

Pregnant Castleton woman to file complaint, won't be back to Cobourg hospital

Diagnosed with blood clots at Belleville hospital after being sent home from Northumberland Hills

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CASTLETON -- Twenty weeks pregnant with her second child, Castleton resident Amanda Tidd-Bronson feels lucky to be alive.

Ms. Tidd-Bronson was diagnosed with life-threatening blood clots when she went to hospital in Belleville but only after she sought treatment in Cobourg and was sent home. After a healthy first pregnancy, Ms. Tidd-Bronson started to feel something wasn't right at the end of September.

"I had a lot of back pain and pain on my ribs," she said.

She was also short of breath and had trouble getting upstairs without gasping for breath.

"I knew something was wrong," she said.

She went to the emergency department at Northumberland Hills Hospital, the closest



CASTLETON -- Amanda Tidd-Bronson, left, and her husband Stewart Bronson have lodged a formal complaint after Ms. Tidd-Bronson was released from the hospital. She later learned she has a life-threatening illness, which requires daily injections to control.

Karen Longwell / Northumberland News

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hospital to her home, on Sept. 22, she said. After a four-and-a-half hour wait, a doctor examined her, asked her about the symptoms and did blood work, she said. When the results came back normal, the doctor told her to just come back if she experienced more pain or a fever, she said.

"I was ticked off because I knew there was something wrong," she added.

Elizabeth Vosburgh, NHH vice-president of human resources and quality, said the hospital cannot, for patient privacy reasons, comment publicly on the specifics of any patient.

"I can tell you that we encourage all patients to speak up if they have questions or concerns about their care. NHH takes any complaint very seriously and we are committed to addressing patient concerns in a fair and timely manner," Ms. Vosburgh said in a statement.

While everyone on the hospital team works hard to provide "exceptional patient care, every time," the team is by no means perfect, Ms. Vosburgh added. "Every formal patient complaint is tracked and I can tell you that the percentage of complaints to patients served is very small," she said.

In the last fiscal year, the hospital logged 42 complaints against 35,419 visits to the emergency department and inpatient areas combined (0.12 per cent), she said.

"One complaint, of course, is one more than we want to see, but relative to the volume of patients treated, the volume of formal complaints we see at NHH is low," she said.

Junior A hockey finds a home in Colborne

Colborne Cramahe Jr. A Hawks host home opener and barbecue

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COLBORNE -- As the coach and general manager of Colborne's new Jr. A hockey team, Mike Jeschke said he is excited to see a lot of local players on the the Colborne Cramahe Jr. A Hawks.

A resident of nearby Cobourg, he is a former player in the Ontario Jr. Hockey League and has coached teams in Minden River and Midland.

The team was added to the new Canadian International Hockey League lineup in June, moving from the Metro Junior A League in Bobcaygeon.

