

COMPANIES POOL RESOURCES FOR NELLIE

By Kate Gilderdale
Stouffville Free Press

Gormley resident Nellie Bounds is a beautiful and active youngster who loves to swim, dance and skate.

When Nellie was two years old, she was diagnosed with autism, ADHD and bi-polar syndrome. Over the years her parents, Debbie and Bill, have done all they can to ensure that their daughter, who will turn 11 on Dec. 8, leads a full and happy life, and is able to pursue the things she loves.

The family has a backyard pool, which has proved an invaluable resource for Nellie, who is an accomplished swimmer. However, the pool was old and, by last summer, was in urgent need of expensive repairs. "I went on a course offered by the Autism Society on how to fundraise for your child," Debbie said.

As a result, she contacted 21 pool companies in York Region to seek help. In her letter she wrote, "Nellie loves to swim, dance, trampoline, skate, gymnastics and generally being very active. Her pool is something

she absolutely adores. She has had it her whole life and is amazing in the water. She is comfortable, she is safe, and she is free from her disabilities in the water.

"She has no siblings or extended family to lend a hand. If we cannot raise the much-needed funds, all of the years of hard work we have accomplished may quickly diminish. Unemployment struck our household for a long period of time due to Nellie's demanding schedule/needs. Along with the extremely high costs of respite, camp funds, EAs etc., our monies have been exhausted."

The first response came from Aquaman Pools of Stouffville. "Brian Corrigan was the first to call and offer to head up the pool mission," said Debbie. "Then I got a letter from Bonavista Pools who donated paint and a call from Betz Pools who donated a solar blanket. The rest Brian got from his own sources."

Those sources were Master Blasters, Stouffville; North Eastern Service Pool Distribution, Pickering; Rosehill Pools, Stouffville; Min Chem Lawrason's, Oakville; Bremnar Pool & Spa, Pickering; Hayward Pool

Products, Oakville; James Morning & Sons Ltd., Kettleby; Todd Pools, Stouffville and SCP Distributors, Ajax.

Work on the project began in August. "So far the pool has been drained, sandblasted and two coats of paint applied, water input and it is now up and running," said Debbie. In late November, Nellie presented Brian with a plaque which read, "The Humanitarian Award presented to Brian Corrigan. Love from Nellie Bounds. You are the best."

The plaque itself was donated by Rembrandt Awards and Debbie and Bill are overwhelmed by the help and kindness local businesses have shown.

"Bill and I have never met so many nice people willing to help and find it a heartwarming experience to know that there are still caring and giving people in the world ready to pitch in for a good cause."



Bill and Debbie Bounds flank Lee Brown and Brian Corrigan of Aquaman Pools and the Bounds' daughter Nellie, who is holding the plaque she presented to Mr. Corrigan for his help in repairing the family's backyard pool.

Nellie Bounds presents a plaque to Brian Corrigan of Aquaman Pools (left) in recognition of his help in restoring the family's backyard pool. At right is Mr. Corrigan's assistant, Lee Brown.



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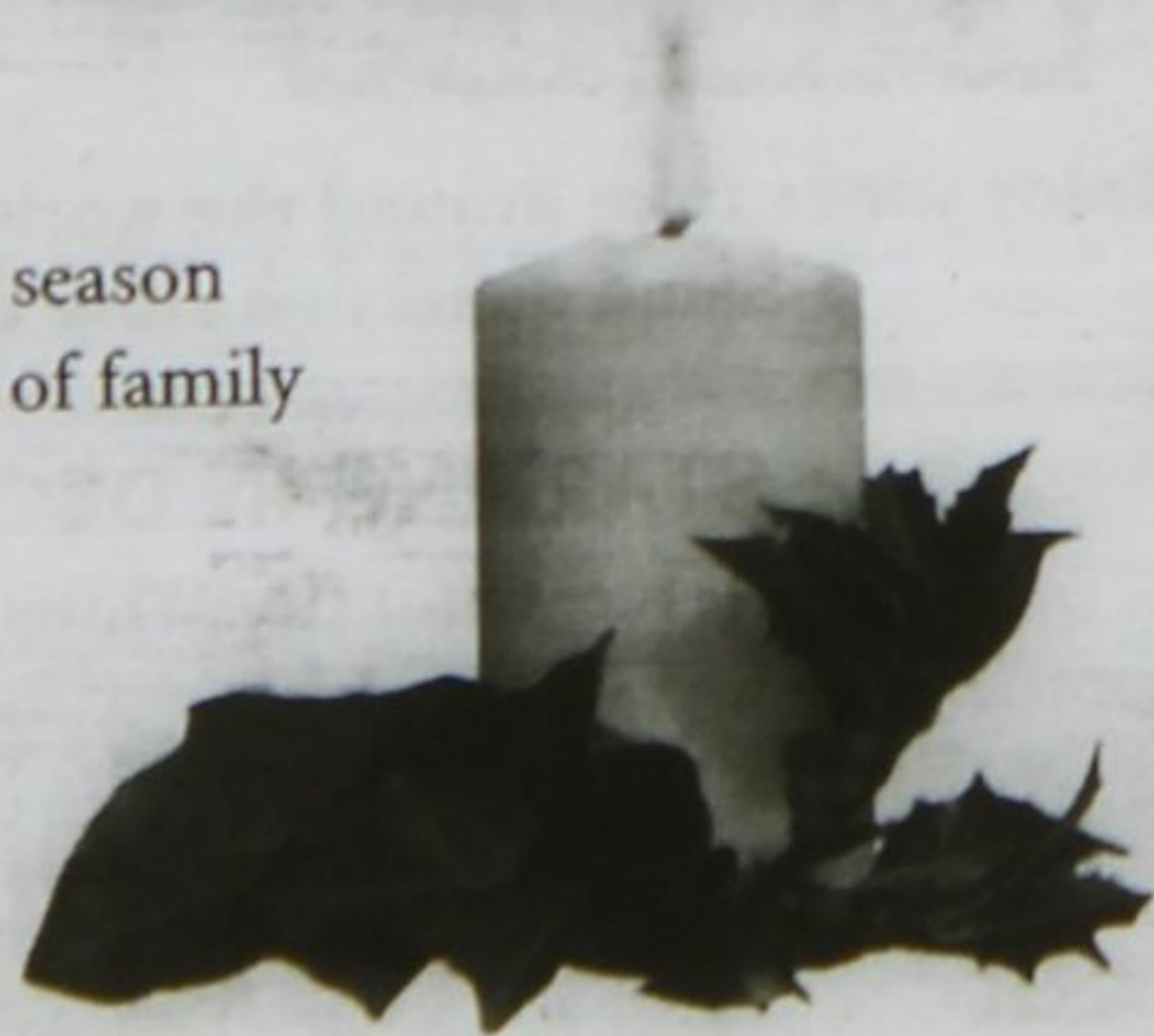
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5402 Main Street
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