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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Deidre Scholtz, now 11, says she doesn't remember much about her 1996 bone marrow transplant.

Five years after bone marrow transplant

Scholtz family feels blessed as Deidre still in good health

By RICHARD VIVIAN
The Champion

Five years after returning home from a bone marrow transplant, Milton's Deidre Scholtz looks and acts like a typical 11-year-old.

Her monthly check-ups have faded to yearly check-ups and transplant medications no longer sit in the family medicine cabinet.

"She's been doing really well," said mother Liz Scholtz when asked how her daughter has handled the recovery. "She's a stubborn little thing, and I think that's part of the reason she recovered faster than we were

originally told."

Deidre was diagnosed with aplastic anemia, a life-threatening blood disease in February, 1996 and needed a bone marrow transplant to survive.

When no family members were a suitable match, the Scholtzes turned to the public, organizing one of the largest bone marrow donor clinics in North America. Between 2,000 and 3,000 people attended to see if they would be a suitable donor.

But Deidre's donor was found far from the Milton area in British Columbia. Though the family knows who the donor is, father Clem Scholtz said she wishes to remain anonymous to the general public.

Although reluctant to discuss

the donor out of respect for her privacy, the thankful parents said they have written to her and talked with her several times on the telephone.

Ms Scholtz recalled their first conversation with the donor. "Here's this poor woman painting her bathroom and you've got two people, two emotional fools on the other end of the phone. I was as speechless that night as I am now."

Added Mr. Scholtz, "We just wanted to say 'thanks' to show our appreciation for this selfless act."

The family was overwhelmed by not only the donor's selflessness, but also the Milton community.

"It was a magical time."
• see DEIDRE on page 8

Youth drop-in centre in search of new site after building is sold

By FANNIE SUNSHINE
The Champion

After five years of calling Mill Street home, the Xcape Youth Drop-In Centre will have to pack its bags by the end of August.

"We were told the building was to be sold," said Jim DeMarsh, a Milton Bible Church pastor and centre volunteer worker. "Right now the centre is open Friday nights until the end of August."

The centre received notice of the closing at the end of June.

"We're in the process of completing an assessment and evaluation right now," Pastor DeMarsh said, adding the centre has yet to find a new home.

Thousands of teenagers have come through the centre over the years, he said.

"Two years ago we started an alternative school program (STEP) in the centre. We've held community dinners for youth and fitness programs. On Friday nights the kids can play pool and indoor games such as hockey and basketball."

The Xcape Youth Drop-In Centre opened as a place for "at-risk" youth to interact

"I'd like the centre to be in a neutral location. People are more likely to come to a centre in a neutral location than one operating out of a church."

PASTOR JIM DEMARSH

with other youths and adults, he said.

"We're anxiously looking for a new location," Pastor DeMarsh said.

The pastor added Milton Bible Church — to be located at 200 Main St. and set to open by Christmas — is being looked at as a possibility to house the centre but would prefer an alternate setting.

"I'd like the centre to be in a neutral location. People are more likely to come to a centre in a neutral location than one operating out of a church."

Carmelina Sedita, landlord of 174 Mill St., said she's still in the process of negotiating with future site owners and wouldn't comment further.

Local man struck by CP train

A 25-year-old Milton man is dead after being struck by a CP train early yesterday morning.

Shortly after 2:30 a.m., the conductor observed a man near the tracks at the end of Court Street, west of Ontario Street.

Despite efforts to stop the train, the man was struck and killed.

Halton Regional Police, CP Police and the Regional Coroner's Office are investigating the incident.

At press time yesterday, the name of the deceased hadn't been released pending notification of next of kin.

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