



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Chantal Appleton, her husband Ryan, son Nicholas and newborn Dylan who was born in the family's driveway in Stouffville.

Neighbours help deliver baby in driveway

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When people want to get to know their neighbours they typically host a barbecue.

Chantal Appleton took a more unique and impromptu approach last week — she gave birth to her son in her driveway.

Jenny Carrier, who lives a few houses away from the Appletons on Bearings Avenue, heard screaming on the street, which is in the Millard Street and Sandale Road area, around 10 p.m. May 29.

She thought it was a bunch of kids and was about to ask them to quiet down as she had just put her sick one-year-old son to bed.

"I was doing the angry mom thing," she told The Sun-Tribune.

But when Ms Carrier got downstairs, she realized what she was hearing were actually screams of pain, which included Mrs. Appleton yelling to her husband the baby was coming.

Just thinking this woman she did not know needed assistance getting into her vehicle, the pediatric nurse walked over to their house to help. What she found was Mrs. Appleton, 32, lying in the driveway in the middle of giving birth.

'I feel like we're best friends. It's kind of an intimate experience. It's not something you share with your whole street'

Jenny Carrier
nurse and neighbour who helped deliver baby

Mrs. Appleton's husband, Ryan, 35, was already on the phone with a 911 dispatcher. Ms Carrier took over so he could help his wife.

"And from there it was just chaos," Ms Carrier said.

Another neighbour, who happened to be driving by, also stopped to help. A paramedic, she took over for Mr. Appleton.

Mr. Appleton's parents also came to the house.

Another neighbour assisted by holding Mrs. Appleton's hand during the delivery.

Police were in the area responding to another incident and were flagged down by neighbours to provide more help.

By the time the paramedics arrived, Dylan Ryan Appleton was born. He weighed eight pounds,

13 ounces. However, the umbilical cord had yet to be cut. The paramedics took care of that.

Both mom and baby were in good health and transported to Markham Stouffville Hospital.

"I feel like we're best friends. It's kind of an intimate experience. It's not something you share with your whole street," Ms Carrier said.

Prior to Dylan's birth, Mrs. Appleton knew none of these neighbours, but is very thankful for their help.

Dylan was due May 20.

Earlier on May 29, Mrs. Appleton went to the doctor and had an ultrasound. She was told "there was no way I was going into labour anytime soon", she recalled.

Mrs. Appleton was scheduled to be induced June 1.

Following the appointment, Mrs. Appleton went about her normal day, which included taking a bath and picking up her oldest son from day care.

Around 5 p.m. she got a cramp. "I really didn't think anything of it," she said.

Same thing happened at 5:30 p.m. She thought the same thing.

Around 8 p.m. the contractions started coming every 15 to 20 minutes. Around 9:30 p.m. they were

10 to 12 minutes apart.

That is when she told her husband she "might" be going into labour.

"The labour process is probably a long one," Mrs. Appleton said, recalling the birth of her first son, Nicholas, two-and-a-half years ago. She had to be induced, went through labour for about 10 hours and pushed for about three hours.

This time, at 10 p.m. her contractions were about six minutes apart. They called the hospital to let them know they were on their way, and Mr. Appleton's parents, who live in Ballantrae.

At 10:20 p.m., the couple went to their vehicle. She was waiting for her husband, who was packing things up, as well as his parents.

"I was getting pretty serious contractions," she recalled.

Mrs. Appleton also felt like she needed to use the washroom before they left. In reality, the baby's head was coming out.

Mrs. Appleton knew they weren't going to make it to the hospital, so she decided to lie down in their driveway and started to push and scream.

"Pretty crazy to say the least," is how Mrs. Appleton summed up the experience.

Whitchurch-Stouffville News Digest

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Parking dispute lands man in hospital, other charged

An Uxbridge man has been charged with assault causing bodily harm and breach of recognizance.

The accused and victim were off-road dirt biking in the Ninth Line and Hillsdale Drive area Sunday. The two males became embroiled in an argument over parked vehicles, according to York Regional Police.

The victim received serious injuries and was sent to hospital.

Samaritan assaulted: Cops

A Good Samaritan was assaulted and two men were charged in northwestern Whitchurch-Stouffville, police say.

A group of women was playing ping-pong in a Woodbine Avenue establishment in the Preston Lake area May 26 when two men allegedly bothered them, according to York Regional Police.

A third man stepped in to intervene and was assaulted. He suffered minor injuries, according to police.

A man from Brampton and another from Toronto were each charged with assault.

Merchants host fun fair at new Stouffville plaza

A bouncy castle, face painting, giveaways as well as performances and demonstrations by York Dance Academy and STK Martial Arts are just some of the activities taking place during the first annual Innovator Plaza Fun Fair June 15, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., weather permitting.

All activities are free. Food will be available for purchase. The plaza is just south of the Royal Canadian Legion on Mostar Street.

The event is hosted by the dance and martial arts studios, along with Innovator Avenue Dental and Stouffville Family Eye Care.

"This is a great chance to meet and ask questions to our doctors and instructors," said Seema Kumar, of the dental centre.

"The event is our way of thanking the community of Stouffville for all their support and making them aware of our presence," according to Ms Kumar.

The day before the fun fair, Mayor Wayne Emmerson will conduct a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 3:30 p.m.