Multiple twins leaves teacher seeing double

In 10 years at Park Public School, Mary Shier can't remember teaching twins. Then the law of averages decided to even things up.

"There were three sets in September to start the year and I thought that was certainly unique," she said. "At Christmas another set came from another school. Then I went skiing with the school one day and when I got back there was a letter saying there was another set coming. I couldn't believe it."

"And the year's not over, yet," added principal Al Zanatta.

With 47 students, the twins— all born in a seven-month span— make up more than 20 per cent of Shier's kindergarten classes. Brad and Chris Kolomeitz are the biggest test for Shier.

"Out of the five sets, they're similar in so many ways," she said. "They're the most similar in personality and their body position and the way they walk. Sometimes I check their teeth (Chris is missing a tooth) if I can get close enough."

She isn't the only one who has a tough time distinguishing between the boys.

"Their father (Sam) can't tell them apart sometimes," said the boys' mother Crystal Kolomeitz, who grew up with twin brothers.

Fortunately for Shier, Brad attends the morning class and Chris goes in the afternoon. No such luck for Doug and Tim Ettinger, who are in the same class.

Andrew and Brittany Blanchard and Andrew and Aihlin Triggerson make Shier's task somewhat easier. They are the two brother/sister pairs in the class.

Ashley and Jennifer Duguay had Shier looking twice at the beginning of the year. She can now tell them apart by their facial features but discovered another way earlier.

"They wear the colors they like so I could tell them apart that way," she said.

"The Ettingers, Kolomeitzs and the Duguays could be identical. I still have trouble with them," Zanatta said. "But if they stay with us, I have six years to figure it out."

— By Herb Garbutt, staff

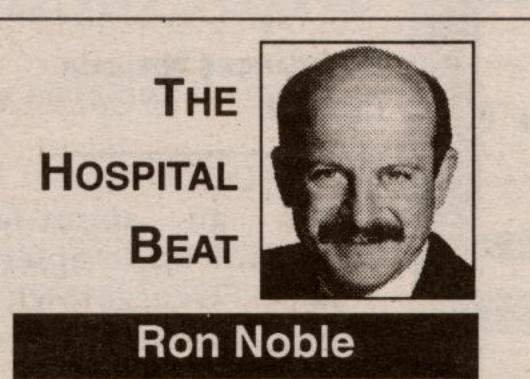
Alliance stresses need for a fair funding system

The GTA 905 Healthcare Alliance serves the distinct regions of Durham, York, Peel and Halton.

Culturally, economically and demographically the hospitals within these regions share similar challenges for providing health care closer to home. Rapid population growth, historic funding inequality and restructuring are key challenges facing these hospitals.

The Alliance is guided by a working group of hospital board chairs and chief executive officers. Their work focuses primarily on policy development and their efforts are directed to raising the awareness of internal and external stakeholders, including government officials, for the need for a fair funding system.

Last year the hospitals joined forces to



forward a case to the government. The message was clear and simple: hospitals in high growth areas have not been funded to the same extent as the rest of the province.

As a result of our compelling business case, the minister of health awarded \$25 million to 18 hospitals in high growth

areas for 1996/97 and an additional \$18 million for 1997/98. Most of these hospitals were in the GTA 905 region.

The Alliance also made a presentation of the Health Services Restructuring Commission. It highlighted the need for more equitable access to healthcare services across the GTA. The Alliance continues to monitor the commission's progress.

The Alliance also meets regularly with region MPPs to bring them up-to-date on current activities. The issue of growth funding and the historic gap in funding has been an area focus for these meetings.

It is important to note that our four regions are home to 22 per cent of the province's population, but we receive only 10 per cent of its hospital funding.

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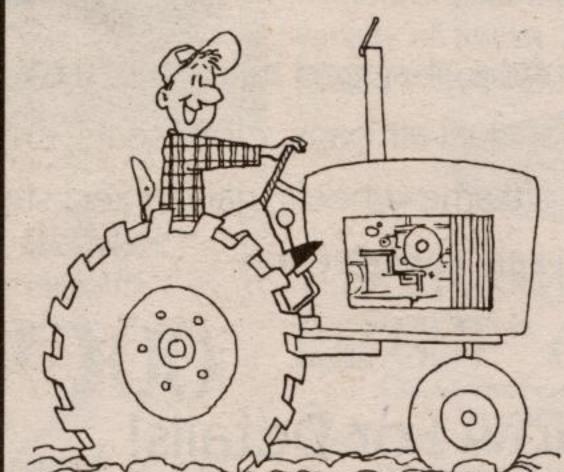




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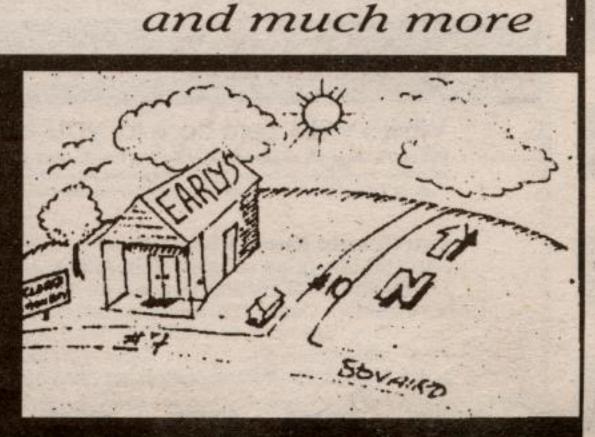
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