

Lions donation a boost to community health

By BEN DUMMETT
The Herald

Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital is now on the cutting edge in more ways than one when it comes to performing gallbladder surgery.

Georgetown hospital is one of the first hospitals in the area to use the highly advanced Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy procedure to remove a diseased gallbladder from a patient, hospital officials announced last Wednesday at a press conference.

The advanced procedure starts with the surgeon making four small incisions in the patients abdomen. Using a thin stainless steel tube, the doctor then inserts a labaroscope - a miniature television camera - into one of the incisions. Once inserted into the abdomen, the camera



projects an image of the diseased gallbladder on a television monitor located in the operating room permitting the doctor to see the abdomen's insides, Georgetown General Surgeon Naresh Mohan explained during the press conference.

The three other incisions are made to insert the surgical instruments necessary to remove the gallbladder, said Dr. Mohan.

The 45 minute to an hour long surgical procedure results in the patient usually being discharged from the hospital one or two days

after surgery. As well, the patient is able to return to work seven to 10 days after having the gallbladder removed.

Comparatively, said Dr. Mohan, the old procedure, which requires doctors to make up to an eight-inch incision in the person's abdomen to separate the rectus muscle, is more painful; results in the patient having to stay in the hospital approximately six days following the operation; and usually prevents the patient from returning to work for six weeks after leaving the hospital.

John Oliver, hospital Executive Director, said the "state of the art equipment" necessary to perform the advanced surgical procedure could only be purchased after the Georgetown Lions Club covered the equipment's total cost of \$52,191.

Lions Club President Tom Colton said the service club decided to purchase the surgical instruments because it wanted to do something for the Georgetown community which would benefit a lot of people over a long period of time.

The donation represents an accumulation of a five-year savings program on the service club's part said, Mr. Colton.

Dr. Mohan said the hospital will perform between 50 and 60 gallbladder operations per year.

Approximately 50,000 Canadians will have a gallbladder operation in any given year, added Dr. Mohan.

To date, Georgetown hospital has performed 17 gallbladder operations using the new equip-

ment, "and all of the cases attempted so far have been successful," said Dr. Mohan.

