

## Maternity policy

# Take another step, allow rooming in

The happiest place in a hospital is the maternity wing. It's a place where couples celebrate the fruit of their love.

No longer is the maternity wing a place husbands drop off their pregnant wives. In step with the times, Georgetown District Memorial Hospital recognizes this and welcomes husbands to take part in the delivery of a newborn.

We'd like to see the hospital extend a welcome to the rest of the family, too.

We question the hospital policy which doesn't allow siblings to see the newborn or their mom until checking out time. As long as brothers and sisters are healthy, we don't see why they're left out of this very special event.

Five area hospitals all allow sibling visits and we encourage Georgetown Memorial to see how they handle it.

We'd also like to see our local hospital considering 24-hour rooming in. Right now, the hospital allows moms to have their babies with them (til 9:30 p.m. Extending that would facilitate breastfeeding for babies who are hungry every two hours and perhaps lighten the load for the night nurses.

As for the 24-hour nursery observation period for newborns following birth, we find Georgetown Memorial unique among area hospitals. Neighboring hospitals check the newborn and the mom's condition and if everything's okay, allow the two to be together. We think that makes sense.

Perhaps it's time the hospital's administration and doctors considered taking another step with the times.

## Letters to the Editor

### Hospital spokesman replies

# Each policy under consideration

Dear Sir,  
I would like to comment on the letter from Mrs. Susan Day (Herald 5th June) regarding Georgetown maternity ward policies.

Mrs. Day is to be thanked for voicing her concerns and bringing them to the attention of the readers and thence, indirectly, to the hospital itself.

We at the hospital welcome and encourage such input from the

community and all recommendations and concerns are looked into and implemented where feasible.

However, I feel that Mrs. Day's letter may have left the impression that the hospital has not or will not consider these policies which she recommends. On the contrary, each is under scrutiny by both the Obstetrical Department Committee and the

hospital's Medical Advisory Committee to which the minutes of numerous "in house" meetings could attest.

As is always the case there are a number of potential problems to be considered and, where possible, overcome, before such policies could be safely implemented. Some are in common with problems at all hospitals and others peculiar to Georgetown Hospital

itself. Problems, for example, of financial, staffing and space requirements which may not be easily overcome. I would add at this point, that we recently surveyed a number of surrounding hospitals and by no means do most have all these policies in effect as Mrs. Day suggests.

It is not my intent here to elucidate the arguments for and against

the policies mentioned but to make brief comment on each. The present sibling visit arrangements were instituted after much discussion especially with regard to the lack of suitable other locations for such visits. Rooming in within 24 hours of delivery involves the mother in the supervision of her baby at a time when even a seemingly healthy baby may require medical attention and the mother herself requires some rest no matter how easy was her labour.

It is unfortunate that Mrs. Day construes this as the hospital "taking over the care of our babies against our will" and I would remind her that the hospital bears the legal responsibility for ensuring optimal care of both mother and baby up to the time of their discharge.

We do not, in the department, have single rooms. Implementation of the policies in question would require the compliance of not only the patient concerned but also the other patient, or patients, in the room.

It is, of course, impossible to please all of the people all of the time but early discharge (after 24 hours) may be the best option for some mothers and babies provided this has been pre-arranged. This option has been available for a number of years.

