

Cheque-mate



Margaret Hoggett (left) and Virginia Hulme were smiling Friday when Keith Sptzer came by with a nice cheque to help the Georgetown Girls Pipe Band. The money, raised during the recent Georgetown Highland Games, will be used to help the girls travel overseas to play. (Herald photo)

RC Speyside school depends on court case

By SANDY CAMPBELL, Herald Staff

Will there be a Speyside Public School in September or a Bishop Reding Secondary School?

The Halton Roman Catholic School Board is leasing Speyside for one year. In September it will become Bishop Reding Secondary School.

But that lease could be broken if the Speyside Area Ratepayers Association win their court case against the Halton Board of Education.

If the Speyside group wins the court case all the recommendations of the Halton Hills Consolidation Committee will also be reversed.

That court date will be in late July or early August, Wally Beever, the Board's Director of education, told the Herald Friday. The date should be set by tomorrow (Thursday), said Ron Buckton, secretary-treasurer of the Speyside Area Ratepayers Association.

The separate school board feels the Speyside group will not win their case, said Cliff Byrnes. In court cases similar to this one, the court has always decided in favor of the board of education, said Mr. Byrnes, director of the separate school board.

The lease with the separate board will be cancelled should the decision go against the public board, said Jerry Jenkins, the public board's superintendent of business services. Director Beever does not believe the public board has done anything wrong. The public board is asked by

Motorcycle crash

A former resident of Waubesa, now living in Bramalea, was taken to hospital after a motorcycle accident.

James Winteler, 20, was operated on yesterday at Credit Valley Hospital in Mississauga for leg injuries he received.

Police say the accident happened Monday around 10:30 p.m. near Steeles Avenue and the Ninth Line. The accident involved a collision with a motorcycle and a car.

The matter is being investigated by police and no other details were available at press time.

Strike over

MDs at work, but protest continues

By SANDY CAMPBELL, Herald Staff

The strike is over, but Georgetown doctors will continue to protest Bill 94.

Most striking doctors in town returned to their offices July 2 and they were seeing all patients. During the strike they were seeing only those with serious problems.

Even though Bill 94 has been passed, doctors will continue to protest it, Dr. Don Trant said. The doctors returned to their offices because

they did not believe they were accomplishing anything any longer, he said.

Doctors are re-thinking their tactics, their ways of showing disfavor with legislation banning extra-billing. Part of those new tactics were resignations from Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital committees.

June 26 they voted in favor of the resignations. Committees audit care at the hospital.

The doctors feel they must protect themselves from further restrictions they believe Bill 94 will bring.

"They (the government) say nothing else is coming. We can't believe that. Any place else, other restrictions came," Dr. Trant said.

The doctors believe there is a chance Bill 94 will be amended, Dr. Trant said. It may be amended in court. Usually it takes such disputes with the government two or three years to be dealt with, but in this case Dr. Trant hopes the process will be speeded up by the government.

Amendments to extra-billing legislation are rare, Dr. Trant said. Saskatchewan had a Bill amended, he said.

Doctors won't be waiting for a decision on an amendment before taking more action of their own. Another strike is a possibility. "Whether we are back for good or not is hard to know," Dr. Trant said.

Doctors discuss tactics from day to day, and as of Thursday no new strategies of protest were planned, Dr. Trant said. Resigning from hospital committees is a lasting action left over from the strike. Seventeen of 18 local doctors attending a June 26 meeting at the hospital voted to resign from committees.

"The motion said that in view of the fact that participation in hospital committee work is voluntary and depends on co-operation between the government and medical staff, because we feel there's a lack of co-operation, we feel we can't serve on those committees," Dr. Trant said.

As of Thursday doctors had not

had a meeting since the decision to resign from committees was made.

Since returning to their offices the doctors have not been overworked, Dr. Trant said. As of Thursday many people were not aware they were back in their offices.

Many patients have shown their support of the doctors' strike. What they did not agree with was some of the tactics used, Dr. Trant said.

"I have not heard any complaints from anyone. People suffered only mild inconveniences in the Georgetown area," Dr. Trant said. The Georgetown emergency room treated many patients from outside of Halton Hills, he said.

Going on strike was a difficult choice for doctors, Dr. Trant said. "We've taken a lot of criticism," he said.

One good thing that has come out of the strike has been the public's increased awareness of the medical system, Dr. Trant said.

Doctor speaks out without a rebuttal

Dr. Elliot Halparin didn't have to worry about a government rebuttal during his opening remarks as he chastised the provincial Liberals.

At a public forum to discuss the issues surrounding Bill 94, Dr. Halparin pointed at an empty chair on stage.

"Next to Dr. Boyd Hoddinott is an empty chair - it's (MPP) Don Knight's chair. We asked for him to come, or to send any other representative from the government," Dr. Halparin said.

The reason Don Knight didn't attend the Georgetown doctors' public forum was because he had prior commitments, said the MPP for Halton-Burlington.

He said his staff member was contacted by the doctors Monday about the meeting, but the message wasn't relayed to him until Wednesday morning. The meeting took place the same night at the Halton Hills Cultural Centre on Church Street, Georgetown. Regardless, since Bill 94 has been legislated, Mr. Knight said he didn't know how fruitful it would have been for him to attend.

Before opening up the discussion to questions from the audience, Dr. Halparin explained why the doctors were opposing legislation which prevents MDs from extra-billing.

The issue was never about money, he said. The government wants total control of the health care system and that means a deteriorating system, he said.

The Liberals are indirectly attacking health rights and it's been difficult for doctors to explain the issue, he said.

"If 4 per cent of doctors opt out, why are 75 per cent of doctors closing their offices, if it's only about money?" he said.

"Who has served you better, your family physician or the government," he asked.

Dr. Halparin used an example to show how the health care system is deteriorating.

Two days ago a thermography clinic was closed in Ontario because they weren't making money at the OHIP rate, he said.

the Ministry of Education to establish a consolidation policy, Director Beever said.

The Speyside group believes the Board's policy was not followed and much of their case will be built around this accusation, Mr. Buckton said. Further, they do not believe the Halton Board adhered to Ministry of Education guidelines.

Mr. Buckton would not comment on the details of the accusations because that would mean getting into the details of the case before it goes to court, he said. He did say that this case is different than three other Ontario cases in which the decision went in favor of the school.

"Some previous cases were more to do with a specific closing rather than the whole report," Mr. Buckton said. The Speyside group is challenging all aspects of the consolidation committee's report. The court will decide whether the committee followed "Board policies, Ministry of Education guidelines, whether it was fair and proper and followed a democratic process," Mr. Buckton said.

If the court sides with the Speyside group everything will go back to the way things were at the end of this school year. Soeyside and Wrigglesworth public schools will remain open. The consolidation process will be done again, but this time properly," Mr. Buckton said.

The Halton separate school board is prepared for the possibility Speyside may remain a public school. Portables would be set up at Milton's Our Lady of Victory school property. They would be for between 200 and 220 students expected to attend Grade 9 in September at Bishop Reding Secondary School, Director Byrnes said.

If the court sides with the Halton Board of Education, Speyside would only be used as a high school by the separate board for a maximum of three years, Director Byrnes said. In September, 1987 about 400 students (Grade 9 and 10) will be attending the north Halton high school. Every year another grade is added.

In three years Speyside school would be filled to capacity, Director Byrnes said. He hopes the high school in Milton will be built before then.

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