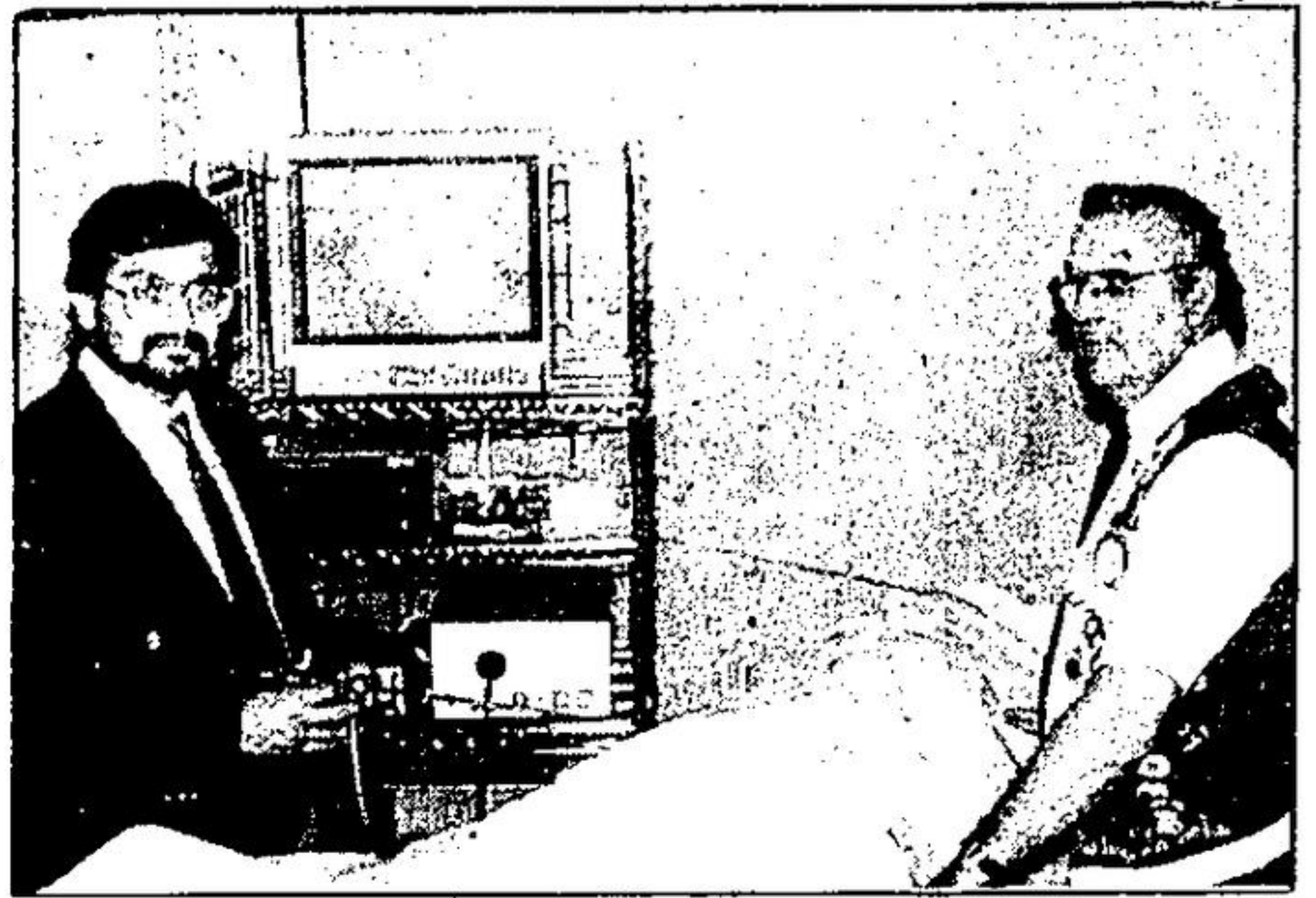
Mr. Oliver points out patients are not the only beneficiaries of the new surgical procedure. The hospital also benefits knowing most gallbladder patients will now spend less time in the hospital. That means less cost to the hospital per gallbladder patient, said Mr. Oliver.

Dr. Mohan said doctors will use the old surgical procedure if the

patient is extremely overweight or the person's condition is very fragile.

These types of cases only represent about five per cent of those who need gallbladder operations, he reports.

Although the procedure is primarily used for gallbladder operations, it can also be used to find the causes for abdominal pain and for different types of gynecological surgery, said Dr. Mohan.



Using a mannequin, Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital General Surgeon Dr. Naresh Mohan demonstrates the hospital's new gallbladder operation for Georgetown Lion's Club member Harley Laroche during a recent press conference. (Herald Photo)

Georgetown food bank in desperate need

Georgetown's Love and Christ Foodbank is in desperate need of baby food, cereal, and formula.

Alzheimer Society office

The Alzheimer Society for Halton-Wentworth has just opened a new office in Halton in the suite of Red Cross Homemaker Services in the new Rotary Health Centre in Burlington.

For more information on the office and the society, Halton Hills residents can telephone 873-8559. A remote call-forwarding system will transfer calls to the Burlington number so there will be no long distance charges.

says Laura Ellison, the food bank's Executive Director.

"We service 35 babies, ranging in ages from birth to one year who need this type of food and we have none to offer," said Ms. Ellison.

Those who want to make a donation should call Ms. Ellison at 873-1328 or Anna Rodd at 877-5482.

The Georgetown Chiropractic Clinic on Guelph Street will be sponsoring a food drive for the Love and Christ Foodbank during the week of Oct. 7 to Oct. 11.

Patients with appointments during this period won't be charged but they are requested to bring a non-perishable food donation.

Members of the general public are also encouraged to drop off non-perishable goods at the clinic, 211 Guelph Street.

