

Board bends on hospital visits

Children can see infant brothers, sisters

Visiting rules at Georgetown District Memorial Hospital have changed to allow youngsters under 12 to visit their new-born brothers or sisters and parents in the hospital's obstetrics department.

The hospital board reviewed the visiting policy during the summer and finally, Sept. 25, decided to let in children under 12 to see the new baby of the family.

According to a hospital contact the board recognized these visiting privileges can be beneficial to patients, and was prompted by letters and petitions from women in the community.

Visits by youngsters must be pre-arranged with nursing staff and only the patients' own children may visit. They must be accompanied by an adult.

The visits are allowed 24 hours after delivery and the time of the visit is flexible, depending on the mother's schedule and her family.

Mothers are being advised to limit the amount of handling of the new baby. Anyone handling the newborn must wash with soap and water before, according to hospital board regulations.

Although the recommended time

limit for visits is 30 minutes, if children's behavior isn't disturbing the mother or others in the hospital, the youngsters may stay longer.

Visitors are not allowed in the nursery and may only visit in the mother's room.

Of course, children with infections or a cold aren't allowed to visit. During the sibling visit, the other patient in the same room may return her newborn to the nursery.

Other changes some women in the community wanted, such as 24-hour rooming in, rather than the current 12-hour rooming in for babies, and a

change to the hospital policy of keeping the baby in the nursery during the first 24 hours following birth for observation, were not accepted by the hospital board.

"For safety reasons we felt it was important to keep the baby in the nursery for the first 24 hours," a hospital contact said. It was out of concern for the patient that the hospital opted to continue with 12-hour rooming in. As well, it's easier for the nurse to observe the babies in the nursery than in five different patients' rooms when moms are asleep.

Santa Claus is waiting for your annual letters

Santa's waiting. That's the word we received from the jolly old fellow himself. Cornered at the Georgetown Marketplace, Santa Claus told The Herald he's put his elves on overtime to make sure his factory is full of toys for Christmas. Santa says he's ready to accept your cards and letters. If you want to write Santa, address the letter to Santa Claus, c/o The Herald, 45 Guelph St., Georgetown, Ont., L7G 3Z4. The Herald has agreed to publish Santa's replies in the coming weeks before Christmas. If you want to drop a letter in at the office, we have a special Santa Mailbox just inside the door.

Says engineer

30-metre street is not an error

The designation of a 30 meters right of way width for Georgetown's Delrex Boulevard is not an error, town engineer Bob Austin insisted at Monday night's council meeting.

Although Coun. Harry Levy tried to call the designation in the town's new Transportation Study an error, he was corrected by Mr. Austin.

"It is not in fact an error," the town engineer said. The 30 meters right of way width for the collector road has Delrex and area residents concerned. They don't want to see their street, a residential one, turned into a high traffic road. The Transportation Study, approved by council just this summer, ups the right of way for Delrex from 28 meters.

Mr. Austin said town staff will be recommending the road width remain at 28 meters as opposed to 30 in a forthcoming report. He added there were technical reasons why the consultant upped the right of way width to 30 meters. He declined to say anything further.

"If anybody dare put it to 30, they're in trouble," Coun. Levy said.

Pharmacists lobby for 11th hour meeting

It took three phone calls, two letters and numerous telegrams, but pharmacists in town have got their meeting with MPP Don Knight (L-Halton-Burlington).

"Concerned and frustrated," and calling themselves "basically a passive group," seven pharmacists from North Halton called a press conference Friday.

The group were angry about not being able to see Mr. Knight before the second reading of the Ontario Drug Benefit Act.

Since that time, the MPP arranged a meeting for last night (Tuesday) at 10 p.m. in Toronto to talk to the pharmacists before second reading in the Legislature.

The Act is expected to be discussed either today or tomorrow, said Mr. Knight, in an interview Monday.

In September, pharmacists Adele Smith and Al Fraser asked for a meeting with their MPP. They were referred to the Health Minister's office. Ms. Smith was told Mr. Knight would speak to her if she was unhappy with Health Minister Murray Elston's response.

