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GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

Canadian Army Master-Cpl. Matt Muir has returned from Afghanistan after suffering a spinal infection.

# Milton soldier home from Afghanistan

By Jeremy Grimaldi  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

After training for years to fight for his country in far-flung places around the world, Master-Cpl. Matt Muir finally got his chance to put his knowledge to work.

In April he was sent with the rest of his army comrades to an unnamed location in the Panjwaii district, just east of

Kandahar, Afghanistan, where many Canadian soldiers are holding tough against a tough enemy — the Taliban.

Immediately Muir got down to work setting out on countless patrols to investigate suspicious movements and packages with the rest of his platoon.

"We went through so much training that you feel comfortable putting your life in someone else's hands," said the 22-year-old. "You can develop some

interesting relationships under those circumstances. I made a lot of good friends."

By all accounts he was having "the most interesting time" of his young life, learning about a new culture, interacting with children and doing his best to keep the local population safe.

"The Afghan people loved us. They were very kind and always inviting us into their homes for tea," said the for-

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# Nov. 12 fundraiser to benefit ill baby

By Christina Commisso  
CANADIAN  
CHAMPION STAFF

In the 1960s, three-and-a-half-month-old Kaitlyn Costanzo wouldn't live long enough to experience her first day of Kindergarten. Today, her parents are hopeful the youngster will live into her thirties.

Kaitlyn is one of the 3,600 babies in Canada who, each year, are born with cystic fibrosis.

"Of course we're hoping for a cure in her lifetime," said mom Shannon Gwillam. "There are lots of medications that are going to hopefully prolong her life."

She's hoping an upcoming fundraiser for little Kaitlyn will help raise awareness about the devastating disease.

On Friday, Nov. 12 friends of the Costanzo-Gwillam family will host the event at the local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion on Charles Street.

"A lot of people don't know about genetic disorders and have no idea what cystic fibrosis is," said Gwillam.

According to Dolores Adams, manager of the



Friends of the Costanzo-Gwillam family are hoping to raise funds for baby Kaitlyn, who has cystic fibrosis.

Peel and district chapter of the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, one in 25 Canadians are carriers of the cystic fibrosis (CF) gene, and if both parents carry the gene, there's a one in four chance their child will have CF.

"It's scary. You're born with this disease; you will die from this disease," said Adams.

She said years ago CF was mistaken for pneumonia and was rarely diagnosed. Today, babies undergo a newborn screening for CF.

The genetic disorder is present from birth. CF is a multi-organ disease that affects the lungs and digestive system; a build-up of thick mucus in the lungs causes severe breathing problems. It may be difficult to clear bacteria from

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