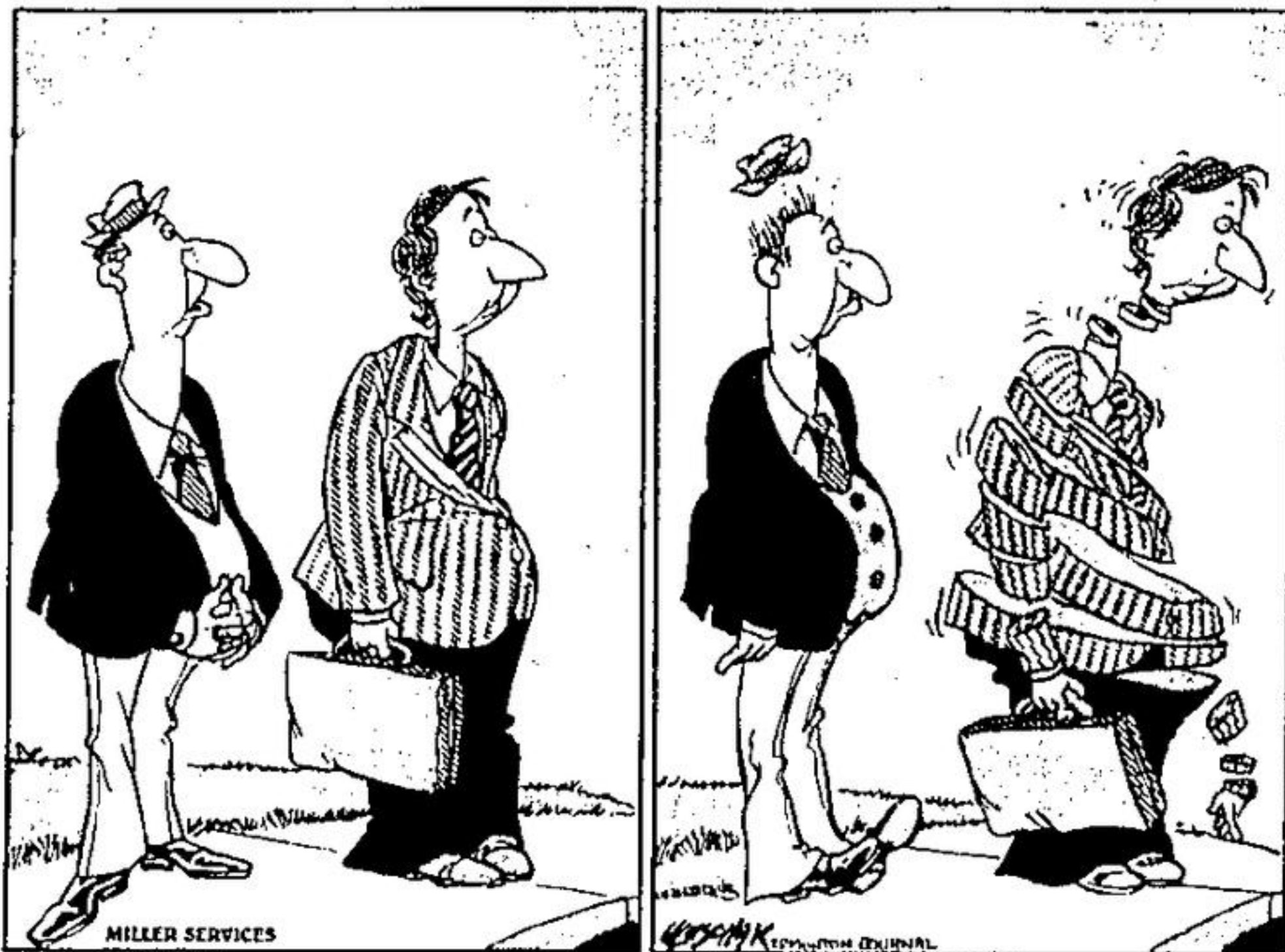
Change takes time and, where policies are concerned, newer does not always mean better but we in the Department are not ignorant of the concerns and desires of the community. Rather we are striving to evolve policies best suited to both this particular hospital which, like other community ones, has inherent limitations, and to the community which it serves.

I regret that Mrs. Day feels that she is involved in a "fight" for change. Let us not implement change as adversaries but in a spirit of mutual trust and respect so that our local hospital might best serve the needs of us all.

Yours sincerely,  
Dr. Valerie M. Kumar,  
Head of Department  
of Obstetrics,  
Georgetown Hospital

Dear Sir,  
The Recreation Department wants to extend a thank you to all joggers, spectators and helpers who assisted in making the Mayor's 7th Annual Road Race a success again this year. Thank you also, to the kind residents who offered water to the runners on route.

Special thanks should be extended to: Race Committee, Bob Daniell and Courtney Warner, McDonalds, Georgetown Track Club, Halton Regional Police, H.A.M. Radio Operators, Recreation Department Summer Staff, Works Department, Gordon Alcott Arena Staff, St. John Ambulance, Finish line chute operators, Mayor Russ Miller, and the following sponsors



"Were you affected by Wilson's budget cuts?"

## Tornado's shattered fragments

# Helpers embrace town heritage

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following story was written by Alan Cassman, an occasional free lance writer for The Herald and a Georgetown postal worker. He lives in Tottenham, which was in the path of the May 31 tornado which left hundreds homeless.

