Wednesday, April 24, 2002 52 Pages Vol. 125 No. 3

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Acton resident Bradley Cripps, 46, somehow managed to escape serious injury Monday morning when he lost control of his 1989 Buick while driving west on Hwy. 7 between Fourth and Fifth Lines. Cripps' car collided with a 1993 Lumina being driven eastbound by Keith Gamble, 34, of Acton. Port Credit OPP blame the crash on poor road conditions.

Photo by Ted Brown

Wheels Car Care ...8 page section



INSIDE

Town Hall News.....4, 8 Editorial.....6 Ted Chudleigh.....7 Sports......11-12 Classifieds.....17-19

Salute to **Volunteers** ...4 page section



Obstetrics unit's future still cloudy

fter a meeting with William Osler Health Centre administration staff Monday, the medical staff at the Georgetown Hospital still don't know if the obstetrics department will close.

"We didn't get any positive reinforcement one way or the other" on the obstetrics issue said Dr. Jeff Sutherland, president of the medical staff at Georgetown Hospital.

Sutherland stressed the hospital's medical staff would like to see the obstetrics unit remain at the Georgetown campus.

Sutherland said the medical staff was informed the administration staff is putting together a task force to look at programs right across the corporation for efficiencies and quality of care, then plans to make decisions based on their criteria. He said no timeline was provided.

Sutherland said the obstetrics issue is expected to be discussed at a William Osler board meeting at the Georgetown campus Thursday.

"I'm not sure if any decision will be made at that time, but there will be a discussion."

In a press statement released late yesterday (Tuesday) from Rosalie Penny, William Osler's Vice President, Public Affairs and Community Alliances, she said the Centre will not comment on details of the meeting with the physicians as it was an internal discussion.

"We have been discussing the obstetrical services for the past three years in light of the low volumes of 300 patients per year, obstetrical coverage, and quality of patient care. Any changes in services are and will continue to be made in consultation with the board of directors, staff and physicians," she said.

"Public statements made that the obstetrical unit is closing are speculation only. No decision has been made," she said.

"Legal directives from the Health Services Restructuring Commission direct Georgetown to remain an acute care hospital campus."

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

All escape serious injuries

Winter weather to blame for three-car crash on Highway 7

Tcy road conditions were the cause of a three-vehicle acci-Ldent on Hwy. 7 early Monday morning in which amazingly no one was seriously injured.

Constable Dan Pyrah of Port Credit OPP said the accident occurred at approximately 6:30 a.m. between Fourth and Fifth Lines when the driver of a 1989 Buick traveling westbound lost control due to the road conditions and began swerving into the oncoming lane.

"I hit a piece of slush or ice and my car went sideways," said Acton resident Bradley Cripps, 46, driver of the Buick who was accompanied by his six-year-old daughter Cassandra. The front of his car was almost sheared off from the impact.

Pyrah said the driver of a 1993 eastbound Lumina, Keith Gamble, 34, of Acton, headed toward the ditch to avoid the oncoming car, but didn't have enough time and collided with the Buick.

A Ford pickup truck, driven by Michael Overland, 41, of Acton, travelling eastbound behind the Lumina, was also involved in the collision.

Cripps said he was traveling about 65 to 70 km/h and his seatbelt broke in the collision and he ended up in the back seat of his car. He suffered a bruised knee and ribs while his daughter received a bump on her head.

Gamble received cuts and bruises while his wife Marie, 42, suffered broken ribs.

The truck driver wasn't injured. Pyrah said the investigation is complete and no charges will be laid.

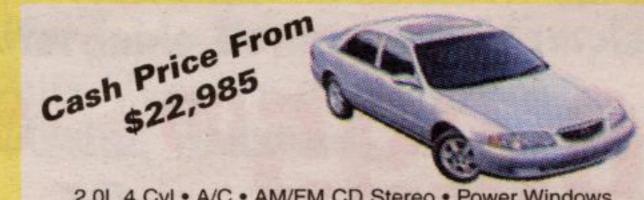
—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

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