

Hospital will welcome investigation by OHSC

Patient care not affected

-Dr. Legate

"Patient care has not been affected at all by recent problems in the hospital," Dr. W. S. Legate, Chief of the Medical Staff and now interim administrator told The Champion Tuesday.

He also indicated there had never been any threat to occupants of the hospital, as had been implied in some news reports.

Nursing Director wants name clear

Mrs. R. Verrall, fired last week from her post as Director of Nursing at Milton District Hospital is still off the job.

To date no reason has been given by the former administrator, the Board or Mrs. Verrall for her dismissal.

After 10 years on staff she was dismissed last Tuesday by Administrator Dalton McQuaig, who resigned Saturday. She said the Administrator claimed she was "incompetent".

Mrs. Verrall has the support of all or most of the nursing staff at the hospital. After her dismissal she contacted the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario and they are now working on her behalf as well as for assistant director Mrs. Walker's.

Mrs. Verrall has not said she would or would not go back to the hospital, if and when such an offer is forthcoming, but she is working to clear her name.

OSD on TV

Six youngsters from the kindergarten class at O.S.D. will appear on the Uncle Bobby TV show next Wednesday on channel 9.



SNOW KING AND QUEEN, crowned Saturday evening at the dance winding up Milton District High School's annual winter carnival, were Brian Beene and Marne Hare. They received numerous gifts and gift certificates contributed by local merchants. Runners-up were Laurie MacNab, Donna Straub, Barry Laing and Keith Bridgman. More photos and story on Youth Page.—(Staff Photo)

Nurses' association supports two nurses

Support for Mrs. F. Verrall and Mrs. P. Walker was expressed by Miss K. R. Lewis, associate director of employment relations of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, in a statement to The Champion Tuesday.

Miss Lewis emphasized early reports of senior nurses leaving their posts were confusing since in each case a Registered Nurse had remained in charge of the wards and those leaving advised where they could be contacted in an emergency.

Miss Lewis reported the nurses were away from their posts for under four hours and returned. The Chief of Medical Staff and the nurses in charge of the wards were advised before the senior nurses left the hospital, she emphasized.

The R.N.A.O. is keeping in close touch with the situation and Mrs. Verrall and Mrs. Walker are keeping the association apprised of the events.

Miss Lewis suggested the R.N.A.O. was prepared to take what action was necessary.

"Haste" blamed for turnover

Release OPC report

Milton Council adopted recommendations of the Ontario Police Commission and instructed implementation immediately, during closed-door consideration Monday of a report submitted following a council-requested investigation of the local police department.

Council at the same time expressed confidence in the Chief and his officers.

The recommendations indicated "The large turnover on the Milton Police Force is a direct result of haste in the selection of candidates". It was stressed that the police function in a town is far more personal than it is in a large city. "It is important that a police officer with previous service in a large city agrees to adapt himself and his methods to meet the needs of his new position rather than to attempt to introduce an impersonal type of policing as he was taught in a large city."

The report also recommended

a "concentrated effort on the part of the Chief to eliminate from occurrences all of the flowery language." It was also stressed "there should be no compilation of statistics unless the results of the same are of great use in selective law enforcement. Brief notations should replace many reports that are now being submitted by the Milton Police Force." They suggest the administration and statistical work should be performed by the secretary.

Addition of one more "knowledgeable N.C.O. was recommended. It is an accepted standard that on Police Forces numbering fewer than 15 men that every one, including the Chief, is a working policeman."

"Only the possibility of Regional Government in the near future prevents the advisers from recommending the Bell Telephone Police Communication System (telephone in the car) to replace the present answering service. The present answering service should be directed to meet the needs of the Police Force by asking the caller why the police are needed and passing that information to the officer so dispatched."

The equipping of each police car with a supply of forms was recommended to enable the policeman to have all of his reports completed before he comes to the station. "This is far

more efficient and less overtime will accrue."

The report also recommended that "The Chief and the N.C.O.'s should never question the working agreement signed by the Town Council. If a man works overtime he should be compensated and if he is abusing the privilege he should be disciplined."

The report expressed satisfaction with the Chief's explanation on the "quota system". It was explained the Chief was "striving for a uniformity in the submission of the Constables' monthly report. The numbers inserted were only meant to form a pattern and not intended to set a standard". The advisers recommended a rotary system in the vacation period would be fair and equitable, and would do a lot to improve morale.

"The many disadvantages of shift work is a chronic complaint with all police officers. It is a truism that the need for policemen is the greatest during the evening and night hours. The Chief, if he is the regulating officer of a force should be very sensitive to the needs of his men and every possible effort should be made to see that each man has as fair a shift turnover as circumstances will allow."

In conclusion the advisers F. E. Davies and W. F. Johnston reported the Milton Police Force is well accepted by the citizens of the community. "From the Chief's cheerful acceptance of constructive criticism and his apparent willingness to accept change the Advisers have no doubt that through the efforts of the Chief under the direction of Council the minor problems that now exist will be resolved."

