



True togetherness

Together is a real thing for Sharon and Wayne Hails of Cedar Avenue, Richmond Hill, and their daughter Christie Lynne, who was born March 3 in York Central Hospital. Mother and Baby shared a room during the day, and father was able to par-

ticipate in caring for and cuddling his new daughter. Rooming-in of mother and baby and father-participation from labor room to bedside is encouraged at the hospital.

(Photo by Hoag)

Rooming-in at hospital pleases patients, staff

RICHMOND HILL — "Rooming-in" is what they call it at York Central Hospital, but it goes far beyond the physical presence of the new baby in the mother's room.

As obstetrician, Dr. Harvey Socol, describes it, the process of rooming-in begins in prenatal classes where both parents participate, carries on with attendance of the father during labor and perhaps delivery.

It comes to its natural conclusion when the infant, mother and father become intimately acquainted immediately after the child is born.

"This is togetherness in the true sense of the word," says Socol.

Another obstetrician, Dr. Alexander Golab, explains the initiation of rooming-in when the Langstaff Wing opened in 1974:

"This program is quite new in the area, and since its institution, has been received enthusiastically. The newborn baby can be brought to the mother from the nursery as early as 9:30 a.m. and kept in the room with the mother and visiting father until 9 p.m."

This gives the mother a chance to get acquainted with her baby while trained professionals are close at hand to assist and advise.

Staff available

On the other hand, Golab points out, the mother can have the baby cared for by staff in the nursery itself if she is fatigued and in need of rest.

"This program allows the mother 'to have a good night's sleep so she not only recuperates from delivery, but will be able to care for the infant with a freshness, vigor and enthusiasm,'" says Golab.

The rooming-in process, he adds, is invaluable in the education of mothers and fathers of first-born babies, also for any seconds or thirds.

"Indeed it is evident to any observer this period is simply the 'start of the valuable experience of growing up for both infants and parents."

"The supervision of the nursing staff during this period probably plays the most important part in relieving the anxieties and tensions of parents of the newborn. The problems on going home will be reduced for parents, baby and doctors."

Parents and nurses agree.

'Great experience'

First-time parents Wayne and Sharon Hails described rooming-in as "just great".

Hails, of Cedar Avenue, Richmond Hill, commented he enjoyed being able to hold the baby, and Mrs. Hails said she was grateful for the opportunity to get to know her daughter, Christie Lynn, before taking her home.

An experienced mother, Mrs. Margaret Ellard admits, "I shopped several hospitals and chose York Central because it allowed the baby to room-in with the mother."

The births of her two older children were not nearly as pleasant, she says, because her husband was not allowed the same degree of participation before, during or after the birth, nor was she allowed contact with her babies until hours after the birth.

"Having the baby room in with the mother is the natural way of doing things," says Mrs. Ellard. "It allowed my children the opportunity to see me and the baby before we came home."

She was particularly pleased with the staff's policy of encouraging families to be together, of encouraging breast feeding while permitting the baby to establish its own schedule.

"I really appreciate the extra workload carried by the nursing staff and the excellent care given me, my baby and the entire family at York Central," says Mrs. Ellard.

Another recent mother, Mrs. Barbara Heffler, is full of praise of the whole philosophy of the maternity unit at York Central.

Husbands accepted

"The program at the hospital certainly encourages the participation of

the parents," she says. "The husbands allowed to be present at the actual delivery and, surprisingly, are most accepted. The birth of your child is something which should be shared."

Mrs. Heffler was pleased, too, with the instruction given new mothers in all aspects of baby care, demonstrations, baths and staff supervision of the new mother's first efforts.

She speaks for many mothers in expressing her appreciation for the relief of the almost inevitable anxiety that haunts the new mother as she listens to the wails from a distant nursery.

"Perhaps every new mother wonders if that crying baby she hears in the nursery is hers. Rooming-in eliminates that doubt, you rest easier, and the infants tend to be quieter because of the absence of any chain reaction crying."

The long visiting time allowed to husbands was also much appreciated by the mothers, especially by those who have husbands whose businesses involve a lot of travel.

