

Waiting for a kidney

Transplant courageous step for Peter, 7

By DAVE ROWNEY

Like any other energetic 7-year-old, Peter Tretter loves baseball, Beavers and junk food. He hates hospitals. But not every Grade 1 Harrison Public School student has to endure the fears and trauma of a kidney transplant.

Last Wednesday he left his Terry Court home for Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto. He won't be back home for a month.

"I wish I didn't have the kidney problem," Peter says. "When this is all over I'm going to beat up those guys, the doctors," he says with a devilish grin.

Peter says he isn't scared about his operation, but it's easy to detect the uneasiness in his voice when he hugs his father Norm and asks about his transplant, the dialysis he will depend on, and his future.

There are a lot of "what ifs, that are hard to explain to one so young. Peter wants two new kidneys but he'll only receive one. "What if something

goes wrong with it," he says, tugging and hugging his father harder.

Norm and Doris Tretter moved to Georgetown in 1980. Mr. Tretter is an engineer for Mississauga Hydro while Mrs. Tretter is the president of the Georgetown Red Cross Society. They have one other child, Kristel, 4.

When Peter was seven-months-old, they took him to Sick Kids' Hospital about a hip infection. At that time he was diagnosed as having a kidney problem.

Until last November, doctors have just been monitoring Peter's development. Now his kidney is only functioning at 6 per cent - at 5 per cent they put you on dialysis. Without the aid of dialysis, Peter could lapse into a coma.

The Tretter youngster has a very rare form of kidney disease. There are only 20 known cases in Canada, his father says.

"When we first found out, it hit us like a ton of bricks," said Mr. Tretter. Both parents have perfectly normal kidneys and it was only because both carried an unusual gene that Peter's kidneys were affected. Kristel has no kidney problems.

A cute, green-eyed child, Peter is a little shorter than his schoolmates. His kidney problem has affected his muscle development, but he has all the energy of any other youngster.

His weakened kidney prevents the full development of his bones. By staying on dialysis too long, Peter risks the chance of becoming a diabetic.

"It's hard for Peter to accept that he has a kidney problem," says his father. He sometimes gets frustrated and gets very angry. He takes it out on people. One day he stepped on a lady's skate while she was skating, Norm Tretter says.

Peter's diet was restricted long before he went into the hospital. For years he has had to adhere to a low protein, low phosphate diet with restrictions on certain foods and dairy products. He can't eat whole grain, but fruits and vegetables are fine, along with potatoes and corn chips.

Peter isn't on a salt restricted diet, but he will be after his dialysis treatment.

The 37 lb. youngster had one kidney removed Friday. Doctors will remove the other unhealthy kidney when they find a replacement kidney from a donor. The wait for a donor kidney could take up to six months.

In the meantime, Peter will be getting used to a tube inserted in his body used for the peritoneal dialysis treatment. A chemical solution is drained into his system four times per day, a half-hour each time. A bag in the abdomen area acts as a catch basin and the chemical solution is drained away.

Most children suffering from the

disease are on peritoneal dialysis rather than on a dialysis machine. "People can be depressed while on dialysis - depressed and self-conscious," says Peter's father.

His son can still run around and travel with the family while on dialysis, but he will still need a place for the dialysis treatment, such as a washroom, car, or nurse's office, if he's at school.

While on dialysis, the 3'8" youngster won't grow. As soon as the doctors phone, Peter will be rushed to have his kidney replaced with a healthy one.

Norm Tretter founded the Kidney Foundation of Canada chapter in Georgetown three years ago. In 1985 the 10-member executive and volunteers raised \$10,000 to help fight kidney disease through the sale of Halloween peanuts and a March door-to-door canvass.

The Kidney Foundation has a very helpful patient services symposium which helps bring parents together to talk about their problems and fears.



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FAMILY SECTION

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Jack TANNERS TABLE
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Rock and roll quake

Where were you when the earthquake struck? Not everyone felt it, but those who did got quite a scare Friday.

Across parts of Ontario, and the northeastern United States, a quake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale rumbled for about a minute.

The quake struck at 11:46 a.m. causing minor damage, but no injuries. Soon after, residents of Halton Hills were swapping stories about their experience with our first quake (of the same intensity) since 1943.