Adele Smith did not hear back from Mr. Elston's office until Nov. 13, she said. A meeting was then arranged to see Don Knight for the day after the second reading.

The pharmacists are concerned about the legislation they feel will take control out of their hands and "into the hands of government". They are also troubled about how the Act itself is

being "railroaded" through the Legislature because the government has set a deadline of Jan. 3, 1986 for its passing.

Pharmacists will not have a choice to opt out of the new legislation and will be liable for fines if they don't comply, said spokesman Al Fraser.

They are concerned the government will allow patients to renew drugs without coming in for regular monthly renewals. Pharmacists act as consultants and check to see their customers are taking the correct dosage on a month by month basis, the group says.

"Compliance has to be monitored by responsible people," Mr. Fraser said.

Under the Prescription Drug Cost Regulation Act pharmacists will have to inform patients there are cheaper products. But the group argues generic companies don't provide research and money doesn't go back into developing new product lines.

Don Knight said in 1984 the Auditor General revealed that Ontario residents were paying too much for their drugs.

Because of information received by the Health Minister, the government feels it is in the best interests of the public to change the price list of drugs provided by the manufacturers, Mr. Knight said.

The former government was advised that drug manufacturers were submitting unrealistic prices and there was a lot of price spreading going on,

Mr. Knight said.

The pharmacists say the Health Ministry won't negotiate with their association, called the Ontario Pharmacists Association. "We're very concerned. We want input into the political process," said Mr. Fraser.

Mr. Knight said he supports the legislation, but if the pharmacists put together a petition, he will put it

forward in the legislature. "I'm elected to represent everyone," he said.

The Halton-Burlington MPP felt the legislation isn't being pushed through the legislature. Health Minister Murray Elston met with representatives in September, Mr. Knight said. First reading of the Act was Sept. 7.

Mr. Knight said "the pharmacy people are not interested in negotiating."

Teenage inventor

Continued from page A1

then, computers have been his passion, his mother said. "Even after a day at school he would come home and work on his computer until 1 or 2 in the morning," she said.

Roland subscribes to six computer and electronic magazines. In his spare time he writes programs for Four Star, a company that provides color programs for Radio Shack. He is one of their principal authors of programs and collects monthly royalties for his work. Last month, he received \$900.

An entrepreneur from Niagara-on-the-Lake asked Roland to begin a business with him. Because his Waterloo program is a co-op, Roland is considering working for the new company during his working period. His other choice is to continue designing programs for Four Star, he said.

Everyone has not always been so supportive or aware of Roland's skill, Mrs. Knight said. "Our school system does not allow for children out-of-the-ordinary," she said. Although Roland was a teacher's dream, his mind did pose some unusual challenges. Roland influenced the science program at one school - Milton District High School.

When Roland arrived, the school had no science fair. Interested students went to the fair in Hamilton. Two years ago, Roland won seven prizes at the Hamilton Fair. Last year, Milton had their first science fair and they sent 14 students to the larger Hamilton fair. Roland won five prizes at the Hamilton Fair.

He is an inventor in more than one way. But for now he has to concentrate on his school work which will keep him away from the drawing board until next summer, he said.

MARA objects

Continued from page A1

put in a centre turning lane when traffic volumes warrant it, rather than work to keep traffic levels down so that the extra lane isn't required, he said.

Although the reference to Mountainview Road as the "entranceway" into Georgetown was deleted with the modifications to the Official Plan, the role of Mountainview never changed, Mr. Mann charged. It's still a secondary arterial road, which by definition can carry 1,400 vehicles per hour in one direction.

"So we're right back to square one," he said. "...it may as well be the

major entranceway into Georgetown." A third bone of contention for the Association is the safety concern. On one hand, the region is saying it will be "flag waving" when traffic gets to the 1,400 vehicles per hour stage, or when safety becomes a problem. However, the road is defined for Level D service, which accommodates that level of traffic.

If the group were to accept the current modifications, they're giving a carte blanche to the region to let traffic rise, and any later complaints to the Ontario Municipal Board would come back to their initial acceptance of these changes, Mr. Mann said.

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