

Citizens' forum

Dear Sir,
I am shocked at the response of the public, and in particular, Dr. Jack Ford's patients, with the decision made by the Board of Directors to withdraw Dr. Ford's privileges from the hospital.

However, I also noted that most of the letters were from women who were pregnant. It is not uncommon, at this time, for a woman to become emotionally involved with her doctor and, therefore, I hope these letters with their opinions are put in the proper perspective. It is certainly time to set aside personal emotions and look at the problem from a medical point of view.

If the Board was aware of any incapacities on the part of a doctor and did nothing about it, what would the public say then? It should be clear to us all that such a difficult decision could not have been made without facts to support it.

We should be grateful that the Board, Mr. Rochon and Dr. Hodgson had the courage to make this decision and to know our health care is being protected even when we "don't know what is going on!"

Respectfully yours,
J. Quirk,
Cobblehill Road, Acton

Dr. Ford was my obstetrician for the duration of my pregnancy, he safely delivered my healthy baby girl and performed a tubal ligation subsequently. My husband and I always found him to be an extremely kind, caring, selfless individual and a fine representative of the medical profession.

I urge you to consider this matter with the utmost care as I feel the loss of Dr. Ford would be a grave injustice to our society where hard-working, dedicated people are such a prized asset.

Respectfully yours,
Margaret Adams (patient),
Glenn Adams

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter was submitted to The Herald for publication.

To: The Administrator, et al
Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital
Sir,

I was stunned to read that Dr. Ford has been barred from your hospital. Perhaps he is too good and pales your facilities by comparison.

My wife had a baby delivered by Dr. Ford, and consequently underwent a tubal ligation by Dr. Ford. We found that Dr. Ford showed genuine care for my wife, and for the other patients under his care for that matter, unlike some of the nursing staff at Obstetrics.

After my wife's operation, I spoke briefly with one of the doctors present that day in the OR. He told me that, if he were a woman needing a tubal ligation, Dr. Ford would be the only one to perform the surgery on him. This proves in my opinion that Dr. Ford is held in very high esteem indeed by his colleagues. We have complete trust in Dr. Ford, and will warmly recommend him to our friends.

In fact, we think Dr. Ford is so good, and this is confirmed by his peers, that he's unquestionably the mainstay of the Obstetrics ward. Take away the foundations on which the reputation of your hospital is built, and it will certainly collapse.

In my view, your actions are the epitome of idiocy; who is more credible: some very stern nurses in obstetrics who walk around as if the only thing that matters is their paycheques and who make the patients feel as if they were unwanted and in a kindergarten, or some patients who were thoroughly disgusted with the care they received from those same nurses, not to mention the food or the hundreds of Dr. Ford's patients who no doubt will voice some strong concerns against your unexplainable actions?

The answer to your problem is obvious:

- change your cooks or the catering company;
- replace half of your nurses with up-to-date and genuinely concerned professionals;
- relax the rules and regulations, and enter the twentieth century in nursing care;
- modernize your equipment with modern, up-to-date equipment (even a seventeenth-century doctor would feel right at home in Obstetrics);
- attract more doctors of Dr. Ford's stature;
- listen more carefully to the advice of your doctors, who really know the inside and out, as opposed to the trustees and board of directors.

I am fuming mad, and I sincerely hope a lot of other taxpayers are as well. Correct the problems that really plague Obstetrics, and reinstate Dr. Ford immediately. As far as I am concerned, Georgetown Memorial is a place to avoid, since it's obviously more concerned with politics than with medical care. Shame on you!

Hans Casteels,
Hillsburgh

Dear Sir,
I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the situation which has arisen recently whereby Dr. J. Ford has been denied hospital privileges at the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital.

In response to the statement made by hospital executive director, Marc Rochon, that it is the responsibility of the hospital to insure the very best of care for patients, I question the implication that this was not being provided by Doctor Ford. From my own experience, and that of my two daughters, as patients of Dr. Ford, I can only comment positively on his behalf. At all times, we have found Dr. Ford to be a caring, professional and capable practitioner. His commitment to our welfare and care was excellent.

