

Grateful family returns crib monitor

By Jim Robinson
She doesn't know how or why but Nancy Howard sensed and moved without question into the living room of her Milton home to find her young son had simply stopped breathing.

Nicholas Howard, then only a few weeks old, had fallen victim to a deadly syndrome known by the catchall name of "crib death."

Although there has been much research and many theories, crib death remains a phenomenon barely understood.

But Nancy Howard had been overtaken by a feeling her son was going to die. It was a feeling so overwhelming, she simply walked away from helping her husband Rick put up a shower rod in the bathroom.

"I can't explain it. A sort of thing came over me. It was a feeling that was so funny," she said.

Did she know her son was in the death sleep of crib death?
"Yes, I knew that if I didn't do something immediately, he was going to die," Mrs. Howard said.



This photograph shows Nicky Howard asleep with the Apnea Monitor in his crib.

But there was a problem. Nicholas would have to stay at McMaster until the one-year danger period had passed. He would be kept in a crib with an Apnea Monitor.

This device senses when a child stops breathing and sets off a loud pulsing beep not unlike the noise of a smoke detector. The monitors are fairly new and also cost more than \$1,000 each. Because they are only sold to hospitals, the Howards faced the unhappy reality of giving their child to a hospital for a year.

Dr. Ivan Hunter of Milton is the family's physician and a director of the Halton Lung Association.

He started to telephone other members with the idea of using some of the funds raised in the annual Christmas Seal Campaign to buy an Apnea Monitor for the Howards.

Cec McFadden, president of the association, said those calls got the ball rolling, and after encountering an obstacle or two, the Howards received their monitor in February of this year.

"Well, that's what the money's for," Mr. McFadden said, "it shows we are benefitting the members of our community."

"If that machine helped to save just one life, then the amount spent to pay for it was more than worth it."

Mrs. Howard said the machine has alerted her and Rick "many times" in the past year.

"You see what they call crib death—and I don't like the term—is like a deep sleep.

"It's a sleep so deep that the child just forgets to breathe, at least that's the way it has been explained to me," she said.

She was always, with the aid of the monitor, able to get to little Nicky in time to revive him before he was too far gone.

Saturday marked the point when Nicholas, now 18 months old, has passed the danger point, when crib death strikes youngsters.

Mr. Howard said with this point passed, he started thinking about the monitor and what it could do for other families.

"We have used it and, without it, we might have lost our son.

"Now the danger point is over, I got thinking about perhaps giving it to another family in Halton," he said.

The machine has now been returned to the association and Mr. McFadden said the group will hold it in storage until it can be used again.

"We will give this unit to any family who has a child who may die due to crib death," he said.

Anyone who could use the monitor can call the Oakville office of the Halton Lung Association at 827-7973.

Mr. McFadden said the machine is just one way the association is trying to prevent lung disease in Halton Region.

"By buying Christmas Seals, the people of Halton made it possible for us to buy the machine for the Howard family.

"That's the kind of thing we are trying to do," he said.

The Christmas Seal fund campaign is now in full swing. Mr. McFadden said \$43,000 of the \$97,000 target has been reached and letters to 84,000 households in the region should be going out this week.

"I hope," Mr. Howard said, "every-one will help in this campaign."

"I can never thank all those people who were so helpful to us in saving Nicky."

"But I can understand from our personal experience, how the money people give towards Christmas Seals is paying off."



A squeeze from Santa

Clara Reilley and Maggie DeForest get a big Christmas hug from Santa Claus last Tuesday at the annual Golden Age Christmas banquet, put on by the Acton Rotary and the Legion. Almost 100 people attended.



Adrienne Kovacs was the top girl artist in a recent Halton Fire Prevention Week contest. Fire Prevention officer Larry Brassard made a special presentation of a calculator to the winner at McKenzie-Smith on Friday. Teacher John Murphy looks on.

We're slobbs...

(Continued from Page 4)

mannered, or inhibited, your choice, era, could not bring myself to use.

And the language of today's students, from Grade one to Grade whatever, would curl the hair of a sailor, and make your maiden aunt grab for the smelling salts. Words from the lowest slums and slummiest barnyards create rarely a blush on the cheek of your teenage daughter.

A graduate of the depression, when people had some reason to use bad language, in sheer frustration and anger, and of a war in which the most common four-letter word was used as frequently, and absent-mindedly, as salt and pepper, have not inured me to what our kids today consider normal.

Girls wear T-shirts that are not even funny, merely obscene. As do boys. Saw one the other day on an otherwise nice lad. Message: "Thanks, all you virgins — for nothing."

The Queen is a frump. God is a joke. The country's problems are somebody else's problem, as long as I get mine.

I don't deplore. I don't abhor. I don't implore. I merely observe. Sadly, We are turning into a nation of slobbs.

Information night at Sunshine School

Changes in legislation and regulations which govern programs for mentally retarded children, pending for some time, has prompted the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded to hold an information night Monday, December 3, at Sunshine School, Hornby, from 8.30 to 9.30 p.m.

Halton Board of Education currently provides classes for mentally handicapped children in North Halton with Park School in Georgetown having 15 handicapped students in addition to 243 non-handicapped, all between four and 12 years of age.

Sunshine School, Hornby, is attended by 10

handicapped students from 14 to 21 years of age. Education, will attend the information night and discuss future and current educational services.

Mrs. Ruth Tabor, who serves as special liaison with the Halton Board of

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Acton student wins mention

Winners of the 1979 fire prevention poster contest were named today by the sponsoring Halton Region Fire Prevention Committee, and a Burlington girl and a Milton boy have been chosen first prize winners.

Cynthia Stoffels, a student of John Calvin School in Burlington, was the top girl poster artist in the contest. First prize boy was Michael Bonehill of Burlington.

The fire prevention committee selected the winners from area

winners named in each town in Halton. Theme of the poster contest was McConnell, a student of Holy Rosary School in Milton.

Honorable mention prizes were also awarded to Kate Hartnett of Oakville, Adrienne Kovacs of Acton, Gerald Lauze of Oakville and Paul "Fire Prevention in The Home" and only students of Grade Five age were allowed to enter.

The six winners will be presented with trophies at a meeting of Halton

Regional Council early in December. The two first prize winners' posters will be entered in an all-Ontario competition.

Captain Peter Campbell, a fire prevention officer with the Oakville Fire Department, is Chairman of the Fire Prevention Committee in Halton this year. The group comprises fire prevention personnel from the four Halton fire departments, who meet monthly to plan regional fire prevention campaigns.

On the Leavell

With Helen



Seems there's a patriotic thief around town. The flag at the Chicken and Pizza Spot was reported stolen this week and apparently it's not the first time. One would think anyone who loves his country enough to want a flag would be a good enough person to buy his own.

even have to look very far to see one of the war torn culprits.

Santa's arrival in town stirred up Christmas excitement Saturday. He hopes to soon answer all the letters he has received from Acton boys and girls who put their return address on their letters.

While on the topic of flags, there are a few around town that if stolen wouldn't have enough material to diaper a new born baby. While some places have nice, bright new flags blowing in the wind, others have the tattered remains of what used to be a symbol of our country. No names will be mentioned, but I don't

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