John Peaker of Guelph Street was in Milton when the earthquake struck. He didn't feel anything, but his daughter Kelly, 14 was frightened and she called him from Georgetown.

"Daddy the plants are moving and the chandelier is moving," she said. Mr. Peaker asked if his daughter was feeling all right. They both learned the truth soon after.

Nicole Prieur of Park Street felt her furniture shake from her eighth floor apartment unit. "The chair was rocking - I thought I was dizzy. It was rocking from one side to the other," she said. She turned around and saw a wall unit shaking, along with other furniture.

"No one here really felt it," said Paul Armstrong, owner of Paul C. Armstrong Insurance Brokers Ltd. His staff may have heard a sound, but they would have attributed it to passing trucks, he said. Monday, his brokers had not received any calls from policy holders inquiring about damage claims resulting from the quake.

In more than a few offices around town, people felt the quake, while others in the same room were oblivious to its shaking. At the Herald office on 45 Guelph Street, typesetter Annie Olsen jumped away from her keyboard yelling "my machine is moving". She said, "It was as if the floor was made of rubber and someone had put a fist into it. I turned around to (co-workers) Dave and Mary Lou and they didn't feel anything."

There was no damage at Bell Glass Ltd., said owner Barry Bell, although there were delicate objects such as mirrors and glass panels throughout his building on 448 Guelph Street. Mirrors shook, the whole building rumbled and the roof made a lot of noise. Mr. Bell said he thought there was a mini-hurricane outside.

Mr. Bell's employees joked that the shaking probably had something to do with his helper's (Rick Starrett) new baby, which was born around the time of the earthquake, he said.

Welcome Wagon show

There will be a bridal show March 23 sponsored by Georgetown's Welcome Wagon.

The show doors open at 1 p.m. at the John Elliott Theatre, 9 Church Street in Georgetown. Featured will be special displays, gifts for every bride, door prize and a fashion show of dresses for the bride, bridesmaids, mother's dresses and men's fashions.

La Leche meeting

La Leche League of Acton holds monthly meetings for women who are interested in learning more about breastfeeding and mothering.

The next meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on Monday Feb. 10, at 18 Wilbur St. in Acton. As part of the topic "The Family and the Breastfed Baby" informal discussion will focus on childbirth and managing those early weeks at home. Pregnant women and babies are welcome.

Acton euchre

The Acton Branch of the Red Cross invite you to play euchre at Scout Hall on School Lane in Acton Feb. 7 at 8 p.m. There will be a door prize and refreshments.



KEEP ON TRUCKIN'

The answers to Sid Spear's science project were indeed blowing in the wind. Sid was one of about 160 Stewarttown Senior Public School

students participating in the Stewarttown Science Fair last week. His project was on the aerodynamics of the windjammer. A builder of model

trucks, Sid said, "I wouldn't mind becoming a trucker some day." (Herald photo)

Talk to your teens

Don't shy away: sex teacher

There's at least one person out there who knows how to talk about sex to their teenager.

Sue Johanson has a special guest speaker to a gathering of University Club members last Tuesday night. The registered nurse teaches sex education to approximately 20,000 students each year. Mrs. Johanson established two birth control centres in North York and she has her own Sunday night radio show for teens who would like information about sex.

Parents can't shy away from talking to their children about sex, and this must be done when their offspring are still young, she said.

You shouldn't worry about over-explaining to children how the reproductive process works, because "kids click off themselves and reach a saturation point. The key is to be approachable," Mrs. Johanson said.

There's two languages describing various elements of sex - street

language and the technical terms. Parents need to work in both the slang words and technical names to get their children familiar with proper terms.

Parents often find it simpler to be asexual in the eyes of their children. "We don't want our kids to do it so we don't say anything," she said.

Boys grow up with all sorts of misinformation about sex, Mrs. Johanson said. Girls have "best friends" and are more aggressive in seeking out information; they talk about it (sex) more.

As a birth control clinic co-ordinator, Mrs. Johanson has witnessed some frightening events. One in five teenagers get pregnant the first time they have sex. Teens face the problems of a pregnancy and disease, she said.

