



### Pro-life speaker

"No hospital is forced to have an abortion committee," said Dr. Heather Morris of Toronto to a large morning crowd at Knox Presbyterian Church in Midland last Wednesday. Dr. Morris spoke on the pro-life movement in Canada. Staff photo

### Galliard Ensemble concert 'superb'

by Shirley Whittington  
The gymnasium acoustics were wrong, the ventilation fan hummed annoyingly throughout the concert and the audience was disappointingly small, but the music was superb and exceedingly well performed.

This sums up the Wednesday night concert at St. Joseph's school in Penetanguishene, presented by the Galliard Ensemble, composed of Robert Bick, flute, Erica Goodman, harp and Douglas Perry, viola.

The ensemble was brought to Penetanguishene by the Georgian Bay Regional Library system. Earlier in the day, they played for a large and enthusiastic audience of music students at PSS.

The Wednesday evening program was short, but dazzling in its virtuosity and musicality. The group opened with a Mozartian sonata for flute and harpsichord, (transcribed for harp and flute by Erica Goodman.) The four sprightly

movements were well received by the audience.

A misty impressionistic Sonata for flute, viola and harp by Debussy followed.

Erica Goodman played a solo Caprice by Paganini with a beautiful range of dynamics that inspired the audience to prolonged applause. A duet for clarinet and bassoon, (transcribed for flute and viola) by Beethoven followed, and the concert closed with a modern trio of great intricacy by Harold Genzmer.

The Galliard Ensemble is a chamber music group which was founded in 1975. The combination of flute, viola and harp is an unusual one, but since all three were accomplished soloists the audience benefited from their talent and virtuosity.

The Galliard Ensemble has toured Canada, and is booked for two concerts in Toronto in the near future. Area residents who missed Wednesday night's free concert did themselves a musical disservice.

### Dr. Heather Morris

## Abortion 'destroys unique human': Pro-Life speaker

by Shirley Whittington  
There was standing room only in the auditorium of Knox Presbyterian Church on Wednesday morning when Dr. Heather S. Morris, an obstetrician and gynaecologist from Toronto's Women's College Hospital spoke on abortion.

"I won't pretend that I don't have a bias," said Dr. Morris who is the founder and president of Canadian Physicians for Life, and also the president of Alliance for Life.

"Abortion," she insisted, "destroys a unique human being. The issue reaches beyond the confines of morality. We are concerned with a question of justice. Of human rights."

To still doubts about when human life actually begins, Dr. Morris quoted an 1887 Journal of the American Medical Association. "The union of sperm and egg is the start of a new life." She added that heart beat and blood flow begin almost at conception. "A six week old fetus has a developing brain. Eyes and fingers are outlined, and brain activity is present. If death occurs when brain activity ceases, then the same criterion can be applied to the beginning of life."

Throughout the presentation, Dr. Morris referred to the developing child as a "baby." "When

I am dealing with expectant mothers I do not talk about a scrap of tissue or an embryo or a fetus. I talk about a baby."

The doctor outlined, with the help of coloured slides, the two methods used by doctors to terminate pregnancies. Suction is used in the first three months of gestation. "The ten week abortion product is a mass of limbs and blood," she said bluntly. "The doctors do not see this. The nurses are the ones who must deal with what comes out of the suction tube."

After three months, a saline solution is injected into the amniotic fluid. "The baby may die in 10 or 20 minutes," she said, "or maybe an hour. The mother is often conscious of the baby's convulsions. When the baby is dead, a miniature labour ensues."

"In some societies," said Dr. Morris, "the rationale that some human life is not of value has been used to justify disposal of selected human beings. The idea has historical acceptance. In fact, Hitler used the term 'less than people' to classify those he wished to exterminate."

Contempt for Badgely Commission  
The doctor had nothing but contempt for the Badgely Commission, which was established to look into the abortion

laws. "They discovered that abortions were more easily available in more affluent provinces, and that most abortion seekers were middle class, well educated women, considered to be in good physical health. According to the Commission, 64.5 per cent of the 50 thousand legal abortions performed in Canada last year were performed on single women. And one in five of the abortion patients in 1976 had had an abortion previously. This suggests strongly that legal availability increases the demand," she said.

Dr. Morris also criticized "Sex Education—a Manual for Teachers" which was published by the Government at the urging of the Badgely report. "Their glossy attitude promotes sexual licence and irresponsibility. They seem to say 'have intercourse, but it's irresponsible to give birth or contact VD.' The idea of continence seems to have escaped the writers of this book."

In her Toronto practise, Dr. Morris counsels a great many pregnant teenagers. "This is the major problem," she

said. "A pregnant, unmarried teenager does indeed have a problem, but the problem is much deeper than the pregnancy."

In her practise, she encourages the mother to carry the child to term. "Giving birth is a profound experience, and I assure these girls that they will get support and caring love from many directions which they go through their pregnancies. I tell them they will achieve something very difficult, and that this will make them a better person. It will increase their self esteem."

babies? "There is a lot society can do about this. There are thousands of young couples anxious and willing to adopt young babies. Actually, there is no way a baby can remain unwanted."

The presentation stimulated many questions from the audience and Dr. Morris answered them all with unswerving pro-life

principles. "We must observe the sanctity of a single human life. Abortion does take a life."

Dr. Morris' visit was sponsored by the Midland and District Ministerial Association who had requested that the doctor also be invited to speak to students at Midland Secondary School. Permission was denied,

on the grounds that it would be unfair unless the opposite view of the controversial subject were also presented.

Students from grades 11, 12 and 13 at St. Theresa's High School were present on Wednesday morning. Their questions were among the most penetrating in the discussion following Dr. Morris' address.

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