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## 'SHE'S A MIRACLE KID'

Braedon Read photo

Isabella Brink-Read is making progress in her recovery after she was struck by a vehicle while skateboarding and sustained life-threatening injuries.

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15-year-old Isabella Brink-Read is making steady progress in her recovery. The Ancaster girl, who also goes by Bella, suffered life-threatening injuries af-

ter she was struck by a vehicle while skateboarding.

In the hours and days since the April 25 accident, her mother, Cynthia Brink, wasn't sure if Isabella would pull through.

"She's a miracle kid, I think," Brink said on May 6.

A mother's instinct told Brink something was wrong when her daughter went for a quick ride that evening, but stayed out longer than expected and wasn't answering her phone.

When she got in her vehicle and saw emergency vehicles

spread across their Old Mohawk Road neighbourhood, Brink knew something terrible had happened.

Among her injuries, Isabella suffered a pelvic fracture, a col-

See FAMILY, page 6

## TRAFFIC



## WEATHER



## CRIME



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# FAMILY GRATEFUL FOR SUPPORT

Continued from page 3

lapsed lung, right frontal lobe trauma and brain stem damage after she was struck by a 2008 Honda and thrown more than five metres in the air. The 21-year-old male driver remained on scene to assist until emergency services arrived.

While she faces a long road to recovery, Brink said Isabella is now stable and responding well to treatment at the pediatric in-

tensive care unit at McMaster Children's Hospital.

Although her eyes were still closed as of May 6, she was no longer on a ventilator and could move her hands and right leg slightly.

"They're saying it's impossible to predict timelines for recovery," said Brink. "They're also not sure of the pace of recovery, or what her recovery will look like yet."

Brink said the family is stay-

ing positive and optimistic. They're also prepared to do whatever it takes to help Isabella.

Isabella snapped her fingers when prompted and waved to her father, Brink added. She's been taking part in lung physiotherapy and is now able to spend some time outdoors each day using a hoist and wheelchair.

Meanwhile, a GoFundMe campaign launched by Isabella's cousin has raised more than \$15,000 as of May 6.

The family will need to make accessibility improvements to two houses, said Brink, including her mother's Ancaster home and her father's home in London. Several members of Isabella's family have also put their lives on hold to provide round-the-clock care. Her older siblings have flown in from Victoria, B.C. The family may also need a handicap-accessible vehicle.

"Everybody around here and the family has been very supportive and very positive," said Brink. "To the people who have been sending funds through the GoFundMe account, I can't say just how grateful I am, because

that's going to cover a lot of the expenses that are going to be incurred with her."

Brink works at the Long Point Biosphere Reserve and hopes to bring Isabella out to see the sights once she emerges from hospital. It's anticipated that Isabella may need to travel to Toronto for physiotherapy.

In addition to being an avid skateboarder, Brink said Isabella loves art, music and spending time with her pets.

"My hope is that she opens her eyes," said Brink. "I want to see her bright, blue eyes. I want to see that sassiness that she had, being a 15-year-old."

# HAMILTON POLICE SEEK COP IMPERSONATOR

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Hamilton police are asking for the public's help in their hunt for a man who was impersonating a police officer.

Police say just before 12:30 a.m. on May 7, a man was driving on the Lincoln M. Alexander

Parkway near Upper Gage Avenue when he noticed a dark SUV with activated emergency lights that were mounted inside the front windshield, directly behind him.

The driver pulled over to the side of the road and observed a man dressed like a police officer get out of the SUV.

Police said once the driver got a clear view of the individual, he felt his clothing did not match that of a Hamilton police officer and drove off.

Hamilton police have confirmed the individual was not a police officer and there was no interaction between the two.

Detectives from the Criminal

Investigation Branch are investigating and are asking anyone who may have experienced a similar circumstance to come forward.

The suspect is described as a white man, between 25-and 30-years-old with brown hair.

He was wearing a black short-sleeve shirt, black jeans and two silver ball earrings in each ear, (one small and one large), along with a gold badge with a star and the word "Police."

The suspect vehicle is a black Ford SUV Interceptor, possibly a 2013 model, with a front ram bar, tires and rims similar to a police cruiser and red and blue light strips approximately 12 inches long, with a total of four, two stacked on top of one another.

Police said to confirm whether you are dealing with an actual police officer, ask them for their badge number and contact police for confirmation.

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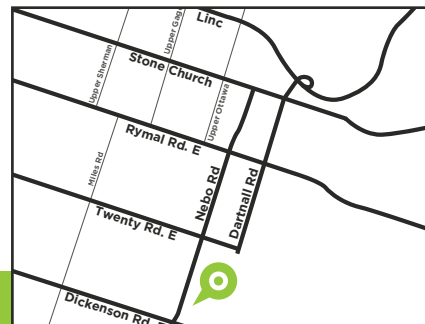


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