

Outlook on Halton Hills



Pretty in yellow

The sun was shining, the bouquets of daffodils were blooming and the Canadian Cancer Society kick-off in Georgetown Wednesday morning was a resounding success. Helping to make the breakfast event at the North Halton Golf and Country Club a profitable affair were members of the actively group associated with the Georgetown unit. They make crafts for sales and their items can be purchased at the Cancer Society office on Guelph Street Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Seen here are (left to right) Bernice Robinson, Nancy Slein, Betty Hill and Norma Carlisle.

Warmed by sun

A heat pump system that would be energy saving is being considered for the new Halton Hills municipal complex. Last week, the architect for the proposed 37,000 square foot building said a system whereby air warmed by the sun would transfer its heat to water where it would be stored until needed, is being looked at.

Hospital emergency dept. does have 24 hour staff

When it comes to information about the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital, the Emergency Service Report released by the Halton District Health Council is already out of date, says the hospital's executive director.

The first draft of the report was completed in July 1986 and the final report was finished in October. An announcement to the press by the District Health Council was not made until January 1987.

Executive Director Mark Rochon told The Herald there is 24-hour emergency service at the Georgetown hospital. When the first draft of the report was issued in July, night emergency nursing coverage was provided by supervisory personnel, said Mr. Rochon.

Prior to Oct. 14, it was the responsibility of the hospital's nursing supervisor to respond to emergency care needs during the midnight to 7:30 a.m. shift, Mr. Rochon indicated.

Since then, existing resources have been re-allocated to provide 24 hours a day, seven days per week nursing coverage in the emergency department, he said. One member of the nursing staff is now assigned specifically to the hospital's emergency department during nights.

"Her prime responsibility is the emergency room and if there is a greater need in the hospital for her nursing services, the nurse could go to relieve that problem—but the nurse's prime responsibility is the emergency room," Mr. Rochon said.

The Health Council report noted the demand for 24 hour emergency service personnel existed at the Georgetown hospital. It also said the Georgetown hospital was the only hospital in Halton Region without emergency department staff after midnight. However, since October 1986, a nurse, primarily responsible for the emergency department during the midnight to 7:30 a.m. shift has been assigned to this task.

Now that the hospital has made the changes, it is going even further. A request has been made for additional staff in the emergency department

during peak periods to reduce waiting time for patients, a problem which exists in most hospital emergency departments, said the executive director.

"We have to see what the Ministry of Health has to say about it (the staffing request). It's been recognized in the District Health Council's report. We've made changes to alleviate the problems internally and we'll wait and make our budget submission and include in that our request for additional nursing staff," Mr. Rochon said.

All doctors have basic cardiac life support qualifications, although, not all have advanced cardiac life support qualifications, he said.

The Health Council report says Georgetown and Milton hospitals share a radiologist. Mr. Rochon says that was never true. Georgetown hospital has its own full-time radiologist on staff. Cambridge provided a radiologist for March and April 1986 while Georgetown looked to fill the position, he said.

"The radiologist started work in May. We had a radiologist for a couple of years before that and then he left and went back to New

Brunswick. We then had a two-month period where we used services from Cambridge while we recruited," Mr. Rochon explained.

As for the hospital's disaster plan, it was developed in 1975 and has been updated on at least three occasions, the most recent being June 1986, he said.

The Health Council's Emergency Health Service Report is to go before Regional council this month.

Jane Sanders of the Health Council said the report was begun in early 1985 and data used in the report is about a year old.

"We're in the process of getting feedback on the report," she said. "Some of the things it mentions have already been acted on."

The assistant executive director pointed out the improved Georgetown hospital's 24-hour emergency coverage as an example.

"We were really thrilled," Mrs. Sanders said of the re-allocation of resources.

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