

MORGAN, Heidi

**Donations returned** *Retel July 23/86*

# Heidi recovering in Eldorado home

By BOB LYONS  
For The Intelligencer

BANCROFT - Six-year-old Heidi Morgan is back home in Eldorado following a seven-hour operation July 11 to save her eyesight from a rare bone disease.

Meanwhile, almost \$10,000 raised to send Heidi and her mother Christine to Texas for the same operation has been returned to donors by Peter Gevaert and Jim Clayton trustees of the Help Heidi Fund.

But, Christine Morgan said the entire episode has been a tremendous ordeal for her. After being told her daughter was within days of losing sight in one eye, Heidi was rushed to London, Ont., for emergency surgery.

Much of the girl's cheekbone and jaw were removed and bone fragments taken from the skull were tied together with a metal plate for a newly formed face.

Morgan said she stayed with Heidi in London for nine days, sometimes sleeping in a chair by bedside in the intensive care unit.

During that time, she was asked at a hospital press conference what she intended to do with the donated money. Morgan says she suggested the money should go to the Victoria Hospital to help pay for the 3-D cat scan machine that may have saved Heidi's life, but did not "donate" anything.

Morgan said the press reports "totally misconstrued" her suggestion and she had been hurt by the publicity.

In addition to the money deposited to the Help Heidi Fund in the North Hastings Community Credit Union, there was a donation from Belleville motel chain operator Maurice Rollins of \$3,000 to help with after-hospital expenses.

Rather than face public controversy over that money, Morgan says she returned the cheque uncashed to Rollins.

So far, none of the Help Heidi Fund has gone to meet Morgan's expenses in London.

Bancroft lawyer Lorne Plater has advised the trustees the money was donated for a specific purpose (trip to Texas) and should be returned to the donors.

Credit union manager Gevaert said Tuesday, \$9,191 has been sent back to donors with a letter suggesting they could personally give the money to Victoria Hospital or to the Morgans in Eldorado.

"Because the original intent of the Heidi Fund was to provide money for Heidi and her mother to travel to Texas and for Heidi's mom to have living expenses while there, we feel the right thing to do is to return this money to the public so the donors can make their own choice about its disposition," he said.

About \$2,000 remains from anonymous donations, and although the trustees have not yet decided where it will go, Gevaert says he personally would like to see the money go to the Morgans to cover expenses in the London operation.

Heidi is not yet finished with medical treatment. Doctors found more bone with the disease - monofibrous displacia - bone which will have to be removed in following years.

The 49-pound Heidi could not stand more than the seven-hour operation.

In addition she must be checked in hospital within the next two weeks to see if a mesh will be needed to hold her eye in place.

## Morgan told to close shop

ELDORADO - While Heidi recovers from the operation at home, her mother Christine Morgan faces yet another hurdle at home.

On returning to Eldorado, Christine found a letter from Madoc Township council saying the press had reported she is operating an antique business out of her living room.

Morgan said council has issued a cease and desist order on her business until the property is rezoned - a procedure which may take as long as four months.

She says a full or part-time job is out of the question, as Heidi needs around the clock attention. The slightest fall by the young girl could break the delicately thin bone implanted in her cheek and Heidi needs constant medication.

"It's almost too much," Morgan sighed. "I can't get a job, I have bills everywhere, I can't sell my furniture, and the world is mad at me."

She said she may have to sell her home and rent, instead, to pay the bills.

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