



Bang-O-Rama comes to Georgetown

Valiant knights on noble steeds fought over the long weekend at the Georgetown fair grounds at this year's "Bang-O-Rama". A jousting championship was the star attraction of this year's funfair and fireworks celebration. Knights wore full body Armour of stainless steel weighing one hundred and fifty pounds. The Armour is hand made and a suit is worth up to \$5,000. 25 knights from across North America competed this year with entrants from as far away as Texas. The event is organized by the Georgetown Optimist Club and was this year sponsored by the Compass.



PHOTOS BY ANN KORNUA

Halton residents get set to support annual Rebecca Run Organizers hope to raise \$100,000 this year for SMA research

BY JENNIFER ENRIGHT

Once again Halton residents will get a chance to support fundraising initiatives to help find a cure or treatment for Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), a genetic disease that affects five-year-old Rebecca van Fraassen of Limehouse.

On Saturday, June 4, Georgetown Esso is offering car washes to customers in exchange for voluntary donations. And beginning on June 13, Sobey's in Acton will be holding its annual Wings for SMA fundraiser. For two weeks, the grocery store will sell \$2 raffle tickets offering customers an opportunity to win a barbecue prize package. Halton Hills resident Erich Feibel, who volunteers his time to help out with fundraising, says the event was a "tremendous success" last year thanks to the kindness and generosity of local residents. He noted that the program has expanded this year to other Sobey's stores, including three in Brampton and one in Aurora.

Proceeds from both events will go to the Esso Rebecca Run for Spinal Muscular Atrophy, a fundraising event named for Rebecca, who attends Senior Kindergarten at St. Joseph's School in Acton. The annual event will be held at Fairy Lake in Newmarket on July 9. All proceeds from the run are directed to Families of Spinal Muscular Atrophy Canada (FSMAC), a charitable organization that funds research on the disease.

Rebecca's aunt Louise Smith,

who organizes the run each year, says a large number of Halton residents have made a commitment to raising money for the Esso Rebecca Run and FSMAC, both as participants and sponsors. Aside from Georgetown Esso, Hinton Esso in Milton is sponsoring the event along with 10 other Esso dealers. And Smith says about 50 to 60 area residents are taking part in this year's run.

Since the Rebecca Run began in 2001 the event has raised approximately \$255,000. This year organizers hope to raise \$100,000.

For information about the run, which includes a 5 km run, 3 km walk, and 1 km

SMA Scamper for kids, visit www.rebecca-run.com. Pledge forms are available online at the same website. Information is also available by contacting Louise Smith at louise@rebeccarun.com. SMAC can be reached either at its website, www.smacanada.com, or by calling 1-800-866-0016.

SMA is a disease that destroys the nerves that control voluntary movement. According to the Families of Spinal Muscular Atrophy, an American-based international organization, SMA is the number one genetic killer of children under the age of two.

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