

## Being first born of 2010 is a yawn for Nayla

### Sleepy girl enters world at 12:06 a.m. - nine days early - at St. Mary's Hospital

BY IRWIN BLOCK, THE GAZETTE    JANUARY 2, 2010



And baby makes three: Lynn Knoepfel and Marc-Antoine Zora with daughter Nayla in St. Mary's Hospital yesterday.

**Photograph by:** JOHN MAHONEY, THE GAZETTE, The Gazette

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Mom was beaming, Dad was thrilled, but baby Nayla was fast asleep.

She was born six minutes past midnight yesterday at St. Mary's Hospital and is believed to be the first child born in Montreal this year.

She is also the first child for Lynn Knoepfel and Marc- Antoine Zora, and her birth came nine days earlier than expected.

But when it was all over and Knoepfel held the baby, "it was love at first sight," the mother said, glowing with obvious joy in her hospital bed.

In anticipation of the event, Zora flew in on Christmas Day from Dubai, where he is working in the pharmaceutical industry.

The drama started about 6 p.m. New Year's Eve when Knoepfel's water broke at the couple's Pierrefonds home - the usual signal that labour is about to start. The couple sped to the hospital, arriving about 7 p.m. and labour pains started about 9 p.m.

Knoepfel was given an epidural anesthetic to ease the pain and Nayla - all six pounds, six ounces of her - popped out at 12:06 a.m.

"The feeling is indescribable," Zora observed.

"Until you hold her in your arms, you don't appreciate the experience. I read somewhere that for the mother the bond begins when she's pregnant, and for the father it begins at birth, when he holds the child. I agree." Knoepfel appeared tired but ecstatic as she cuddled the baby - the infant's brown hair visible under the swaddling - for her first photo shoot.

Mother and child are to go home today, the standard 36 hours after the birth.

The name Nayla means "success" in Arabic and the couple believe it is perfect for their first born.

They plan to have two other children.

Nayla's birth was followed at 12:17 a.m. by the birth of Samuel Bujeaud at St. Luc Hospital, part of the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal. He weighed in at eight pounds, 7 1/2 ounces.

The first twins - both boys - were born at Royal Victoria Hospital, part of McGill University Health Centre. Tristan, born at 8:05 a.m., weighed six pounds, 11 ounces while Lucas, born at 8:06, weighed six pounds, one ounce.

The twins and their mother, Alexandra Battcock of Richmond, B.C., are doing well, the hospital reported. Their father is Gregg Stanforth of Beaconsfield. The chances of having twins are about three in 100, the hospital said.

A girl born one second after midnight yesterday in Toronto is believed to be Canada's first baby of 2010.

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