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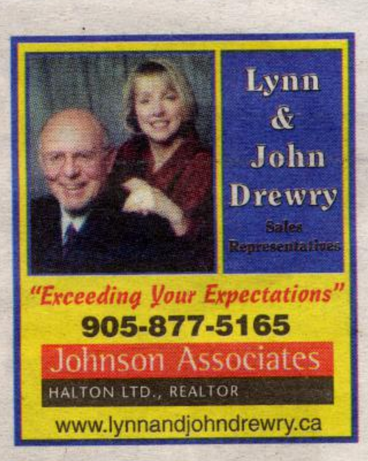


Hospital obstetrics ward to close

Expectant area women planning to give birth at Georgetown hospital this summer will be disappointed, as the service will no longer be available here.

William Osler Health Centre CEO Bob Bell said Tuesday that in-patient obstetrics and pediatrics at the Georgetown Campus will be permanently consolidated to the Brampton campus of William Osler, likely effective July or August.

Bell said removing those services from Georgetown is one of William Osler's first steps in trying to achieve a balanced budget over the next two years, as directed by the Ministry of Health. William Osler currently has a $27-million operating deficit.

Closure of the units will result in an annual savings of $850,000 said Bell who stressed that William Osler will continue to provide the services in Brampton.

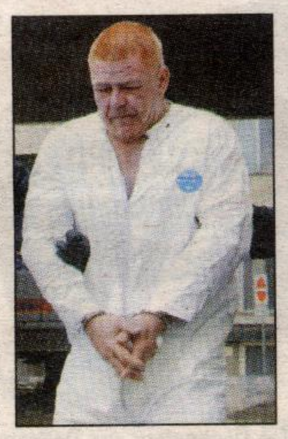
Last year approximately 318 babies were born at Georgetown hospital and that number has remained "pretty much flat for many years" said Bell.

"One of the key reasons (for withdrawing the service in Georgetown) is whether we have a critical mass that is sufficient to carry that kind of service when we're faced with the budget

See HOSPITAL, pg. 7

Norval man admits running over wife in mall parking lot

A 54-year-old Norval man who ran his wife down with a van in a mall parking lot pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in an Orangeville court last week.



ANGUS SNOW

Angus Snow was originally charged two years ago with first-degree murder along with assault, uttering death threats and breaching recognizance, in the death of his wife Shirley.

According to assistant Crown attorney Liana Marcon, Snow waived his right to a trial last Monday and pleaded guilty to the lesser charge.

Superior Justice Bruce Durno will sentence Snow May 11.

A second degree murder conviction carries an automatic sentence of life in prison without any chance of parole for between 10 and 25 years.

Shirley Snow, 44, was struck by a green van in the Fairgrounds Shopping Centre parking lot May 5, 2002 and died later that day.

At the time of the murder onlookers at the Orangeville mall said a woman was beaten while sitting in a van in the parking lot and they watched in horror as the bloodied woman was either shoved or fell from the vehicle.

See NORVAL, pg. 3

Between a rock and a hard place

A trucker making a delivery at Georgetown Market Place Friday morning ended up blocking the mall's loading area for seven hours after his cab vaulted a curb and ended up stuck on an incline. When Halton Hills firefighters arrived they found the truck's two fuel tanks had ruptured spilling diesel onto the grass. Firefighters stopped the leaks and the Ministry of Environment, town and region spill teams responded. After the truck was finally towed, contaminated soil had to be removed and the area has to be retested before it can be refilled.

Photos by Herb Garbutt (top) and Ted Brown (right)

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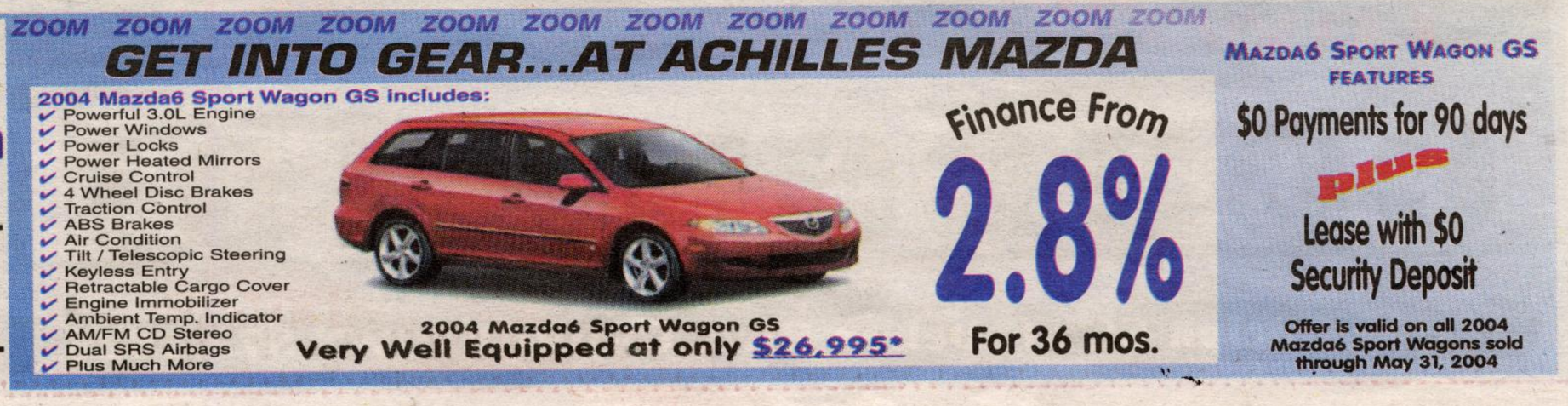
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