

Tiny transplants

The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto has become the only centre in North America with an active kidney transplant program for babies under a year old.

The hospital has successfully transplanted kidneys into four or five babies and "has had enough success to warrant continuing," said pediatric surgeon Dr. Brian Hardy.

The secret of transplanting kidneys into babies under a year old lies in small kidneys, superb surgery and meticulous medical and nursing care afterwards. A baby weighing 11 to 22 pounds has a kidney about the size of its tiny fist.

"Babies that age are very sick, very fragile. When things go wrong they go wrong very fast and you have to act quickly. You must have a large, highly trained team. The biggest problem of all is getting small kidneys," said Dr. Hardy.

Dr. Gerald Arbus, head of the program, said records on children who had received kidneys at the hospital showed that a transplanted kidney survived an average of ten years. Many of these children can then have a second transplant.

Unique fish-feeder

While Osmo Joronen is not fishing for compliments, he may be getting plenty of them when his unique fish-feeder hits the market.

The inventor and furniture salesman from Victoria, British Columbia has developed a fish-activated aquarium feeder. He has seen results — healthier and happier fish and the answer to every aquarium hobbyist's annual problem: what to do with the fish when you go on holiday.

The answer was as simple as the product Joronen developed — the fish learn to feed themselves.

The unique aquarium feeder consists of an inverted vial, a valve and rod. The fish tap at the rod and food drops into the aquarium.

"They learn to poke at the rod like a boxer raps at a boxing bag," Joronen says.

To start the learning process off, all it takes is an "accident" in the tank — a fish innocently taps at the rod, attracted by a dark spot at the rod's bottom end.

They soon learn that every knock and tap brings an instant meal.

For those people who fear this would lead to overfeeding, Joronen assures that it will not happen because of the natural biological rhythm by which fish feed.

He left his own fish at the mercy of his invention for a month while he travelled to Finland. The pets obliged and thrived; they were an inch longer and seemingly content on his return.

It has taken about \$6,500 to get the invention to the launching stage, and a Victoria firm has agreed to manufacture the feeder for Joronen.

He expects a retail price of \$9.95 for the feeder-fish food pack when it goes on the market in the near future.

Canadian figure skating champions

Heather Kemkaran regained her senior women's title recently at the Canadian figure-skating championships held in Kitchener, Ontario.

Miss Kemkaran, who won the title in 1978, lost it last year to Janet Morrissey of Ottawa, a distant second in this year's competition. Miss Kemkaran had seven ordinals and 141.66 points. Miss Morrissey had 20 ordinals and 137.78 points; 12-year-old Tracey Wainman had 22 ordinals and 136.56 points.

Brian Pockar of Calgary retained his senior men's crown. Ottawa's Gordon



Lorri Baier, 16, wears a wireless monitoring device during the Canadian junior women's compulsory figures to enable a doctor to study her heart rate under the stress of competition.

Forbes moved up for the silver medal with a technically excellent program and Gary Beacom of Toronto placed third.

Pockar had eight ordinals and 143.20 points. Forbes finished with 14 ordinals and 141.50 points. Beacom slipped to 21 ordinals and 139.04 points.

In other results, Lorna Wighton and John Dowding of Toronto retained their senior dance title, beating Marie McNeil and Robert McCall of Halifax. Gina Aucoin of Burlington, Ontario, who skates out of Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, and Peter Ponikau of New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, were third.

Barbara Underhill and Paul Martini repeated as senior pairs champions, Lorri Baier of Mitchell, Ontario, and Lloyd Eisler of Seaforth, Ontario, won the silver and Junior pairs champions Becky Gough and Mark Rowsom of Cambridge, Ontario, were third.

All of the 1980 Canadian figure skating senior champion are competing in the Olympic Winter Games in Lake Placid, New York.

Computers catch juvenile offenders

Court and police officials in Vancouver say a project aimed at cracking down on juveniles who disobey court orders has caused some hard-core delinquents to change their behaviour.

Operation Checkpoint, a program devised by city police and judges in Vancouver family court, feeds information on young offenders into the Canadian Police Information Centre, a records service operated by computer.

It provides police with immediate access to the names and terms of bail or probation of juvenile offenders.

If police find the youth is violating conditions set by the court, a judge's order included in the computer entry tells police what action to take. Instructions range from phoning a probation officer to arrest without a warrant.

Forty-two youths have been placed on Operation Checkpoint since it started in April and 22 are still in it after being convicted of delinquency or having breached undertakings imposed by the court while facing charges.

Every youth placed in the system is assigned a number and that number is never retired. If he gets into trouble, he could be back on the program within a few hours of a judge's order.