

# Child wheelchair gives Connor kind of mobility every 7-year-old craves

## Local company donates unit to CP triplet

By Diane Hart  
SPECIAL TO THE BEAVER

Connor's got wheels.

And the seven year old Oakville triplet with cerebral palsy couldn't be happier. At the Science Centre a few days ago, Connor Bourret happily wheeled himself along in the new \$2,800 child-styled wheelchair given to him by Silver Cross, an Oakville company specializing in recycled health care products.

His sister, Tarynne and brother Daniel also have cerebral palsy. All of the triplets attend a Burlington-based Summer Activity Centre day camp but it was Connor having the most difficulty getting to the activities. His plight prompted a search by Silver Cross for a wheelchair.

With his new wheels, though, it's a different story.

"His day went very well and he ended up having a great deal of success," commented his father, Michael, after Connor arrived home from camp thrilled with his new wheels.

All day camps in Burlington are integrated and accept special needs kids, according to Katie Baker, the camp counsellor who noticed Connor's exhaustion just getting to the various events during the day.

"Even getting from the gym door to the field was a ton of work for him and by the

time he got to the event he was too tired to participate," explained the 18 year old counsellor who plans to be a physiotherapist.

"So I mentioned it to my mother who works for Silver Cross," explained Katie. Her mother, Deborah Baker, began to make inquiries. Robert Harvey, of Silver Cross, said the wheelchair was located in London Ontario after he put the word out about the triplet's plight.

Today, Connor has more energy to play games, do crafts and all the other fun stuff that makes up a typical day at camp.

"He was whacked, so it allows him to save his energy," added his father, watching as Daniel and Tarynne played on the swings and swoosh down the slide while Connor got used to all the gadgets on the new 30 lb wheelchair designed specifically for a child. The rest of the kids in the day camp flocked about all wanting a turn at pushing Connor.

Watching Connor get used to the new wheelchair, his father noted with a grin: "I think he'll be the centre of attention today."

The wheelchair will be particularly useful for the field trips, he added. Connor now can get around himself when the day camp goes to places like the Science Centre and Crawford Lake.

"It gets him from A to B and then he has more energy, so it seems to have made a difference," said his father.

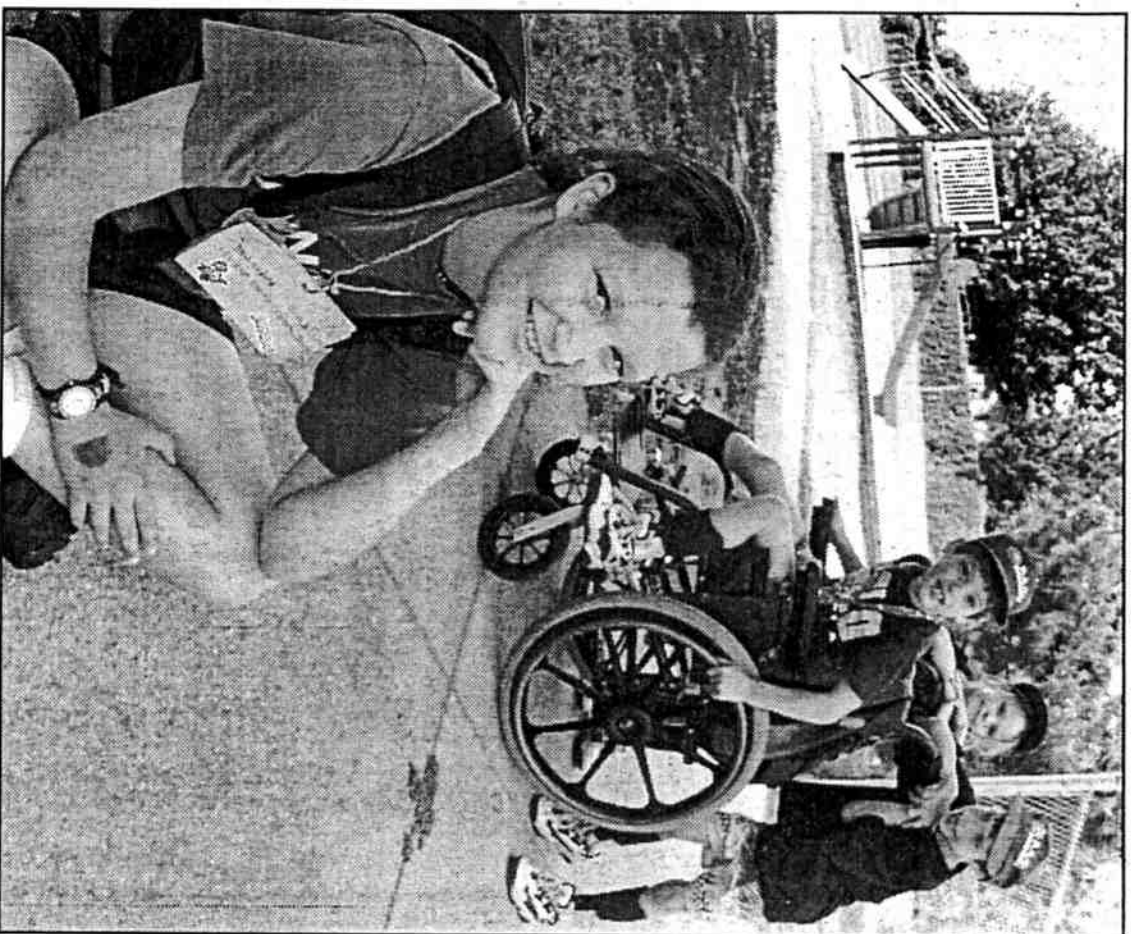


Photo by Christine Smyth  
Connor Bourret, 7 one of three triplets with Cerebral Palsy was able to go on a field trip to the science centre with his brother, Daniel and sister Tarynne, thanks to some help from Silver Cross of Oakville and their counsellor, "Hermitt" who helped get the ball rolling to getting Connor his wheelchair.

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