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By Ted Ecclestone

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## Orangeville girl who kindled the Knights' imagination

By Constance Scrafield-Danby  
Freelance Contributor

Here is an occasion for you to polish up your motorcycle, join your fellow enthusiasts and have a day's ride in the wonderful countryside — all for a good cause. Read on:

Met Achromatic Leukodystrophy (MLD) is a neurochemical disease which gradually causes the myelin sheath that coats the brain to degenerate. Life expectancy after diagnosis is three to five years. Not only is there no cure, and little or no research, there is also no treatment known or offered by conventional medicine.

In other words, when a person is afflicted with MLD, conventional medicine has nothing to offer about it. However, OHIP will not pay for any alternatives; in addition, there is no financial assistance given to the family by OHIP for coping with a person with MLD if that family is seeking help in the fields of alternative medicine.

So, the family have a choice:

staying with the conventional medical care — which amounts literally to nothing up to palliative care while receiving some benefits from the system in the way of financial assistance — or looking for alternatives which might in some way retard the progress of the disease or even reverse it, while getting no financial help from OHIP.

Thus it is with Orangeville's Bolton family, whose 14-year-old daughter Kaitlin, was diagnosed with MLD at the age of seven and has lived much longer already than the prognosis anticipates. The Boltons attribute her continued life to the alternative medical treatment she is receiving from Dr. Randal Thomason in Arizona.

Although Dr. Thomason contributes his time and expertise to the Boltons, they must pay for the medication Kaitlin is given intravenously at a Guelph hospital every month. OHIP does pay for the facilities and administration of the medication.

While Kaitlin's condition and her mental agility are remarkable, given her circumstances, the

financial burden for the Boltons is a heavy one. Over the years, the community has contributed one way or another, but, meanwhile, the Bolton debt load is ever on the increase.

This year, the class at Parkinson Centennial Public School with whom Kaitlin should have been graduating, decided to do what they could to help her parents cope. They raised money at a Valentine's dance and then sought more help from the community.

They also wrote a letter to the local branch of the Knights of Columbus, explaining the situation and seeking assistance from them. The girl's plight caught the imagination of the Knights and they have taken up her cause with their first annual Charity Motorcycle Ride.

Here's the plan: on Sunday, September 13, participating bikers of all ages and ilk will register for \$25 at The Deck Pub on Mill Street, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. There are prizes and it is a poker run, with a winning hand of \$750. The ride is to support the Kaitlin Bolton Sunshine Fund and other

local charities.

To find out details of the day, I paid a visit to Orangeville lawyer Stephen White, a member of the Council of the Knights of Columbus, Chair of the Charity Community and the ride's instigator. He was impressed by the horrors of the disease which, as he said, "essentially eats holes in the membrane that surrounds the brain. Kaitlin has lost her ability to walk and speak. She blinks her eyes to communicate."

He was clearly impressed with Kaitlin, whose cheerfulness and bravery affect everyone who meets her.

The idea of a motorcycle ride came to him as he watched riders, who are professional men and women otherwise, show up at The Deck pub down Mill Street from his law office, for "Shine and Shine." It occurred to him that they might enjoy such an event as this charity ride.

When he put the idea to the Knights' Council, it was perhaps viewed as being a little outrageous, but this was tempered by the fact that a few members of the Council likewise enjoy country rides on their motorcycles.

Still, the day is also about the money raised.

Said Mr. White: "We have three sources of income for the day — the \$25 per rider registration fee, sponsor donations that they might bring in, and corporate sponsorship."

Heading the pack in the last of these is Scotiabank, where Phil Lamanna, manager of the bank's Riddell Rd. branch, has offered to match donations up to \$5,000. Coming recently to the community, Mr. Lamanna is anxious for his branch to support this kind of community event.

"At some point, you've got to give," was Mr. White's comment on his concern for Kaitlin and his determination to help her and her family. "You can give money to a charity but until you've given something of yourself, it's just talk."

Talking with Kaitlin's mother, Susan Bolton, a few days later, gave me the crux of the story.

"Just before grade one," she said, "Kaitlin began walking funny and falling down a lot. The doctor thought it might be mechanical or something to do with her bones. When he asked her to walk with her eyes closed,

she fell down."

Further tests and investigations with other doctors brought the bad news of Kaitlin's true condition.

"There is no treatment at all," Mrs. Bolton declared. "They monitor the girl's deterioration to the state of palliative care — and that's it."

When that was not good enough for the Boltons, they were on their own. Eventually, they found Randal Thomason in Arizona. He analysed her blood samples extensively and began treating her with vitamins and minerals, which are administered intravenously. Mrs. Bolton has to go to a pharmacy in Toronto to pick up the prescription and deliver it to the hospital in Guelph.

"It is keeping Kaitlin going. She is still with us. Her mental capacity is good. She remembers people and is very aware but she can't verbalise. There are only very mild improvements but she is not deteriorating."

To give some help, Mrs. Bolton's parents live in a

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Kaitlin Bolton

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NORTHMEN JEREMY NOBLE scoops up a loose ball in Minto Cup action against the Coquitlam Adanacs on Saturday night at the Powerade Centre in Brampton.  
Photo/MIKE MALONEY

## Northmen earn berth in Minto final

By MIKE MALONEY  
Sports Editor

The stage has been set and the Rayburn Construction Northmen who are now just two wins away from their second consecutive Canadian Junior A lacrosse championship.

