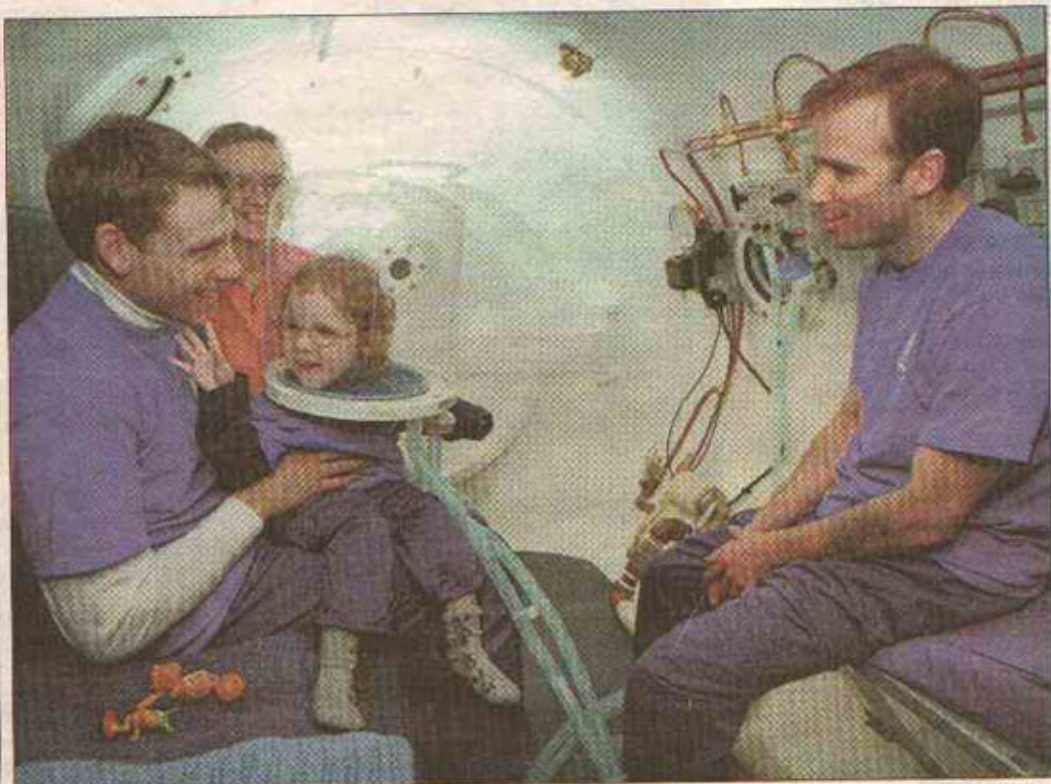


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DAN TOLLOUGH/RICHMOND NEWS

Technician Andre Scriabin joins the Wiebe family, dad Dennis, mom Marie and three-year-old Kathy who travelled from Manitoba to Richmond for 40 treatments in a hyperbaric chamber.

Family's search for hope

People from as far away as Texas are traveling to Richmond for treatment

BY LENEEN ROBB
News Reporter

Twice a day, Kathy Wiebe spends an hour and a half inside a metal cylinder that looks like a decompression chamber for deep sea divers.

The three-year-old has cerebral palsy, and her parents have brought her to Richmond from small-town Manitoba, hoping time spent inside the hyperbaric

chamber at Richmond Hyperbaric Health Centre will improve her condition.

"Every day you look to see is there a difference? Is there a difference?" Kathy's mother Marie explains.

Tom Moon, president of International Hyperbaric Health Inc., says the principle of hyperbaric treatment is "an infusion of oxygen into the blood."

Inside the chamber, the atmospheric pressure is 1.5

atmospheres, which Moon likens to being 25 feet under sea level.

Those being treated wear transparent hoods to ensure that they breathe in pure oxygen. The combination of pressure and oxygen, Moon says, speeds absorption of oxygen into the blood and improves a variety of conditions.

Marie and her husband, Dennis, became interested in hyperbaric chambers after a mother at the Cerebral Palsy Association in Winnipeg showed a video of her twin boys.

Before treatments in the chamber, one used a wheelchair and could not sit on his own, and the other could

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