

# Transplant patient glad to be home

By VIC MACBOURNIE  
Staff Reporter

Bill Hofland drove home in class from Toronto's Western Hospital Friday, less than a month after becoming Ontario's second successful heart transplant patient this year at the hospital.

His drive back to Mississauga in a long white limousine was at a relaxed pace compared to his hurried drive to the hospital to get his new heart.

But the 26-year-old welder had no reason to hurry; he has his whole life ahead of him now.

The future did not look that optimistic a month ago when police contacted him at his mother-in-law's and told him to get to the hospital immediately because a heart donor had been located.

The race down to Western Hospital ended in six-hour record-breaking surgery and one of the quickest recoveries in medical history.

Hofland almost missed the operation because the hospital had difficulty reaching him and one of the doctors who performed the operation.

On Friday, Hofland drank champagne with his wife Sherry, who arranged the limousine, and talked about going home to beer and pizza.

"I feel great. I've got a lot to live for and a lot to celebrate," he said with a thumbs-up sign to the media mob who came to see him off.

"I'm glad now I can live longer," Hofland said.



Staff Photo by Rob Beintema  
Bill Hofland went home in style this week after a heart transplant operation which had kept him in hospital since July 11. Sherry Hofland greeted her 26-year-old husband with a chauffeur-driven limousine and new hope for their future.

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HOFLAND, Bill