



**March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010;**

Our eight year old Connor is an avid hockey player but enjoys all sports. On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007 Connor played his last game of hockey for the year. The next morning he woke up with stomach pain and couldn't go to the washroom. We thought he had a bladder infection and took him into the emergency at Thunder Bay Regional Health Science Centre.

On April 4<sup>th</sup> 2007 Connor was flown out to Toronto Sick Kids Hospital and diagnosed with a rare form of cancer called Rhabdomyosarcoma which had already metastasised from his prostate to his spine, lungs, and right femur. Connor has completed 42 days of radiation treatment and 52 weeks of chemotherapy at Toronto Sick Kids Hospital and continues to fight every day.

Connor continues to live everyday like his last. This is not a morbid phrase; rather it truly is something we should all learn from. Connor continues to live life to the fullest by finding a new adventure each and every day whether it is playing baseball in his backyard with his best friends or seeing all the sights we have to see in this great community we have grown to love even more. Connor really makes an effort to do as much as he can while he is home and feeling well

as the majority of his time has been spent at Toronto Sick Kids Hospital. We have been very fortunate to have the support of Northern Ontario Families of Children with Cancer.

If it wasn't for NOFCC's support and assistance in things such as paying for the tutoring Connor would not have completed grade one or two. As it stands with NOFCC'S support Connor graduated grade two in 21 days and is enjoying grade three with his friends at Holy Family School. He did not have to be held back. On top of having a teacher come to our home, the organization also assisted us with parking passes, meal vouchers and taxi rides to and from the hospital.

It is one thing to be able to stay in your home Community to receive treatment but, as this has never been an option for us, every penny has helped to keep our family together as a unit, which can be very difficult and expensive.

Thank you Northern Ontario Families of Children with Cancer. You have helped to mitigate the pressure often put on us by finances, and helped us to stay focused on what is important, our children's health and well being.

**Kelli Gothard McKinnon**

**Thunder Bay**