

# Halton Hills Outlook

## Ford controversy divided medical staff: Hoddinott

The controversy surrounding Dr. Jack Ford was tearing the medical staff apart in May of 1985, Dr. Boyd Hoddinott, then Chief of Staff of the Medical Advisory Committee told the Ontario Hospital Appeals Board during his testimony Jan. 11.

Dr. Hoddinott said he asked the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons to investigate Dr. Ford in May, 1985 but they said they were seven months behind and the MAC should handle any problems with Dr. Ford.

Dr. Hoddinott, whose two terms as MAC Chief of Staff stretched from 1982 to the end of January, 1987, said he first became concerned about Dr. Ford's practice early in 1982, when a doctor brought a case of interuterine death to his attention.

The Doctor asked Dr. Ford for advice on a patient who was 41 weeks pregnant. (A normal term is 38 to 40 weeks).

Dr. Ford advised the doctor to let the pregnancy go to 43 weeks, said Dr. Hoddinott, the baby died in the uterus at 42 weeks, he said.

In another case in the fall of 1982 Dr. Hoddinott said he was called to resuscitate twins weighing about a pound each.

He learned the woman suffered vaginal bleeding at 26 weeks and that Dr. Ford had diagnosed a rupture.

Dr. Hoddinott thought the patient should have been transferred to a bigger hospital when the bleeding problem occurred.

"I told (Dr. Ford) I was upset about the situation, I just said it concerned me," said Dr. Hoddinott.

The next concern arising with Dr. Ford's practice was in 1983 when he learned about a woman who was undergoing her third operation for infertility. Dr. Hoddinott said he had a conversation with Dr. Ford in the changing room but Dr. Ford felt he should be allowed to do the operation.

Dr. Hoddinott consulted other physicians about the operation and doctors in Guelph said a microscope should be used during surgery.

"I told Dr. Ford that I was very concerned about doing these (opera-

tions) in Georgetown," said Dr. Hoddinott.

"At that time I did not specifically tell (Dr. Ford) you must not do this again in Georgetown," he said of the multiple infertility procedures.

Dr. Hoddinott said there was a lot of "coffee room discussion" about the case.

Dr. Ford performed the operation and a fourth operation was performed on the woman in 1985, he said.

In another case a patient was

sterilized at 21 years old and had her tubes reattached a year later, said Dr. Hoddinott.

An investigation into Dr. Ford's gynecological practice in the fall of 1983, at the suggestion of McMaster Medical Centre's Dr. Jerry Quigley who conducted an OHIP audit of Dr. Ford, led to some concerns including the high number of dilatage and curettage (D and C) operations, said Dr. Hoddinott.

He said he met with Dr. Ford in April, 1984 to discuss his concerns.

Concerns about Dr. Ford's handling of a case of premature ruptured membranes led to established guidelines adopted in May of 1984, he said.

Dr. Hoddinott said concerns about the high number of DUB (dysfunctional uterine bleeding) cases led to another "nervous meeting in the library."

While an audit into D and C procedures were being conducted "Dr. Ford had mentioned that I was harassing him," said Dr. Hoddinott.

He and Dr. Alex Furness reviewed

80 cases of D and C operations undertaken with hysterectomies and the lack of documentation of substantiating need for the D and C procedure disturbed them.

In August of 1984 Dr. Robert Gall of the Women's College Hospital conducted an audit of the whole gynecological service at the hospital. That report, which was submitted in January, 1985, criticized Dr. Ford, said Dr. Hoddinott. He said the "sheer weight of the statistics", including the fact that he was conducting five times as many D and C operations than comparative practice at Women's College, together with a report by Dr. V.B. Kurdyak, of Humber College Hospital, caused him to go to the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Dr. Hoddinott said he wanted to "duck out" of the investigation at that point and leave it up to the College.

When the College refused to investigate, the MAC arranged for Dr. Ford and Dr. Valerie Kumar, the other gynecologist and obstetrician at the hospital, to come to a May 10 meeting.

Dr. Ford was told there were many concerns including questions about the high number of D and C operations, the cases of removal and reinsertion of Inter Uterine Devices (IUDs).

Dr. Hoddinott said he told Dr. Ford there was "justification for the concerns."

