

## Chamber expresses views on telephone disruptions

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce doesn't have to worry about that long distance feeling.

The Chamber let Bell Canada know of its concerns at a recent director's meeting in which two Bell representatives attended. "The business community is very concerned with the level of phone service in Georgetown. Many businesses rely solely on the phone and a disruption in service shuts them down," a Chamber press release says. "It is important to make our concerns known to Bell Canada, so that a high level of service will be maintained."

Nancy Creed from Bell said that Georgetown is served by two exchanges, 877 and 873. The 877 exchange is using technology which is at least 20 years old and is at its maximum capacity, she said. This

results in many of the problems that consumers suffer, especially on rainy days. The 877 exchange will not be upgraded until the year 2,000, the Chamber statement indicates.

The 873 exchange uses digital switches which are state of the art, thus allowing custom-calling features such as call forwarding and call waiting. Plans are being made for 1,900 additional lines to be added in December which should handle all of Georgetown's requirements until 1991.

Ms. Creed also talked about toll-free calling to Toronto and

Mississauga from Georgetown. Residents would no longer pay long distance rates to Toronto, but their monthly phone bills would go from \$8.75 to \$20.35. Businesses would pay \$67.97 instead of the average \$29.10 per month cost. Before the change to toll-free calling, 51 per cent of residents would have to approve of the program, she said.

Chamber directors were also told of a long distance service called Selectel which can reduce rates by one-third. Customers pay a monthly rate and then receive a one-third discount on all long distance charges to Toronto exchanges.

## Dr. Ford hearing

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"We think it's significant that Dr. Hoddnott wrote those minutes," said Dr. Ford's counsel Gaven Mackenzie. But, the lawyer agreed to the use of Dr. Hoddnott's account of the meetings.

Dr. Landry then reviewed Dr. Hoddnott's minutes and took exception to two points. He later agreed to discuss the meetings.

Following the release of Dr. Gall's report to the medical advisory committee January 9, 1985, MAC members were concerned about: the quality of patients' histories; a lack of documented investigation; lack of attempts at hormonal manipulation; the relatively high rates of dilatage and curettage (D and C) operations; Dr. Ford's handling of cervical lesions and infant growth.

In earlier testimony Dr. Landry told the Board he had said "repeatedly" that Dr. Ford should see the report as soon as possible. Dr. Ford did not see the Gall review until one year later.

"It was obvious that there were a number of concerns that should be dealt with," Dr. Landry said. "I felt the best way to deal with those concerns was for Dr. Ford to see the reports."

The MAC also looked at a review conducted by Dr. V.B. Kerdiak of Humber Memorial Hospital in March of 1985.

In November of 1986 the Medical Staff at GDMH voted to cease and desist all investigations of Dr. Ford and to reinstate his privileges. Dr. Landry abstained from voting, favoring a compromise solution that would include regular reviews of Dr. Ford's work, he said.

Dr. Landry stressed to the Board that Dr. Ford had shown a consistent "willingness to co-operate and to improve his practice." In January 1986, a hysterectomy committee was formed. Dr. Landry said Dr. Ford "would co-operate with it, but he was not elated."

"As far as I know, that committee never met," Dr. Landry added.

The appeals board also heard testimony from Dr. Al Thompson, Chief of Staff at GDMH before Boyd Hoddnott assumed the position in 1983.

Dr. Thompson told the Board he did not share the concerns about Dr. Ford's practice to the same degree expressed in the Gall report.

He had approached Dr. Ford in 1983 concerning four hysterectomies, conducted earlier that year, in which the uteri showed normal pathology or no signs of infection. Under Dr. Thompson's chairmanship the Tissue and Audit Committee at GDMH conducted a survey of the number of women admitted to the hospital with vaginal bleeding between December 1982 and December 1983.

Dr. Thompson told the Board that Dr. Ford provided him with satisfactory explanations for the cases in question.

## Equalization money for trucking away waste

The Region's decision to build a new transfer station Monday carries with it one temporary benefit for which Halton Hills councillors have long been fighting - equalization costs for hauling waste.

Beginning Jan. 1 the Region will pay for Halton Hills transfer station charges and haulage costs from the transfer station (on Armstrong Avenue) to the Walker Brothers landfill site in Niagara Falls.

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