

Departing director described as "a prince of a man"

By BEN DUMMETT
The Herald

When Mark Rochon, the executive director of Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital and the Bennett Health Care Centre leaves his position this October, he'll do so knowing he accomplished a major goal - the elimination of the health care centre's \$6 million capital and operating expenditure debt.

But Mr. Rochon said he couldn't have achieved the goal alone, because "it was so great."

"The hospital staff and (hospital) board of directors deserves a lot of the credit in helping the hospital over its financial difficulties," he said in an interview Monday.

After what Mr. Rochon termed as 18 months of hard negotiating with the province, the ministry of health and the hospital settled on a financial agreement in September, in which the Georgetown hospital and the Bennett Centre were joined as one corporation. As well, the province agreed to help finance the Bennett Centre's deficit.

The centre's deficit resulted from there not being enough provincial capital grants to finance



Mark Rochon

the building when it was constructed in 1985, said Mr. Rochon.

Mr. Rochon, who is leaving his current position to become President and Chief Executive Officer for Humber Memorial Hospital in Toronto, is doing so for "career development."

Calling Mr. Rochon a "prince of a man," the Chairman of the hospital's Board of Directors, Graeme Goebelle, said Mr. Rochon will be difficult to replace.

"To replace a prince, you have to find a king, and there aren't many around," said Mr. Goebelle.

The board has hired an executive search company to help it find a replacement, but Mr. Goebelle predicted it wouldn't have a suitable candidate until early 1991. "But we might be lucky and have someone sooner," he added.

Mr. Rochon said another accomplishment during his tenure was "to encourage the hospital's middle management group to become responsible and accountable" for their individual jurisdictions.

Mr. Rochon said he achieved this goal by involving staff in the hospital's various committees.

"I feel strongly that to do patient care you have to participate in the management of the organization."

It's this cooperative approach to health care, explained Mr. Rochon, that will enable the hospital "to plan for a range of services to take it through the turn of the century." Cooperation will be required not only on the part of the employees but also on the part of the hospital board and the public.

As executive director, Mark Rochon, along with the staff, have made the community more aware of what it is doing. "We've opened up the board meetings on a quarterly basis and used the media to inform the community of what it can expect as patients at the hospital," he said.

As for the future of health care in Halton Hills, Mr. Rochon said as a primary care facility we (the hospital can provide most community health care needs but we have to recognize some services will require highly-specialized facilities.

Mr. Rochon went on to say the hospital can't do it alone. The hospital will have to form partnerships with other groups such as the private sector to provide some services. He pointed to current negotiations between the hospital and a private company to build a seniors residence. The name of the company will be announced in the next couple of months, said Mr. Rochon.

"I couldn't have accomplished what I did without the strong sense of team spirit that exists among all levels of hospital staff and the community."



50th anniversary

Eva and George Sargeant toast their good fortune at the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary, held at St. Alban's Church in Glen Williams on Saturday. The party was attended by many friends and relatives who wished the couple well and hoped they would continue to celebrate more anniversaries in the years to come. (Herald photo)

Norval post office a vital part of community

Norval postmaster, Joan Carter, said she felt "sick" after hearing late last week from Canada Post Officials that the post office will be closed when she retires at the beginning of October.

"The post office has been in Norval since 1836 and it's been a part of my life for the last 32 years," said Ms. Carter Monday.

"It (the post office), isn't just for mail, it is an information centre, (for newcomers to Norval)," said Ms. Carter.

According to Ms. Carter, current over-the-counter service will go to a franchise if one can be found. The process of mail delivery has yet to be determined, she said. But the postmaster said a public meeting will be held before a decision on delivery is made.

Ms. Carter wouldn't speculate what will happen to delivery service after her retirement.

No one from Canada Post could be reached for comment before press time.

Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner said, "I want the level of postal service to be maintained or increased, but not cut, (once Ms. Carter retires.)"

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