

Editorial

Bye, bye baby

The fact the deep thinkers at William Osler Health Centre have decided that in-patient obstetrics and pediatric services at the Georgetown campus will be moved to Brampton permanently shouldn't have come as a great surprise to local residents.

A disappointment, yes. A surprise, no.

As a small cog in a big machine that is has a \$27-million operating deficit, cuts were bound to be made, and where better than in the hinterlands of Halton Hills.

Since the Georgetown, Brampton and Etobicoke hospitals were amalgamated and put under the WOHHC umbrella several years ago, the sense we've gotten from many residents (and hospital staffers) is that our hospital is not the same place it was years ago. And we don't mean that in a positive way.

Clearly, the WOHHC machine has bigger issues on its plate (the new and often-delayed Brampton hospital for one) than to worry about 300-plus newborns who are delivered here each year. According to hospital CEO Bob Bell, 1,000 births are needed each year to make it fiscally viable to keep the Georgetown obstetrics and pediatric units open. Closing the local units will save \$850,000.

But to the few hundred families who would have celebrated births at our hospital later this summer and the years beyond, it means a great deal to have their babies delivered in their hometown by a caring and community-oriented staff.

Residents are also justifiably worried that these cuts are the start of other, deeper, reductions.

In small towns hospitals (and its staff) are held near and dear to the heart of the community. And that is something on which a price tag cannot be placed.



Letters to the editor....

Gas price task force has done nothing

Dear editor,

Like most people in our community I feel sick, frustrated and abandoned by our government when it comes to the roller-coaster ride at the

pumps with the price of gas.

How is it possible that on a Monday afternoon the price of gas is 66 cents a litre then magically within 12 hours as we sleep the price fairies hit us with an 18.2 per cent increase to 78 cents a litre? We have been told time and time again that our elected officials are going to get to the bottom of this. Well, thanks to the marvels of the Internet I discovered a report from the provincial government Web site that assures us that this will start to change within time.

Here we are in May 2004 and absolutely nothing has changed, but the most alarming thing to consider is that the task force was created in December, 1999. Ted Chudleigh, our MPP, was part of this group that, to date, has provided nothing but typical lip service.

Ted, if this is all you can achieve then why do we need you? You have had all the time anyone could possibly need and I am sure you will want to blame someone else for the total lack of progress.

The Web sites are worth looking

into and read for yourself the travesty that is going on. I cannot figure out why all the stations change prices at the same time. The term collusion comes to mind as defined in Webster's, "a secret agreement or co-operation especially for an illegal or deceitful purpose."

Well Ted, what about the legalities?

Craig Gray, Georgetown

Standards must change

Dear editor,

Re: Apr. 30 editorial, Changes must be made.

I believe as well that changes must be made. I can see where a taxi may be more suitable, as per the editorial. If we "have" to use taxis then why not have a certain number of drivers who are trained to the standards as a bus driver, and possibly have one or two cabs that are specifically marked for such use and go through the same mechanical requirements as a bus? For the record I did sign the petition.

Dennis Kelly, Georgetown

Classmates lend a hand

Dear editor,

We, the Grade 4/5 students in Ms. Pepping's class, at George Kennedy Public School, are writing to thank the people who donated money for Jesse's Journey.

Jesse's Journey started with a walk that Jesse Davidson and his dad, John, made across Ontario in 1995. For the second journey, in 1998, Mr. Davidson walked across Canada alone. They wanted to raise money and raise awareness for research into gene and cell therapies and support for people with Muscular Dystrophy.

All over Canada there was a walk on April 2, Jason, one of our classmates, has Duchenne muscular dystrophy. He went on the Jesse's Journey walk in London, Ontario, with his family as team members pushing him in his wheelchair. Our class decided to raise money, too. We learned about muscular dystrophy and Jesse's Journey. We made posters and presented our knowledge to other classes in our school. We collected money at our school and at our family skate night at Mold-Masters SportsPlex. We raised \$828.45! We appreciate the generosity of students, parents and friends of George Kennedy Public School. Together, we have helped in the search for a cure and treatment of this group of diseases.

Ms. Pepping's Grade 4/5 class, George Kennedy Public School

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters should not exceed 200 words and may be edited.

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