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Annual Poker Run is next month

Get your motors running. The Milton chapter of the Harley Owners Group will host its 12th annual Poker Run June 2.

A poker run consists of riders following a pre-determined route, stopping at several checkpoints to draw a playing card.

The playing cards (five in total) are then used to create a poker hand. Prizes and plaques are awarded to both the rider and passenger with the highest hand and the rider and passenger with the lowest hand.

Sign-up is from 10 a.m. until noon at the Muddy Duck, 360 Steeles Ave. Riders will sign an event release form for insurance

purposes and receive a 'poker form' and a route sheet.

The run is 170 km and is expected to take four hours to ride. The route, as in the past, will be scenic, as the majority of the roads are secondary highways or concessions. The ride will end at the Big Bucks Restaurant, 3330 South Service Rd., in Burlington.

Over the last four years, the average number of participants has been 160 people riding all makes and models of motorcycles.

This year the Milton chapter of HOG is asking participants to bring pledge forms

to the event. Pledges in excess of \$30 will be eligible for a special draw of door prizes. The three people who collect the most pledges will receive in descending order a leather jacket, a Harley Davidson leather vest and a duffel bag.

For participants who don't bring a pledge sheet, there will be a charge of \$10 at sign-up.

Proceeds will be donated to the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada.

Pledge sheets are available from every Harley Davidson dealer in southern Ontario and at www.harleycanada.com.

For more information, call Don Black at (905) 820-8614 or (416) 307-1993.

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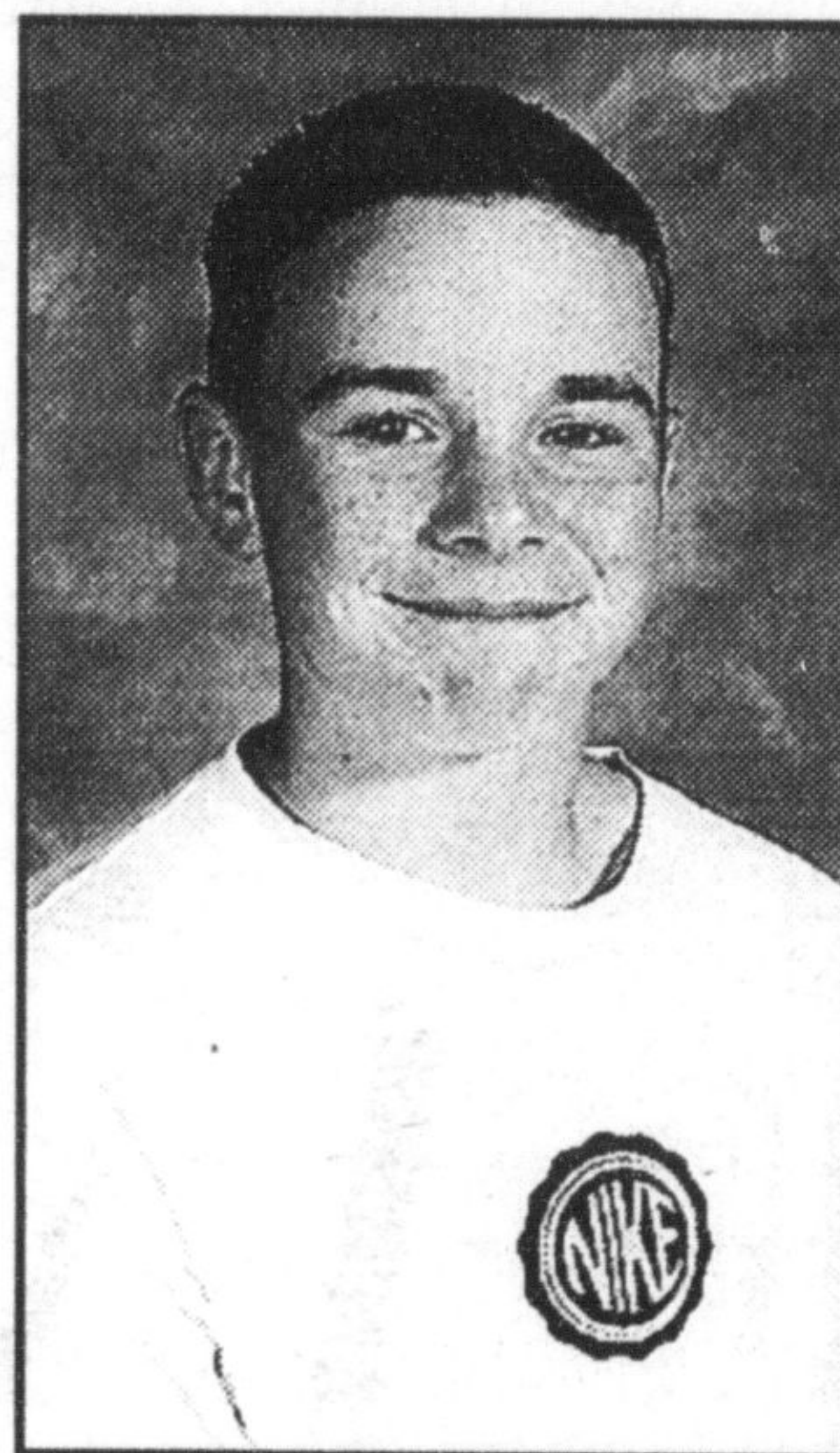
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APRIL CARRIER OF THE MONTH

