

Waterloo Region Record

IN BRIEF

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TORONTO

Family sues hospital after suicide of man under watch

The family of a man who committed suicide while he was supposed to be under close observation has filed a \$12.5-million lawsuit against the hospital where he died. The family of Prashant Tiwari says the 20-year-old was supposed to be under close supervision last year at the psychiatric unit of the Brampton Civic hospital. None of the allegations has been proven in court.

OTTAWA

Work on better spy oversight still underway, years after promise

The government says it is working on more comprehensive monitoring of Canadian intelligence agencies - over four years after committing to do so. In December 2010, the government promised to allow the review of security activities involving multiple departments and agencies. The goal was to eliminate barriers that prevent spy watchdogs from talking to each other.

TORONTO

Officer's 'call us' tweet about mystery bunker goes viral

A Toronto police officer whose tweet about a mysterious bunker found in the city went

viral says he hopes the lighthearted appeal will stir up tips for investigators. Staff Sgt. Chris Boddy drew international attention Tuesday with his tweet: "If you built a tunnel near Rexall Centre in #Toronto give us a call, k?" The tongue-in-cheek message was shared by thousands.

TORONTO

Concerns raised over use of anesthetics on children

Some experts, including from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, are raising concerns about the possible impact of anesthetics on the developing brains of children. They say that evidence from studies in several animal models shows that the anesthetics used in surgery are toxic for some brain cells, particularly in developing brains. It's not currently clear if the same is true in the brains of babies and toddlers. But some initial studies suggest there may be a link between being anesthetized in early childhood and some learning deficits.

TORONTO

Teaching assistants at two universities could strike

The union representing teaching assistants and other academic staff at Ontario's two largest universities warns a potential strike in the coming days could jeopardize the school year for thousands of students. The

Canadian Union of Public Employees says about 10,000 non-tenured academic staff at the University of Toronto and York University could walk off the job if they don't get a "modest" salary increase. CUPE says the University of Toronto staff will be in a legal strike or lockout position on Thursday while those at York University will be in a legal strike or lockout position on March. 3.

TORONTO

Ontario to fund costly drug for rare condition

Ontario will start providing interim funding for a costly drug used to treat a rare genetic condition. An advocacy group estimates the drug Soliris could help about 30 people in Ontario who have atypical hemolytic uremic syndrome. The group aHUS Canada says with the life-threatening condition the immune system attacks the body's cells, which can cause abnormal blood clotting, blood vessel damage and damage to major organs, leading to heart attack, stroke, kidney failure and death.

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