

Terra Cotta doctor exposes flaw in OHIP system with faked billing

By JANET BAINE
 Staff writer

A Terra Cotta doctor, not qualified to perform surgery, exposed a flaw in the medical billing system: he was paid \$1,793 for performing a heart-lung transplant at someone's home under local anesthetic.

Dr. James Mike Dunn (he is known by either of his first names) is a general practitioner who does only house calls to elderly patients.

He submitted the claim as a protest against the system, the doctor said.

"It took me a while to get up the

courage; it took a great deal of thought because of the risks involved," he told this newspaper.

In a newsletter called *New Age Physician* which Dunn published last summer, he wrote about actions which could be taken by physicians including "swamping OHIP with bogus billings that are laughable, such as heart transplants done as office procedures by GPs."

Dunn decided on a heart-lung transplant done at someone's home, since this was impossible. He used the name and number of one of his patients, a Brampton man, after receiving permission from the man, he said.

On Nov. 9 Dunn sent the government the bill and on Jan. 19 when his billings arrived, they were about \$1,800 over. He couldn't figure out why, he said.

"I was lying down for a nap and sat bolt upright when I realized where the billing came from. I hadn't expected it to go through," he said. "I was flabbergasted. Astounded. And then I found it funny, I started to laugh."

He gave a certified cheque for the amount to his lawyer, Paul Millman, and now they have to find out how to return the money to the government, he said.

See DOCTOR ANGRY, page 6



Dr. J.M. Dunn received an OHIP payment for a faked bill.

HALTON HILLS
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WEEKEND

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News

Digest

Superbowl Sunday Ride

The Halton Regional Police will conduct a RIDE program in all municipalities of the region today, January 28, also known to all sports fans as Superbowl Sunday.

Weedless Wednesday win

Halton Hills citizens won the Weedless Wednesday regional challenge January 17. The town had the highest percentage of participants butting out, according to the Halton Lung Association.

Kids damage car

Some children on the John St. railway overpass threw something onto a car, resulting in \$1,000 damage, police said. They are asking for assistance from anyone who may have seen the youths in the area at 10 p.m. Wednesday night. If you have any information, call 878-5511.

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Speed bumps ahead



Halton Hills Fire Prevention officer Brian Ellsworth (left) and Halton Police Sgt. Larry Brassard recently moved the fire department's trailer into position as they prepare to publicize the upcoming Halton Regional Police campaign against poor driving on Guelph St. During this special campaign, which runs Feb. 3-17, police officers will take a hard line against many common driving infractions, including speeding, unsafe lane changes and illegal turns.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

To Halton cops No more money

By BRAD REAUME

Special to The Independent/Free Press

Unwilling to raise taxes and facing a police force demanding \$665,800 more than they have to give, members of Halton Region's administration and finance committee said no.

"We can't mortgage ourselves," said Halton Hills mayor Marilyn Serjeantson Wednesday. "I don't think we have a choice. Raising taxes is not acceptable."

The Halton Regional Police Service operated on \$38.2 million in 1995. The 1996 regional budget offered the police an increase of \$117,000 over their 1995 funding, however, the police services board has submitted a budget asking for just over \$39 million.

