

Community News

Georgetown Hospital will meet changing community needs



To meet the changing needs of the community, Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital will offer more specialty clinics and in-home medical care, citizens were told at the hospital's annual general meeting last Thursday night.

"We are planning to develop two more specialty clinics," revealed the hospital's Board of Directors Chairman, Graeme Goebelle. "One will educate seniors with back problems about proper seating and the other will provide hearing assessments."

The said the hospital is particularly interested in hearing from the seniors in the community. "For that reason, we've initiated a special study on seniors," he said. "A half-day forum will take place later this year to help us determine our senior's health care and recreational needs and the role the hospital can play in meeting those needs."

Mr. Goebelle also stated the hospital has initiated a five-year strategic plan to formally review the hospital's progress to prepare the hospital for the challenges of the future.

Chief of Medical Staff, Dr. Don Trant, also gave a report at the meeting and he discussed the medical staff's plan to explore alternative forms of health care.

"We are participating in a two-year pilot project which will enable selected patients to be treated in their own homes with medical, nursing and other services that are usually only available in the hospital setting," he said.

"As the general trend in health care is moving towards community-based care, it is essential that we gain experience and expertise in alternative forms of health-care delivery."

He also mentioned the hospital is undergoing a time of transition.

"Departmentalization, or the division of medical services into categories such as obstetrics or surgery with one chief doctor responsible for care in each unit, is a major priority," he said.

Once the hospital has established the categories, Dr. Trant said the hospital will develop a quality assurance program to measure the quality of care in each department.

The final report of the evening was given by Sophie Henley, representative of the president's committee for the Hospital Auxiliary, who said the volunteers have continued to work on the wards, morning and evening,

assisting in rehabilitation, operating the gift shops and gift cart. As well, the volunteers offer marketing services such as the new-born baby photography and hairdressing in the Bennett Health Care Centre.

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