



Four Counties Health Services site

1824 Concession Drive
Newbury ON N0L 1Z0

519 693-4441

Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital site

395 Carrie Street
Strathroy ON N7G 3J4

519 245-1550

www.mhalliance.on.ca

Age Dispatch
Letter to the Editor

April 3, 2009

Obstetric Services at SMGH are first rate and will continue to be provided.

Dear Editor,

Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital (SMGH) has undergone an External Review as part of the process to balance a projected budget deficit through to 2010. The Report from the External Review (March 26th, 2009) recommended that the hospital consider closing the Obstetric Services as a way to make up our deficit. However, because SMGH strives to be a full service provider to the women and families in our community, we have worked extremely hard to find efficiencies to balance the budget. We are now pleased to be able to assure our colleagues and patients that we are continuing the Obstetrics Service at SMGH.

There are many benefits to the program:

- SMGH offers a high quality service. We have worked very hard with the South West Perinatal Outreach Service to ensure that our program meets or exceeds all of the standards for the delivery of primary care obstetrics.
- We have fulltime around-the-clock epidural service for pain management in labour. Our anesthesia department is bolstered and reorganized and as of February 2009, we are able to offer epidural coverage 24 hours a day.
- We have excellent physician coverage. We continue to have a competent and caring panel of physicians – Drs. Chris Hull, John Marcou, Kate Miller and Phil Vandewalle – who are committed to providing the highest standard of care.

- We have excellent nursing staff. All MHA nurses providing Obstetric Services have been trained in London and maintain their competency through on-going medical education. They are committed and able to provide first rate care to women during this important life experience.
- For a woman who does not have a family physician and is expecting, we can supply her with the support and care she needs to deliver her baby in her local community. She does not have to go to London to have her baby.

We at SMGH are ready to serve the women of West Middlesex. We encourage women to speak with their physicians about their personal needs and if they want more information, please call the hospital directly or visit the MHA website www.mhalliance.on.ca

Yours truly,

Dr. Paul Ferner
Chief of Staff
Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital

Dr. John Marcou
Head of Obstetrics
Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital

Dr. Phil Vandewalle,
Chief of Medicine
Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital