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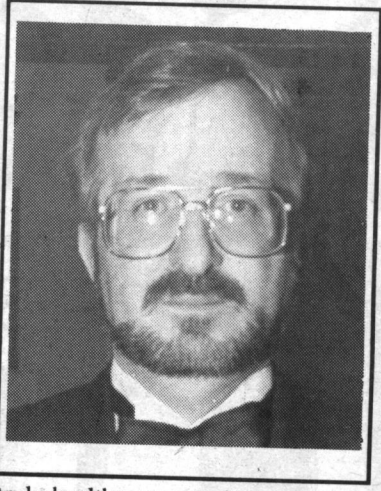
Long-term care needs reforming

Across Canada we are facing serious challenges in our long-term health and social services. How we meet these challenges in Ontario will greatly affect the health and well-being of an aging population that is placing greater demands on our health care system.

Long-term care is a major component of the health care system. It includes the health and social services provided to people in their homes, in the communities and in nursing homes and homes for the aged. These programs provide everything from meals to nursing care in people's homes. Our long-term care services are among the best in the country. However, between now and 2010 the number over 85 years will increase 125%, while the overall population will increase only 20%. Already we are spending at least 40% of our total health care budget on the 12% of our population who are over 65.

The system needs to be reformed and our consultations with thousands of people supported this conclusion. It needs to be integrated, flexible, consumer-centered and efficient. Our system has many different programs and agencies providing a wonderful array of services, but they are not integrated and services are not equitably distributed across the province. Elderly people want the security of knowing they can get help that will let them stay in their homes for as long as possible and that nursing home beds and hospital beds will be there if they need them. Family members caring for elderly or disabled relatives need greater support. And there is a need to focus more on health promotion and disease prevention, recognizing the role of adequate housing, employment, nutrition and the environment in

Queen's Park report



the aged and nursing homes is an important goal. More money will go into services and less into a person's home, and health services such as having a nurse check a person after a stay in hospital will be coordinated from one place.

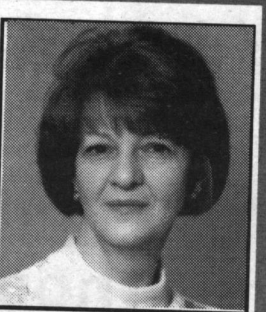
Adults with physical disabilities will have more control over what, how and where services are provided so that they can live the way they want to. There will be major improvements in areas with fewer services than other regions in Ontario, through increased government funding. Residents of nursing homes and homes for the aged will pay only for the cost of staying there. There will be no charge for nursing, personal support and quality-of-life services.

truly healthy communities. Our reforms to long-term care involve the following kinds of changes. There will be one community or regional telephone number for long-term care services when the system is fully in place — the one-stop shopping that consumers have advocated for so many years. Consumers will have a much greater role. They will help plan how the system is organized in their community. There will be much more emphasis on keeping people well. Maintaining quality of life for people in their homes, homes for

The reforms we are working to achieve are going to occur at the community level, involving the community, District Health Councils, service providers and clients. Because there is no grand plan from Queen's Park spelling out every detail region. Tangible evidence of change will be evident in most communities within the next 12 months.

We are faced with a daunting task. Many of the reforms will take time and change is often difficult and frustrating. But these changes are necessary, and we will succeed.

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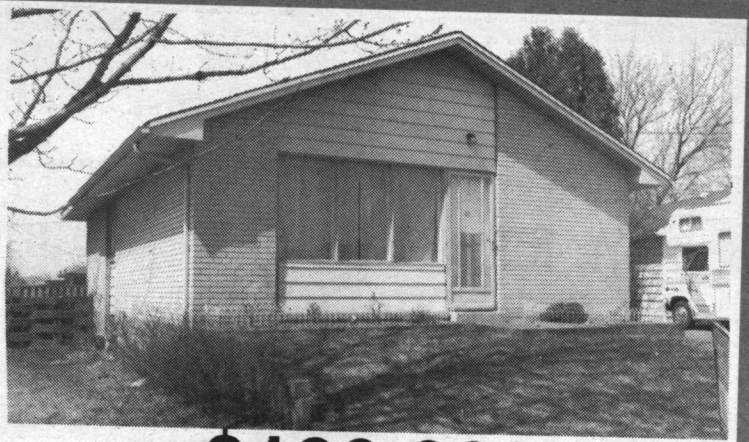
Milton gets environment cash

Noel Duignan, MPP Halton North, has announced two environmental grants totaling \$41,533 for the Halton Region. The monies will be used to facilitate industrial waste reduction and to initiate a home composting program in the Town of Milton.

Under the Industrial Waste Diversion Program, Karmax Heavy Stamping in Milton will receive

\$22,383 to install a unit to reuse phosphate solutions. "I am delighted to be able to award this grant to Karmax Heavy Stamping", Mr. Duignan said. "Industrial waste reduction not only helps the environment, but also brings economic benefits to companies and the communities they serve."

The Town of Milton has also been awarded a grant of \$19,150.



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