"Hubby did not have to wait a week to hold the baby," said Mrs. Heffler, "so a natural rapport was built up before the baby was left entirely up to me."

Nurses pleased, too

Nursing staff at York Central are equally happy with the innovation.

Says nurse Ruth Munro: "I believe rooming-in has proven very beneficial to the families of the newborn. First time parents feel much more confident in the care of their child."

Nurse Nadine Harris agrees "With the advent of rooming-in I have found mothers much more relaxed and feeling confident about looking after their babies by the time they are ready to be discharged home."

Region raises Day Care fees

NEWMARKET — A move to double minimum weekly day care fees to \$5 for subsidized families was approved last week by York Regional Council.

The increase takes effect May 1. Council also approved new regular rates of \$50 a week for entrants and toddlers. Pre-schoolers will be charged \$44 weekly and handicapped children \$15.

Centres operated by the region are in Richmond Hill, Thornhill, Aurora and Newmarket.

Baif residents protest

RICHMOND HILL — Baif subdivision residents will meet this week to discuss how to continue their fight against what they believe are unfair assessment rates.

The residents have appealed because their homes, zoned as semi-detached, are being assessed as detached homes.

More than 100 people in the subdivision have signed a petition expressing dissatisfaction with the practice, and town council is requesting an explanation from the provincial revenue ministry.

Market Value

Most of the homes have a market value of at least \$60,000 and are considered semi-detached because they are joined by a common concrete wall underground.

One of the residents, Bev Breslow of Castle Rock Drive, points out that while they pay taxes as high as they would for a detached home, their activity is limited by municipal zoning.

"We can't put up a hedge between the properties, a window in the common wall or put in a fireplace," she said.

She believes either these restrictions should be lifted or the assessment made on the basis of semi-detached home rates.

A report from town staff, presented at a council meeting last week, defends the present policy and recommends council not request any change.

Council, however, deferred a decision on whether to endorse the report and asked for clarification from the province.

The report, submitted by Town Clerk C. D. Weldon, stated:

"Builders, in an attempt to maximize the housing capacity of their holdings and the return on their investment... have begun to build what appear from the outside to be single family dwellings

in areas zoned for semi-detached homes.

"These buildings are, however, joined by a common concrete wall underground and are therefore technically semi-detached homes..."

"The market value for such a house is only reduced from that of a similar detached home by the difference in value attributable to the smaller lot size. In the Baif subdivision, for instance, 10 such semi-detached homes can be built on the same amount of property required for seven detached homes."

The report noted that, in 1969, when the province took over assessment functions from municipalities, it moved to assess every piece of property at its market value.

This is the approach used in Baif, the report said, "and after careful study of these semi-detached homes, ministry of revenue officials determined the cost of constructing, and therefore the market value, of such buildings was no less than the cost of detached homes."

"The fact the buildings are connected by an underground umbilical cord of concrete does not reduce the value of the building."

The report did not comment on the zoning restrictions affecting the homes.

Richvale Lions to hold parade

RICHMOND HILL — Richvale Lions' youth parade will be held Saturday beginning at 12:45 p.m. at Pearson Park.

Parade route is from the park to Yonge Street, up Yonge to Hillcrest mall parking lot.

At the mall local school bands will perform and there will be a draw for a car.

Britnell wants Grit nomination

KING — Mayor Margaret Britnell has made up her mind and will definitely be a candidate for the Liberal nomination in York North riding for the next provincial election.

She will have at least one opponent in the bid for nomination, lawyer John Poot of Woodbridge who announced his candidacy several weeks ago.

Britnell, who ran for the Liberals in last September's election, has been saying for some time she was undecided whether to try again.

She had announced, though, that she will not seek another term as King mayor.

The Liberals' York North nomination convention will be held May 19.

Incumbent MPP William Hodgson intends to run again for the Progressive Conservatives.

East Gwillimbury school trustee Joy Horton is considered a possible candidate for the New Democratic Party, but she has made no announcement yet.

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