

New Year's Baby in October?

Seven-pound Kelly becomes Milton's first born of 1999

By IRENE GENTLE
The Champion

When Kelly Nicole Leopardi entered the world at a beautiful and healthy 7.5 pounds, she inherited a strange title.

Despite the cool, fall wind whipping up the flame-coloured leaves outdoors, tiny Kelly is Milton District Hospital's 1999 New Year's Baby.

She was born at 12:38 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 14.

Kelly is the third child of proud parents Rob and Gail Leopardi.

They also have a son Robbie, 5, and a daughter Tiffany, 3.

It was important to the family that the birth take place at Milton hospital, said Mr. Leopardi.

"It made a big difference," he said. "It is just a feeling I had. I just like Milton better."

The hospital's new full-time obstetrician, Dr. Sandy Sharma, also scored points with the happy family.

"He is down to earth and easy to talk to," said Mr. Leopardi.

"He joked around and made everyone feel comfortable."

Since labour was induced, the couple didn't have an opportunity to deliver in the hospital's snazzy birthing room.

But they did have a chance to scope it out.

"She (Gail) was the only one there, so we kind of had a full run of the place," he said.

Lots more on the way

But that is set to change, as the hospital's calendar is quickly filling up with delivery dates.

And already, Milton hospital's second baby has been born.

A shut down of the obstetrics ward since last November is the cause of the hospital's late start.

It recently re-opened with the hiring of Dr. Sharma.

Milton's previous full-time obstetrician opted not to renew his contract last year.

But the family had counted on their third child being delivered in Milton, said Mr. Leopardi.

"We pretty much knew we'd be okay for Milton," he said.

"I was happy with the hospital and the nursing staff were good."

The Leopardis were congratulated by the Milton District Hospital Auxiliary, which presented the family with a gift basket Thursday.