I'm Kevin St. John. I'm in Grade 9 and have been delivering the Champion papers for some time. I enjoy basketball, hanging out with my friends and spend a lot of my time on the computer.



Kevin St. John

Want to be a survivor?

Will you be the survivor?

The Milton Leisure Centre will be transformed into the 'Outback' May 25 for Survivor Night.

The event is open to youths aged 9 to 13 years and runs from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Participants will partake in tribe games and challenges, brave the 'swamp' and go to tribal council in their attempt to the a 'survivor'.

Participants are asked to bring a bathing suit and towel, for your tribe may be heading for the swamp.

Tickets cost \$5 and must be purchased in advance at the leisure centre. The last day for ticket sales is Tuesday.

Tickets won't be available at the door.

For more information, call Tammy Corless at (905) 875-1861.

MDH More Accessible To The Deaf



Halton Healthcare

The statistics speak volumes...

According to the Canadian Hearing Society:

- One in ten Canadians experiences some form of hearing loss.
- More than 50 per cent of Canadians over the age of 65 have a hearing loss.
- Approximately 30,000 Canadians use Sign Language as their first language.

Halton Healthcare Services is now a friendlier place to visit for the deaf, deafened and hard-of-hearing thanks to an initiative which when the Milton Deaf Action Group approached Milton District Hospital asking them to improve their services for the deaf.

"After researching the request, we found an opportunity to help not only the deaf but also the deafened and hard-of-hearing populations," says Lisa Droppo, HHS Ombud and Quality Coordinator. "That's a significant number of our patients both at MDH and Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital." To help these patients overcome the communications barriers they face, a large part of the Communications Accessibility initiative focused on making the hospitals better equipped to communicate with these patients. Lisa toured a group of deaf individuals through the hospitals to identify problem areas. Policies and procedures were then developed to help staff identify deaf, deafened and hard-of-hearing patients, provide them with devices to enhance communication and to bring interpreters into the hospitals when necessary.

Each hospital hosted a Communications Accessibility Fair for staff, volunteers and community. Registration staff and unit clerks participated in a more intense two-hour workshop to learn how to use the new equipment, identify patients with hearing problems and communication strategies. The hands-on experience also included an exercise that put them in the shoes of a hard-of-hearing person.

"That exercise was a real eye-opener for most of the participants," says Lisa. "It brought home the isolation that is felt when you can't hear. You often don't think about the connection between hearing and communication. The challenges faced by the deaf, deafened and hard-of-hearing must at times be very discouraging."

And has the work been worthwhile? According to Lisa, yes.

"Communication is an important part of quality patient care," says Lisa. "Because of this initiative, we have improved the level of care that these patients receive."

For more information about the Communications Accessibility initiative at Halton Healthcare Services, please call Lisa Droppo at 905-338-4433 (Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital TTY/TTD: 905-815-5111, Milton District Hospital TTY/TDD: 905-878-7202).



What's available at HHS?

Certified American Sign Language Interpreter Services - For inpatients, advise the nursing staff and they will make the necessary arrangements. If you are coming in for an appointment, please let them know in advance so that an interpreter service can be scheduled in advance.

Amplified Telephone - For people with moderate to profound hearing loss. It is hearing aid compatible with a feedback filter to reduce noise. The phone also has a flashing light to let the user know when it is ringing.

Pocketalker Sound Units - One-to-one communication device that amplifies the voice of the speaker to headphones worn by the listener.

Teletypewriter (TTY/TDD) - Portable combination telephone and teletypewriter with voice carry over. It also has a flashing light to indicate when it is ringing.

Baby Sound Monitor - Transmits signal to flashing lamp when a baby cries.

International Symbol of Access - The ear and broken white bar on the blue background indicates access for persons who are hard-of-hearing or deaf. With the patient's permission, it can be placed on their health record and by their bed to assist staff in communicating with these patients most effectively. Small blue (and white) cards are available in all of our waiting areas for patients to hold so staff can communicate more effectively.

Televisions - Closed captioned televisions are available upon request from the television rental service.

Audiology - For hearing aid checks, call 905-876-7022.