

## People

# Obstetricians juggle work and family life in Stouffville

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Correspondent

Finding suitable day care is a challenge for all parents, but particularly for those whose careers involve long and erratic hours.

Christyne Peters and Colette Pyselman are obstetricians and gynecologists at Markham Stouffville Hospital, with young families and hectic schedules.

Peters joined the staff of the hospital when it opened, while Pyselman decided to try out the facility for herself first. Her youngest child, Brandon, was born at the Birth Place three years ago.

She began her career at Markham Stouffville when her maternity leave was up, and she and Peters, both of whom live in Stouffville, have since become firm friends as well as colleagues.

"We met before we worked together, when we were establishing the department," explained Peters. They agreed that their only viable daycare option was to hire nannies, she said.

"Colette's husband is also a physician and has pretty erratic hours. We need to have someone who's going to be there for us." Her own husband, Mark, is a computer consultant in the city, which means he leaves before 7 a.m. to catch the GO train.

Her experience at the hospital has been very positive, Peters noted.

"I went to medical school in London, came to Toronto and did my internship at North York, and went down to San Francisco to do my residency."

Some of the people she trained with in medical school suggested she apply for a job

when the hospital opened in March, 1990.

"It was a brand new facility, with a wonderful group of people, and we work with an excellent nursing staff," she observed.

"The community put so much energy into it and people have really supported it. Between that and the staffing, it's like a family. There's a real sense of camaraderie and teamwork."

Pyselman grew up in Toronto and her family moved to the

Stouffville area about 10 years ago.

"I initially stayed in the city and went to medical school at the University of Toronto, where I did my obstetrics and residency."

Once qualified, Pyselman started practising downtown, but found herself constantly dealing with administrative and political problems, which interfered with her work "and I just wasn't totally happy."

"Then someone approached

me about coming up here and making a new start in a new hospital."

The opportunity to be in on the ground floor, developing a department and helping to shape the philosophy behind it, was irresistible, she said.

Both doctors thoroughly enjoy living in Stouffville.

"It's a wonderful spot for young families, with lots for the children to do," Pyselman pointed out. "You can walk to

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