

Board denies Ford's privileges

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Herald Staff

Dr. Jack Ford has been denied all privileges at the Georgetown hospital by the Ontario Hospital Appeals Board.

In a 24-page decision released yesterday the Board's decision supported the action taken by the Georgetown Hospital Board on April 7, 1987 to revoke the privileges of the gynecologist and obstetrician.

"It is our finding based upon the evidence that Dr. Ford's knowledge in both the areas of obstetrics and gynecology is outdated," the Board wrote.

"His presence at the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital poses a significant threat to the community served by that hospital and cannot continue until he can demonstrate a significant upgrading in both his knowledge and practice."

Dr. Ford's lawyer Gavin MacKenzie argued during the hearings that Dr. Ford was never made aware of concerns about his practice.

But the Board said: "Had we found that Dr. Ford was truly not aware of the problems of his practice, we might have seriously considered some form of training while his privileges continued. However, we have found that he was well aware of serious doubts expressed by his peers and by the Chief of Staff of his hospital and that he took no steps to alter his practice or to upgrade himself in light of these warnings."

The Board concluded that there is a "serious gap in Dr. Ford's knowledge of modern medical and surgical management in the areas of obstetrics and gynecology."

The Appeals Board found problems in five areas of Dr. Ford's practice. Dr. Ford's extensive use of dilatage and curettage (D and C) operations for dysfunctional uterine bleeding was common during his training but "has been found not to produce satisfactory results and is almost totally discredited in modern Canadian gynecological circles."

His use of tubal repairs and infertility operations without the use of a microscope "again demonstrate a technique which has been discredited."

Dr. Ford's tendency to perform hysterectomies and stress incontinence procedures without investigating to see if medical management of the problem was possible "again reflects a school of gynecological thinking which is now outdated," the Board wrote.

The doctor's failure to prepare for a Caesarean section also came under criticism from the Board.

"His readiness to perform such potentially dangerous procedures as mid-forceps deliveries and VBACs (vaginal birth after Caesarean) without adequate preparation for emergency Caesarean sections reveals an inadequate appreciation of the possible consequences of his

actions."

The final area, Dr. Ford's use of mid-forceps in deliveries, also represents "an older school of obstetrics which has now largely been replaced by a more conservative philosophy," the Board said.

Throughout the decision the Board called Dr. Ford's medical procedures an "aggressive surgical approach."

"Dr. Ford's approach was extremely aggressive surgically and the documentation for surgical intervention in many cases was somewhat questionable."

The five-member hospital board "struggled for some time to reconcile the contrasting portraits of a surgically aggressive doctor who ap-

peared far too ready to intervene both obstetrically and gynecologically where there was little justification for doing so, and the caring, genial physician who clearly commands tremendous loyalty and respect from his patients, colleagues and the nurses with whom he works."

The reaction from the hospital is very cautious because Dr. Ford can still appeal the decision to the courts, said Executive Director Mark Rochon.

He read a prepared release saying, "we are pleased with the findings of the Hospital Appeals Board which upheld the decision of the Board of Directors to restrict and

subsequently revoke Dr. Ford's hospital privileges in obstetrics and gynecology."

"while the Board appreciates the difficulty that this situation has created for patients, medical staff and employees it has been the position of the Board that the central issue pertaining to the matter was and continues to be the provision of quality patient care."

Mr. Rochon said the hospital has been interviewing applicants for another gynecologist and obstetrician at the hospital for some time and it will continue to interview until a suitable applicant is found.

The decision only affects the Georgetown hospital, said Dr. Ford.

Town calls for hearing changes

March

The town of Halton Hills declined to attend hearings looking into the proposed dump in Acton unless the ground rules are changed.

Councillors laid down seven conditions which had to be fulfilled before they would agree to send a representative to the Acton Quarry Landfill Advisory Committee which started March 2, in Milton.

The conditions ranged from changing the structure of the committee right down to its name and location.

The meetings were not to be open to the press or the general public.

Regional councillors hired consultants Tom Lederer and Cam Watson to help with the first phase of the Environmental Assessment Act, which was necessary before an energy from waste plant can be built in Halton.

Redefined roles for the consultants from the original \$50,000 study resulted in considerably increased costs, according to a report by Halton's Commissioner of Public Works, Robert Moore.

Halton was the first region to go through the Environmental Assessment process in search of a landfill site.

Joe Hewitt was elected as President of the new Halton-Peel federal Liberal association. He was elected at a meeting at St. George's Anglican Church March 2.

The new executive elected was made up by Mr. Hewitt, Executive Vice President Frank Allen,

Treasurer Ted Gorth, Secretary Richard Whitehead and Membership Secretary Kay Lawson.

In January of 1987, the province made AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), education compulsory for students in either Grade 7 or 8 physical education classes.

In Halton, the decision was made to teach the course in Grade 8.

Parents for the most part voiced their support for the program and offered their own advice to strengthen the curriculum.

"About 98 per cent of the people" at educational meetings with parents are strongly behind the AIDS program in Halton schools, said school board staff member Grant Clatworthy.

The Canadian Auto workers union set up picket lines at Standard Products on Guelph St. in Georgetown.

About 150 workers from Standard Products guarded the entrance for the first time in the 28-year history of Local 876.

Demands made by the union were better pensions, improvements in sick and accident pay and long term disability benefits.

"The longer we're out the more ugly it's going to get," said Local 876 President Gerry Klatt.

Canad Packers announced plans to rehabilitate 300 acres of land belonging to the Beardmore Tannery.

Proposed plans called for a 60-acre industrial park on the southwest corner of the property and some 52 acres of possible residential development on the northern part of the lands. A huge recreational park, perhaps a golf course, on 180 acres of land (which can not be safely used for any other purpose), is also proposed.

The tannery shut down in September of 1986, putting 324 people out of work.

Two candidates lost their election bid for the presidency of the newly formed PC association of Halton-Peel to Caledon's Ian Fraser.

Well over 100 card-carrying Conservatives attended the inaugural meeting at the North Halton Golf and Country Club.

Mr. Fraser is the owner of his own pharmaceutical company and has been associated with the Conservative Party for close to 40 years. He moved to Inglewood in 1978 and has been in the York-Peel riding for seven years.

A tank containing 5,000 gallons of a combustible liquid burst open in one of the biggest spills ever in Georgetown.



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