New hospital funding formula flawed, says

By Oksana Buhel

new Hospital Funding. Reallocation Formula which transfers grants from smaller hospitals to larger ones is being met with skepticism by Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital board members.

The formula, recently released by the Joint Policy and Planning Committee of the Ministry of Health and Hospital Ontario Association, forces hospitals with under 100 beds to spend approximately \$230 less per patient than a slightly larger hospital can spend on the same patient with the same ailment.

This translates into a \$270,000 loss of funding for GDMH between 1994-1995.

"It's just not fair," insisted GDMH executive director John Oliver. "It means if you live in a small community you will not receive the same quality of service than if you were in a larger hospital."

The formula is based on cost per weighted case, which takes into account length of stay, acuity of illness, operations, nursing time, medicine and other factors.

Ontario hospitals were grouped into six categories to determine the amount of funding they would receive. The first two categories covered teaching hospitals, to which the formula allo-

Paddy nners

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winner of the The Panasonic RXDT 101 with CD player went to Catharine Herman from Mississauga. Wenn, Georgetown, won the second prize of a Sony Walkman. Third prize of an Afghan went to Gail Thompson of Georgetown. Fourth prize, The Greatest Show on Earth tickets, went to Mona Williams of Georgetown. Fifth prize of a child's bicycle helmet went to Lorraine

Willson of Georgetow The Board, staff and clients of Open Door would like to send many thanks to their corporate sponsor, A.M.J. Campbell Van Lines of Mississauga and C&S Printing of Georgetown. Also thanks were extended to G.S.Television, D. Bergsma, Ontario Place, and Ollie's Cycle and Ski Ltd. for supplying the wonderful prizes for our draw. Also, they would like to thank Scottsdale Farm, Neilsons, Bell Canada, the Sign Shoppe and the Milk Marketing board for donating materials to help make the draw a great success. The Open Door appreciates the support and would like to extend to all warmest regards for a Happy Christmas sea-

cates between \$3,300 and \$3,430 per weighted case. GDMH, which is in the sixth category, will receive \$2,300 per weighted case. "Right now we're spending \$2,400 per case," Oliver explained. He added any amount over the allocated

funds will have to be paid

by the hospital.

'They're grouping hospitals artificially," Oliver complained. "This formula is saying you must not compare hospitals according to standard of care but to their size-level with other hospitals."

Although GDMH has 112

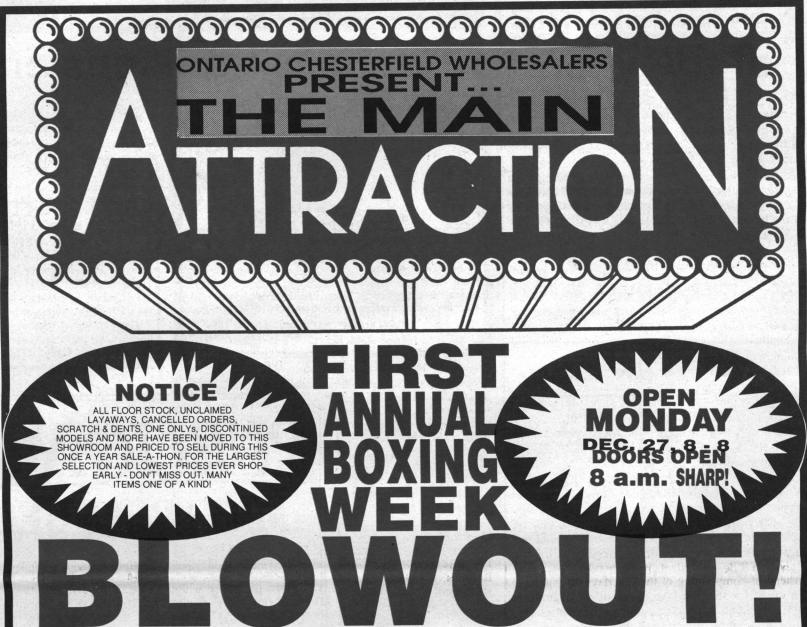
beds, only 76 of them are la are familiar with its flaws allocated as acute and newborn beds - beds on which the formula pertains to. The hospital's 36 chronic care beds are not included in the formula.

Oliver and GDMH chair Connell Smith are confident the originators of the formuand are working to rectify them. "I hope they will correct the flaw in time," Oliver said. The formula is still in the recommendation stage and the implementation date is unknown at this

To ensure proper atten-

tion is brought to the matter, GDMH board members are writing to Dennis Timbrell, president of the Ontario Hospital Association and the Ministry of Health to outline their concerns.

"We are not happy with this formula," Oliver con-





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