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Delrex & Guelph Sts. Georgetown 877-0721

\$3-million retirement home planned

By Wendy Long

Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital announced at a press conference Wednesday that an agreement has been reached with a private operator to construct a 57-bed nursing home and to expand the current Bennett Centre retirement home from 30 to 40 beds.

Completion of the \$3-million project is expected in 18 to 24 months, with the potential to bring 50 new jobs to Georgetown in 1994.

According to initial plans, the nursing home will be added to the existing retirement wing of the Bennett Centre.

The Ministry of Health has held a licence for a 57 bed nursing home for Halton Hills since 1989, when the nursing home operation at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital was converted to a chronic care facility.

The hospital's board of trustees researched and interviewed a number of potential nursing home operators to construct and operate the 57-bed home.

They have entered a lease agreement with Versa-Care Limited, a nursing home operator since 1968 and the second largest provider of extended care services to seniors in Ontario. Versa-Care will assume the operation of the Bennet Centre.

"We have a similar agreement with the Cambridge Memorial Hospital," Versa-Care Chief Executive Officer Reg Petersen said. "(We) feel comfortable working with hospitals in this type of arrangement. This is an example where the expertise of private enterprise combined with the community interest of a hospital can come together to better meet the

needs of our citizens."

The signing of the Georgetown hospital agreement brings Versa-Care's facilities to a total of 19, serving 2,920 seniors in the

the age of 85 will triple, the study says.

MPP Noel Duignan was on hand to witness the signing of the agreement, touting it as a "wise deci-



Versa-Care CEO Reg Petersen and Georgetown Memorial Hospital Chair of the Board of Trustees Connell Smith sign the agreement to construct and operate a new 57 bed nursing home. s

province.

The arrangement is conditional upon the approval of the Minister of Health and will terminate after 35 years, at which time everything will revert to the hospital, the Versa-Care official said.

A Halton Hills Seniors Study completed in February predicts a shortage of 143 long term care beds in Halton Hills by the year 2001.

Over the next 30 years the population of seniors over 65 will double, and the number of citizens over

sion" that is "much needed" in Halton Hills.

"There is a real demand through the whole province for extended care beds," confirmed Petersen, adding "We're so short in Georgetown it doesn't matter what we provide, it's still a drop in the bucket."

The amount of care required for nursing home resident is 11/2 to 31/2 hours of care each day, while a chronic care resident requires at least 31/2.



Frank Chisholm

The family invites friends, neighbours and relatives to celebrate Frank's 80th Birthday.

An open house will be held on Sunday

September the 20th 1992

at the Muddy Duck, 360 Steeles Avenue, Milton, Ont.

2 - 5 p.m.


Best wishes only.

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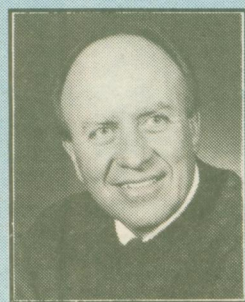
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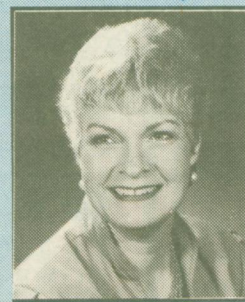
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