Statistics compiled and forming part of the report indicated the total budget for the department in 1969 is \$97,997.97 equaling a per capita cost of \$14.37.

Changes in the methods of hiring applicants, requiring more background information, have been adopted by council Mayor Brian Best told reporters in a press conference Tuesday when the report was released. He noted changes had already been implemented to reduce the paperwork involved in occurrence reports.

Appointment of another NCO by council Monday was in line with the report, the Mayor said. Further information is now being requested from the answering service to provide officers with more information when their assistance is requested. The Mayor paid tribute to the town's present answering service operator. He explained that in some cases callers were reluctant to provide details to someone answering the calls.

Police cars have been equipped with copies of report forms so they may be completed by officers prior to returning to the office. The Mayor indicated this had been in operation since discussions by the police chief with the OPC advisers.

The Mayor indicated he felt it had been wise to have someone from outside the community conduct the study and submit an impartial report. He underlined the note in the conclusions where the advisers had indicated the problems were "minor."

Administrator resigns "sabotage" is denied

Possibility of an investigation into staff problems and allegations of "sabotage" of equipment at Milton District Hospital were hinted this week by the Ontario Hospital Services Commission. And Milton Hospital Board of Directors chairman J. M. Ledwith reports he would welcome such a study "with open arms". The O.H.S.C. was to meet with the Hospital Board to review recent circumstances at the hospital to see if a full-scale investigation is necessary. Ledwith said the Board would certainly welcome any advice.

A hectic week of staff friction, dismissals, suspensions, resignations and wild rumors at the hospital culminated on the weekend when:

* Dalton E. McQuaig, administrator for the past six years, tendered his resignation Saturday morning;

* Five department heads in the hospital banded together to issue a statement to the press calling for a governmental investigation into "recent incidents of sabotage" involving hospital equipment;

* Dr. Morton Shulman, NDP member of the provincial legislature for High Park, wrote Ontario's Attorney-General Arthur Wishart demanding the hospital be evacuated immediately until the alleged "sabotage" is fully investigated;

* Milton Police wound up a four-day investigation into charges of tampering with equipment, and announced there was no evidence that any equipment had been tampered with;

* The hospital board, in a series of weekend and Monday meetings, (a) accepted Mr. McQuaig's resignation, (b) appointed the hospital's chief of medical staff Dr. W. S. Legate as temporary administrator, (c) authorized Board Chairman J. M. Ledwith to issue a statement to the press recapping the events of the topsy-turvy week and assuring the public that despite the flare-up of staff problems, patient care was continuing at its usual high standard and there was no danger to any patients hospitalized.

In a special interview with The Champion this week Board chairman Mike Ledwith reviewed the events of the past few days.

A growing disension among the hospital's staff, which appears to have been building up over the past couple of years, apparently came to a head Tuesday morning of last week when administrator McQuaig dismissed Director of Nursing Mrs. R. J. Verrall and suspended her assistant director, Mrs. Phyllis Walker. Both are 10-year staffers at the hospital and they were both honored for their service at the hospital's 10th anniversary dinner last November.

The Tuesday action is reported to have stemmed from an incident the previous Saturday, when \$300 worth of unexposed X-ray film was ruined while the X-ray technician was out of the X-ray room. At the same time, some fixer solution in the X-ray's developing room was ruined when someone opened a valve which overheated the solution.

Mr. McQuaig told the board the incident should have been reported to him by the nursing directors but he heard about it from the X-ray technicians, Mr. Ledwith told The Champion. The women told the board they tried to report the loss but Mr. McQuaig was busy, they also pointed out that a similar incident had happened earlier and was reported, but the administrator took no action.

Both women were escorted to their cars by guards from Pinkerton's security service, on orders from the administrator. Mr. McQuaig had called in day and night guards Monday after several unusual incidents led him to believe someone was tampering with hospital equipment, Mr. Ledwith explained. The Board chairman said they were escorted out so they would not incite a sympathy walk-out, the administrator told him.

After the firing and the suspension, Mr. McQuaig's secretary Mrs. Alice Berube tendered her resignation. Mrs.

Berube was also escorted to her car. The Board has since written a letter of apology to Mrs. Berube, Mrs. Verrall and Mrs. Walker over the manner in which they were sent from the building.

As word spread through the hospital seven head nurses excused themselves from their posts and left the hospital to hold a meeting and discuss the firing and suspension. They returned later in the day and met with the Board's personnel committee. All agreed to return to work if the Board would promise to listen to their grievances.

Mr. Ledwith denied it was a "walk-out" as first reported. "They secured their positions before they left, they were all covered and patient care continued," the chairman explained.

Meanwhile Board members began a round of meetings that lasted all week as they interviewed staffers and investigated the charges of tampering with equipment. The Joint Conference Committee, consisting of four Board members and three doctors, first met Wednesday morning to interview Mr. McQuaig and others on the staff. As a result of a Wednesday afternoon meeting Mrs. Walker's suspension was lifted and she was invited to return to work. Mrs. Verrall's case was reviewed on Thursday morning but no conclusion was reached. "We are still investigating her case, we have come to no conclusion yet," said Mr. Ledwith.

