wednesday, January 12, 2005
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (Presentation at 7:00 p.m.)**

Town of Halton Hills Council Chambers, 1 Halton Hills Drive, Georgetown

If you are unable to attend the PIC but would like to obtain further details about the project or provide further comments, you may contact one of the individuals below.

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