I was born and raised in the carefully manicured suburbs of Toronto. But I have always felt an instinctive urge to live in a rural setting. Now settled in the Tottenham area I have developed an unprecedented fidelity to this part of the country that is almost mystical in its nature.

I am not a particularly religious man and yet so many times I have marvelled at the multi-coloured landscapes, dotted with the homes of people who share in my fascination, and said a silent prayer of thanks that communities like this still exist.

May 31st - Friday evening, the mettle of a peaceful country village was tested by an uncompromising force of nature: To the south on Highway 9 a half-dozen cars, caught in the tornado's violence, lay torn and twisted on the roadside. Further north the remains of a house and barn littered neighboring fields, hundreds of

yards from where they once stood. Trees two and three stories tall had been uprooted and split into kindling. Eastward, across the rolling hills of Tottenham and towards Schomberg, houses were levelled and lives were lost.

Families and a lifetime of hopes and dreams torn apart - but not altogether lost.

In the aftermath of what most news reports have referred to as one of this province's worst natural disasters, I have witnessed the re-affirmation of a long forgotten but indomitable pioneer spirit.

Scores of local volunteers have worked tirelessly to clean up the carnage. Material relief in the form of food, clothing, tools etc. has been donated in surplus amounts. The residents of Tottenham and surrounding areas are, for the most part, big-city transplants with little or no ancestral roots in this part of the country.

But as they have selflessly offered aid and comfort to victims of the tornado they have embraced a family heritage upon which this town was

founded. "Our strength lies in the strength of our people" reads the official village motto, and not since the great fire of Tottenham have these words borne such truth or clarity.

In 1895 on a hot, dry June day fire erupted in the village foundry. A strong south-westerly wind drove the flames through town too quickly for the local fire-engine to effectively contain them. About 80 buildings were destroyed, but so much of the village was saved because of the efforts of a large contingent of citizen firefighters augmented by volunteers from Beeton and Alliston.

A published eye-witness account described "a great spirit of sorrow and sympathy and unity among the people. It didn't matter what sect or religion or anything else - it was one solid body of people out to help each other."

There were no social or moral laws to enforce. The task was simply to re-assemble the shattered fragments of lives and property into the whole which was, and will doubtless remain, a strong and proud community of people.

## Halton's History

THIRTY YEARS AGO — Mrs. James Hilton Ford, 33, of Camp Norval was killed by a car near Norval Hill. She was rushed to Peel Memorial Hospital where she died the next morning.

Mayor Jack Armstrong urged council to address the issue of poor drainage on King Street. Every time it rains the cellars and yards on the street are flooded.

Miss Dorothy Parkinson received the Ladies Curling Club Championship Trophy. The presentation was made at a barbecue at the home of Mrs. Harold McCure on Maple Street.

Bill MacCormack finished ninth in his class at pharmacology school in his first year. Bill will be working with pharmacist E.V. MacCormack, his father, for the summer.

Former Esquing high school board member H. Craig Reid married Doris Weatherall of Carlisle. Reverend George Currie performed the service.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO — Thousands attended a local rodeo featuring everything from saddle bronc riding to ladies barrel racing. The popular event with children was the calf scramble. About 100 children armed with ropes, some were bare-handed, attempted to bring unwilling calves to the finish line.

Six-year-old Deborah Wardle drowned at Fairy Lake, Saturday afternoon. The search for Deborah's body ended shortly after midnight.

Henneg Rasmussen of 54 Hewson Crescent rescued eight dogs from a fire at Tanhard Kennels at R.R.1. Four pups died in the blaze.

Music teacher Mrs. John Hutton held a recital for her music pupils at St. Stephen's Anglican Church. Canon James E. Maxwell was chairman for the evening.

Paul Martindale, President of Halton District of Ontario Secondary School Teacher's Federation, supported "the legal right of teachers to strike".

TEN YEARS AGO — Councillor Ern Hyde was vehement in his opposition to the building of a five storey senior citizens complex on Guelph Street. Roy Booth, the other councillor in Ward Three, agreed with the decision.

June Fraser and Patricia Stevens of Georgetown, and Susan May of Norval were awarded Board of Governors Silver Medals for outstanding academic achievements at Sheridan College.

Eleanor Inglis had the best score on ladies day for 18 holes at the North Halton Golf and Country Club. Irene Farnell had the best 9 hole total.

Georgetown's new Junior "B" hockey club is looking for a name. A contest will be held with the winner getting the prize of a double season's pass.

