



Connor Bourret is surrounded by his fellow Burlington day campers as he tests the wheelchair donated to him by Silver Cross, an Oakville firm that specializes in recycling equipment for the physically challenged.

Glenn Lawson, The Spectator

Kindness a lesson day campers learn

By CRAIG SUMI
The Spectator

Summer camp is about making new friends, taking in new experiences, and learning a few lessons in life.

At the city-run day camp at Tom Thomson Public School, one lesson is in kindness.

Triplets Connor, Daniel and Tarynne Bourret are participants in the camp. They also have cerebral palsy — which affects the way they walk and means they have to wear leg braces for support — but it has not affected their energy and enthusiasm for camp.

"They are just like the other kids at camp, except they aren't able to move around as quickly," said their father, Michael.

Connor, especially, gets tired when shuffling

his legs long distances. For example, on a field trip to Crawford Lake recently, it was difficult for the youngster to keep up.

"He's got lots of energy, but he has to work so much harder than the others to travel the same distance," said camp counsellor Katie Baker, who has taken a special shine to the Bourret kids.

Knowing that Connor wanted to keep up with the others, Baker asked her mother, who works at a company that recycles assistive devices for the disabled, if there was anything that could be done for the boy.

This week, the Oakville company, called Silver Cross, donated a wheelchair to the youngster.

"When we heard about this, we looked

around to see what we could find for this young man," said Bob Harvey, of Silver Cross.

Michael Bourret was thankful for the generosity of the company and the camp staff. He's a proud, private man, who prefers not to discuss with a reporter the difficulties and challenges that go with raising triplets who are disabled.

"Let's just say it's been a real struggle at times and we're just trying to get from one day to the next. But we're doing OK," he said. "Look at those three — they're great."

Indeed, they are. Tarynne squeals as she goes down the slide. Daniel is playing tag with his friends. And Connor, well, like any seven-year-old who gets a new set of wheels, he is all smiles.

Sunday drivers will have to watch for runners in fast lane

Sunday drivers should keep their eyes peeled for high-speed pedestrians on downtown streets.

Despite the closure of the Village Runner and Sabrina Couture shoe stores, which declared bankruptcy Tuesday, Tomorrow's Downtown Dash 5K race will go ahead.

Owners Mark and Kelly Arnott said 150 runners had registered for the event, which will raise funds for the Burlington Skating

Centre's competitive teams.

Kelly Arnott said the next races in the Village Runner series, the Spooky CATC Race on Oct. 12 and the Jingle Bell Run on Dec. 6 will also go ahead, under the direction of the Arnott's VR Promotions.

The couple also plans to go ahead with their Millennium Marathon on May 30, 1999.

Mark Arnott will continue to lead the Wednesday night runs, which previously

started at the Village Runner, from Reverend's Retreat in the Village Square.

Anyone wishing to participate in the Downtown Dash can register, beginning at 8 a.m. at Burlington Central Lions Club at 471 Pearl St. (at James).

The race starts from there at 9:30 a.m.

You can obtain pledge forms and find out additional information about the race by calling 639-8053