In response to an implication in various newspaper articles, I can say that in the case of my daughter he was committed to saving her reproductive organs even though the possibility of a necessary hysterectomy was present. It seems to me that each case must be determined by the facts and needs which surround it and that Dr. Ford, with his expertise and knowledge in the field, is certainly capable of making a professional judgement which will best benefit the overall well-being of the patient.

Each patient has the opportunity to seek another opinion, if there is doubt or confusion concerning her condition, or the prescribed procedures to deal with it. As for the decision that a hysterectomy is re-

quired, I'm sure that Dr. Ford alone does not always reach that conclusion, but in many cases he becomes the obstetrician/gynaecologist who will perform the surgery upon the recommendation and referral of a general practitioner. In my own particular case, this was in fact what happened and I feel that it was the correct procedure.

I sincerely hope that this issue is dealt with in justice and fairness based on real facts pertaining to professional ability and performance and not on the issue of who has the opportunity to gain remuneration for services performed in a very delicate and important area of health care, namely obstetrics and gynaecology. Surely in this time of enlightenment and awareness, a patient should be free to engage the services of a specialist if she/he so desires.

Thank you for your attention.
Yours truly,
Mrs. Mary C. Blackmore,
Georgetown

Yart auction

The Georgetown and Acton Ys will be giving you a chance to brighten up the walls of your home. The Y is again holding an art auction scheduled for May 15 at Holy Cross Auditorium. Tickets are \$6 in advance and \$7 at the door.

All proceeds from the auction will go towards non-profit Y projects in the community. For tickets and more information call 677-6163.

here's looking at you MOM

How do you tell Mother that she's special to you? With something she'll just adore . . . and wear the whole year through. Gifts that say 'comfort' and 'luxury' are right, to give her a day of joy and a feeling of delight.



20% OFF LINGERIE

Petals Ladies' Fashions
211 Guelph St.
NORTHVIEW CENTRE
877-9218



Open house

Grade 3 student I-stin Barker looks on as Robert Hawes, a Grade 6 student at St. Francis of Assisi School, operates a robotic arm named Armatron. The two were part of the open house April 23. Other activities included a play put on by the students of the school. The theme of the open house was "Come Learn With Me". (Herald photo)

THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS

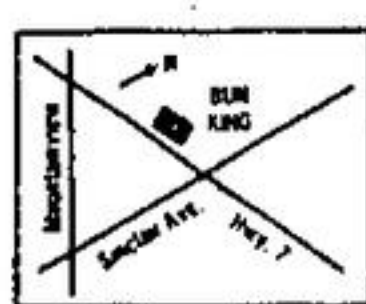
HALTON FRUIT MARKET

HEAD LETTUCE 49¢ PRODUCT OF U.S.A.	GREEN PEPPERS 89¢ L.B. PRODUCT OF U.S.A.	FRESH CORN ON THE COB 149 Pkg. of 3 PRODUCT OF U.S.A.
BLACK FOREST HAM FROM GOURMET FOODS 349 L.B.	COOKED HAM FROM GOURMET FOODS 199 L.B.	DUTCH LOAF 329 L.B.

LIMITED QUANTITIES

Bun King Bakery
FROM OUR OVEN TO YOU AT WHOLESALE PRICES

WHITE, SLICED BREAD 2/100 LIMIT 6 PER CUSTOMER	6" SUB BUNS 199 DOZEN LIMIT 3 DOZEN
---	--



OFFER EXPIRES MAY 9th, 1987
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
Mon. & Tues. 9-7, Wed. 9-6, Thurs. & Fri. 9-7, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-5
245 GUELPH ST. GEORGETOWN
873-0781

OPEN TILL 9 P.M. THURSDAY & FRIDAY
CLOSING THIS LOCATION
LIMITED TIME ONLY



HALTON HILLS

FURNITURE APPLIANCE WAREHOUSE

45 Mountainview Rd. N.

Georgetown

877-6607