Workers encouraged to join program

By HEATHER ANGUS
Herald Special

This is the second of a four-part series on tutor/student success stories at the North Halton Literacy Guild. One-on-one tutoring for any adult in Halton Hills is free, confidential, and individualized. (Study where and when it suits you.) You can get your own tutor by calling Ave Edington at the North Halton Literacy Guild, 873-2200 or 876-4756.

Raymond (not his real name) and his tutor, Wendy Smith, were matched by the North Halton Literacy Guild in December 1990. Raymond learned about the Guild when a speaker came to his workplace to encourage employees to join the literacy program.

Raymond is realistic about his learning goals. "I don't have to be the perfect speller and reader tomorrow. After all, I've got 30 years of it being all mixed up," he says. "I'd like to be as good as my daughter... she's outreading me!"

Raymond's young daughter was a major reason that he decided to get help with his reading and writing. "She's his second tutor," Wendy says. "I'll do whatever I have to, to make sure that she gets a good education," Raymond says.

Raymond's own experience in school was not as positive. He was placed in trade school after Grade 5. He dropped out in Grade 9, at the age of 17, and took the machinist job that he holds today.

Raymond doesn't need much literacy skills for his job, nor for his banking. Paycheques are directly deposited into his bank account by the company; other transactions are done with his credit card. "All that requires is a signature," he says, "and that I can do."

"I could deal with just about anything all those years," Raymond says. "I read O.K., but I did no writing, and my spelling was hopeless." He has no problem with numbers, "unless you ask me to spell them," he jokes.

Raymond and Wendy meet once a week at the local library, either in the afternoon or even-

ing. Their tutoring sessions fit both their lives; Raymond works shifts, and Wendy has a child in daycare in the mornings.

Right now, they are working on Raymond's spellin and sentence structure, by using a series of exercise books. Wendy also makes a tape recording of each lesson, which Raymond plays while he's working at home.

"We discovered that Raymond learns best by hearing words," Wendy says. They tried several teaching methods - including flash cards and word pattern sheets - before finding that Raymond is not a visual learner.

"You can't tell what will be beneficial until you look at it through the learner's eyes," Wendy says.

"Between the two of us, we pick out pretty quickly what is working for me and what is not," Raymond adds. "We've mucked with

the computer, but I'm not ready for it... the keyboard isn't in alphabetical order!"

Raymond signed up for an English course two years ago at a local college. "It was more geared to people who don't speak any English," he says. "I walked in, turned around and walked out."

Raymond is happy with the program at the North Halton Literacy Guild because he works one-on-one with his tutor, and every lesson is geared to his needs.

"I'm learning, so I feel pretty good," Raymond says. "I've got a good tutor... we have fun; we don't take ourselves too seriously."

Wendy agrees. "It's important to have a sense of humor about yourself." She also advises would-be tutors to do it for the student, not for yourself... and be realistic about the goals you set."



Bennett-Dikland wedding

Tim Bennett, son of Keith and Gail Bennett of Georgetown, and Allison Dikland, daughter of Jack and Grace Dikland of Morrisburg, were united in marriage in a candlelight service July 6, 1991 at Knox Presbyterian Church, Morrisburg. Tim is the grandson of Madeline Pries and Glenna Bennett, also of Georgetown. Tim wishes to thank his ushers Adam Bennet (brother), Simon Golding, Rory Kennedy, Chris Marlin, Jeff Davies and M.C. Wes Samis, all of Georgetown, for a job well done. Allison also wishes to convey her appreciation to her attendants Terrilynne Irish of Smith's Falls, Brenda Dikland (sister) of Ottawa, Sharlene Robichaud (sister) of Morrisburg, Sandy Casselman of Kingston, and Karen Fall of Iroquois for making their day so special. A big thank you is extended to all the guests who made the trip to Morrisburg to witness their union. Tim and Allison are currently finishing school at Loyalist College in Belleville. (Photo submitted)



Tutor Wendy Smith