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Halton Hills' award-winning newspaper



Stork's first visit to Georgetown Hospital

The first baby born at Georgetown Hospital this year doesn't have a name yet as his parents Abiramy and Sathesnan Navaratnam of Mississauga haven't decided on one yet. The 6 lb. 10 oz. boy made his arrival at 5:14 a.m. Sunday, earning the distinction of being the hospital's New Year's baby. He is the couple's second son, and two-year-old Sajith is excited to welcome a new baby brother into the family. The baby was delivered by Dr. Selvaratnam Gunaratnam.

Photo by Ted Brown

Trustee's gay lifestyle no threat to equity policy, says Rowe

By **DOMINIK KUREK**
Metroland Media Group

Concerns that an Oakville Halton Catholic District School Board trustee, who's also a gay activist, could put the board's equity policy in jeopardy are unfounded said Halton Hills Trustee Mark Rowe.

"I agree with HCDSB Chair Alice Ann LeMay that the equity policy of the board is not threatened in the least by Mr. (Paul) Marai's private life," said Rowe last week. "We are all there to work for the good of the students based on the principles of the Roman Catholic Church."

Marai, 21, who was elected to the board in October, says his lifestyle isn't an issue.

A Catholic news agency—LifeSiteNews.com—published a story recently stating concerns that the Oakville trustee could put the Board's

equity policy in jeopardy. CatholicCanada.com also picked up the LifeSiteNews.com story.

As of this year, all Ontario's school boards had to have policies that ensure they provide positive school environments for students of all races, religions and sexual orientation, which outline how to deal with issues of sexism, racism, homophobia and other forms of discrimination.



PAUL MARAI

While the Halton board passed the policy, it included a statement saying, "While the Board is committed to equity and inclusion, some Ministry proposed activities such as 'gay-straight alliances' or clubs cannot be permitted."

"I can't believe we're having this discussion in the 21st Century," said Marai. "I wonder if these people have been living under a rock for

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