

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Comment raises questions on coming to grips with medical costs

To the editor of The Herald:

The editorial appearing in the November 15th issue of The Herald, written by Don O'Hearn, raises some interesting questions.

I recognize Mr. O'Hearn's concern, but the subject matter he deals with, namely, hospital-medical costs, is a very complex issue.

I would suggest that to come to grips with the questions raised, one would have to ask the question, "Who implemented and promised the citizens of Canada and the Provinces a comprehensive and almost unlimited health insurance plan?"

The answer is, of course the Political Parties with a majority in the parliaments of the provinces and of the country at the time of implementation.

In essence, the Federal and Provincial Governments became the insurance carrier for health services. Whether the open-ended, all embracing plan is economically viable or is actuarially sound is the first in a series of questions to be answered.

I would suggest, Mr. O'Hearn, that you are knocking on the wrong door when you question the efficiency of Hospital Boards and of the Medical Practitioners, who are expected to supply service under an open-ended plan.

As with most wonderful designed schemes by men (women), sometimes things "off go awry."

I think the question you should address yourself to is: "Is the Province of Ontario now saying they cannot afford such an elaborate program of health care?"

May the Lord preserve us from yet another study of Administrative Efficiency.

In simplistic terms, the only way of regulating health care costs is to put them back in the market place and determine what people are prepared to pay for them. Don't be "gulled" by the red herring that has been flopping around for so long about those grasping doctors and hospitals not being efficient.

Doctors disposable incomes have not increased over the past five years despite a cumulative inflation figure of about 50 per cent. Is it any wonder that our physicians are moving to the U.S.A.?

The following is an account rendered on behalf of a Toronto woman, to the Blue Cross Division, by a San Francisco Hospital, for a 52-day stay. The billing filled 67 pages, totalling \$46,138. Accommodation alone exceeded \$15,000.00.

Twenty-seven days in ICU at \$420.00 per day; daily lab charges added up to \$7,673; Drugs to \$5,549; Medical Supplies - \$4,921; Inhalation Therapy - \$4,900; Blood Bank - \$1,650; Use of Operating Room - \$1,573; and X-rays - \$1,519. Altogether there were 2,083 separate charges listed.

Quite apart from the size of some of the hospital's charges, and that's a matter for OHIP to judge, the number of them alone is a salutary reminder of what hospital care involves and why it costs as much as it does.

In Canada, the measure of

resource consumed, expressed in Gross National Product terms, is about 7.2 per cent - or about mid-way between the British and U.S. system. By all measurements used, i.e., mortality, morbidity statistics, etc., Canada's system of health care compares favour-

ably with other countries. Expressed on a per capita basis, Canadian costs are \$575.00.

In Ontario, the Provincial Governments expenditures for all health services has varied only between 4.1 per cent and 4.7 per cent of the Gross

Provincial Product for the years 1970-77. Payments to hospitals in the same period ran between 2.1 per cent and 2.4 per cent of the Gross Provincial Product, on a per capita basis, about \$475.00.

Under the Ontario Health Insurance Act, the insurance

plan, in all respects, is a reimbursement program. In other words, as residents of Ontario present their insurance certificate, they receive service, as prescribed under the Act. The expectations of the public, as per the Act, are just that - to receive service under the health plan when it is required.

The Hospitals of Ontario are now placed in a position of providing service which is not based on the principle of reimbursement for services rendered. The current principle of payment is based on Provincial Income and disbursement which is a far cry from the legal implication of the Health Insurance Act.

It is clearly the responsibility of the insurance carrier - in

this case the Provincial Government - to state what benefits the plan will or will not pay for and how much. The per diem figure quoted by Mr. O'Hearn is indeed a strange one, because it is higher by \$93.31 than the rate for our Hospital. On the costs quoted above by the San Francisco Hospital, is their per diem rate \$887.10?

Of course it isn't, and illustrates the danger of using a per diem cost to illustrate a point.

Where do you get your figures, Mr. O'Hearn, and do you really know what you are talking about?

A.E. Morris, Administrator
Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital



AND SANTA'S MAIL KEEPS COMING

Each day postman Kingsley Hodder's mailbag is heavier and heavier with letters from children in Halton Hills writing to Santa Claus care of the Herald office. Santa has promised to answer each letter received but whether he brings everything the kids say they want is something that won't be known until Christmas morning.

Stop Running Away
Bozer's manager: "For crying out loud, get in there and punch. Stop running away from him." "But he's already given me a broken nose and two broken ribs," the fighter claimed. "Well stop worrying, you can still see him!"

Misinterpreted, speaker says

To the editor of The Herald:

It appears that the media has interpreted my comments at last Sunday's citizens meeting to mean that the press has not done an adequate job of informing the people of Georgetown about Focal Properties Development proposal.

On the contrary my intent was not to criticize the papers but rather to point out that a great number of residents of the town do not understand what Focal is proposing.

Focal fulfilled its legal obligations by informing the adjoining land owners of its application but at the same time, whether unintentionally or otherwise, managed to restrict our council from informing the majority of residents about the proposed development.

I trust that your coverage of last Sunday's meeting and last

week's O.M.B. hearing will help inform other Georgetown people.

It is my firm belief that there are no significant benefits and numerous detrimental aspects in Focal's plans.

Any project which destroys the industrial-residential tax balance, imposes uneconomic demands on services and unnecessarily takes good agricultural land should be rejected.

Lawrence Duggan.

