

Julian Reed's report from Queen's Park

Teaching techniques in fighting smoking

By JULIAN REED, MPP
Halton-Burlington
KREVER REPORT

The report of the Ontario Royal Commission appointed to investigate abuses in the disclosure of personal health records was released at the end of last year. After nearly three years of enquiry, Mr. Justice Horace Krever of the Ontario Supreme Court proposed some 170 legislative changes aimed at enhancing the confidentiality of health records while legalizing certain forms of disclosure.

Terms of reference of the commission, established in December, 1977, called for a review of pertinent legislation to ascertain whether confidentiality of patients' records was being properly protected, and an investigation into any improper activities or violations of the laws.

The commission's report confirmed the existence of widespread abuses, but advised against prosecution of offenders, suggesting the real fault lies in the system. Judge Krever said that his review of 77 statutes and regulations showed "no consistent treatment or coherent policy regarding the confidentiality of health information", that he had found little in the way of restrictions on access to health records except, ironically, for the patients themselves.

"In Ontario, patients have very limited rights of access to health information about themselves. Only six statutes and regulations expressly confer such rights, and the information to which access is granted is restricted in scope." The Krever Report proposes that patients be given a qualified right of access to their own health records and a means of having errors in those records corrected. A provincially appointed health commissioner could hear appeals for denial of such access on grounds it would harm the patient, and would also hear appeals against refusals to correct patients' records. Confidentiality could be protected by a host of new laws and rules to be followed by hospitals, government agencies, health-care personnel, employers and others who possess health records.

DOESN'T BAN
Recognizing that conflicts may develop between the needs for privacy and public protection, the report does not actually ban disclosure. "There will be seen throughout the eternal conflict between the obligation to, and the rights of, patients and the public's need for, or interest in, protection."

Only one sanction is proposed for breaches of confidentiality, and that is resort to the courts in the form of a lawsuit. The Report recommends that any patient whose health information has been disclosed be given the right to sue for a minimum of \$10,000 both the person "who unjustifiably discloses" the information and

anyone who induced that person to make the disclosure. The main innovation would be the \$10,000 minimum and the absence of a time limit for launching the lawsuit. At present, a suit for breach of a provincial statute is limited to actual damages suffered, and must be initiated within six months.

Introducing his Report, Judge Krever says his enquiry began as a modest study of provincial legislation and administrative processes, but it soon became much more ambitious due to disclosures indicating the magnitude of abuses taking place. Although the Report includes sharp criticism of people and institutions, Judge Krever gives two reasons for recommending against any prosecutions. First of all, he wants attention focused "on the need for future protection rather than on past behaviour", and secondly prosecution would be seen as discriminatory, because "it is reasonably clear that those offenders whose activities came to our attention during the enquiry comprise only a fraction of those engaged in conduct of the same type".

NO CONSENT
For example, certain lawyers were identified as involved in obtaining health information without patients' consent. "It is known, however, that the practices illustrated were not confined to the named lawyers but, on the contrary, extended throughout that part of the legal profession participating in personal-injury litigation."

The second volume of the three-volume, 1,626-page report, examines the role of

police, both as occasional applicants for health information and as regulators of private investigators. It includes sharp criticism of the role played by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police during the investigative hearings and a portrayal of the private investigation industry in Ontario as "out of control". In this connection, the report states that responsibility for regulating private eyes and security guards should stay with the registration branch of the Ontario Provincial Police but recommends the branch be given more powers and personnel to carry out its mandate more effectively.

Most of the recommendations relating to the police deal with procedures to be followed in providing health information to law enforcement agencies. The over-all effect would be to allow the police continued access on presentation of search warrants and to permit, although not require hospitals to disclose some types of information to police without patients' consent.

Cutting Costs
Buy food staples such as flour, sugar, and corn meal only once or twice a month if possible. Most grocery products cost less per serving when you buy larger packages. Become familiar with brand names so you can recognize price changes. A price increase in one brand might tell you to compare brands and perhaps switch to a lower-priced brand.

Schools may have better success in preventing youngsters from taking up cigarette smoking if they teach the immediate and long-term dangers on the human body, a new study suggests.

Researchers from North Dakota State University have found that when youngsters received such information, they became more resolved not to smoke than did students in three other groups.

Kevin McCaul, assistant professor of psychology, said the 72 seventh-graders included in the study were formed into four groups; one received no physiological information but simply completed forms measuring attitudes and knowledge on smoking; a second received only information about immediate effects; a third received only information about long term effects; and the fourth group received information about both immediate and long term effects.

