

# Cure for SMA one step closer

Dear Editor:

On Saturday November 14, 2009, we held the fourth Annual Angel Gala for SMA at Glencairn Golf Club in Milton. It was the best Angel Gala ever. We raised \$75,000!

Every year for the past four years, we have had a sold out crowd of 250 people. Members of our community have rallied

around our cause, which is to find a cure for Spinal Muscular Atrophy.

Spinal Muscular Atrophy kills more babies than any other genetic disease. SMA is incurable, untreatable, fatal and underfunded. The gene is carried by seven million potential parents, unknowingly.

It is a neurogenerative

disease characterized by the dramatic loss of spinal motor neurons, resulting in muscle weakness, atrophy and in the worst cases, the loss of the ability to swallow and breathe. The mind remains unaffected while the body wastes away.

Our little girl, Rebecca, is affected by SMA. She is now ten years old and attends Grade 5 at St. Joseph

School in Acton. Although Rebecca is in a wheelchair, she is a happy child with many friends.

Since Rebecca was diagnosed eight years ago, we have raised \$1.5-million in her name through the Rebecca Run for SMA held every July in Newmarket, the Angel Gala for SMA and various other fundraisers put on by our

wonderful community.

We have a dedicated volunteer committee who contacted many local businesses for donations for this year's Angel Gala. And, what a response! Local merchants gave so generously that we ended up with over 200 items in our silent auction. Please help us to thank our sponsors by patronizing their

businesses. You will find their names on our website [www.angelgala.com](http://www.angelgala.com).

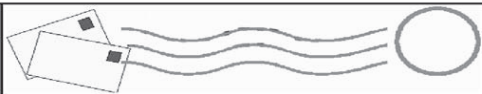
To find out more about SMA, you can view our video on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U0Rr1uJrV14> or go to [www.curesma.ca](http://www.curesma.ca).

Sincerely, Theresa Van

Fraassen

Together we will find a cure for SMA.

## Letters



### NHS Unintended Consequences

To the editor

Whatever the Natural Heritage System outcome at Region Council was on December 16, rural residents have been reminded once again that rural-oriented north Halton has very little in common with the urban south.

Many thousands of man-hours have been spent by north Halton people in public meet-

ings, reading Region documents, discussion, and responding to Region proposals. When the NHS battle is settled, more time must be spent to digest the many pages of planner-speak that will regulate rural lives and property.

Perhaps all of that north Halton time and energy would have been better spent organizing a project to exit Halton Region.

The rural-oriented north could then be governed by a Council of peers with similar interests and an understanding of the area. The "quality of life" folks and environmental zealots in the urban south would be left to squabble among themselves over the shape of their urban utopia, or search for new targets to dominate.

Gary Ellis  
Rural Milton

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### BIA Booster thanked

To the editor

As the Chair of the Acton BIA, I would like to thank Mike O'Leary for support of our wonderful downtown. The Acton BIA Board works hard to ensure that we have a beautiful place to shop and that we promote our merchants.

With the dedication of Josey Bonnette - BIA Manager we enjoy beautiful baskets (year round this year!), flowers and our Parkette has taken on a life of its own this year. I see people enjoy it everyday!

As a small business owner I also would like to thank Mike O'Leary as

we REALLY do appreciate our customers and we try very hard to earn their business. Small town business owners have a passion for what they do, they would not taken the 'leap' if they didn't! Take the time to stop in and chat with them/us, I'm sure you'll be pleased!

Mike is correct, with our customers we would not be here. We thank you for YOUR support, and then we in turn try to return that support within our communities. Thank you again Mike for your never ending support, it is truly appreciated!

Nancy Wilkes, RO  
Acton Optical

### Ready for the torch

To the editor

What are you doing Saturday, December 19?

We are very proud to be one out of only 1,000 communities all across Canada that was chosen to have the torch go through. The torch will start at the Fourth Line and Hwy. 7 at

7:57 a.m. and follow Hwy. 7 to the four corners at Mill and Main Street to finish at approximately 8:15 a.m.

We hope you will join us in welcoming the Olympic flame as it travels through our town. I urge you all to put your "RED ON", bring your best wishes

signs, cameras and we will see you on the street for this possibly once in a lifetime opportunity. See you there!

Sincerely,  
Dolores Black and  
Kathy Verbeek  
Olympic Torch  
Ambassadors

### Holiday House success

To the Editor

I would like to thank everyone who helped make the United Way of Halton Hills 2009 Holiday House Tour such a success. Four beautiful homes were showcased

on this year's tour, and a luncheon with decorating demonstrations was held at St. George's Anglican Church.

Thanks to the homeowners for opening your homes to the many people

who supported our event and to the volunteers who helped in the homes.

Thanks to all the decorators, both interior and exterior, thank you for your expertise, and your contributions of time and talent. Many visitors went away with fabulous decorating ideas.

Most importantly, thank you to the committee of ladies who spent countless hours coordinating this year's tour. The United Way of Halton Hills is fortunate to have so many great supporters in our caring community!

Sincerely,  
Janet Foster  
Executive Director,  
United Way  
of Halton Hills

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