Georgetown obstetrics unit could close

Continued from page 1

"As a husband and a father, for me it was wonderful to have the service available in Georgetown rather than going to Brampton or Credit Valley," said Jim, who would like to see it remain open.

Another unnamed source believes closing the obstetrics unit, will have far-reaching implications for the hospital.

"Once obstetrics is taken from the hospital, most of the other services would be paralyzed," said the source.

The source explained that, without obstetrics, the on-call anesthesiologist would likely leave and find a job elsewhere where he would have more work. The source went on to say without an on-call anesthesiologist the on-call surgeon would likely not stay at the hospital affecting both surgical and emergency services.

The source had also heard that the plans are to use the closed obstetrics unit for day surgery, which would largely serve residents from Brampton.

However, Trant said, "there are no plans to expand surgery into the obstetrical area."

"In terms of surgery we're pro-

viding overnight surgical services and will continue to provide that," said Trant. He added most surgeries are done now on a sameday basis.

The source

said a meeting between the medical staff and hospital senior management has been set for Monday.

DON TRANT

'Once obstetrics is taken from the hospital, most of the other services would be paralyzed,' said one source.

Dr. Deb Zeni, a member of the hospital's medical staff, speaking on behalf of herself and not for other staff, said such meetings occur "when one side or the other feels there are issues to be discussed."

Zeni said the hospital is currently going through its planning cycle and during the cycle the corporation looks at service cuts across the corporation.

She said medical staff has not received notification of any specific proposed cuts but believes the community of Georgetown should have full acute hospital care available here and sent a letter to The Independent & Free Press reaffirming their commitment to the delivery of quality health care close to home.

"Specifically we fully support the continued provision of full obstetrical and surgical services for our growing community as these are essential components of good health care," said the doctors in the letter.

They said despite the shortage of doctors that places an onerous burden of on-call on certain physicians and a heavy workload on all of them, they are committed to providing health care to the community. The doctors who signed the letter said, however, they need the continued support of the Joint Medical Committee and William Osler Health Centre.

They then encouraged the public who support close-to-home quality health care to express their views to senior William Osler senior administration.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer



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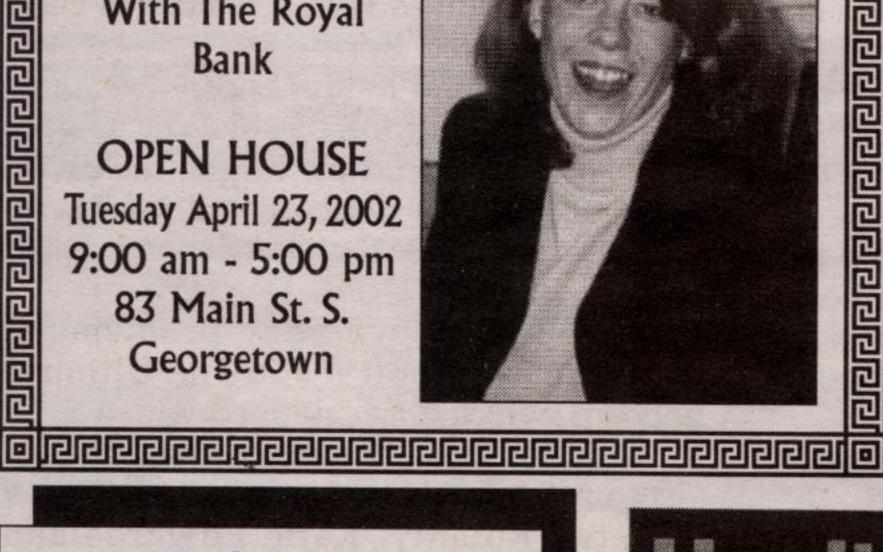
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