One young man was at a party and had a 10-minute encounter with a girl he didn't know. Now the man has herpes for life, she said. An entire soccer team contracted gonorrhea

after each of them had sex with a young blonde in a van outside a local pub in North York, she said.

It was a "screaming riot" to see these big "hulking guys" come into her clinic for treatment. They never did find the girl, which is scary, because she is continuing to spread the disease, Mrs. Johanson said.

Children need the opportunity to pick up values and attitudes about sex from their parents, she said.

If you let your teen talk about sex, they often talk themselves into a corner. It's much better to sit and listen to them, she said.

Whether you like it or not parents have to deal with pre-marital sex, she said. "Your attitudes and values have to change."

Kids are exposed to so much more today because of rock videos and explicit teen magazines pushing sex in their subtle way, she said.

Urgent need for housing task force

The need for an emergency shelter in Halton Hills is a symptom of a greater problem - the need for lower priced housing.

A June 1985 report prepared by the Halton Social Planning Council states that of 704 Halton residents seeking emergency shelter in 1984, 104 were looking in Halton Hills. Out of 54 asking for help to find short-term lodging, 20 requests were from Halton Hills. Of 242 needing help finding long-term shelter in Halton in 1984, 56 requests were made in Halton Hills.

A committee called the Task Force For Emergency Shelter was formed to investigate the need for an emergency shelter in Halton Hills. They met for the second time last Thursday.

On the task force are members of the Halton Social Planning Council, Recovery Inc., Acton Social Service and Information, Salvation Army, North Halton Distress Centre, Drug Abuse Committee, Georgetown Red Cross and Halton Legal Clinic.

At their first meeting Dec. 5 they talked about the Red Cross' limited emergency shelter. That shelter is for one to three nights at a local hotel and it is granted at the discretion of the Red Cross supervisor.

The task force concluded there is an urgent need for an emergency shelter in Halton Hills. They also agreed there is a need for affordable short and long term housing.

At the first meeting task force members were asked to discuss these needs with the Salvation Army and local ministerial associations, regional government housing and other community groups. The results of those separate meetings were discussed last Thursday.

Pat Woode of the Halton Social Planning Council reported on her talk with Stan Barkovitch, Regional Housing Co-ordinator.

A developer is interested in building low income housing in Halton Hills, she reported. But before building begins the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation policy must be known. The policy should be completed by November or December, Mrs. Woode reported.

Three different sites in Halton Hills are being considered for development; one would be picked. The size of the project will depend on funding guidelines, Mrs. Woode reported.

Shelia Ward of the Georgetown Red Cross reported on her meetings with local ministers. She asked ministers to ask their congregations if they would participate in an emergency shelter plan asking if they would provide shelter in their homes.

After speaking with the Georgetown Ministerial Association, she discovered most ministers wanted more information about the project before they would approach their congregations. Ministers wanted to know about training, screening for placement and other guidelines, Ms. Ward said.

By last Thursday's meeting she had not yet spoken to the Acton Ministerial Association. Claudette Smith of the YMCA spoke about the possibility of using the Acton Y building as a group home. The building already has tenants and Ms. Smith was in no way making a commitment other than to say "the Y could be evaluated to see if it met the needs of an emergency shelter."

Sandy Symmes, chairman of the task force, said that Captain Perrin of the Acton Salvation Army was interested in having a shelter in a private home. Ms. Symmes suggested the Y and the Salvation Army should meet and possibly work together. The next meeting of the Task Force For Emergency Shelter is Feb. 27.

BACK FOR '87: 5 lady teachers and The Duke

By TOM RAMAUTARSINGH

Georgetown High School was opened on January 3, 1887, in the Georgetown Public School, later called the Chapel Street Public School. Two classrooms were used with Mr. Malcolm Clark, B.A., as principal and Mr. E. Longman as his assistant. There were 69 students.

The new high school, at a cost of \$11,000, was opened in 1889. Mr. E. Lennox was the architect and he was responsible for two other famous buildings - Old City Hall of Toronto and Casa Loma. Mr. Laird of Norval assisted in the construction of the Georgetown High School.

