

May is designated Speech and Hearing Month

The Speech/Language Department of Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital is teaming up with a national organization to promote Speech and Hearing Month.

In cooperation with the Elks and Royal Order of the Purple, the hospital kicked off a month-long speech and hearing awareness campaign in May at Georgetown Marketplace Mall Friday and Saturday.

The Elks and Royal Purple have been the national sponsor of Speech and Hearing for 37 years. This organization provides Canadians all across the country with such services as the Deaf Detection and Development Program, and hearing aids for needy families. The Elks' primary

focus, however, is to raise awareness of the need for early detection of hearing, speech and communication disorders.

According to the hospital's Speech/Language Pathologist, Karen MacKenzie-Stepner, "One in 10 Canadians has a communication disorder. While early detection, identification and treatment is essential, many people today still do not receive the professional help they may require. This may result in problems in educational, social, psychological, emotional and vocational areas."

A communication disorder is an inability to understand or use speech and language to relate to others in society. These disorders can be divided into five main

groups: articulation, language, voice, stuttering and hearing. The hospital's Speech/Language

Department specializes in treating preschoolers and adults. If you would like more informa-

tion on speech/language and hearing, please contact Georgetown Hospital at 873-0111, ext. 112.

Supportive service at GDMH

By Oksana Buhel

At a Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital board of directors meeting April 22, a proposal was made to conduct a review of, and needs assessment for, supportive service in existing seniors housing.

Currently there are no supportive housing options in Halton Hills. According to a report, those who would benefit from the service are seniors living in subsidized or independent housing whose needs exceed the capabilities of existing community program resources, seniors in extended care beds or on waiting lists for them who do not need total institutional care, and those who will require premature institutional care because of the lack of supportive housing.

A few of the services which may be included in the proposed pro-

gram are transportation, nutritional education, assistance with personal care, and peer helping consultations.

The hospital is gathering information regarding the benefits, costs and feasibility of the supportive service and drafting a report for the Ministry of Health, which should be ready by May 31. Eunice McGowan is the project co-ordinator, and will be working with Cathy Raiskums, a social worker and the discharge planning assistant, and several consultants.

John Oliver, executive director of the board, claims this is the first phase of the project, and the service will not be implemented for at least a year. "There's definitely a need for the program, and there's money in the OMH budget to implement the service," Oliver said.

Susie is about to get the scalding of a lifetime.



Remember, anything hot can burn a child.

Even the most careful adult caring for a child can inadvertently spill or drop a cup of coffee, tea or soup.

- * Cool water is the best first aid response.
- * Never use butter, grease, ointment or sprays.
- * Check bath water temperatures for children and the elderly.
- * Turn pot handles away from the front of the stove.



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