

CELEBRATES 5TH YEAR OF CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY



ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

SATURDAY MARCH 4, 1995

Childbirth and Children's Centre opens March 5th

By **RENA GALANIS**
Advertising Features

The design and conception of Markham Stouffville Hospital's Childbirth and Children's Centre, puts the hospital at the forefront of maternity care.

The new unit, located on the second level of the hospital, has a grand opening scheduled for Sunday, March 5. The community is invited to attend an open house on that date which also marks the hospital's fifth birthday.

The Childbirth and Children's Centre will include clinics for antenatal, postpartum care, and breast feeding help to guide expectant mothers through the birthing process and provide a continuum of information for care after birth.

"The structure of the nuclear family is not always based on what was once considered traditional," says Joanne MacLean, director of the maternal/child program. "The information and care a hospital provides must address those changes and provide information accordingly."

The hospital's philosophy is based on the idea that each individual is the most important participant in his/her health care with the hospital providing information, support, as well as professional expertise.

The Childbirth and Children's Centre will offer that partnership and in addition to medical and nursing care, the centre will offer 24-hour help lines for immediate access to information, support and

assistance.

Changes to the birthing procedure include moving towards single-room maternity care and a goal of 24-hour hospitalization after birth beginning in June, but MacLean stresses, "This is not a rigid system. Extended hospital care will always be provided when appropriate and the hospital will adhere to its mandate to give the best, individualized care to every patient."

Single-room maternity care is an innovative concept practised in only two other hospitals in Canada. One room only is used for the labor, delivery, recovery, and postpartum stay. This promotes initiation of bonding between mother and child and allows mother the comfort of staying in the same room after delivery, says patient care coordinator, Susan Haldenby.

Subsequently, equipment is removed from the room, a bassinet brought in so that babies remain with mother for the duration of their stay.

"Another positive aspect of this process is that both mother and baby receive care from the same nurse," Haldenby adds. "The system is conducive to primary nursing in which patient and nurse initiate a plan of care and that nurse is primarily responsible for the patient for the duration of hospitalization."

A trailblazer in redefining the concept of the hospital as an institution, Markham Stouffville Hospital

(Please see Antenatal, page 2)



Photo by STEVE SOMERVILLE

MATERNAL/CHILD PROGRAM STAFF MAKE THE DIFFERENCE IN QUALITY OF CARE

The team of professionals in the Maternal/Child program at Markham Stouffville Hospital, represented above, provide ongoing care for children, from birth to 12 years of age, in the new Childbirth and Children's Centre, which opens this Sunday.

Hospital president reviews achievements and looks to the future

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Markham Stouffville Hospital's commitment to serve the community by providing a high standard of care...

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