

Hospital to relocate obstetrics, pediatrics to Brampton in move to help fix deficit

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restrictions that we have," said Bell. To make the service economically viable in Georgetown Bell said the number of births has to be more than 1,000.

"It certainly has not been achieved to date," he said.

Bell would like to see the seven beds from obstetrics and pediatrics used when other William Osler services are re-consolidated at the Georgetown campus.

"That's not the game plan," said Bell when asked if the closure will result in job losses for obstetrics and pediatric nurses at Georgetown hospital (who make up nine full-time equivalent positions). Staff were informed Friday of the consolidation plan.

"Their first reaction was somewhat disappointed and upset," said Bell.

'Nurses will be reassigned to fill other full-time vacancies we have across the hospital organization.'

—WOHC CEO Bob Bell



"Nurses will be reassigned to fill other full-time vacancies we have across the hospital organization," said Bell. He said if possible, the nurses will be placed in obstetrics and pediatric units.

He said Dr. Selvara Gunaratnam, Georgetown's only obstetrician/gynecol-

ogist, will continue to deliver area women's babies, but at William Osler's Brampton campus.

"Over the next few months we will be working jointly with their (expectant women's) family physicians and Dr. Gunaratnam to arrange for an orderly transition plan," said Bell.

This is not the first time the hospital's obstetric's unit has closed.

In 2002 the unit was closed temporarily, from August to October, because of a nursing shortage, and in 1998 the unit was closed for approximately seven months because there was no obstetrician/gynecologist at the hospital.

At press time no one was available to comment from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

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Back pain?

Georgetown, Ont. - According to a recently released back pain relief report, most back pain sufferers have no idea how to eliminate their pain. Some use heat, others ice, some sleep on the floor...to pillows under the legs, even injections in the back. Thanks to a free report, local back pain sufferers can finally know exactly what to do. To get a free copy, call the Back Pain Associates toll-free, 24-hour recorded message at 1-866-335-3189.

Three local residents honoured with safety awards

Three local residents were among those recognized in the region recently with Halton Region Safety Council 2004 Safety Awards.

Halton Hills residents Amanda Potterton and Shalyn Morgan received a Lifesaving Award and Yvonne Johansen of Acton received an Award of Merit.

Potterton and Morgan were recognized for their efforts in helping a six-year-old Rockwood boy who was thrown over the hood of a vehicle when he cut in front of a van on Elizabeth St.

last July while riding his bicycle.

Potterton and Morgan received the award because their quick response and emergency first aid treatment was a contributing factor to the speedy recovery and short hospital stay for the child.

