

THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2007 ♦ THESPEC.COM

WEATHER

High: 12

Low: 0

A warm day with rain showers, but colder tomorrow.

Full details: **Go 2**



Mom charged in attack on baby

BY SUSAN CLAIRMONT

A Hamilton woman has been charged with trying to murder her eight-month-old daughter during a Children's Aid Society supervised visit.

A social worker and a Children's Aid Society volunteer had brought the baby and her three-year-old brother to the mom's apartment for a supervised visit yesterday, says Dominic Verticchio, executive director of the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton.

During the visit, the baby was cut in the upper torso. She was rushed from an apartment on Sanford Avenue North to hospital by ambulance and treated for a "superficial" wound, according to Verticchio.

She was being kept under observation overnight and is expected to fully recover.

"We're shocked," Verticchio says. "It doesn't matter if it's a superficial wound or not."

CAS workers oversee about 10,000 supervised visits a year in Hamilton.

Sometimes volunteers accompany the staff during the meetings.

The worker is responsible for protecting the child during the visit.

Details of what happened changed rapidly yesterday and were still sketchy at the end of the day.

The original 911 call, made at about 10:45 a.m., reported that a baby had been stabbed and was seriously injured.

Later, police said the injury was minimal and may not even require stitches.

Nobody else was hurt.

Police are still investigating the circumstances surrounding the attack, says Detective Dave Beech of the major crime unit.

Detectives from the child abuse branch are also involved.

The CAS says it is working with the police and will also conduct its own investigation.

"We will look at what happened. Could we have anticipated such a thing?" Verticchio says.

"What I'm told about this parent

is that this is totally out of character for her?"

The 28-year-old woman was arrested at the scene and charged initially with assault.

By late afternoon, that charge was upgraded to attempted murder.

Her name is not being released in order to protect the identity of her children.

She will appear in court today. *Susan Clairmont's commentary appears regularly in The Spectator.*

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McMaster stadium late, \$9 million over budget

BY WADE HEMSWORTH

It's going to take an extra \$9 million to finish the football stadium now under construction at McMaster University.

And it's probably going to be late, too.

A combination of underestimation during the planning stage and rising construction costs has forced the university to raise the estimated price tag of the 6,000-seat Ronald V. Joyce Stadium from \$13 million to \$22 million, the school confirmed yesterday.

Furthermore, heavy rains last autumn interfered with the excavation for the stadium and its underground parking lot, putting the planned September opening into question.

Students will pay an additional \$20 million of the total cost through a levy.

The impact of the weather-related delay won't be fully known until some time in the spring, said McMaster athletics director Therese Quigley, but it could force Mac's football team to play part or all of the coming season at Ivor Wynne Stadium.

The financial problem arose largely because estimates at the concept stage proved to be too low in the face of materials costs that had risen sharply by the time construction began, Quigley said.

Similar problems have dogged planners of the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver and the recently withdrawn bid to bring the Commonwealth Games to Halifax, she said.

Before the university approved a new budget, McMaster had been close to reaching its original combined fundraising targets of \$23 million for the stadium and the adjacent David Braley Athletics Centre.

Students will pay an additional \$20 million of the total cost through a levy.

The athletic centre opened in September on time and on budget, but with the finish line for the stadium now another \$9 million away, Quigley said the school is hoping to raise the new money within the next year through grants and donations.

"It's not good news at any time," she said. "We're just digging in and getting the job done."

The Ronald V. Joyce Stadium project was launched in June 2005 when the university announced that the entrepreneur behind the Tim Hortons empire was donating \$10 million.

His gift became the largest private donation to a Canadian university athletics facility, and would have covered all but \$3 million of the original estimate.

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YOUR CHANGING HAMILTON



- Population grew 2.8 per cent to 504,559 from 2001
- Lower city population fell, led by Ainslie Wood, with a drop of 24 per cent
- The suburbs exploded, led by the Meadowlands at 85 per cent
- Burlington grew by 9 per cent to 164,415
- Toronto grew by less than 1 per cent and Ontario by 6.6 per cent
- Canada's population surged to 31.6 million, led by 1.2 million immigrants

Immigration was the fuel that drove Canada's population to an all-time high in 2006.

That growth — 5.4 per cent — was the highest among the G8 nations. But only a fraction of that was due to births in Canada. Fully 1.2 million people immigrated to this country from 2001-2006.

About half of those came to the Toronto area. During that period, more than 20,000 immigrants chose Hamilton as their primary destination.

That's less than 2 per cent of the total immigration to Canada.

The federal government released the first results of the 2006 census yesterday.

And they show this country is on track to becoming 100 per cent dependent on immigration for growth.

The Canadian death rate is expected to exceed the birth rate by 2030. Continued growth will depend on immigration.

Booming Alberta saw its population jump 10.6 per cent from 2001 to 2006 — with interprovincial migrants making up the bulk of the increase.

Ontario's population, meanwhile, increased 6.6 per cent. Of the 750,000-person increase, roughly 600,000 were immigrant newcomers — half the Canadian total.

The Canadian Press

▶ **RELATED STORY:** The Meadowlands and Ainslie Wood tell dramatic Hamilton tales. **A11**



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Stepping out in style
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NCAA bracket cheat sheet

Picking winners for every tourney game. **SP8-9**

YOUR FAVOURITE PLACES

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