

FASHIONS

SUN, JAN 23, 2000

Shore inquest stalled again

Inquest adjourned just before key witness speaks

BY RICK VANDERLINDE
Staff Writer

A coroner's inquest probing how 10-year-old Lisa Shore died at Sick Children's Hospital was suddenly adjourned Friday, shortly before a "pivotal" witness was to testify.

Reasons behind the unexpected postponement were wrapped in mystery with only deputy chief coroner Dr. Jim Cairns, hospital lawyer Stephen Hawkins and Crown attorney Margaret Browne being privy to the details.

The Shore family's lawyer, Frank Gomberg, said he was only told the inquest had to be postponed for "legal reasons".

"I don't know the issue, but it's very disturbing that legal issues are arising now," Gomberg said. "We've already had this inquest postponed once before for legal issues."

Scheduled to testify was the Thornhill girl's primary care nurse, Ruth Doerkson, someone Sharon and Bill Shore have been waiting to hear from ever since their daughter's Oct. 22, 1998 death.

Lisa died under Doerkson's watch after she was admitted to hospital to control pain from a non-life-threatening disorder.

Although she has yet to testify, Doerkson's care on the night of Lisa's death has been questioned through several witnesses.

Last week, nurse educator Mary Douglas testified that Doerkson had turned off a respiratory monitor designed to alarm if the little girl's breathing slowed down.



STAFF PHOTO/ROB ALARY

Regional Councillor Michael Di Biase's finery as Vellore Hall Thursday night. Councillors and quicentennial party and residents received free

See **LAWYERS**, page 8.

Lawyers were eagerly awaiting nurse's testimony

From page 1.

Lisa's pain was being controlled with morphine, a potentially deadly narcotic that can depress breathing.

Doerkson has also been identified as one of the nurses who failed to check a doctor's orders detailing how Lisa should be monitored.

Gomberg and two other lawyers —

one representing a doctor and another representing a medical equipment manufacturer — have been eagerly awaiting Doerkson's testimony.

"You have to wonder why this is happening today when you have such a pivotal person coming on the stand," said Van Krkachovski, counsel for G.E. Marquette Medical Systems.

Speculation at the coroner's court in Toronto yesterday was that Doerkson wanted to be represented by her own lawyer before taking the stand.

Asked if that was the case, Gomberg replied he didn't know, but it would be a "good guess".

Doerkson and other nurses are represented by Patrick Hawkins, who is also

counsel for Sick Children's Hospital. Hawkins would not say what he discussed with the coroner and Crown attorney Friday morning, adding he was still representing the nurses.

Hawkins said in November separate legal representation for the nurses was not an issue because their interests and the hospital's were the same.

This is the second time the inquest has stalled. It was postponed last November after Cairns admonished Hawkins for introducing a surprise position that a corometric monitor attached to Lisa may have malfunctioned.

The hospital has since retracted that position, saying all 132 corometric monitors used at the hospital work properly.

Good Grades Don't Come Easily...

and without the basics not at all!

Many kids lack basic skills in reading, writing, spelling and math. Let Oxford create an individual program for your child that will build a strong foundation of basic skills from which success can grow.

Preschool to High School

Richmond Hill 737-5650
Thornhill 707-1417
Woodbridge 850-2909

Little Readers®

It's fun!

It's creative!
It works!

Children who learn how to read early are more confident learners.

- small classes, caring teachers
- enriched Reading, Math, Art, Music, French, Computers
- individualized programs

3-6 YEARS OLD

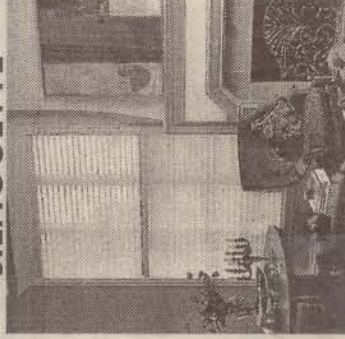
1999 RECIPIENT OF CITY PARENT BEST TUTORIAL AWARD

OXFORD

LEARNING CENTRES®

G · WRITING · SPELLING · MATH · STUDY SKILLS · HOMEWORK SUPPORT

SILHOUETTE



HunterDouglas

W I N D O W F A S H I O N S

LUMINETTE