

Praise 'experimental' treatment

Boy survives drowning ordeal

Christmas is going to be marvelous, said Marna Martin happily, following her arrival home in Milton accompanied by her two-year-old son, Matthew.

The pair returned home Tuesday morning from Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto to a happy reunion with the rest of the family.

"It is the first time I have been able to be with my other two children, Amanda and Jay, since the day of the accident," said the happy mother.

Only two weeks ago Matthew was pulled unconscious from the icy waters of the family pond after spending almost 15 minutes in the water.

"I thought he was dead before anyone told me," said Mrs. Martin. She had loaded her three children in the family station wagon and returned to the house for a warmer coat, when Matthew—sitting in the front seat—apparently put the vehicle into reverse, causing the

car to careen backwards into the six foot deep pond. The two children remained in the back seat but Matthew was thrown out of the car, into the water.

A frantic search by Halton Regional Police and Mrs. Martin did not locate the boy, until a passing tow truck driver offered to assist. Matthew was spotted and rushed to

Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital where he was stabilized and then taken to Sick Children's Hospital.

A little-known treatment at the hospital is credited with sending Matthew home in almost perfect condition, with no fear of brain damage that would have been inevitable in the near-drowning incident.

"You could say Oakville Hospital saved his life and Sick Children's Hospital saved his brain," said Mrs. Martin. Oakville Hospital staff worked on Matthew for over an hour to revive him, and in the meantime contacted Hospital for Sick

Children.

Hospital staff were told to keep Matthew's body cold—his body temperature was 27 degrees Celsius when he arrived at the hospital—and to restrict intravenous fluids.

At one point his heart stopped, said his mother, but Matthew was again revived with cardiac massage and special drugs for his heart.

"They did a truly marvelous job and were extremely kind and considerate," stated Mrs. Martin, appreciatively. She is also a nurse at the hospital.

The only reason Matthew did not stay in that hospital was because Sick Children's had the necessary machinery and the new concept," she said.

Matthew was transported by special resuscitation ambulance to Sick Children's Hospital, accompanied by family practitioner Dr. Graham Swanson and Dr. Montez, a resident doctor in Sick Children's Intensive

Care Unit.

Once at the hospital, Dr. Allen Conn, director of the Intensive Care Unit proceeded with his treatment.

"It is not an accepted treatment, and has only been used a couple of times," explained Mrs. Martin. "However, my husband and I gave him carte blanche to do whatever he wanted to do."

Matthew was paralyzed with drugs for 72 hours, to prevent any physical activity, "This allows the brain to rest, which is exactly what it needs. Because the rest of the body is paralyzed, the oxygen all goes to the brain, to reduce any possible swelling," explained Mrs. Martin.

During the period of paralysis, Matthew was kept on a respirator, and his body kept in a cool state to slow his metabolism. To determine brain swelling and any rising amounts of pressure, a small burr hole was made in Matthew's skull and a Richards screw was put in to monitor

the pressure.

"A couple of times, the pressure rose, and then Matthew was given injections to bring the pressure down," continued his mother.

Saturday evening, all drugs with the exception of any necessary injections of Manitol were stopped and treatment was given to slowly warm Matthew's body to his normal temperature.

"It was an experience of waiting and the hospital expected him to wake up last Monday evening or Tuesday morning. By Wednesday, nothing had happened, and I was so terribly depressed," she recalls. "My husband and I sat 14 hours waiting Tuesday and we were both tired and depressed."

The Martins, who commuted back and forth daily to the hospital were about to leave for Burlington Thursday morning, when the phone rang. "A nurse on the other end told us Matthew had opened his eyes," Mrs. Martin remembers happily.

"When we got there he recognized us. His first words were, 'Mommy, home'. Then he rolled over and saw his Dad and said, 'Daddy, I sick!'"

