

Letters

Angel Gala at Glencairn raises \$63,000 to fight SMA

Dear Editor:

We hosted the 3rd Annual Angel Gala for SMA on November 15, 2008 at Glencairn Golf Club. A sold out crowd of 250 guests were in attendance to help support Spinal Muscular Atrophy. There was such a great vibe in the ballroom that night, created by the positive energy and goodwill that comes with helping a worthy cause.

Spinal Muscular Atrophy is a progressive, neuromuscular disease that affects our nine year old daughter, Rebecca. It

has left her confined to a wheelchair and becoming gradually weaker over time. We are in a race to find a cure which will benefit Rebecca and other children who are affected by this devastating disease.

Our wonderful community helped us to raise \$63,000 for Spinal Muscular Atrophy at this year's Angel Gala. It brings our three year total raised to almost \$180,000. In the seven years since Rebecca was diagnosed, we have cumulatively raised over \$1.2 million

which goes to research to find a cure.

The support we receive from the community is unparalleled. So many local businesses donated items to our silent auction.

An updated list of our sponsors is available on our web-site www.angelgala.com. Please help us to show our thanks for their generosity by patronising their businesses.

Together we will find a cure.

*Sincerely,
Theresa Van Fraassen
Angel Gala Coordinator*

Bennett residents say thanks

To the editor,

On behalf of the residents of The Bennett Care Centre I would like to thank all the choirs, school groups, families, church groups, ministers, community groups, volunteers and individ-

uals who donated either their time or gifts to help make their Christmas season special. It is easy to see that the spirit of Christmas is alive in our community.

Also I would like to thank our staff who work

extra hard to make our days special. We appreciate all that you do for us.

*Sincerely,
Charles Roe,
President
Residents' Council,
Bennett Health
Care Centre.*

No fun now in house league

Dear Editor

I am 12 years old and I have been playing Acton House League Hockey for 4 years. My first three years were a lot of fun. I got to play hockey with my friends, and make new friends.

This year has not been so great. I feel that the teams were not fairly made up. My team mates and I are very discouraged. The reason we feel this way is because we don't even have a chance against a couple of the teams in the league.

There are only 6 teams

and one is clearly better than all the other teams. I don't think that we have ever scored against the best team and the final score is usually 0 for us and 10 or more for them. I don't always know the final score because they stop keeping score on the board when it is 4 to 0. But we usually have a good idea how badly we are losing.

I thought house league hockey was supposed to be a little bit of competition with lots of fun. I did not know that it was going to ruin my Saturday afternoons. Not to mention the

teasing I get at school by the kids on the winning team. I am pretty sure that is poor sportsmanship.

Next year I don't think I want to play hockey, at least not in Acton. I want to play some where I can have fun.

*Sincerely,
House league hockey
player, looking for a fun
and fair place to play.*



BE CAREFUL: Winter driving conditions have kept police and ambulance busy this week. This collision east of Acton on Hwy 7 between the Fourth and Fifth Lines on Monday morning between a pickup truck and car is just another example. No details were available at press time.

Food banks in E. Wellington feed more families this Yule

Perhaps nothing illustrates the spirit and stress of Christmas more than working at the two area food banks, says Brenda Carson of the East Wellington Community Services. The numbers of families in need this Christmas increased to 64-up nearly 15% over a year ago.

Moms and dads sick with worry often break into tears of relief at the gifts and food that meant their children would not be going without this year.

"I was so inspired by the wonderful generosity of people here. Some would just show up at the office with gifts for an entire family. I needed gas gift cards for some men on my list, I just made a couple of phone calls—and before I knew it, I had all I needed. It was amazing to see." Says Kelly Stockdale, food bank coordinator. "I just hope the forecasters are wrong and we don't see further increases in people needing food bank services."

Not one family went without gifts, a full turkey dinner and enough food to make their Christmas season special—all because the community responded with overwhelming generosity. Many volunteers came forward to help put the hampers together. It really was a community effort.

Staff at East Wellington Community Services also went above

and beyond, putting in many extra hours to make sure each family was well taken care of this year.

Staff and volunteers delivered hampers to families who find themselves part of alarmingly increasing number of working poor. Staff made emergency shopping trips on behalf of donors to ensure the often-overlooked young men in the families received gifts too.

The Star Light, Community Bright annual Christmas appeal also resulted in some very generous donors. Although the number

of replies was significantly down from last year, it was still a successful campaign in light of the current economic environment.

"When people are worried about their jobs it's difficult to write a cheque to a charity, even one they care about. It's totally understandable. I just hope things are better for all of us next year," says the agency's Executive Director, Glenyis Betts.

East Wellington Community Services is grateful to the many individuals and organizations who gave from their hearts to help families in need.

Getting organized...

Continued from page 6

I then proceeded to fill the bag and as I tried to ziplock it, I realized I had over-calculated. It wasn't working. I was trying to "space bag" too much...but I was determined. So I did what any other woman in their right mind would do...I sat on the bag and tried to force every-

thing into it until I made it do what I wanted it to do.

It wasn't pretty and it didn't look like the picture and it definitely wouldn't fit under the bed as the ad promised. However, I still maintained success...the space bag worked, well, it sort of worked. It worked as well as the easy to assemble cubes.




At 5-weeks-old, she sat in the palm of my hand and Layla D. ('D' for Dog.) her name became. For more than 14 years she would amaze and entertain people with her frisbee catch and retrieval talents.

A friendly girl who would always bring you something to throw. She loved the car and going to the Drive-thru. They must have needed a


frisbee dog in Heaven. Besides thanking God for allowing us to be there the morning he came for her, we would like to thank Dr. Hess and his staff at the clinic, Chris and her staff at Tammar and John for being the guy who freed her the day she climbed up on our fence and got her leg caught.

THANK YOU ALL!
Anthony and Debby Lidstone



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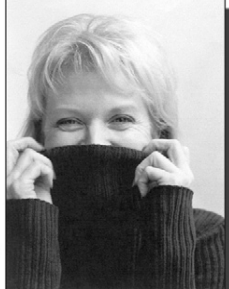
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