HALTON PIZZA
877-4922

weaving & macrame materials & supplies
handmade crafts & collectables

the weavers house
110 Mill St., Georgetown
Tues. - Sat. 10-5; Fri. 10-9 877-3621

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Robert H. Cranfield, D.C.
CHIROPRACTOR
10 Mountainview Rd. South
FOR APPOINTMENT CALL 877-4788

ROY H. EVANS, D. C.
Chiropractor
120 Guelph St. Phone 877-7333

PRINTING
PROFESSIONAL PRINTING
THE HERALD
877-2201

OPTOMETRISTS
Dr. R. R. Hamilton
OPTOMETRIST
Carrel Professional Building
16 Mountainview Road S.
Georgetown, Ontario
TELEPHONE 877-3771

Dr. W.B. Foley
OPTOMETRIST
Suite 204
10 Mountainview Rd. S.
GEORGETOWN
877-7770

CHIROPRACTORS
G. W. Corbett, D. C.
CHIROPRACTOR
70 Mill Street, Georgetown
For Appointment
PHONE: 877-6631

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
Goebelle & Wagner
37 Main Street South
Halton Hills, (Georgetown)
Ontario L7G 3G2
877-5155

SURVEYORS
R.E. Clipsham Limited
Surveyors • Consulting Engineers
16 Mountainview Road South Suite 101,
Halton Hills, (Georgetown)
Ontario L7G 3G2 877-2211 457-2002

GREY CUP PARTY

MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Reserve early to avoid disappointment

SATURDAY, NOV. 26th

NORTH HALTON GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

DANCING 9 P.M. to 1 A.M.
DAVE SMALLWOOD DJ

"SPECIAL" MENU
STEAK DINNER
ONLY \$7.37

WE HAVE OPENINGS FOR GOLF, CURLING, TENNIS AND SOCIAL MEMBERSHIPS AT REASONABLE RATES. WHY NOT ENJOY THE WINTER SEASON AT THIS EXCELLENT CLUB AND SHARE IN THE FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT AMONG GOOD FRIENDS.

Coming Events
At The Club
SPECIAL XMAS FAMILY BUFFET SUN. DEC. 4th
WINE & CHEESE PARTY, SAT. DEC. 10th.
NEW YEARS EVE PARTY, SAT. DEC. 31st.

For information, please call the Manager at 877-9901

NORTH HALTON GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
Maple Ave. & Trafalgar Rd. Georgetown **877-9901**

A CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF SONG

with selections from
HANDEL'S MESSIAH
*
FRI., DEC. 2
SAT., DEC. 3 8:00 p.m. SUN., DEC. 4

Adults: \$2.50 Children or Senior Citizens: \$1.50

TICKETS AT
GEORGETOWN FABRICS
Moore Park Plaza
IMAGE FASHIONS
Georgetown Market Centre

TOWELS 'n THINGS
Main Street
TOM JOHNSON
877-7234

WIN FREE BOOKS OF WINTARIO TICKETS WEEKLY PLAY

WINTARIO SWEEPSTAKES

HERE'S HOW TO ENTER
Each week the word Wintario will appear on several of the advertisements on this feature. Simply read the ads carefully and write down the names of the advertisers in which the word appears along with your name and address and mail to Wintario Editor c/o The Herald, 103 Main St., S., Georgetown. From the entries received each week a draw will be made and the winners notified.

LUBE-IT
GEORGETOWN'S 1ST DRIVE-IN DRIVE THRU LUBRICATION CENTRE
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY
MOST CARS 10 MIN.
LUBE-IT
5 Armstrong Ave. (Rear)
877-3383

SSGG
Sherborn and Gabriele
SPORTS LIMITED
Athletic Apparel & Footwear, and anything you need for golf, baseball, tennis or any other sport. Exercise equipment and bike repairs. Wintario
MILTON MALL 878-8497

Wintario
the weavers house
Weaving & Macrame Materials & Supplies
Handmade Crafts & Collectables & Books
Tues. Sat. 10-5 Fri. 10-9
110 Mill St. 877-3621

Duraclean
Foam Absorption Process
CARPETS AND UPHOLSTERY
No Soaking or Steaming
Velvets Oriental Rugs
And ALL Delicate Fabrics
DURACLEAN SPECIALISTS
877-4211

chicken Villa
Colonel Sanders boys and girls make it "finger lickin' good"
116 A Guelph 877-5241

SCORPION SNOWMOBILES
SALES AND SERVICE
ROGER'S SHELL
Hwy. 7 Norval 877-8123

The **CARPET Gallery** LIMITED
CARPET AND VINYL FLOOR COVERING
348 Guelph St. 877-4474

ERAMOSA FLOWER MART
"THE PURPLE PLACE"
3 ml. W. of Acton
• HANGING PLANTS
• GREEN PLANTS
TERRARIUM PLANTS
2 for \$1.00
Member U.F.C. (511) 854-4771

KECK'S BEAUTY CHALET
126 Mill St.
SPECIALIZING IN UP TO DATE STYLING
Wintario
877-1214
(Formerly Peggy Ann's Beauty Shop)

THE EARLY YEARS Featuring
Ladybird
And **T.BIRD**
CHILDRENS WEAR
Milton Mall - 878-7370

BIG OR SMALL
WE FIX 'EM ALL
DON'S AUTO SERVICE
Small Car Experts
877-8122
5 Armstrong Ave.

747 DINING LOUNGE
• Open 7 Days A Week
• Luncheon Specials
• Organ Music During The Supper Hour
• Live Entertainment Thurs. Fri. & Sat.
• Licensed Wintario
4 Mill St. E. 853-1011
Acton

SUPERIOR RUSTPROOFING LTD.
3 WAY PROTECTION
Rustproofing Exterior Paint Interior Seats & Rugs
71 Mountainview Rd. N. 877-1610

LAST WEEK'S WINNER * **MRS. FRANCES VIEYRA**
390 Debra Blvd.