

# Outpatient service is vital need, says report

Significant growth in outpatient services will make it necessary for health care expansion in this field, according to A.L. Goutouski, chairman of the Milton District Hospital Corporation.

Mr. Goutouski made his statement during the 18th annual meeting of the board on Wednesday evening.

He told the gathering of directors, members and medical staff that the hospital has already submitted a pro-

gram for a special care unit to the Halton District Health Council.

Mr. Goutouski predicted beds would be closed in the hospital again this summer in order to reduce the hospital's operating cost deficit.

"Despite winning an appeal for extra funding last year, it was necessary to close 25 beds during the summer," he stated.

"The same cutbacks will be made this year, but I foresee

greater difficulty in making this type of savings in the future because of an increased demand for services brought on by a rapidly growing population in Milton," he said, citing subdivision growth as a prime example of an expanding town.

During his presentation, Mr. Goutouski thanked volunteers and Hospital Auxiliary members for their efforts in the hospital.

A highlight of the evening

was the presentation of a cheque for over \$11,000 from the Hospital Auxiliary to the hospital.

The cheque represents the first half of a commitment by the group to raise \$22,000 for a portable X-ray machine, which is now in daily use at the hospital.

The presentation of the cheque was made by Win Newell, president of the Auxiliary to Mr. Goutouski. In a report to the board,

Brian Brady, hospital administrator echoed Mr. Goutouski's remarks on increased demands that have been made on the hospital.

"Since financial restraints are expected to continue in the future, our task to provide adequate services and balance the budget is a formidable one," he stated.

Admissions rose from 3,162 in 1976-77 to 3,380 in 1977-78, according to a report by Mr. Brady. Newborns for 1977-78 also showed an increase, at 348, up 53 over 1976-77.

Statistics in the administrator's report cover a 15 month period, (January 1, 1977 to March 31, 1978).

His report showed an increase in hours of work including more hours of work per patient. Hours of work per patient day rose to 10.78 hours in 1977-78, up from 10.55 hours for the previous year.

Emergency visits rose by 2,000 with a record of 19,142 visits made during the past year.

Hospital operating costs were \$2,982,846 for 1977-78, which included hospital salaries and wages of \$2,079,429.

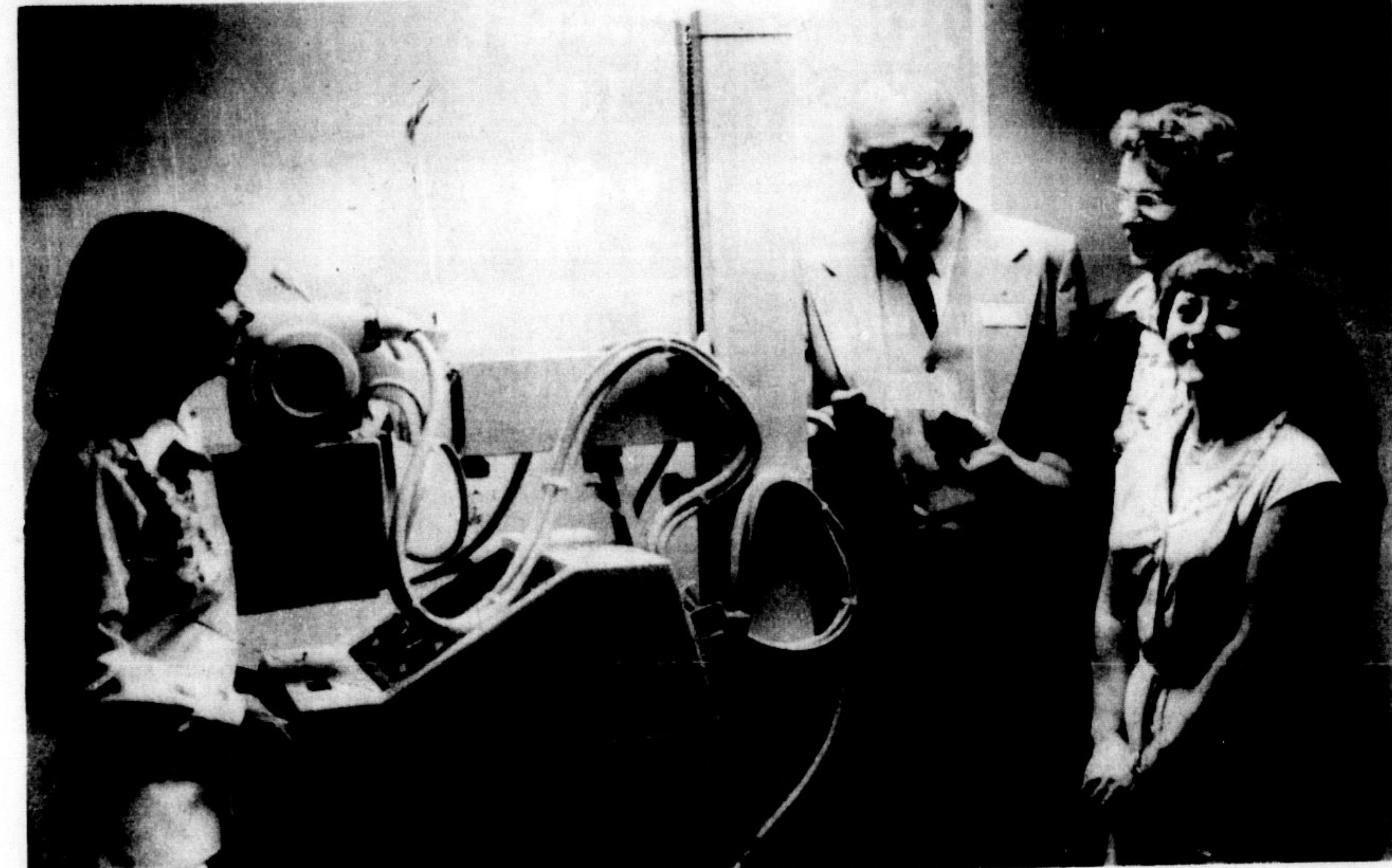
The expense represents a nine per cent increase over the previous year's figure, according to a hospital operating fund statement.

