



Must be positive with potentially terminally ill

When dealing with a potentially terminally ill patient it is crucial to be positive because the person can easily give up and die without a fight. That was one of the messages from potentially terminally ill registered nurse Karen Bojin when she spoke to the North Halton Palliative/Hospice Care Interest Group's meeting last Wednesday night at Acton High School. About 20 people attended the meeting.

In February, 1977, at the age of 23, Mrs. Bojin was diagnosed as having leukemia. Over four years later, months in the hospital, many, many painful bone marrow tests, hundreds of blood tests, chemotherapy and other treatments, she is in remission and could soon wind up her treatment and testing.

Mrs. Bojin told the audience in the first while after learning they have a terminal illness the patient is in such shock and a state of fear they don't really want to hear what any visitors say. She said relatives, friends and hospital staff fear the potentially terminal or dying patient, and the disease victim feels the uneasiness but the patient's fear is much greater.

Hospital staff, doctors and visitors must be positive with the patient because those who have diseases which might kill them can seal their fate just by their attitude. Family going into mourning with word of the diagnosis often speeds death. A patient must decide he or she wants to live and those around them can influence that decision.

It takes a time for the reality of the situation to sink into the patient, and when it does it helps tremendously if there is someone close to cry with.

People must mix sympathy with support when dealing with someone who has a disease which can kill. Mrs. Bojin noted a little tact in dealing with the patient, especially those who suffer treatment side effects like baldness, goes a long way. It is also important to remember a person may not make visible progress during treatment, but is crucial to never give up hope.

Sometimes a patient will go into remission then lapse back. The second and subsequent battles with a disease are tougher to handle and it is easy for a patient to become frustrated and fed up with treatment, she explained.

It is important to set dates for progress and treatment goals, it helps bolster the crucial positive attitude, paramount in the healing process. Patients should be careful about what they read about their potential killer, though this is a tough order to fill, because often what is printed will be out of date by the time patients see it. Visitors and medical people should first gauge the patient's knowledge of their problem and acceptance of it before deciding how to deal with the patient.

A person who has had a potentially terminal illness always lives with the fear they can lose their remission, Mrs. Bojin said.

Patients should never just lie there and wait for doctors and nurses to volunteer information about their condition, because they rarely do.

Each case is unique and how best to deal with the person is different. It is important for patients not to give up, not view themselves as just a statistic.

Patients must have the help of others. It is detrimental if the people around you are negative. You draw strength from everyone around you.



Eva Sansom discusses terminal illness with guest speaker Karen Bojin.

Livestock killing claims over budget

The year isn't half over but already the town has spent more on compensation payments for the killing of livestock than was budgeted.

Halton Hills general committee learned Monday \$1,700 was budgeted for claims and already \$1,873 has been paid out of town revenues. Over \$1,400 was paid last month. Deputy clerk Delmar French said \$110 of the \$173 the town is over budget may be recovered because the municipality knows the owner of the dog which killed 22 rabbits and hopes to get the money back from that person.

When an animal is killed by wolves the town is subsidized on the claim by the province, but when it is killed by a dog running at large the town foots the whole bill.

Councillors were informed regardless if the money is budgeted or not, the town must pay the claims.

Councillor Pam Sheldon said the rising claims cost points to the fact dog control must be improved in the rural area. She also thought there should be more of a push to make people buy dog tags to bring in more revenue to cover livestock claims.

It was decided council will receive updates on how much money is being paid in claims every three months the rest of this year.

Resident tells councillors

Crucial save town hall important to identity

The town hall is too important to Acton's community identity to be torn down a resident told councillors at Friday's drop-in.

Paul Brunelle said the idea of restoring the exterior of the building and fixing up the inside over a period of years has a lot of merit. He suggested with efforts underway to turn Acton into Leathertown saving the town hall is crucial. The historical building, a focus of the community, could be a stop on the Leathertown tour and maybe used as a museum.

Councillor Terry Grubbe observed no decision to demolish the building has been made and the town hall restoration committee is expected to come to council early next month to discuss fixing up the outside of the building if it is possible. The restoration committee will suggest a structural engineering study be carried out, he added.

Public washrooms are needed downtown, but would be vandalized if the building wasn't used, Brunelle noted. He suggested the Community Services Centre or Chamber of Commerce could locate in the hall.

There were lots of good ideas for town hall uses but unfortunately most aren't feasible because only municipal recreation and cultural uses are eligible for provincial grants.

Mayor Peter Pomeroy and Brunelle agreed whatever use is made of the interior then it must complement the exterior restoration.

If the exterior is restored then one room at a time could be fixed up, Grubbe noted, by service clubs and with Actario funds.

Brunelle said he and many other residents don't want to see the hall come down and the site wind up as an asphalt parking lot.

Resident backs mayor against Section 86

Mayor Peter Pomeroy, the only person representing Acton at Halton Hills council who doesn't support property tax assessment reform through Section 86, has at least one ally in town.

Yvonne Rosenquist, Church St., attended Friday's ward one council drop-in to discuss the Section 86 issue.

Councillors Terry Grubbe, Ross Knechtel and Dave Whiting all supported Section 86 when it was put to a vote last month. Pomeroy voted against it. The proposal was killed because the vote ended in a tie.

"I agree with Pomeroy on this one," Mrs. Rosenquist declared.

Why change to another assessment system just for the sake of changing? She said while she thinks there should be assessment reforms Section 86 shouldn't be adopted until all the facts are known.

She said she went to the drop-in to find out if there had been any further developments in the issue.

M.Z. Bennett Grade Four teacher Penny Carlos was elected vice-president of the Halton Elementary Teachers Association last week. Mrs. Carlos, who has been at the school for three years, has been a long time association representative. Mrs. Carlos also has some 19 years teaching experience in Halton and Toronto. HETA president Jerry Dunn was returned for another term. Mrs. Carlos' term is one year.



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