

Cubs learn bike safety rules

One of the many badges worked on this year by First Acton Cubs was the Cycling Safety badge. Recently, Cubs learned about helmet fit, care, and quality; turn signals, and how to navigate a pylon course with the assistance of two local cycling dads. One of the dads is a mountain biker and the other dad is a road cyclist. Cubs were also able to compare the many differences between the two bikes.

Cub dad, Paul O'Hara-Hoke, raises funds for kids with cancer. He has been chosen to cycle across Canada in September as part of the Sears National Kids Cancer Ride. Cyclists pay all their own costs and raise \$25,000 to participate. One hundred per cent of donations made

to the Sears National Kids Cancer Ride go to support pediatric oncology research at hospitals across Canada. So far, Paul has raised over \$28,000 and will continue to raise awareness and funds before getting on his bike in Vancouver and cycling to Halifax between September 9 to 23rd.

Paul's family got involved when their friends' five-year-old daughter, Amelia, passed away in 2007 from a brain stem tumour. They started Team Amazing Amelia with like-minded cycling friends and have been riding to help kids with cancer ever since. Their main team event is Tour For Kids which supports Camps Trillium, Quality, and Oochigeas. These events

are organized by the Coast to Coast Against Cancer Foundation, a nationally registered charitable foundation that supports kids' cancer charities with a 100 per cent donation model.

Paul has a blog documenting his training and will be updating it frequently during the Sears National Kids Cancer Ride. Follow him at <http://pauloharaho.ke.snk-cr.com>. Halton Hills is well-represented with two other qualified cyclists riding across with Paul, local fireman Mark Burger and Georgetown resident Dave Swindells.

The Cubs wrapped up their cycling session with several spins around the pylon course, learning how to navigate a narrow course, how to safely look



WHEEL SAFETY: Members of First Acton Cubs learned about bicycle safety – and earned their Cycling Safety badge – recently as they rode through a safety course, learned about helmet fit and care and how to use turn signals. – Submitted photo

over their shoulder while on the road, and last, but not least, having fun and being active on their bikes. The First Acton Cubs generously donated their dues for the week to Paul's effort, to help kids with cancer across Canada.

Arnott battles for farmers

An open letter to the Premier of Ontario

Dear Premier:

I write to you again regarding the very serious challenges facing Ontario farmers – a file that remains active on my desk at Queen's Park. Since my letter to you of December 16, 2009, your government has failed to take the kind of meaningful action proposed by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the Ontario Agriculture Sustainability Coalition (OASC).

This if, for producers and farm families, extremely disappointing. Now that Ontario has become a "have-not" province, it will receive some \$972-million in equalization payments from the Government of Canada; this is a major increase from last year's \$347-million. Yet, despite your massive accumulation of federal equalization payment, your government continues to insist that it cannot take further action. In response to a question on the consensus proposal for a risk management plan, your Minister of Agriculture claimed that getting the federal government on side would be "the only way that our programs are going to work for our farmers now and in the future."

This excuse is baloney. The federal government has, in fact, given you the capacity through equalization to take meaningful action, but you have refused to do so. Expiration of federal funding has not stopped your major expenditures on child care, which your Minister of Finance announced with great fanfare: "I am pleased to announce that the McGuinty government is stepping in and continuing to fund the child care spaces abandoned by the federal government." Your failure to act in the same way in response to the crisis facing agriculture is, to many farmers, indication of your government's indifference toward their plight.

The OASC has called for changes to rules governing the AgriStability program; establishment of a Business Risk Management Program (BRMP) appropriate for each commodity; and retroactive payments under both programs, assuming the changes, for the years 2008 and 2009. Further details are available on the OASC backgrounder. Do you have any plans to consider adopting

any of the OASC's recommendations? Please respond as soon as possible to my Queen's Park office.

I look forward to your active engagement, which will not doubt determine the future of Ontario agriculture.

Sincerely,
Ted Arnott, MPP
Wellington-Halton Hills

DE MELO CHIROPRACTIC & WELLNESS CENTRE

Dr. Dave de Melo, Chiropractor
Dr. Jim Giancoulas, Chiropractor
Amy Spiers, Massage Therapist

- SAFE, GENTLE CHIROPRACTIC CARE
- COMPUTER GENERATED SPINAL ANALYSIS
- EMERGENCIES & WORKERS COMP ACCEPTED
- NEW PATIENTS WELCOME

25 Main Street North, Acton

Across from Giant Tiger Plaza

(519) 853-3460

No Referral Necessary

EVENING APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE



Airport Transportation Available 24/7

We participate in the ActiVan program.

For Safe Reliable Service Call:

519-853-1261