

VEGAS BABY! BETTING ON NTV'S HIT NEW SHOW!

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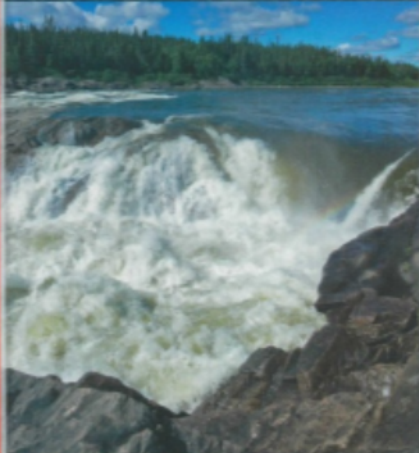


The Newfoundland

Nov. 18 - 24, 2012

HEP A I D

SPECIAL REPORT



MUSKRAT FALLS

**Is The POWER
In Our Hands?**

**PREMIER
DUNDERDALE
DEFENDS NL'S
\$7.4 BILLION
MEGAPROJECT**



\$2.25 CANADA



REASON FOR THE RINK

Todd Churchill is organizing a very unique fundraiser as a way to support three charities that have helped his little boy Carter, who is living with several medical conditions.

An idea that came up last summer has now become a passion and a mission of sorts for one St. Philips engineer and father. Todd Churchill is building a hockey rink in his back yard - and we're not talking about your regular homemade patch of ice on the lawn. This will be a 95' by 46' outdoor ice hockey rink, complete with painted boards, painted lines, nets, lighting, and even logos on the ice itself.

BUILDING HOPE

He's got a lot of inspiration for building this skating rink and the project has become a way to cope with what his family has gone through recently. He hopes that his family - his two boys Carter and Hunter, and wife Kimberley - can enjoy this together. But most of all he is trying to raise awareness and funds for three charities that are near and dear to the Churchill's hearts - Easter Seals, Mazol Shriners and Rainbow Riders-Therapeutic Riding Newfoundland and Labrador Inc.

The resources and support these charities provide have been invaluable to the Churchill's - especially to little Carter.

In October of 2010 Todd's involvement in the Exxon-Mobile Hebron Project meant he, along with Kim, who was pregnant with Carter at the time, and two-year-old Hunter, would relocate to Houston.

"Kim was scheduled to have a c-section in late February 2011 in Newfoundland. The companies I work for have been great - WoodGroup PSN, WorleyParsons and



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newborn baby faced. "When I first saw him it was a shock - he was full of tubes and wires. I have a stressful job but I've never experienced stress and worry like that. His blood pressure was extremely low and of all the problems, that's what they were trying to get under control because his tissues wouldn't get enough

ExxonMobile. They allowed me to come back and work in St. John's early in case the baby came early; that way I would be minutes away instead of a seven-hour flight."

UNEXPECTED ARRIVAL

While Kimberley and Hunter were back in Newfoundland to prep for the new baby's arrival, Todd was just cluing up the last few days of work before he too was scheduled to fly home for the birth. But Carter arrived earlier than expected and on Feb. 8, 2011 he arrived by emergency c-section while Todd was still in the U.S.

When he spoke with his wife over the phone, she assured him everyone was okay. But when Churchill arrived home in Newfoundland, he discovered that because his family didn't want to worry him, they didn't tell him his new son was in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

"He had an enlarged heart, a brain bleed and breathing problems," Todd explains, listing just a few of the many serious issues his

newborn baby faced. "When I first saw him it was a shock



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— Todd Churchill



The test results revealed that Carter had a profound hearing loss and when hearing aids proved to be ineffective for him, Cochlear Implants were the next step to help regain his hearing.

tests went well. But the family got some devastating news when they performed a routine hearing test. "I was working in St. John's for that week and my wife called me at work very upset and told me that he was deaf."

The test results revealed that Carter had a profound hearing loss and when hearing aids proved to be ineffective for him, Cochlear Implants were the next step to help regain his hearing.

"NEVER LOST HIS SMILE"

In December of last year Churchill asked to be transferred to back to the St. John's office where he is currently a WoodGroup PSN employee seconded to WorleyParsons Canada on the ExxonMobil Hebron Project. The move back home meant that he and his family could live and work close to the hospital that would provide more follow up care for Carter. "In January 2012 he was seen by several specialists and (they determined) that he has Cerebral Palsy as well," Churchill tells *The Herald*.

oxygen. The doctor was up-front and said he didn't know how this was going to work out - he had a lot of problems working against him."

Carter remained in the NIC Unit for four weeks, and thankfully as each day passed, the Churchill's seems to get a little bit of good news regarding their son's condition. "He was about 10 days old before we got to hold him for the first time."

LOVING SUPPORT

Before Carter was released, the family was told he would have to have some follow up testing done that spring either here in Newfoundland or at the hospital in Houston. They decided that they would come back home since the doctors knew his condition and medical history.

Todd says that during the difficult times, it meant a lot to have the support of his employers who were very accommodating. So that spring, the Churchill family returned home from Houston and many of Carter's



support and resources from organizations like the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association as well as Easter Seals, Mazol Shriners and Rainbow Riders.

Since Carter was born both Todd and Kimberly have been fundraising in the hopes of supporting the organizations



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While Todd is busy working on his rink, Kimberly is busy cooking up a storm with her business Cupcakes for Carter, inspired by her son's courageous journey (carterscupcakes.com). She donates 25 per cent of her profits to charity as well.

that continue to help their son. They want to "pay it forward" and help the charities provide the same support to other children.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

While Todd is busy working on his rink, Kimberly is busy cooking up a storm with her business Cupcakes for Carter, which of course was inspired by her son's courageous journey (carterscupcakes.com). She donates 25 per cent of her profits to charity as well.



As for Todd, he says building a rink in his backyard has been a life long dream, and he couldn't imagine a better time or reason for doing it. "I wanted to do a rink as a hobby...then I was thinking we should put ads on the boards and sell them to companies as a way to advertise for them, but also raise money for charity."

With the help of SpeedPro Signs, Churchill plans to have all 36 spaces filled with ads from Newfoundland and Labrador businesses. As of our press deadline, 29 of those were filled. "Every business that



commits means \$200 goes to charity, so I'm hoping to raise over \$7,000."

Churchill is also putting the three charity logos on the ice as well and hopes to have the rink ready for cold weather by the end of November. "With this rink I want to get as much fundraising and publicity for these charities as possible." ▲

Todd Churchill welcomes any personal or corporate donations and you can contact him for more information or donate online by visiting the website www.reasonfortherink.com. Any business or group who would like to make a donation and book time on the rink later this winter can also do - just contact Todd Churchill via the website to learn more about this incredible fundraiser.

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