

Avery Bravery Race date confirmed

By: Denise Paulsen

When Christine Bond gave birth to her second child Avery on March 13 last year, open-heart surgery was the last thing on her mind, but just 14 days later her daughter

underwent a life-saving operation.

Shortly after birth the Bonds were alarmed when Avery's feet appeared "purple and cold." The doctor's diagnosis was shocking – Coarctation of the Aorta – a

narrowing of the main artery to the heart.

Avery, now a healthy one-year-old, avoided the surgery risks but will need further surgery before her third birthday. Her parents are thankful to everyone who saved their little girl

and are now ready to give back with "Avery's Bravery Race" a fundraiser for Sick Kids Hospital on April 24, marking Avery's miraculous recovery.

Five-kilometre and two-kilometre races begin and end at the Rockwood Con-

servation Area where RBC will host a barbeque. Several more sponsors have already signed on to help with the fundraising and more volunteers are welcome.

The Bonds hope Avery's Bravery Race becomes an annual event, a fun family day featuring crafts, face-painting and music.

Advance tickets are available at the Rockwood Running Room

until March 23, and regularly priced tickets are available up to, and including the day of the race. The price includes admission to the Rockwood Conservation Area and a commemorative Avery's Bravery Race T-shirt. A link to the race is available at rockwood-runningroom.com or by contacting the Bond family direct at 519-856-0066.



READY SET GO: Randy and Christine Bond, big sister Taylor and baby Avery will all be at the finish line at the Rockwood Conservation Area in April at Avery's Bravery Race. The proceeds from this family fundraising event will benefit the Toronto's Sick Kids Hospital, where baby Avery had open heart surgery less than a year ago. - Denise Paulsen photo.

Last fall, before George Smitherman quit the Legislature to seek greater but fleeting glory as Mayor of Toronto, an amazing story was published in the Toronto Star.

According to inside sources, Smitherman had been "gang-tackled" by his Cabinet colleagues over something called the "Samsung deal."

Until this time, Smitherman had led a rather charmed political life. Rising through the ranks of the Legislature, he had surpassed equally cunning and ambitious Liberal MPPs to be named the Deputy Premier of Ontario by Premier Dalton McGuinty.

The Premier was said to be impressed by his ability to get things done, and his evident willingness to act as the partisan pit-bull in the House.

Behind the scenes, there were numerous accounts of his erratic and explosive temper, and his use of threats and intimidation to accomplish his personal agenda. But all of this seemed to have the Premier's blessing.

Assuming the story in

Our MPP Reports

by Ted Arnott

MPP Wellington - Halton Hills



the Star was accurate, why were Liberal Cabinet Ministers so strongly opposed to the Samsung deal that they worked in collusion to try to kill it?

There is no question that Ontario needs strong leadership, particularly on the electricity file. Our industrial base was built on relatively inexpensive and very reliable hydro. Public "power at cost," as advocated by Sir Adam Beck a hundred years ago, was one of our most significant competitive advantages through the 20th century.

Now, according to the experts, we need to build substantial new electricity generating capacity and invest in upgrades to our transmission networks. All of this takes years, with multiple layers of approvals, financing arrangements and ultimately construction to bring new assets on line.

Many energy experts agree that there may be po-

tential for wind and solar generation as a limited part of a new "greener" energy mix, anchored by hydro and nuclear power, with a diminishing fossil fuel component.

Which brings us back to the Samsung deal.

The broad details the Government is prepared to release are these: Samsung, a Korean-based company, commits to investing \$7-billion, building four new factories, and creating 1,440 jobs.

What the Government is less likely to acknowledge is the cost to Ontario taxpayers:

This "Buy Korean" policy includes an "incentive" of \$437-million - that's \$303,000 for every job being created - and a commitment to pay up to four times the going rate for wind power, and up to fifteen times the going rate for solar power.

On top of this, Ontario energy companies appear

to be pushed out in favour of a preferential deal with a foreign conglomerate.

No wonder Smitherman's Cabinet colleagues planned the ambush last fall.

Yet, it appears that McGuinty intervened on his side, because even though Smitherman has moved on, the policy is still here and the Government signed the Samsung deal.

Brace yourself for a big jump in your hydro bill when the new HST kicks in on Canada Day, and when the costs of this deal are passed on you and the other ratepayers in Ontario.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our second annual Free Family Skate. My wife Lisa and I were pleased to host this event on January 31, when over 270 people laced up their skates at the Acton arena.

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott welcomes your comments. He can be reached toll free at 1-800-265-2366. His website is www.tedarnottmpp.com.

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