Saturday night, the Northmen kicked off the defense of the Minto Cup title at the Powerade Centre in Brampton with a convincing 16-8 win over the Coquitlam Adanacs.

Looking for an early edge, Coquitlam managed to open the scoring early on an unassisted marker from Robert Church at 2:21. What some would see as an advantage quickly disappeared as the goal only brought the Northmen offence to life.

John Quarrie came back 30 seconds later for Orangeville, scoring

his first of three on the night followed in succession by Adam Jones, Cody McMahon and Damon Edwards.

Undaunted, the Adanacs battled back to within one in the bottom half of the first period only to have McMahon again find the range, this time on the powerplay assisted by Jones and Brandon Ivey with 13 seconds remaining in the first.

In the second, Orangeville continued to pour it on. Both Jeremy Noble and Jones scored a pair and Quarrie chipped in his second, while Coquitlam could only counter with three of their own sending the two squads in to the third with the score 10-6 for Orangeville.

Again in the third, the B.C. champions stuck first with Ben McIntosh scoring at 6:50. And again, just

like the first period, it didn't take long for Orangeville to answer back with a quick goal, this one unassisted by Matt McLeod off the draw 15 seconds later. Ivey and Quarrie followed with Glen Bryan and Andrew Suitor leaving their mark before McIntosh snuck one more past Orangeville's Nick Rose.

Playing shorthanded in the final minute, McLeod would get the last word for Orangeville, taking a pass in alone from Noble to seal off the scoreboard at 16-8 in

favour of the Northmen to take game one of the round-robin.

Game two on Sunday was the much anticipated re-match between Brampton and Orangeville.

Picking up where they had left off just a week before, the Northmen took control early and never looked back.

26 seconds into the game Quarrie teamed up with Ivey to open the scoring. Greg Harnett followed next with his first of the tournament at 9:12 and Edwards and McLeod rounded out the first frame with

singles to send the teams into the first intermission with Orangeville holding a 4-0 lead.

Second period action saw a more robust effort on the part of Brampton with both teams adding three to the tally. Scott Tinning, Dylan Evans and Michael Burke found the range for Brampton while three familiar faces to Excelsiors goalie Steve Fryer — McLeod, Jones and Noble — countered with goals for Orangeville.

In the third, Brampton managed to

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Photo/MIKE MALONEY

ORANGEVILLE ATHLETICS, sponsored by Allto Construction had their hopes of a divisional title quashed when they came up short on the short side of a 2-1 decision at Rotary Park last Thursday night. The Athletics re-grouped on Tuesday night, ending the regular season with a 6-2 win in Innisfil. Thursday night, they kick-off the playoffs hosting Orillia in quarter-final action playing at Rotary Park with the game scheduled to start at 8:45 p.m.

## Kings bats fall silent in championship

The reign of the Orangeville Kings atop the Intercounty Fastball league is over for this season.

This past weekend, the Kings and the other top eight teams from the Intercounty league converged on Ponsonby for their 2009 championship tournament.

After posting a perfect 18-0 season record, Orangeville came into the tournament heavily favoured to defend their 2008 championship. Unfortunately for the Kings however, their bats fell silent when they needed them the most and, despite only giving up seven runs in five games, were unseated from the championship throne by the Arthur Merchants who defeated

them 2-1 in the final. The Kings started the weekend off on the right foot, posting a 3-2 win over Maryhill on Friday night.

Rich Long got the ball rolling for Orangeville in the bottom of the first. With the bases loaded, he hit a single to score Kent Campbell and Greg Hickey for a 2-0 lead which held until the top of the third when Maryhill scored a pair off 3 hits.

Donaldson would score the winner in the Kings half of three, bringing in Phil Gordon with a single.

Kyle Anderson went the distance on the mound for the win, tossing 10 strike-outs while only giving up six hits

over seven innings.

Game Two on Saturday morning had Joel Pegg pitching a no-hitter for the Kings, serving up 10 strike-outs while Greg Hickey's double in the bottom of the fourth was just enough to allow the Kings to edge past Ponsonby 1-0.

Later in the afternoon, Orangeville faced off against Arthur for the first time in the tournament.

In the first inning, Arthur managed to score three before the Kings defense and pitcher Scott Gordon settled in and shut them down but those three runs would prove to be all they needed.

Pegg's RBI single in the bottom of one scored

Campbell to put Orangeville on the board but a double plays by Arthur in the third and seventh robbed the Kings of a couple chances to even the score allowing them to hang on for a 3-1 win which advanced them to Sunday's final.

Orangeville now found themselves in a must win situation and needed a win over Puslinch for any chance at getting back into the final.

With Pegg again on the mound, both defenses put in a solid effort, going scoreless through regulation time to force extra innings.

With the international tie-breaker rule in place - a runner starting the inning at second,

Campbell bunted advancing Mike Lake to third which Phil Gordon followed up with a single to score Lake and give Orangeville the 1-0 win and another shot at Arthur in the final on Sunday afternoon. Pegg would get the call, going the distance on the mound for Orangeville.

As in the first game, Arthur got off to an early lead, scoring two in the top of the first.

Jeff Donaldson's RBI single kept things close, scoring Pegg in the bottom of the second.

A pair of singles in the bottom of seven gave Orangeville some hope but with two out, Mike Brooks grounded out to end the game, earning Arthur the 2009 championship.

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