Students were tested immediately after the instruction and again two weeks later. After the data was analyzed by computer, it was found that students in the fourth group emerged with the strongest intentions against smoking. "The important thing we learned from the printouts," Mr. McCaul said, "is that programs designed to prevent smoking may be most effective when students are told about the immediate effects of smoking as well as the long-term effects."

"Most students already know the long-term effects such as lung cancer and heart disease but are unaware of immediate effects."

To find out more about the

adverse health effects of cigarette smoking, contact the Halton Lung Association - the Christmas Seal people. And if you have not already done so, please send in your Christmas Seal contribution today.

Pierced Potatoes
To avoid soggy baked potatoes pierce your potatoes before placing them in an oven or immediately after removing them from the oven to permit steam to escape.



Color
Humans and apes are the only mammals capable of distinguishing color although birds and insects can do so to varying degrees. Experiments have shown that nearly all people who are not color-blind see things in a very similar way, with age tending to reduce the human's sensitivity to color.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Post-fire event
5 Nigerian capital
10 Novel outline
11 Inhabit
12 If not
13 Fluster
14 Born (Fr.)
15 Be well - of
16 An LBJ beagle
17 Capricorn is one
19 "East of Eden" star
20 Au naturel
21 Gaelic
22 Cubic meter
24 Speed merchant
25 Slack, in TV reruns
26 Vaughn, in TV reruns
27 Irish river
28 Fully developed
31 "Lafayette, we - here"
32 Snug spot
33 Reed or Harrison
34 Bit of corn
36 Trustworthy
37 Make up
38 Czech river
39 Down on one's luck

TODAY'S ANSWER



DOWN
1 Exhausted
2 German river
3 Chicken out
4 Summer, in Nantes
5 Top role
6 Picnic pest
7 Buck up
8 Being rented
9 Less merciful
11 In a - (speedily)
15 Tease
18 Lady's item
19 Cut and stubbled
22 Arrive after curfew
23 Earthly
24 Horse
26 Fish
29 Allude to
30 Bring to bear
32 Refuse
35 Bunline
36 Egyptian deity

from HISTORY'S SCRAPBOOK DATES AND EVENTS FROM YESTERYEARS

February 12, 1973 - First contingent of U.S. prisoners of war released by North Vietnam.
February 13, 1902 - Secretary of the Treasury Albert Gallatin proposes federal aid for building roads.
February 14, 1886 - First trainload of California oranges leaves Los Angeles for the East.
February 15, 1933 - Chicago Mayor Anton J. Cermak fatally wounded during assassination attempt on life of President elect Franklin D. Roosevelt in Miami.

We are your local agent for

Allstate

and other fine companies

For further information on

- HOMEOWNER
- FARM
- COTTAGE
- AUTO



Call Hugh Hunter at
W. F. HUNTER

REAL ESTATE & INSURANCE

122 Guelph St., Georgetown

877-4441

IT'S THIS SATURDAY!!



THE DOGS ARE COMING
The Invitational Dog Sled Race is open to anyone with a sled plus 3 or 5 dogs - call Tony Evers 457-1797 or Bill Pshyk 877-6702.

THE TOWN COUNCIL BULLIES WANT TO PLAY MONSTERBALL!
Get a team of 10 together to push the 7 foot ball across the other team and their goal line. Call Pam Slavin 877-6966, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

THE KINSMEN'S NOVICE CAR RALLY
Still needs more entries. 100 Km. No experience necessary. Call Brian Markham at 877-6091 for details.

THE ELK'S LODGE BROOMBALL TOURNAMENT still has room for a few more teams - Call Jim Barrett 877-6640.

the 2nd Annual

HALTON HILLS WINTERFEST

SATURDAY, FEB. 7th

at the Georgetown Fairgrounds

Co-ordinated by the Georgetown Jaycees

- Newfoundland Club - Hockey Showdown - Morning and Afternoon.
- Enter the Nail Driving Contest. First Prize is McGibbon Hotel's Golden Spike Award.
- Show your pioneering skills - try your ability in the Optimist Club Log Sawing Contest.
- Bring your skis and try the trails thru the park and Golf Club (trails laid out by Georgetown High School Outlets Club).
- Donut Eating Contest for the kids.
- Try your skills in Snowball Throwing Contests.
- Toboggan Relay Races for the kids.
- Food & Refreshments in the Armouries.
- Free Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides for the kids.
- Deep Snow Tug-of-War
- Ice Rink for family skating
- See the Outlets Club Ice House
- Winter Equipment Exhibits in the Armouries
- Snowmobile Equipment & Safety Demonstrations
- Get the gang together and enter the Kiwanis Snow Sculpture Contest in the park.
- Finish the day's activities at the Deep Freeze Celebration Dance in the Armouries Saturday evening \$6.00 per couple. Tickets available from Jaycee members or call 877-8768.

