

Second chance

By CONNIE RAE
 Rita Lee of 38 Eaglewood Dr. in Mississauga is waiting — waiting for a new kidney that might allow her to live without the inconvenience of being hooked up to the life-giving kidney machine at Toronto Western hospital three-and-a-half hours a day, three times a week.

"But things are not that bad," she says. Rita has suffered from kidney disease for five years. Although she was treated with pills, she often suffered from fatigue and occasional nausea. Since beginning dialysis treatments over two months ago, she says, "I feel great, I'm even gaining a little weight!"

The machine removes toxic poisons from her body now that her kidneys are grossly enlarged and almost non-functional. Without the machine, she would die.

Kidney disease is no stranger to her family. Her father suffered from it and two sisters in England with kidney conditions are anxiously awaiting to see pictures of their sister on the mysterious machine.

About 1500 people in Canada are on dialysis. Rita's physician, Dr. Robert Ualdall estimates that 40 people per million each year will end up on kidney machines.

When treatment with pills fails, dialysis is the only answer. "It's painless," says Rita. "I can read, watch TV, chat or listen to music with the two needles inserted into my arm."

There are occasions when things don't go quite right, the body reacts, and up to nine needles may have to be inserted. At these times, the patient doesn't feel quite so refreshed afterwards.

It's possible for Rita to have a rental unit in her home, but with five teenagers and a minimum of room, she and her husband, Edward, feel it's better to continue treatments at the hospital.

There are at least six rental clinics in Toronto hospitals, but there are none in Mississauga. Units are expensive and nurses to man them are in short supply.

Dr. Ualdall estimates 60 percent of kidney disease is caused by an allergic condition called nephritis, 20 percent is caused by infections, and the remainder by miscellaneous causes.

Pain killers such as 222's and codeine pills used to contain phenacatin, an analgesic that damaged the kidneys. Thanks to Canada's foresight, phenacatin was taken off the market completely two years ago, he says.

More money needs to be spent on research and treatment of kidney disease in its early stages, he says. "Kidneys can be wiped out before you know it."

There are about 70 names on the kidney waiting list at Toronto Western Hospital.

If a suitable donor is found for Rita and she is in good health, the phone may ring at any time. She will have to rush to hospital and undergo surgery. She will have to remain in hospital for about six weeks. Although Rita knows there is a possibility the body can reject the foreign tissue, she has no apprehension this will happen to her.

About 10 percent of kidneys come from live donors, usually close relatives of the patient. In these cases where tissue, cell and blood types closely match, the success rate is much higher.

Kidneys from a deceased person may be taken if the person has filled out a donor card prior to his death or if close relatives sanction the removal of the organ after his death. The kidney must be removed within an hour after death and can be kept up to eight hours under proper conditions or possibly longer in a profusion chamber.

Anyone wishing to receive information about kidney disease or anyone wishing to donate their kidneys should call the Ontario branch of the Canadian Kidney Foundation in Toronto at 964-7482. Organ donor cards must be signed in the presence of a witness, but as no registration is required cards can be cancelled if you change your mind.

Wyn Tyler of the Ontario branch, one of 17 chapters in Ontario, is touched by the number of concerned youngsters who ask to donate their kidneys to help someone else.

Once, she said, a father with a severely retarded daughter who was on the verge of death phoned in. It occurred to him that although her mind was not sound, her body was, and if her kidneys could be used she wouldn't have lived in vain.

Ms. Tyler expressed concern over the lack of research being done, saying she knew of only three doctors in Canada commissioned to do research on the disease.

Years ago patients were given numerous pills and after continued use detrimental affects occurred, she says. But even if patients on machines don't get a kidney right away the machines allow them to go on for years living a relatively normal life.



Rita Lee relaxes while receiving dialysis treatment.

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Natural assets studied

Mississauga's natural recreational facilities will be examined during a series of presentations being offered on our local environment.

The city recreation and parks department has made arrangements to schedule a host of speakers from the ministry of natural resources.

They will bring slides and displays and question and answer periods will follow each program. Presentations will take place monthly on either the first or second Tuesday starting at 8 p.m. at Huron Park Theatre.

Included in the series is a look at Lake Ontario and what it has to offer, the problem of nuisance animals in urban communities, how to save and enhance local streams, timber wolves, fish and the value of marshes.

The first meeting on Lake Ontario will take place Tuesday, Jan. 13.

Co-sponsors for the series are the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunter-Zone 5.

New seminar reviews rape

A seminar on rape will be held Jan. 8 at the Oakville campus of Sheridan College located on Trafalgar Road. Sponsored by the Centre For Women, it is part of a new monthly seminar lecture series called Horizon.

The film "How to Say No to a Rapist" will kick off the program, which begins at 10 a.m. A guest speaker from the Rape Crisis Centre in Toronto will challenge the controversial implications in the movie.

A second film, No Lies, will be followed by a wrap-up and question period led by Dr. Linda Belfrage, psychologist, martial artist and counsellor at Sheridan.

The program will be repeated at 1 p.m. in Room B-125.

Future topics planned in the Horizon series include women in government, women in arts and women and the law. For more information call the Centre For Women at 845-9430.

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TENDERS REQUIRED

Sealed tenders, submitted in the tender envelope provided, will be received by the Supply and Services Division of the City of Mississauga, Ninth Floor of the Univac Building, 55 City Centre Drive, Mississauga, Ontario, until 2:00 P.M., E.D.T.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13th, 1976
 for the Mobile Vehicle Washing for 1976.

A Public Tender Opening will be held at 1 City Centre Drive, Mississauga, Ontario, on Tuesday, January 13th, 1976, at 2:30 p.m.

Specifications, Tender Forms and Envelopes, may be obtained from the Supply and Services Division, City of Mississauga, 55 City Centre Drive, Ninth Floor, Univac Building, Mississauga, Ontario.

Lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted.

T. L. Julian,
 City Clerk.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1976
 for the following tender:

TW - 2 - 1976 Supply of Petroleum Requirements (Gas, Diesel Fuel and Engine Oils)

Tenders will be opened at a Public Tender Opening at One City Centre Drive, on Tuesday, January 13, 1976, at 2:30 P.M.

Specifications, Tender Forms and Envelopes may be obtained from the Supply and Services Division, City of Mississauga, Ninth Floor, Univac Bldg., 55 City Centre Drive, Mississauga, Ontario.

Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Terence L. Julian,
 City Clerk.

Doggie derby

The Siberian Husky Dog Association of Canada, Southern Ontario division, has scheduled competitions at Cold Creek Conservation area on Saturday, Jan. 3 and Sunday, Jan. 4 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., in three, five and seven dog team events.

There will also be a special under-16 event for future sledmasters. The Husky dogs' visit this weekend is the first of a season of time trials that will be featured on various weekends until March 7.

For further information call 661-6600.

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