

Doctors support OMA strategy

By SANDY CAMPBELL, Herald Staff

Georgetown doctors decided to support the Ontario Medical Association by signing a declaration last Tuesday stating they would extra-bill if the government passes a bill forbidding it.

They met last Tuesday (Jan. 28) with District President of the O.M.A., Dr. Tom Dickson. Over 90 per cent of Georgetown doctors, 18, attended, Dr. Elliott Halparin said.

Should the banning of extra-billing become law in Ontario, Georgetown doctors, in support of the O.M.A., plan to extra-bill patients by 25 cents. The extra money will be donated to charity, Dr. Halparin said.

"Physicians tend to be independent. I've never seen such a disparate group so united," Dr. Halparin said of his colleagues at Tuesday's meeting.

No further action by the Georgetown doctors is planned. There is a meeting sponsored by the O.M.A. tonight in Barrie that at least half the Georgetown doctors will attend, Dr. Halparin said.

"There is no longer a necessity for Georgetown doctors to get together to discuss extra-billing at this point," Dr.

Halparin said. The doctors have shown they will support the O.M.A. Even if they would like to see the protest of extra-billing handled differently they will not upset unity by forming splinter groups, Dr. Halparin said.

Local support of the O.M.A. is strong. Many doctors have received support from their patients, Dr. Halparin said. Doctors support of the O.M.A. could go as far as a rally at Queen's Park if the government takes steps to make the Health Care Accessibility Act law. That is part of the O.M.A.'s plan, Dr. Halparin said.

Georgetown doctors are also prepared to have more meetings if the government takes steps to ban extra-billing, Dr. Halparin stated.

Pre-season workout

There are still school gymnasiums available for pre-season conditioning. Call the Recreation and Parks Department at 877-5185 ext. 261 to book some space today!

Arts debate still brews

Although there were no results from an hour long discussion Monday night between Halton Hills Arts Council members, town councillors and the director of recreation, feelings were positive about the development of an arts policy.

"It really was a good exercise and we understand the confusion," Arts Council Chairman Wendy Buykes said after the meeting.

The group intends to meet again, but no dates have been set for continuing the discussion on who should develop an arts policy for the town.

An arts policy committee was set up to do just that by the Arts Council over a year ago. Last month, the committee members voted to disband and allow a new committee with the same goals to be established, but under town council's auspices and with membership from all walks of life.

Councillors are having difficulty in agreeing to what the Arts Council wants. So far, they support an arts policy for the town "in principle" and are willing to work with the existing arts policy committee set up by the Arts Council.

"I think we're all talking about the same thing. We all want this but it's just how to go about it," Ms. Buykes said.

The Arts Council wants the arts policy to be made up by people from a variety of backgrounds so that it's seen as a community policy and not one just

for the "arties" who created it.

If town council doesn't change its stance, Ms. Buykes said the Arts Council will advertise for community volunteers to join the committee.

"I can see they have a responsibility to taxpayers to not get into something that's going to cost an arm and a leg, but we don't know what those costs will be," Ms. Buykes said.



The Georgetown Choral Society put on a pair of concerts this week at St. George's Anglican Church. The Friday and Saturday evening performances were entitled "Wine and Roses". Here members sing one of the selections they performed at the concerts. (Herald photo)

Town awards

Once again, the Town of Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department is seeking nominations for their annual awards evening.

The evening is April 2, but nomination forms must be in the hands of the Recreation and Parks

Department by Feb. 14.

The evening is designed to honor outstanding achievements in culture, community service and sports at provincial, national, or international levels. For more information call 877-5185 ext. 276.

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