

# SBGHC hospital board seeks 'underserviced designation'

PAT HALPIN

WHT Correspondent

South Bruce Grey Health Centre wants a medically under-serviced designation for the Walkerton, Kincardine and Chesley areas.

The formula used by the Ministry of Health says the area already has enough physicians, CEO Paul Davies told the board at its October meeting. That formula divides the population by the number of doctors practising in the area.

The standard set by the Ministry of Health is 1,350 patients per doctor.

The numbers for this area work out on paper but the reality is different, Davies said. Many local doctors are elderly and working part-time. Others are overworked with on-call, emergency department, obstetric or anaesthesia duties.

"They don't consider that," Davies said about the Ministry of Health formula. "We have a number of physicians who are doing all of these things. We are physically under-serviced in that we've got a lot of orphan patients. But according to the statistics, the Ministry would assume that we are not (under-serviced)."

Both Walkerton and Kincardine have had to set up orphan patient clinics to deal with the number of people in those areas without a family doctor.

The Ministry of Health rates the current 19 doctors as enough for the area's population. Davies hopes to get that number increased. That in turn would result in the Kincardine, Walkerton and Chesley area falling into the medically under-serviced category.

Davies has taken that argument to the Ministry of Health in hopes of getting help with doctor and nurse recruitment.

"I have done an inventory of all the physicians and their hours of work and the different areas they work in," he said.

The medically under-serviced designation would mean financial incentives for doctor recruitment.

The Walkerton Herald-Times, Wednesday, May 24, 2006

## It was in the cards for winner



The South Bruce Grey Health Centre Brant Auxiliary sponsored a quilt raffle and marathon bridge game recently, with proceeds of \$2,200 to be donated to the Walkerton and District Hospital Foundation. Pictured is the quilt winner, Dorothy Breadner, left, of RR 2 Walkerton, with branch president Joan Ernewein.