Your entry at the gate gives you a free chance to win \$200.00 worth of food.
(Courtesy of Miracle Food Mart)

Entry:
Kids..... 25¢
Adults..... 50¢
Families..... \$1.00

NEW! at Georgetown Tire Sales

Over 24,000 miles? It's time to have your brakes checked!



BRAKE SERVICE

Phone for appointment now!

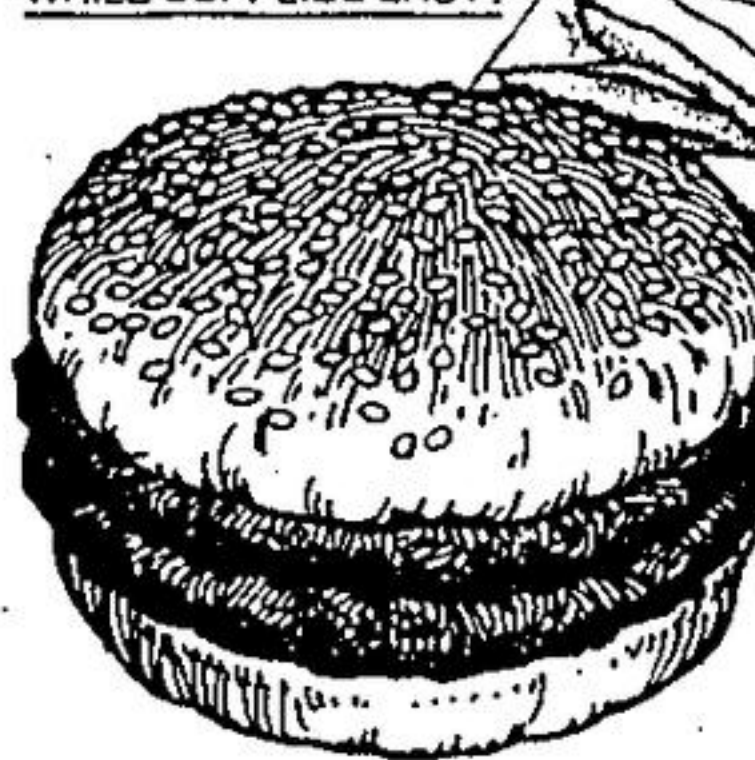
Georgetown Tire Sales Ltd.
345 Guelph St., Georgetown
877-1535

GOOD YEAR

IT'S A BIG DEAL!

This super-size glass is yours to keep. Here's how!

Buy our best-selling Double Burger. Add an order of crispy fries and a large 16-ounce soft drink, all at the regular price and you've got yourself a meal! Plus you get to keep the good-looking, super-size Dairy Queen glass. Free. It doesn't cost you a penny more. That's a big deal on a big meal - and a super-size glass! Get it at participating Dairy Queen Brazier stores. WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!



We treat you right!

Dairy Queen

brazier

Guelph and Rexway

REGISTERED TRADEMARK CANADIAN TRADEMARK OFFICE AMERICAN DAIRY QUEEN CORPORATION

877-5213

FOBERT
H. Fobert Real Estate Ltd.
Realtor

EXCELLENCE AWARD "IN CUSTOMER RELATIONS"

YOU CAN COUNT ON THE COMMERCE

CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE
R.V. (RON) WHITTAKER
MANAGER
Guelph and Mountainview
Halton Hills
(Georgetown) Ontario L7G 4T1
(416) 877-8863

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING ADVERTISERS

COMPLIMENTS OF
KENNEDY SPECIALTIES
Manufacturing Ltd.
43 Main St.
Erin
833-9067
Flags & Specialties

COMPLIMENTS OF
TAYLOR AUTOMOTIVE CENTRE
GENERAL REPAIRS
CARS & TRUCKS
5 Armstrong Ave.
Unit 1B
877-7464

COMPLIMENTS OF
AMOS PLUMBING
175 Rexway Drive,
Georgetown
877-4914

Congratulations
JAYCEES
on your 2nd Annual
WINTERFEST
ROOS TRAVEL
877-0138

COMPLIMENTS OF
GEORGETOWN CHRYSLER
15 Mountainview Rd.
North
Georgetown

Good Luck Winterfest
ROYAL BANK
Main Branch
Georgetown

COMPLIMENTS OF
POPE & STARRETT
Chartered Accountants
232 Guelph St.
877-6984

Good Luck!
EGO FASHIONS
10 Mountainview S.
877-1100

COMPLIMENTS OF
CANADIAN TIRE
ASSOCIATE STORE
236 Guelph St.
877-5289

COMPLIMENTS OF
INDUSTRIAL ROOFING
Steeles Ave. E.
Homby
878-9662