Today's pre-centennial feature is with Mrs. Ruth Forgrave, formerly Mrs. Ruth Wrighlesworth. Here she reminisces about her pre-entry into high school and high school days as Ruth Giffen.

"I remember that first day at Georgetown High School, September, 1923! Up until then my "book learnin'" had been received at S.S. No. 6, Esqueping, Stewarttown Public School, now Briggs' Upholstery. This was a one-room school with all eight grades taught by one teacher.

"Miss Christine Semple bicycled or walked from Georgetown and prepared her Sr. IV class for the intimidating experience of writing the Entrance Examination for three days at the Georgetown High School. Lucy Hicken (Mrs. Wm. Emalie), Lula Graham (Mrs. Maurice Dixon) and myself were the group from Stewarttown that June, 1923. The suspense was not over until the Entrance Results

were published in The Georgetown Herald in order of merit, some two weeks later.

"The High School Staff consisted of the Principal, Mr. Ralph Ross, "The Duke", and five lady teachers. My memory of the Principal is one of great respect. In retrospect, it seems incredible what the principal was expected to do back in the '20s. He introduced us to Latin, his pet subject. He tried to instill into his students, his great love of English literature. He also had great musical ability; he was quite a fine flautist and sang tenor in Knox Presbyterian Church choir.

"It was he who trained the High School choir for the annual Commencement Exercises, held in the Town Hall (corner Guelph and Cross Streets), now demolished. His wife, "the Duchess", arrived as our accompanist for the final choir rehearsals. Mr. Ross was a firm, but fair disciplinarian, one who stood for no nonsense.

"I have happy memories of my high school teachers. Miss Kathleen Davidson, later Mrs. Perc. Cleave, Norah Williams' mother, gave us our first experience with French. We memorized vocabularies, learned the rules of grammar and how to write French; very little stress was put on conversational French. Miss Davidson was also our Art teacher in Form IA.

"Miss Penson, a patient, gentle soul, was the Science teacher. Our classes in "the new lab" opened up a thirst for knowledge through all the experiments with those mysterious elements. Our notebooks were collected so that the teacher might check up

on neatness and content. Upon returning the books to us I remember my embarrassment when Miss Penson said for the whole class to hear, "Miss Giffen, you have "mercury" spelled four different ways - all wrong!"

"Algebra and other interesting maths were taught by a Miss Peck, and later by Miss Bishop. Miss Schell was a dearly loved teacher in the history and geography department. Miss James is another name that comes to mind; I believe she replaced Miss Davidson when she retired from teaching.

"Mr. Evans, the custodian, was known to occasionally support the students in some of their "illegal shenanigans". The piano in the central hall was not to be played without the principal's permission. We had several promising musicians among the students - Bebe Mullen from the Glen, Margaret (Tubby) Townsend from Terra Cotta and Jack Creighton of town, to name just a few. Bebe and Tubby could belt out the popular tunes of the day - YHes, Sir, that's my Baby, Roll 'em Girls, roll 'em, Among my Souvenirs, etc.

"There were six academic grades in the school - no home economics, no shop, no drafting, no special music room, no gymnasium, etc. First Form A was for those pursuing the regular curriculum; First Form B was for the Commercial Students under the guidance of Miss Murtha. The other grades were second, third, fourth and fifth forms.

—Ruth (Giffen) Wrighlesworth Forgrave



HERE'S AN OLDIE-For the folks who can remember when football was played with funny helmets and heavy padding and lots of tape, here's a picture of the Georgetown District High School football team of 1935. Mrs. McClure of King Street submitted this old photo to help the reunion committee put together a display for the 100th anniversary of the school in 1987. Seen here are (first row, left to right) Jim Louth, John McClure, Stu Jordan, Ben Boyle, Bob Early, (second row) Jack Foulis, Ray Foulis, Bob Goldham, Elmer McCumber, Al (?) Cook, Norm Barber, (third row) Zwillio VenChristi, Winstlow Beamish, Reginald Broomhead, Keith Dolson, Paul, (fourth row) Fraser McDonald, Len Sylvester, Bob McMenemy, and teacher J.L. Lambert. (Photo submitted)