

First babies doing fine

When Godfrey, Norene and the three Marchand children moved to Georgetown in early 1961, Norene had a feeling that her fourth (and not yet born) child would be one of the first babies born at Georgetown Hospital.

Little did she know that on June 29, 1961 her new son Ronald would make history as the Hospital's first boy!

Now 30 years later, that boy is a happily married family man who, along with his wife Kim, is a parent to two-and-a-half-year-old Jennifer. Like her father, Jennifer carried on the Marchand tradition by making her first appearance at Georgetown Hospital.

Ron's life has been a busy and active one. He attended school at Holy Cross and Georgetown and District High School. After graduation, Ron entered the workforce and today is employed by a worldwide transportation firm in Toronto.

Looking back to 1961, Norene fondly recalls her stay in Georgetown Hospital's maternity ward. "Everything was brand new, right down to the pink and blue blankets. It was very exciting to be one of the first patients in the facility. Since that time, of course, our family has continued to take advantage of the services available at the Hospital."

Congratulations to the Marchand family, and a special birthday wish to Ron.

Georgetown Hospital's first girl is now a mother of three little girls, aged nine, seven and 20 months. In 1969, Christine Broome (nee Moore) moved with her family to Wingham, Ontario. It was there that Bill Broome entered her life and in 1980 they married. The ties to the Georgetown area endure thanks to Christine's grandmother, Margaret Smith, who currently lives in Glen Williams.



Hospital doctors

Seated: Colleen Darling (left) and Carla Ockley. Middle row, left to right: Alistair MacIntosh, Paul Zeni, Charlie McCormick (with beard) Deborah Zeni, Alex Ashenurst, Valerie Kumar. Back row, left to right: Nigel Phipps, Elliot Halparin, Don Trant, Alan Thompson, Paul Panabaker, Aidan Kennedy.

Doctors a vital part of community

There are a number of doctors in the Georgetown community whose recollections of the Hospital's early beginnings date back to before the Hospital was even built.

In the case of Dr. Alastair MacIntosh and his colleague, Dr. Alan Thompson, their family practice was up and running at a time when Guelph Hospital was the nearest medical institution. Dr. Paul Panabaker was just establishing his practice in 1961 and like the Hospital, was new to the area.

Dr. MacIntosh is a Scottish-trained physician who served in World War II. Shortly after the War, he became an Internist and from there, turned his attentions to Canada. By 1954 he had set up a family practise in small town Georgetown. Now almost 40 years later, his practise has grown and he is very much an integral part of the town's medical community.

"I strongly believe that Georgetown Hospital is a facility that offers humanity, health and

personal warmth. Those virtues were present in the 60's and they are still present today," Dr. MacIntosh says.

Dr. Mac., as he's more familiarly called, maintains that many medical advancements have been the result of new and better technological equipment. "The Legion's donation of state-of-the-art I.C.U. (Intensive Care Unit) will provide the Hospital with significantly improved monitoring equipment."

Another long-time face in the medical field is Dr. Alan Thompson who graduated from the University of Western Ontario at about the time that Dr. Mac was setting up his practise in Georgetown.

"I have always been interested in people. That, and the fact that four uncles were doctors, were powerful motivators in determining my career choice," explains Dr. Thompson.

In addition to his busy family practice, Dr. Thompson is now involved in long-term care, serving as the Bennett Centre's medical advisor. This advisory function

also includes other responsibilities such as sitting on various committees, and tending to patients whose own doctors do not practice in the community.

"Long-term care is a growing area, particularly as Canada's population ages. There are many cases of elderly people wanting to remain independent, yet requiring special care. This type of care need not necessarily be delivered through the Hospital. Instead, many services are available at long-term care facilities such as the Bennett Centre. In the future, the demand for long-term care will increase and it's crucial that we work to put the necessary systems in place to handle the need."

For Dr. Paul Panabaker, his arrival in Georgetown coincided with the opening of Georgetown Hospital in June 1961.

"I was just setting up my first practise after graduating from the University of Toronto," he reflects. "I took over a family practise from Dr. Bob Cooper."

There were other reasons why Dr. Panabaker chose this area. "Georgetown offered the best of both worlds. A small community with a new hospital - all close to Metro Toronto."

"In the early days of the Hospital, all doctors were on call in the Emergency Department for a week at a time. That meant 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week. Through growth and a larger pool of medical staff, the system now operates on a rotational basis," Dr. Panabaker adds.

So as the Hospital and Georgetown change, it's comforting to know that there are doctors like Alastair MacIntosh, Alan Thompson and Paul Panabaker who have remained a vital part of the community.



GDMH's first baby boy, Ronald Louis, born June 29, 1961 to Norene and Godfrey Marchand. (Inset) Christine Moore, born June 28, 1961, GDMH's first baby girl. (Photos submitted)

Hospital board has important role

Just like any large enterprise, Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital is a Corporation with its own Board of Directors. The Hospital's Board has the task of ensuring the institution is meeting its mandate of providing top-quality health care to the community.

The role of the Board is an important one whose function can range from developing and reviewing the Hospital's mission, objectives and strategic plan as they relate to specific programs and services for the community; working with other community

agencies and institutions; establishing policies and procedures to provide the framework for the management and operation of the Hospital - to appointing chiefs of staff, and ensuring that staff and facilities are appropriate for the services provided.

As the governing body of Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital, the Board of Directors establish appropriate systems and structures necessary for the effective management and control of the Hospital and its resources.

The Board of Directors come from all walks of life. In most cases, these individuals hold senior positions within the Halton Hills' business community. There are 12 elected Board members. As well, seven ex-officio directors sit on the Board representing regional government, town council, medical staff and the Hospital Auxiliary.

Lending assistance to the Directors are a number of committees such as the executive committee, as well as standing committees involved in matters

such as finance, quality assurance and resident care, public relations, long-range planning and medical advisory.

The Hospital Corporation meets once a year for the annual meeting. To become a life member of the Corporation, a donation is required of at least \$100 to Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital. Alternatively, anyone can purchase an annual membership for \$5.00.

Board members are elected at the annual meeting of the Corporation.

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