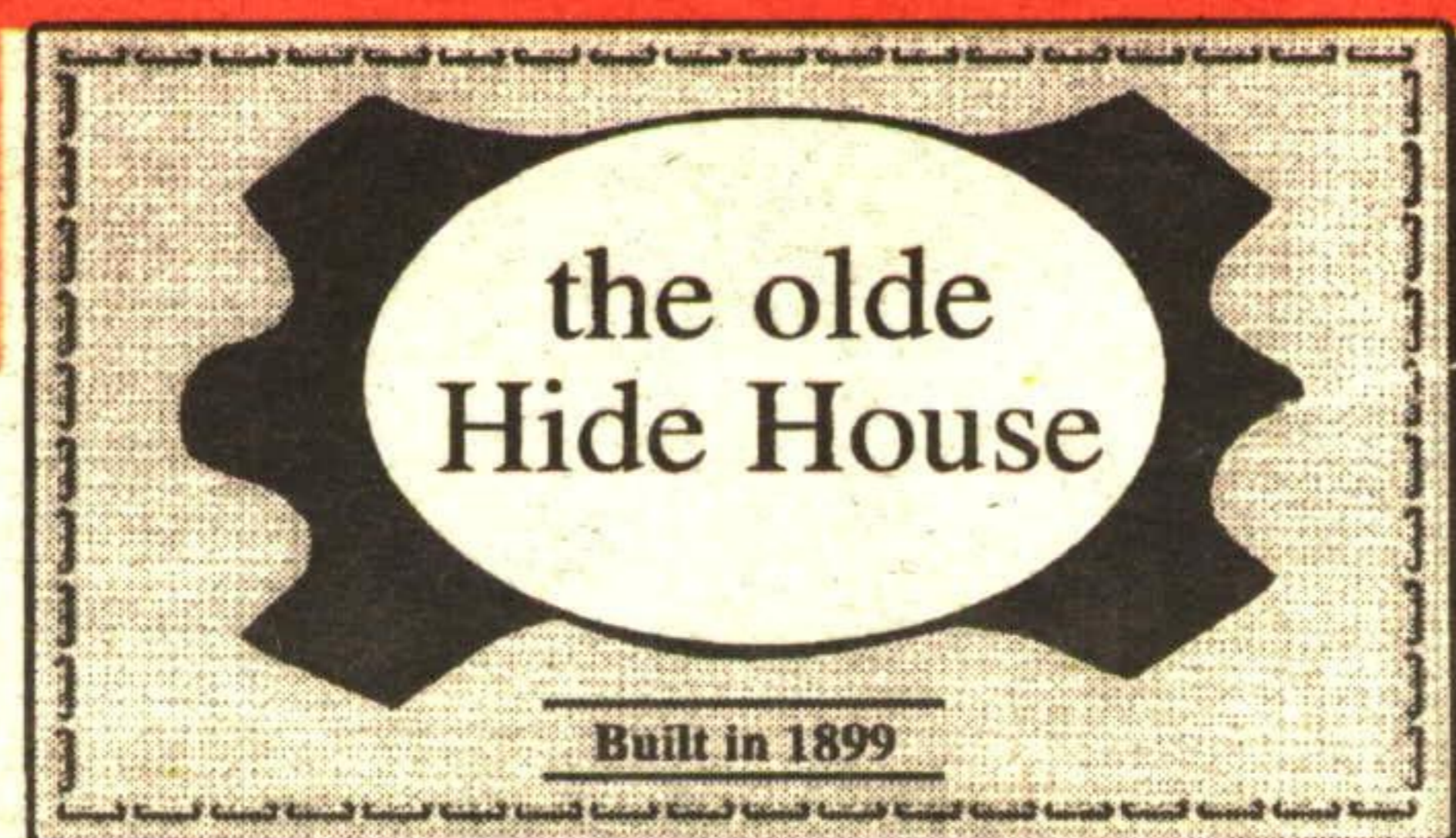
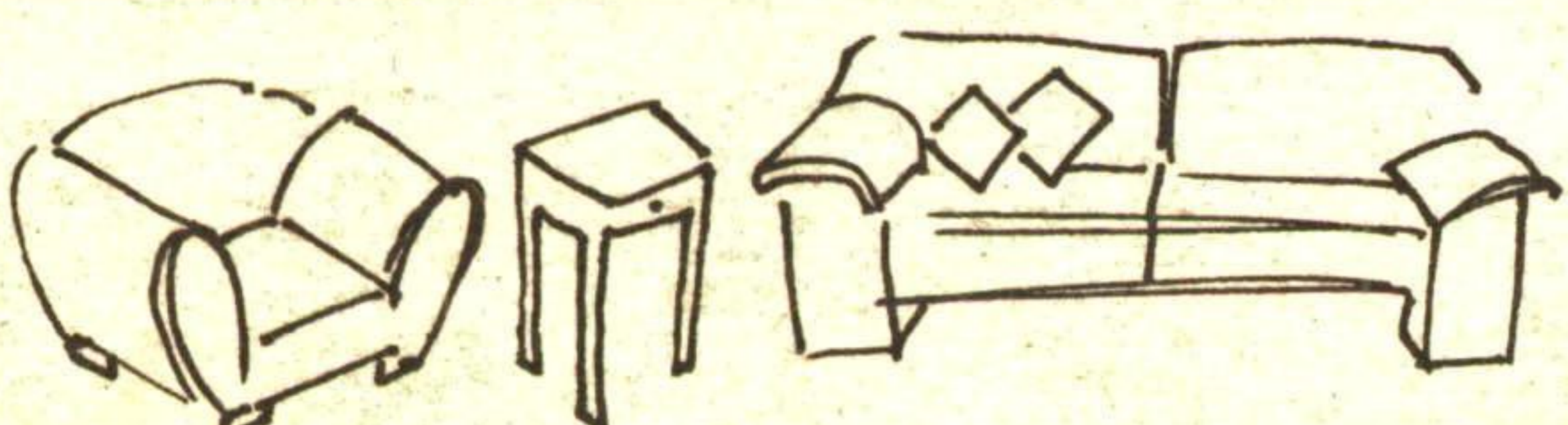
Joe Rinaldo, Halton's commissioner of corporate services said if the region agreed to the board's request they would be forced to cut other programs, run a deficit or increase taxes 1.1 per cent. Council is committed to a tax freeze.

The issue will go to a meeting of the region's budget review committee next week.

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