That morning the committee also interviewed the head nurses. The nurses reported they were solidly behind Mrs. Verrall but pointed to a breakdown in communications between the nursing staff and the dietary department. The committee agreed the Board would take no disciplinary action against the seven women for leaving their posts to hold a meeting, said Ledwith.

Thursday afternoon the committee interviewed the dietician.

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Hearing lasts 3½ days

Expect approval soon on new zoning by-law

It's over. The three and a half day long hearing before the Ontario Municipal Board on Milton's new zoning by-law and official plan ended at noon Friday and the town will now await OMB member A. H. Arrel's written decision on the outcome.

From all indications, the by-law and plan will be approved with only minor variations. There were 24 objections registered by landowners, developers, organization and private citizens but in most cases chairman Arrel appeared to uphold the town's proposals. Throughout the Tuesday to Friday hearing Milton's planning consultant Derek Little and engineering consultant Kenneth Hyde were on hand to assist Milton's solicitor D. A. McConachie with the presentation of evidence.

The hearing saw 40 documents—maps, by-laws, letters and other documents—filed as exhibits. A total of 13 lawyers appeared before the Board to argue the objections of their clients, and several citizens appeared on their own behalf or representing organizations. A report of the opening day's hearing was published in last week's Champion—here is a summary of the proceedings through the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday sessions:

WEDNESDAY

Continuing the hearing into the town's Official Plan and Zoning By-law Wednesday, the town concurred in a suggestion the definitions on service stations and structures be referred back for council discussion with the representatives of the Petroleum Association of Ontario.

Ken Marshall, dealing with a 17-acre parcel of land on the Base Line Rd. agreed to industrial zoning on his property but objected to a requirement that the minimum size of a building be 10,000 square feet. He maintained a number of industries require less space.

Chairman A. H. Arrel suggested if there was a desire to sell off a number of small lots a plan of subdivision would have to be registered on the parcel. He maintained if a plan of subdivision was presented a request for rezoning could be presented at the same time. Objections of Torprop Ltd. to the road pattern proposed in the

north community and to an industrial zone along Main St. were presented by solicitor H. H. Solway. He apparently owns 96 acres in the area south of the Base Line Rd. and east of Ontario St. They also own 200 acres north of Derry Rd. and east of Ontario St.

Martin Dake, planner with Project Planning Associates, maintained the criss cross road pattern proposed in the Official Plan was not as desirable as a loop system. He suggested evidence the criss cross road pattern could lead to the east-west road, which coincides with Woodward Ave., becoming a cross town road attracting through traffic rather than only neighborhood traffic.

M. M. Dennis, solicitor for George Wimpey Canada Ltd., argued in support of the proposed criss cross road pattern.

Chairman Arrel indicated he would report in favor of leaving the proposed road pattern indicated on the official plan but

would alter the text to assure no amendment would be necessary to vary the road pattern.

On the matter of opposition to the industrial area on the north side of Main St., east of Ontario St., the chairman suggested it be considered only for high quality industry with no outside storage.

M. H. Chusid, representing Halton Land Group, owners of 104 acres in the north east neighborhood, indicated he supported the industrial proposals for the north side of Main St.

Lengthy arguments on lot areas, side yards and setbacks were entered by M. M. Denis on behalf of George Wimpey Canada Ltd.

He declined to accept a proposal that zoning could be changed at the time of submission of plans of

subdivision. Mr. Denis maintained the town's standards were higher than in half a dozen other communities in the area.

The chairman indicated he favored agreement between the town and developer on the points of restrictions and failing that he supported the town view even though the standards may be higher than other communities. He maintained it was not the Board's function to reduce town standards.

Mr. Denis argued future purchasers would be penalized by unduly high requirements.

In summarizing the objections of George Wimpey of Canada Ltd., the chairman indicated support for changes which would not require attached garages to be set back from the front line of the house. He also suggested reduction of side yard

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FED UP WITH FLOODING? Although this picture might indicate some Milton residents are leaving town in a hurry because of frequent flooding problems, it's not quite so. This small Bronte St. home was being carted away on a truck to make way for a 160 suite apartment project on

the former funeral chapel property, when Sunday's thaw brought the district the annual spring flood to the Bronte St. area. Town workmen cleared out the frozen ditches and the runoff water soon disappeared.—(Staff Photo)

No shadow for our groundhog and first robin signals spring

It wasn't a fit day for any sane groundhog to be nosing out of his winter lair on Monday when Feb. 2 rolled around to signal the traditional "groundhog day".

Observers and believers in the old tale about the groundhog's shadow report spring can't be far away as the furry critter didn't see any shadows Monday morning. It was mild, damp, rainy and

misty and the sun didn't shine all day long.

Another harbinger of spring appeared on Oak St. early Monday morning, as if to back up the groundhog's prediction of an early blooming season for 1970. Art Higgins spotted a robin, "singing away to beat the band" on a neighbor's TV aerial. "Either it will be an early spring, or he's a mixed up robin" said the bird-spotter.