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Page 4 - SECTION A, THE HERALD, Wednesday, June 12, 1985

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

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

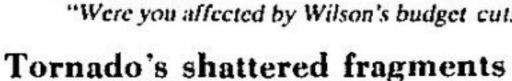
We'd also like to see our local hospital considering 24-hour rooming in. Right now, the hospital allows moms to have their babies with them til 9:30 p.m. Extending that would facilitate breastfeeding for babies who are hungry every two hours and perhaps lighten the load for the night nurses.

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.



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



# Helpers embrace town heritage

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following story 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 sald 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. was written by Alan Cassman, an Trees two and three stories tall had occasional free lance writer for The been uprooted and split into kindling. Eastward, across the rolling hills of Tottenham and towards Schomberg, houses were levelled and lives were

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

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



#### CLERGYCOMMENT

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

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) ls 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 Christlans 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

The answer among Christians is forgiveness and reconciliation. That avenue is always open and possible among Christians. It is possible among ormation gatherings, and dissemthem 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.



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 MccCure 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 Esquesing 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 brone riding to ladies barrel racing. The popular event with children was the call scramble. About 100 children armed with ropes, some were barehanded, 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.

Henneng Rasmussen of 54 Hewson Crescent rescued eight dogs from a fire at Tanhardt 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 Martindate, 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 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

The Knox Presbyterlan 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 Pomeroy 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



By PATWOODE

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 relevent 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-polios 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, fatique, 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 416 respondents, 86 per cent reported having at least one current problem they feel may be due to pollo. Three major conclusions were; that most report a decrease in health and functioning,

most feel sympthoms are linked to the effects of polio, and most are dissatisfled with existing services available to Some of the services requested by the respondents included greater inf-

inntion, 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 regiem could do serious harm.

## Letters to the Editor

Hospital spokesman replies

# Each policy under consideration

Dear Sir. 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,

We at the hospital welcome and encourage such input from the

itself.

indirectly, to the hospital

Secondary Plan

#### Rammed down our throats

Dear Sir, I am writing to express best, only vague good my deep concerns over the emerging Secondary Plan for Georgetown which will lead to a massive expansion of the ways, using Georgetown) and the measly town's ravine areas. opportunities being Why can't the developoffered to residents to ers provide this to the examine, comment on existing residents at an and influence the Secon- early stage and why dary Plan. It seems that doesn't our Council Council is determined to ram mega-development down our throats, Mountainview as the prifregardless of our con- mary route in and out of

cerns or opinions. Firstly, let's look at development. Why can't the Secondary Plan the load be shared by 8th itself. This Plan will and 10th Line? Why have allow our Council to give we just spent so much to developers the green develop Highway 7 if light to build housing for now we are going to build over 12,000 people in houses and industry Georgetown South, miles away from it? . concentrated on Mountainview Road, and over the questions raised by 2,000 people on the NW corner of Georgetown. In addition, a whole belt of industrial development Council. Let's take a look would be built along 10th at the second issue. Sideroad, either side of Mountainview. The Council is handling the implications of the traff- Plan. ic that will result from all this are not mentioned.

What roads will all the whole nature of these cars and trucks Georgetown, has been use? How will our exist- 'available for public ing grocery and depart- reading for about 2 ment stores, and their months. Council has held parking, be affected? a single public meeting, What effect will it have and there has been a on the people who travel short period (now expirbetween Georgetown ed) for residents to and Meadowvale-401 submit written concerns. each day? What will Why can't we have a noise and traffic be like series of well-advertised on Mountainview as it public meetings? Why grows into a highway? can't we get more time To our Council these are to read this difficult and all matters to be worked complex Plan docuout later (when it is too ment? late).

concerns are looked into and implemented where However, I feel that Mrs. Day's letter may have left the impression

community and all

recommendations and

that the hospital has not or will not consider these policles which she recommends. On the contrary, each is under scrutiny by both the Obstetrical Department Committee and the

The Plan gives, at

intentions to the develop-

ment of an integrated

park-conservation area.

with walking and cycle

The Plan focuses on

the town for the new

These are just a few of

the Secondary Plan

express train as it races

towards adoption by our

which is the way our

The Secondary Plan,

which will lead to devel-

opment that will change

demand it?

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 Georgetown Hospital

Problems,

itself.