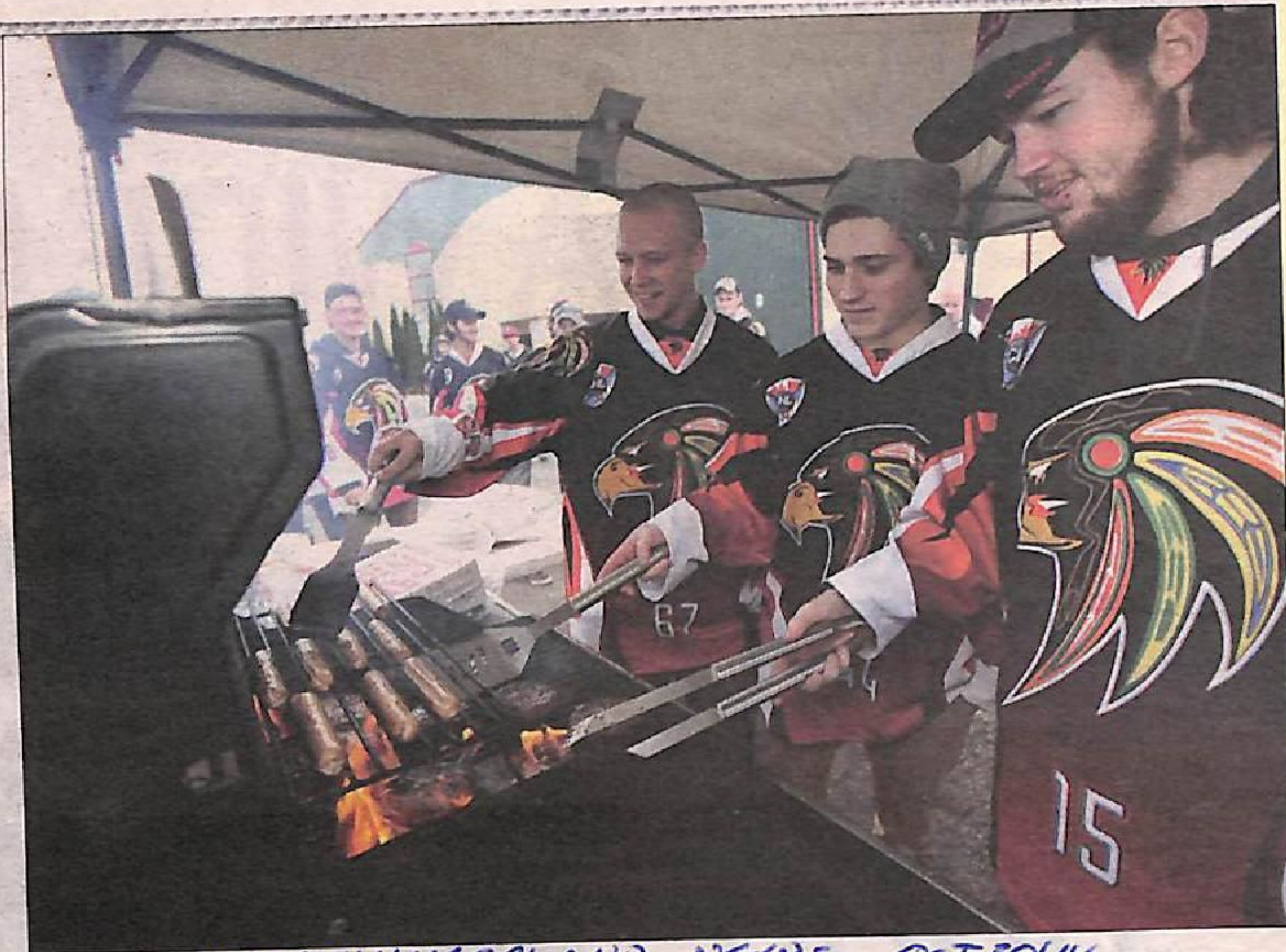
"They had Junior C in the Empire League before but this is the first team they have had at this level in Colborne," he said during a barbecue before their home opener at the Keeler Centre on Oct. 18.

"We play in the south division which includes Collingwood, Toronto, Milton and Colborne, but the north division includes Espinola, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury and St. Charles."

The team is owned by retired Canadian military officer Dan Fisher and will play its home games out of the Keeler Centre in Colborne.

"We have a lot of local area guys, and players from Slovakia, Belarus, Mexico and America," Mr. Jeschke said, adding that the focus was on giving local players a chance to represent their community. "Our original goal was to have half our team to be local kids, and we have more than exceeded that."

For more information on the Colborne Cramahe Jr. A Hawks, visit www.hawksjrahockey.com.



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COLBORNE -- Members of the Colborne Cramahe Jr. A Hawks hockey team, from left, forward Blair Kennedy, forward Alex Bidwell and captain/defenceman Alex Basey, served up some hot dogs and hamburgers before hitting the ice at their home opener. The new team played its first game at the Keeler Centre, going up against the Collingwood Ice in the Canadian International Hockey League.

Dominik Wisniewski / Northumberland News