The MAC decided to rewrite the rules of certain procedures at the hospital, said Dr. Hoddinott.

The concerns discussed at the May 10, 1985 meeting were also brought up in August, 1984, said Dr. Hoddinott.

However, at the May 10 meeting Dr. Ford was made aware of the concerns about his practice, he said.

"No doubt the message got across because he was upset. He thought they were trying to control him."

In November of 1985 the MAC reviewed 120 charts since the May 10 meeting, said Dr. Hoddinott. "All of

Continued on page 2



Dr. Boyd Hoddinott

## Community Calendar

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Jan. 18 - Georgetown Chamber of Commerce presents First Trade, a talk by Barbara McDougall, Minister of State and Proliferation at the John Elliot Theatre 8 p.m.

Jan. 23 - Georgetown Fall Fair Board annual general meeting at the Lions Club Hall behind Memorial Arena on Hill Street at 1 p.m. New members are welcome.

**Century 21**  
 Realty of Distinction Inc., Realtor  
 112 MAIN ST. S., GEORGETOWN  
 (CORNER OF CHURCH & MAIN)  
 873-1281

Incidents provoke review of Dr. Ford ..... pg 2  
 Natural ice rinks for local skaters ..... pg 8

**OPEN 10-10 DAILY**  
*Canada's Largest Leather Store*  
 It's Worth the Drive to Acton!  
**the olde Hide House**  
 49 EASTERN AVE. ACTON  
 853-1031  
 Built in 1899

Make a horn pale right out of a can ..... pg 6  
 Weaving together tales of murder ..... pg 7

**Fendley Florists**  
 "A CURE-ALL THAT'S ALL SOUPED UP"  
 Send The FTD Chicken Soup Bowl Bouquet  
 NORTHVIEW CENTRE  
 211 Guelph St., Georgetown  
**877-6901**

Canadians secretly enjoy paying taxes ..... pg 12  
 Elderly may get too many drugs ..... pg 11

**Popey's**  
 Corner of Guelph St. (Hwy. 7) & Mountainview Rd. S., Georgetown  
**877-2418**  
 Popey, John, Peter & Nelson  
 Are pleased to return as the owners and are looking forward to serving you.  
**NEW MENU! ARRIVING SOON**

**REGULAR FEATURES**

Sports.....	pg. 8	Young Outlook.....	pg. 16
Comics.....	pg. 19	Opinions.....	pg. 4
Culinary.....	pg. 6	Entertainment.....	pg. 9

**G.S.S. OFFICE SUPPLIES**  
 118 Guelph Street Unit 4 Georgetown  
 (Hwy 7 & Hwy 11)  
 877-2282 846-6947

**We Apologize For Any Inconvenience During Renovations Which Will Result in Better Service To You Our Valued Customers**

OPEN: Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. — Saturday 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**Hilroy FIGURING PADS**  
 White bond paper, 96 sheets per pad, 10 pads per shrink wrapped pack.  
 40-61180 Letter Size - wide ruled  
 40-61182 Letter Size - narrow ruled  
 40-61179 Letter Size 1/2" quad ruled  
 REGULAR \$15.90  
**SPECIAL \$12.69 pk**

**QUALITY XEROGRAPHIC PAPER**  
 Premium quality xerographic paper ensures fast-free loading, 500 sheets per package Price per thousand.  
 122-1-10 Letter size, White REGULAR \$17.99  
 122-2-10 Legal size, White REGULAR \$21.99  
 122-3-10 11" x 17", White REGULAR \$34.79  
**\$14.99**

**DRG FILE FOLDERS**  
 Reversible feature permits left or right tab filing with the same folder. Your choice of 9-1/2 pt ivory or 10-1/2 pt kraft. 100 per box.  
 DESCRIPTION  
 (R411) Letter 9-1/2 pt  
 (R412) Letter 10-1/2 pt  
 (R413) Legal 9-1/2 pt  
 (R414) Legal 10-1/2 pt  
**COLOUR FILE FOLDERS**  
 Red (1-7), Blue (1-3), Green (4), Orange (4), Yellow (7), Pink (15)  
 DESCRIPTION  
 (R415) Letter 10-1/2 pt  
 (R416) Legal 10-1/2 pt