

Halton Hills Outlook

Dr. Ford defends actions Day two of appeals board hearing

By MARY-LIZ SHAW
Herald Staff

Toronto - Georgetown gynecologist Jack Ford defended himself against charges of mismanagement and poor judgement Wednesday at the second session of a Hospital Appeal Board hearing.

Dr. Ford was testifying on his own behalf at the Appeal inquiry looking into his dismissal from Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital April 7.

Counsel Gavin Mackenzie called Dr. Ford to the witness at 3 p.m. Wednesday after the Board heard testimony from three doctors and a nurse familiar with Dr. Ford's practice.

Gavin Mackenzie questioned his client for two hours, preventing GDMH counsel Joshua Listwood from cross-examining Dr. Ford before the hearing adjourned. Mr. Listwood will have an opportunity to question Dr. Ford when the inquiry reconvenes on December 7.

Dr. Ford told the Board he has not seen the autopsy report on a baby who died as a result of mid-forceps delivery he handled in 1986.

A letter written in March 1987 to GDMH Executive Director Mark Rochon indicates that Dr. Ford may review the child's autopsy report. The letter is contained in the patient chart records for Georgetown hospital.

Appeal Board Chairman Thomas Wood asked Joshua Listwood to enter the patient charts as evidence at the hearing to clear up any confusion concerning the facts of the inquiry.

Mr. Listwood said he would provide the Appeal Board and Mr. Mackenzie with copies of the charts within the next two weeks.

Mr. Mackenzie produced Dr. Ford's office records which Dr. Ford admitted, offer a more detailed record of patient management than those kept by the hospital. The charts were given as evidence as they were discussed.

At Tuesday's proceedings, GDMH lawyer Joshua Listwood referred to reports which accuse the appellant of conducting an "unusually high number" of hysterectomies and dilatage and curatage (D and C) operations on young women.

He then referred to patient charts and a case of a woman who was



TAKES A STAND - Georgetown gynecologist and obstetrician Dr. Jack Ford testified on his own behalf last week in the second session of an Ontario Hospital Appeals Board hearing. Dr. Ford is appealing a decision made by the Board of Directors of Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital to revoke his privileges on April 7. The Appeal hearing will reconvene on December 7. Dr. Ford is seen here with two of his supporters. (Herald photo)

sterilized after going through menopause.

"The impression yesterday was that I would conduct a sterilization on a woman who was post-menopausal," Dr. Ford said. "The answer is categorically no. This woman was not post-menopausal; she was pre-menopausal."

Dr. Ford explained that the woman had been experiencing ab-

normal periods and was concerned about becoming pregnant, "even at the age of 50." During a D and C operation, Dr. Ford discovered the presence of an inter-uterine device (IUD), "which she was not aware she had," Dr. Ford said.

Although the patient wanted a more permanent form of sterilization she agreed to have the IUD reinserted for a short time until the end of the summer, Dr. Ford added.

Jack Ford, a 44-year-old originally from South Africa, received his medical training in Johannesburg and moved to Canada in 1975. He is a member of the Royal Society of Gynecologists and Obstetricians in England and has trained at University of Toronto Teaching hospitals.

Joshua Listwood mentioned Tuesday that Dr. Ford failed the Canadian Fellowship of Gynecologists and Obstetricians exam three times.

Dr. Ford did not deny the statement. He noted, however, that he was unfamiliar with the exam's multiple choice format. "The first time I ever wrote a multiple choice exam" was when I came to Canada," he said. The Royal Society's exam consists of several essay questions, each two pages in length, the doctor added.

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Math error by lawyer

The lawyer representing Dr. Jack Ford at a Hospital Appeals Board hearing opened Wednesday's session by correcting a statement made by Georgetown Hospital's lawyer Joshua Listwood.

At the hearing's first session on Tuesday, Mr. Listwood told the board that Dr. Ford had conducted almost "500 times more hysterectomies on women under 35 than doctors at Women's College Hospital."

Dr. Ford's counsel Gavin Mackenzie noted that Mr. Listwood had made a mathematical error. The actual figure is just under five times more, Mr. Mackenzie said.

Community Calendar

OCTOBER
1987

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Oct. 24 - Sacred Heart Church is having a bazaar from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. Lots to do, see and buy for the whole family. The Church is on Guelph Street in Georgetown between Hill and Chapel Streets.

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