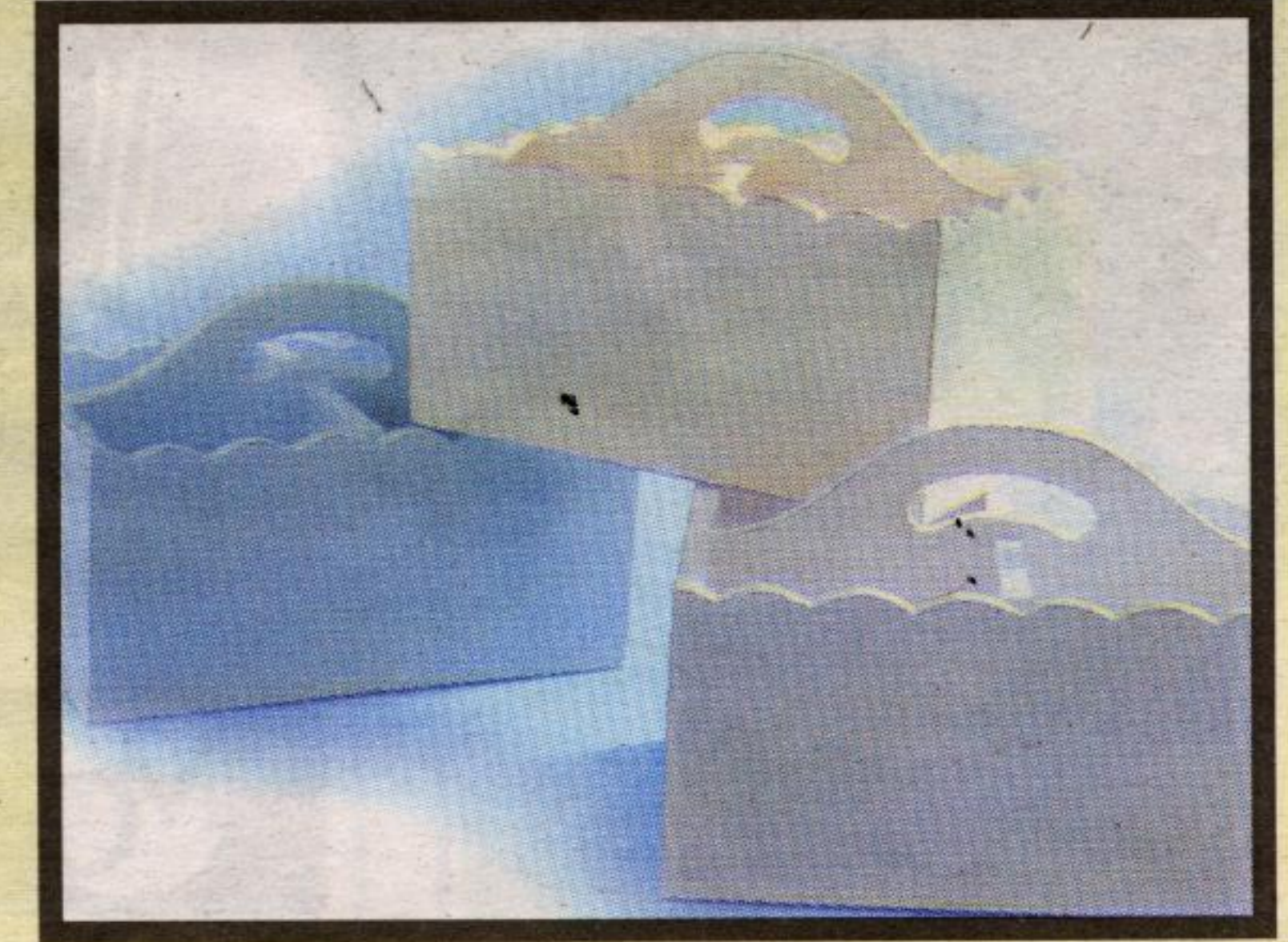
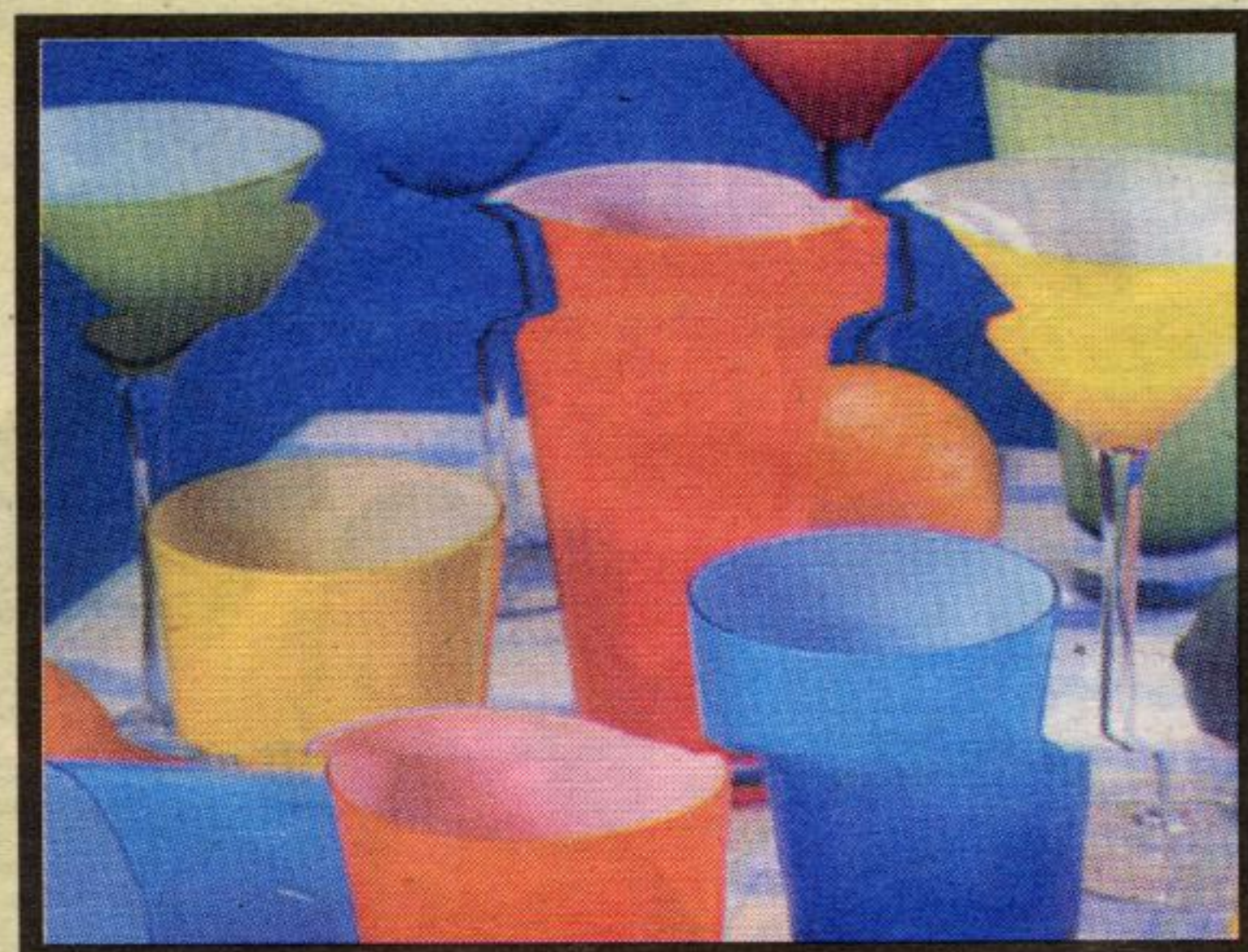
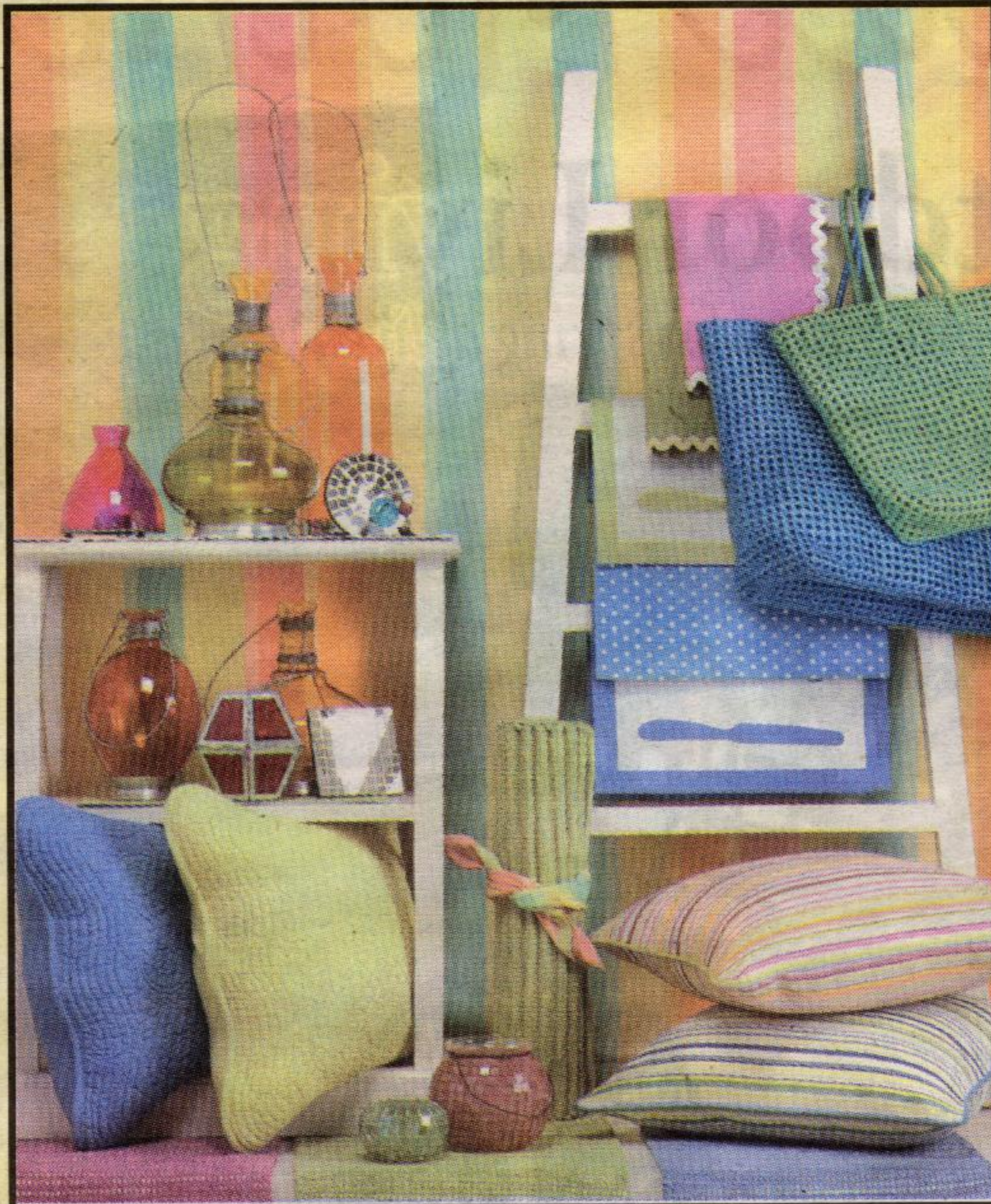
They rushed to the scene after a bystander who witnessed the accident ran to the nearby Prospect Park wading pool and boathouse at Fairy Lake and notified the two lifeguards.

Potterton and Morgan treated the boy's visible wounds and immobilized

his head and body to prevent further injury to the spinal column, neck and head. The two lifeguards remained with the young boy, monitored his vital signs and treated him for shock until the EMS team arrived.

Acton resident Johansen, of Acton Block Parents, has been a member of the Halton Region Safety Council for four years and throughout that time has contributed time and energy to the block parent program and to promoting safety in Halton Region.

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