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

### Options are basic rights

Ed. note: This letter was filed with The Herald for publication Dr. B.C. Hoddinott

Chief of Staff Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital Princess Anne Drive Georgetown, Ontario

Dr. Hoddinett, I am writing to you in response to Mrs. Susan Day's letter to the editor today's Herald (Wed. June 5). In November 1 will be delivering my third child. I can assure you that my stay would

town Hospital: Sibling Visiting 24 hour rooming-in 24 hour observation of

be much more enjoyable

If the following policles

were in effect at Georg-

newborns in effect only if Our Council maintains has no schedule for considering adopting the Plan, no date when it will come before Council. For all we know, Council could adopt the Plan at the next Monday meet-

And how are we to find out? By phoning the Council offices every week to find out what's on the agenda! No published schedule means our Council can do it anytime they

what about And conflict of interest? Of course, any development of this size will create a conflict of interest situation for any councillor with an interest in real-

a conflict of interest

estate or store business. How many councillors will this leave to vote on this Issue (I am assuming that counciliors with

medical complications

I consider these not optional concessions but basic rights. It is time for change. It is time for our hospital to keep up with the more progressive times, not stagnate in outdated and unneess-

ary policies. It is just such inflexible hospital policies that are causing more and more women to consider alternatives to hospital delivery.

I know I am not alone when I say that the time is long past for Georgetown Hospital, to meet the needs of Georgetown's new mothers, their babies and their families.

Yours sincerely Patricia Harris Georgetown

situation will disqualify Dear Sir. themselves). Our Council should publish a plan of events leading up to considering joggers, the Plan, including a

reasonable number of well-advertised public meetings, spread across a reasonable, period of time, with a procedure for noting and addressing the concerns of residents. on route.

date for final public input and for a decision by Council should be known at least months in three advance.

If everyone phones their councillor and demands the above approach we may yet get some democracy into this process.

> Roger Stopford. Irwin Cres.. Mayor Russ Miller, and the following sponsors Georgetown

It is, of course, imthe policies mentioned possible to please all of but to make brief the people all of the time comment on each. The but early discharge present sibling visit (after 24 hours) may be arrangements were the best option for some Instituted after much mothers and bables discussion especially provided this has been with regard to the lack of pre-arranged. This optisuitable other locations on has been available for for such visits. Rooming a number of years. in within 24 hours of Change takes time and, where policies are

delivery involves the mother in the supervisiconcerned, newer does on of her baby at a time not always mean better when even a seemingly but we in the Departhealthy baby may ment are not ignorant of require medical attentithe concerns and desires on and the mother the community. herself requires some Rather we are striving to rest no matter how easy evolve policles best suitwas her labour. ed to both this particular It is unfortunate that hospital which, like other Mrs. Day construes this

community ones, has as the hospital "taking inherent limitations, and over the care of our to the community which babies against our will" and I would remind her that the hospital bears feels that she is involved the legal responsibility in a "fight" for change. for ensuring optimal Let us not implement care of both mother and change as adversaries baby up to the time of but in a spirit of mutual 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.

### Georgetown Hospital Many helped make race a success

Recreation Department wants to extend a thank you to all

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

Special thanks should be extended to: Race Committee, Bob Daniell and Courtney Warner, McDonalds, Georgetown race, it may be picked up Track Club, Halton at the Georgetown Regional Police, H.A.M. Radio Operators, Recreation Department Summer Staff, Works Department, Gordon Alcott Arena Staff, St. John Ambulance, Finish ment Office. line chute operators,

who helped linance the costs of the awards: O'Tooles, North Halton Sports, The Sign Shoppe,

I regret that Mrs. Day

trust and respect so that

our local hospital might

best serve the needs of us

Dr. Valerie M. Kumar.

Head of Department

Yours sincerely,

of Obstetrics,

Poppy's Fine Dinlng Roos Travel Agency J.V. Clothing, Georgetown Independent Georgeview Open Kitchen, Rhonda's Runners, Work That Body, Halton Hills Herald, M and M Pro Sports. Certificates were

awarded to all runners who completed the race. If you did not pick up your certificate after the Recreation Office, Also those award recipients who were unable to stay for the presentation, your awards are also at the Recreation Depart-

Town of Halton Hills, Recreation and Parks Department