The report was given by Charles Hunter on behalf of the board's auditors. Despite increased costs, the hospital report showed a deficit of only \$6,899. The figure compares to a 1976 deficit of \$11,908 and 1975 deficit figure of \$16,287.

Mr. Brady attributed the lower 1977-78 deficit figure to \$70,000 given to the hospital as additional funding by the Ontario Ministry of Health.



DEPUTY HEALTH MINISTER W. A. Backley (left) chats with hospital board director Stan Allen following Mr. Backley's address to the Milton District Hospital Corporation annual meeting.



A NEW CHALLENGE for the Milton District Hospital Auxiliary is a new portable X-ray machine. Members of the auxiliary presented the hospital's board of directors with a cheque for \$11,000, to cover half of the cost of the machine, and hope to raise the remaining

amount during the next year. Shown here with the X-ray machine are Garnella Nason, hospital X-ray technician, hospital board chairman A. L. Goutouski, Win Newell, president of the Hospital Auxiliary and Vera Delacourt, auxiliary treasurer.



FIVE BOARD MEMBERS were elected at the 18th annual meeting of Milton District Hospital on Wednesday evening, June 21. Joining in the picture are A. L. Goutouski, chairman, top left-hand corner and hospital administrator, Brian

Brady, lower righthand corner. The new members are, back row, John Keyworth and Charles Hunter. In the front row are Ruth MacLeod, Stan Allen, and Patricia Flannagan.

## Backley tells hospital

### Prevention priority

People working in the health field should be placing the emphasis on preventative measures in the future, according to Allan Backley, Ontario's Deputy Minister of Health.

Speaking to about 45 people at Milton District Hospital's annual meeting Wednesday night, Backley said he would like to see the length of time patients stay in hospital shortened and at the same time improvements in the out-patient care that is offered.

"There has to be a balance of services provided," he continued and added that the ministry is interested in lower cost alternatives to the present health system in Ontario.

He suggested group homes for psychiatric patients, and "a sharing of services in the province." Mr. Backley said one of the more important services to be shared in the province would be technology. He predicted a change in the role of Ontario hospitals, and suggested that emphasis in the future will be placed on community health programs.

"The significant value of community health programs lies in prevention," he told the gathering and added that there would be continued

emphasis on such programs as immunization and family planning.

Public health and primary care are likely to develop more intensely over the next 15 years with more personal care emphasized in the Ontario health program, he said.

Patients and their physicians must form a partnership in an attempt to prevent sickness, he stressed. Earlier in his speech, he blamed illness on the lifestyles of many families.

"We deliberately risk illness through our lifestyles," he stated, although he did not elaborate on the specifics of lifestyle.

Throughout his speech, he made reference to the cost of provincial health care, citing health costs as the largest provincial budget item.

"The convenience of health care has to be balanced with the cost of health services," he concluded.

A resident of Oakville, Mr. Backley travels through Milton frequently and described the town's hospital as a "classic example of a well-run and well managed hospital."

Mr. Backley presented five-year and 10-year service pins to employees in recognition of long service at Milton District Hospital.

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## New members on hospital board

Eight nominations for five positions on the board of directors for the Milton District Hospital Corporation resulted in an election at the annual meeting Wednesday evening, June 21.

Elected to serve on the board are Stan Allen for a second three-year term, Charles Hunter, also for a second term, June MacLeod, Patricia Flannagan and John Keyworth.

Mr. Keyworth will fill the position of E.J. McCreedy,

who resigned earlier this year.

Also nominated for a position on the board were George Singleton, Robert Mackay and Richard Copley.

The election was held during the annual meeting of the hospital corporation in Milton District Hospital.

The five new executive members will join A.L. Goutouski, chairman, M.C. Beaty, J.S. Edgar, R. Reed, A.N. Keilty, John Ostler, Mrs. M. Bell, J. McGeachie and R.A. MacKay.

## Tests show no rabies

Lab tests carried out on a raccoon shot after biting an 11-year-old Milton boy have ruled out the possibility of rabies, according to Halton Regional Police.

There will be further tests on the animal, police said, but at this time there is no indication of rabies.

Michael Kneale of 239 Grant Ave., Milton was bitten on the hand by the raccoon, after he attempted to help the animal which was stumbling on a fence Monday, June 19.

The incident occurred

behind J. M. Denyes School, near the Milton Sewage Treatment Plant, when Michael attempted to lift the animal to safety.

He was taken to Milton District Hospital where he was treated for the bit and released.

The raccoon was shot by Halton Regional Police, who said at the time the animal was frothing at the mouth. Michael's father, J. Larry Kneale, also confirmed the report that the animal had been frothing.

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