Matthew was not only a pet favorite among hospital staff, but became a favorite among many newspaper readers, according to Mrs. Martin. Gifts and cards and many telephone calls reflected a wide interest and genuine concern for his recovery, she said. "So many people were thrilled when they heard he had awakened."

"Matthew, of course, does not remember anything of the accident, although I hoped it would be a lesson for him. It can't, because he does not realize what happened to

him."

For four-year-old Amanda, however, the memories are still vivid. Both Amanda and her brother Jay were safely rescued from the back seat of the car, but Amanda still has nightmares about it, according to her mother.

"The hospital allowed her to see Matthew for 10 minutes on Sunday, and the two of them were hugging each other, with Matthew crying out, 'Manda, Manda!' She just kept wanting to hold him."

Life, however, is returning to normal for the family, and with the exception of feeling still a little weak and bearing a couple of small scars, Matthew is back to his old self. In two weeks, he will return to Sick Children's Hospital for a final check-up.

"It all seems like a bad dream, one that only seemed to happen yesterday, and then it does not seem possible it could have happened to your family," summed up Mrs. Martin.

Objects to rezoning

The rezoning of 283 acres of land at Highway 25 and Five Sideroad is being vigorously opposed by Percy Hicks, R.R. 3 Millton.

He also attacked the handling of the public meeting prior to the passing of the by-law. He claimed it had been agreed suitable facilities to accommodate those wishing to attend would be provided and the developer was to be asked to attend to give details of the plan. He said the residents were supposed to be given ample opportunity to air their views.



HOME AT LAST, Matthew Martin receives an affectionate hug from his sister Amanda, 4. Both Amanda and Jay, nine months, were pulled safely from the family station wagon after it landed in a pond, by their mother Marna Martin. Matthew was pulled unconscious from the icy

water after a 15 minute search by Halton Regional Police and two passing motorists. A little-known treatment at Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto is credited with preventing any brain damage to two-year-old Matthew.

Inmates escape one loose

Moved to Milton Jail after attempting to escape from Maplehurst Adult Training Centre, David Ernest Wayne, 27, of Wasaga Beach is still at large following his escape from Milton Jail Thursday afternoon, according to Halton Regional Police.

Wayne, serving a sentence for break and enter, had been transferred to Milton Jail a month ago, following his attempt to escape from Maplehurst.

According to police, Wayne stole a 1973 Dodge Charger on Steeles Ave. at the time of his escape. The car, owned by Charles Agento of Milton, was later recovered in Guelph. In a second incident, Donald Schneider of Streetsville was arrested recently following his escape from

Maplehurst. Schneider was working at the Ontario Agricultural Museum on Tremaine Rd. with a group of inmates when he spotted a parked car with the keys in the ignition and decided to take advantage of

the opportunity to leave. Schneider was an inmate of Maplehurst for 10 months and had only three months left until completing his sentence, according to Tom McCarron, superintendent of Maplehurst.

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Park offers full range of cold weather activities

Wondering how you're going to get through the winter? Why not get out and enjoy the season fully — at Bronte Creek Provincial Park, for instance.

The park is offering a wide range of cold weather activities. Park superintendent K. E. Green suggests a winter cook-out in one of the park's covered picnic shelters. Or a walk on the trails or around the park to enjoy the winter scenery.

For the sports-minded skating, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and tobogganing will be available. You will have to bring your own equipment, however.

The skating surface is being prepared and, weather permitting, should be open the first week in December. Skating hours will be 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., with music provided in the evening. No hockey sticks will be allowed. Speed skates with toe and heel guards are permitted. Heated change facilities will be open from 12:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday.

A new feature this winter is the man-made toboggan hill. Two safe runs will be opened. For the photographer there'll be plenty of picture postcard scenes when winter covers the trees with snow and ice.

From the first week in December Spruce Lane Farmhouse will be decorated for Christmas in the Victorian manner, including an old-fashioned Christmas tree. There is an entrance fee of \$1.50 per car. Once in the park, all winter activities are free.

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