The Knox Presbyterian Churches of Georgetown and Limehouse celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The Boston Presbyterian choir performed at the anniversary celebrations.

FIVE YEARS AGO — Brian Cargill, Wayne and Linda Ruse are just three residents of Cobblehill Road concerned about garbage dumped in the Fairview Cemetery. Mayor Pomroy assured residents the issue would be discussed by council soon.

September is the proposed opening date for Halton's Womens Place. The hostel is for abused wives and their children.



By PAT WOOD  
Herald Columnist

Two years ago the March of Dimes conducted their first conference on polio. In June of 85 a follow-up seminar was held to discuss relevant issues and progress. Representatives from the Roosevelt Warm Springs Foundation in Georgia and the Ontario March of Dimes explained the role that each organization has played in identifying and working towards solutions to the late effects of the polio virus.

The team at Warm Springs have as their primary objective to be the best rehab unit for post-polio in the world and they aim to create a world wide linkage. As early as five years ago the Foundation was the hub for activities relating to polio.

Complaints of weakness, fatigue, pain, etc. led to several conferences in the past few years and an attempt to form a data base. Prevention, of course, is the answer, but there are still tens of thousands of children every year in the third world countries that contract this disease.

At Warm Springs a five day evaluation is given to applicants. In the past OHIP has covered the \$1500 cost. At present there are approximately 100 on the waiting list.

In Ontario the March of Dimes (MOD) have been active in their efforts to establish clinics and form a data base. For more information contact Hamilton office.

The MOD survey conducted last year reveals that of the 418 respondents, 86 per cent reported having at least one current problem they feel may be due to polio. Three major conclusions were: that most report a decrease in health and functioning, most feel symptoms are linked to the effects of polio, and most are dissatisfied with existing services available to them.

Some of the services requested by the respondents included greater information gatherings, and dissemination, increased awareness in the medical profession on post-polio problems, and the development of strategies to deal with the new health and functional difficulties.

The quality and nature of exercise was discussed by Dr. Feldman who stressed that proper exercise could be very beneficial if managed correctly. An improper regimen could do serious harm.



## CLERGY COMMENT

By Dr. John M. Drickamer  
Immanuel Lutheran Church

Meetings are an occupational hazard for many of us. Meetings are more and more characteristic of modern life. They are important for information and for decision-making. But there are more exciting things to do.

A seminary professor once told me that the lowest level in hell was one continuous committee meeting. I suppose he should know.

I find conferences especially boring. They bring in some expert to teach people something or other. An expert has been defined as an ordinary guy who lives somewhere else. Someone has remarked that an ex-spurt must be a drip.

My pen will not lie still during conferences. Sometimes I doodle. Once I wrote the following poem:

### THE CONFERENCE:

The speaker polysyllabized  
For what, it seemed, was hours  
And on and on monotonized  
Beyond his normal powers.

A sense of duty made the folk  
Devoutly hear their fill,  
And none perceived the tragic joke  
Of talk with content nil.

Do meetings ever really accomplish anything? We have all heard that a camel (some say a giraffe) is a horse built by committee. When people get together, it is too often their limitations their ineptitude, and their ignorance that are shared. If anything is done, one or two people do it, and the rest simply follow them.

Why should that be? If two heads are better than one, why are not three or four or more better yet? But even two heads are not always better than one. Why not?

The answer is sin. Sinfulness is a problem for each of us all the time. Put people together, and the problems are not doubled or tripled. They are shared or cubed. All too often, people pool problems.

But is it not the same in any Christian gathering? Yes. It is unrealistic to expect Christians to be free of these problems. They are still sinners. They are constantly struggling with sin. This struggle makes things more complicated, not less. It would be easier if they gave up the struggle with sin. It would be easier, but not better.

Satan is a cagey old veteran of many spiritual battles. He knows to concentrate his greatest efforts where God is winning - namely, in the lives of Christians. Satan tries harder to foul things up at church than elsewhere. He already has the non-Christians in his power.

The answer among Christians is forgiveness and reconciliation. That avenue is always open and possible among Christians. It is possible among them because they have Jesus' Word, Jesus' example, and Jesus' power (see Ephesians 4:32).

It is only with Jesus' Word about God's forgiveness for Christ's sake that there is true forgiveness - with forgetting - among people. It is only on the basis of Jesus' Word, the Bible, that Christians can get together - with unanimity.