


On Sunday, Oct. 15, a crew from Langley's Gandy Installations arrived at the home of seven-year-old Harrison Hutton, and replaced its aging furnace with an up-to-date heating and cooling system. It was part of the Lennox company's Feel the Love giveaway program. (Special to Langley Advance Times)




REAL ESTATE TIP OF THE WEEK


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Rosemary Papp
778-834-8021
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Ailing boy, 7, will be warm this winter

Gandy Installation team delivers furnace and AC as part of Feel the Love

Dan Ferguson
dan.ferguson@langleyadvancetimes.com

Seven-year-old Harrison Hutton and his extended family were getting by without air conditioning or adequate heating while he battled Noonan Syndrome.

Harrison's grandmother summed up the situation in a letter to Feel the Love, an annual giveaway of heating and cooling systems to deserving people by Langley's Gandy Installations.

Harrison, she explained, was born with the rare genetic disorder called Noonan Syndrome. He has a life-threatening heart condition called hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, as well as numerous non-cancerous brain tumors, and must always carry a portable defibrillator with him in case his heart stops.

He has endured six brain surgeries to implant a shunt in his head to drain fluid off his brain.

"Due to his condition and medication, Harrison has a difficult time regulating his body temperature," his grandmother said.

"It is difficult maintaining a constant and comfortable temperature in this house with such an old furnace and lack of air conditioning. In the winter, even though we have the furnace on, we still use seven space heaters to keep the place warm. In the summer we have 15 fans running throughout the house - and it is still too hot, there is no relief from the heat."

A year ago, to save money, Harrison and his family (his parents, younger sister, and

one of his grandmothers, who is disabled and in a wheelchair, moved into his other grandparents' Langley City home - already occupied by three adults - including Harrison's aunt, who spends her days as his caregiver.

"There are eight of us, and we must count every penny spent, and we are struggling just to buy groceries now," she said.

On Sunday, Oct. 15, a crew of volunteers from Gandy installed a brand-new furnace and an AC unit.

It is part of the Lennox company's Feel the Love program that provides brand new high-efficiency furnaces and air conditioning units, while participating dealers across the continent donate the installation materials and labour, all free of charge to deserving nominees.

Harrison's grandmother called it "an unbelievable blessing."

"There is no way we could ever afford the work and equipment that is being offered to us," she said.

Gandy marketing manager Shannon Gandy said the giveaway is "a part of our culture at Gandy Installations. We're happy to have the staff donating their time to the community project this weekend to make it happen."

In 2018, the first time Gandy had a nominee accepted by the Lennox Feel the Love committee, the beneficiary was an Aldergrove pensioner named Sam, who'd been getting by with electric space heaters after his furnace packed it in several years previously.

In 2021, Gandy replaced a non-functioning furnace for a Langley family of four.

And last year, Gandy helped an Abbotsford granddaughter obtain a much-needed cooling system for her grandmother's house.

Gandy Installations is a family-operated Langley-based business started by Charlie Gandy and Ken Atwell in 1957.

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HARRISON HUTTON'S GRANDMOTHER