

Scouts, Hospice team up for summer camp retreat

By SARAH FISHER

Thirty-five children and teenagers from across Essex County are counting on four days of fun.

The Hospice of Windsor and Essex County Inc. and Scouts Canada have invited children ages five to 15 to Camp Cedarwin, located off the Arner Townline, for four days and three nights starting Aug. 21.

This is the second year for the camp. The children are referred to the program through Hospice because of a family member's diagnosis with a life threatening illness. There is no charge for the camp.

"Linda contacted me about a month and a half ago. She knows the financial situation that we're in," said Nicole Logan, about Hospice administrator Linda Sabatini. "I'm not the first family that has had this experience."

Logan's common law husband, Robert Vigna, was diagnosed with a tumour on his spinal cord in December 2001. Surgery removed 10 inches of the 12-inch tumour, but the remaining cancer, and new tumours that have developed, cause unimaginable pain. Logan estimates Vigna, who is bedridden, is able to sleep only three hours a day. Her full-time job is caring for her husband and she is no longer able to work.

The couple's children, 14-year-old Dustin and eight-year-old Taylor, are preparing for camp.

Dustin will be in the sen-



ior grouping of kids that will try a rope course. The activity is often part of business retreats to teach trust and confidence building as participants glide high above the ground. It's something Dustin is looking forward to.

Taylor is looking forward to being away from home. Her mother said her bags were packed a week before parents were scheduled to drop the children off at the Hospice office on Empress Street in Windsor.

"I'm not afraid," Taylor said about the time away from her mother.

Time away from home will give Dustin and Taylor a chance to play. At home the children, including their older sister Crysta, are mindful that any noise or

disturbance can cause more pain for their dad.

Logan knows kids need to let loose and, when Hospice suggested Camp Cedarwin, she knew it would be a good time for Dustin and Taylor. The four days will also give her some time with her husband, and some time for herself, Logan said.

"I love my family and I don't regret a minute of it, but the break away will give me some time with Robert and give the kids time away to act like kids," she said.

Amy Pinsonneault with Scouts Canada is positive the campers will be distracted for four days. She said volunteers from Hospice would accompany Scout leaders in all the activities planned. Because the chil-

Nicole Logan and her children are caring for her husband who is battling cancer. The children are getting a break this week during the second annual Scouting with Hospice camp at Camp Cedarwin.



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On September 2, 2006 the Essex County Library will begin using a materials recovery agency, Unique Management Services, to help encourage patrons with overdue materials to return them to the Library. The cost of this service will be passed on to each patron whose account will be handled by the materials recovery agency.

This decision was made with fairness to all Library patrons in mind. If materials are not returned, they are not available for others and the Library uses money from the budget to replace the material.

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