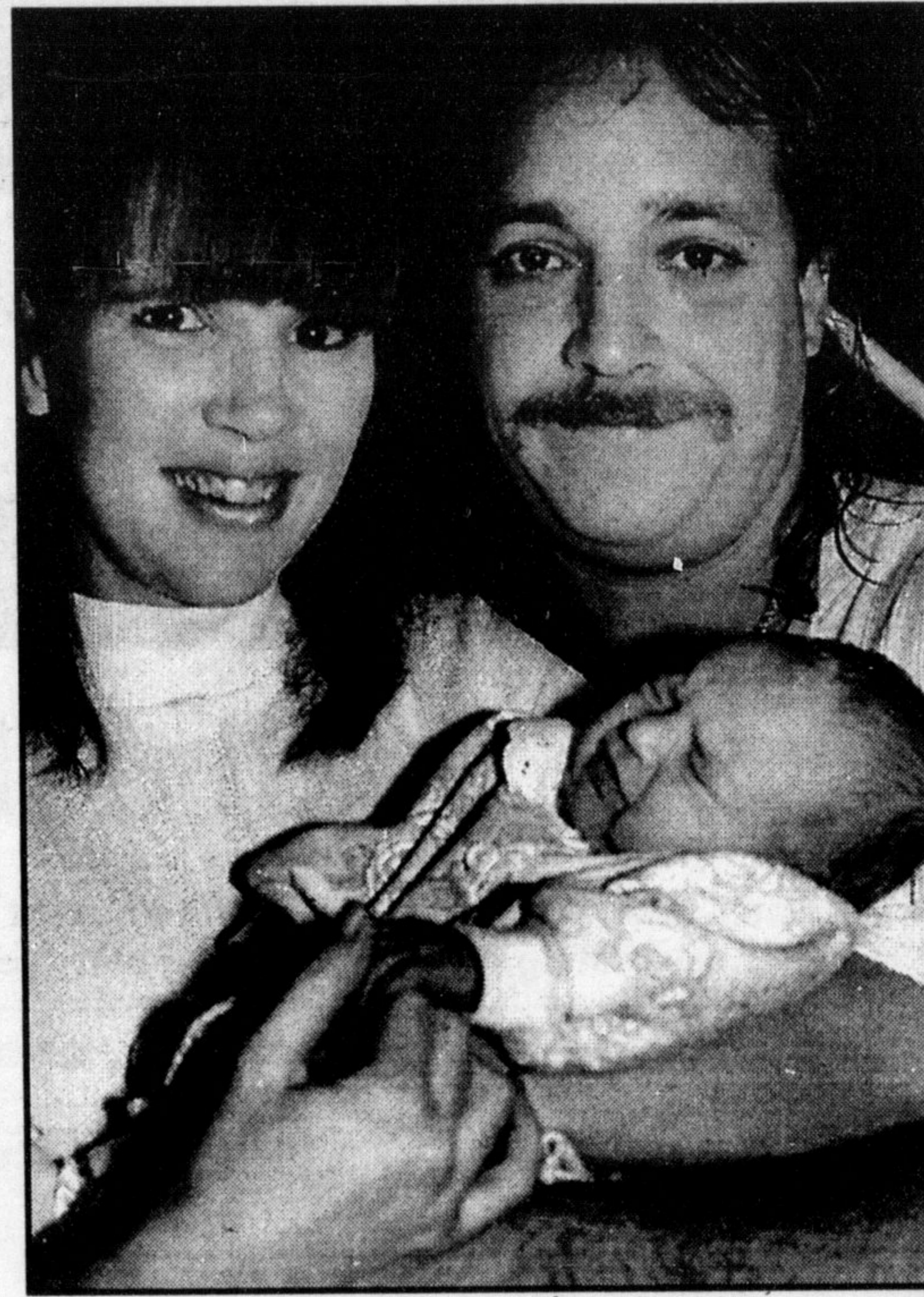


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Gail and Rob Leopardi hold their new daughter and Milton's 1999 New Year's Baby Kelly Nicole.

New program will match work skills

A joint partnership by area school boards and the federal government has been launched to make the workplace more relevant to students.

The Way To GO! pilot project, which will operate in Halton, Peel and Dufferin regions, aims to build a strong work force necessary to compete in today's global economy.

Facilitators will work with business to match a student's interests with industry's needs. This, according to program organizers, will work toward ensuring a supply of skilled and suitable workers for the future.

Real estate board seeks nominees

Special people deserve special tributes.

That's why the Oakville, Milton and District Real Estate Board (OMDREB) is looking for nominees for its annual outstanding community service award.

Nominations must come through a member of OMDREB and be sent through the board's office by October 29.

The award is a tribute to former OMDREB president Malcolm McGillivray, who lost a battle with cancer in 1995.

"Malcolm was a unique individual known for his humour and spontaneous acts of kindness both in the workplace and the community," said current board president Helen Lightbody.

Nominees must either live or work in Oakville or Milton and have contributed to one or more people. Nomination forms can be picked up at any realtor office in Oakville or Milton.

A selection committee will choose the winner.

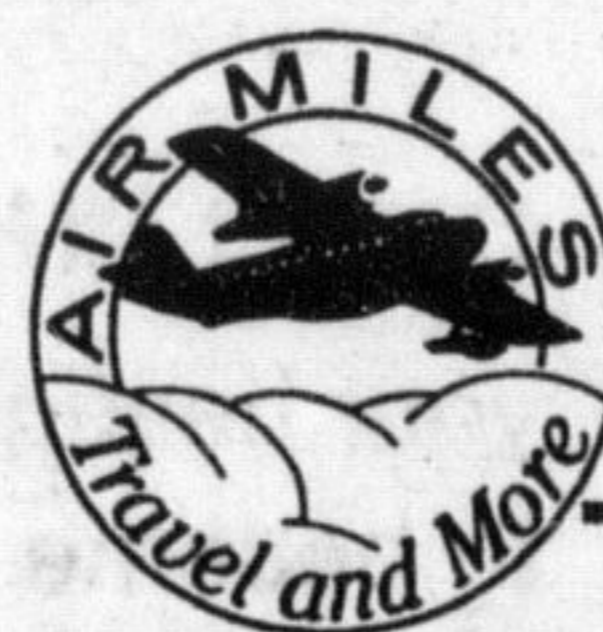


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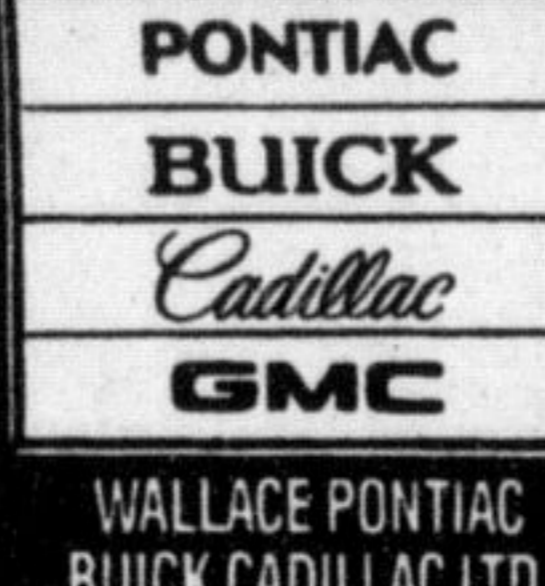
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