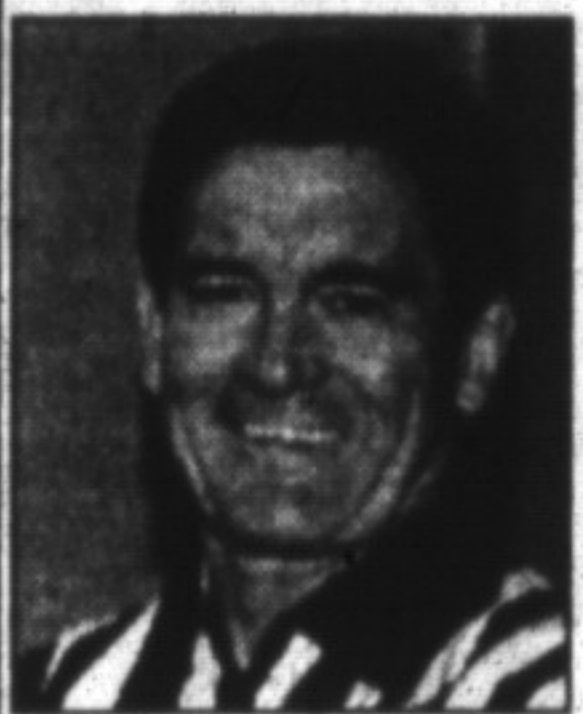


-Advertisement-



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HOCKEY IN HAWAII
- IN SPRINGTIME!

Well for sure, it's not for everyone, but for many the idea of playing hockey in HAWAII in APRIL '97 is a great idea! There is a sports package available which includes return air seven nights accommodation, ground transportation, the games, tournament souvenirs and awards. The date is April 12-19 so get planning - a real opportunity for fun and vacation for you and your spouse!

OK then, how about a golf package? Small groups of eight or more are becoming more and more popular as a way to travel. RED SEAL TOURS has offerings, including ROYAL WESTMORELAND GOLF COURSE in BARBADOS, or in BERMUDA where rates are best this time of year; or why not IRELAND (our favorite!) for an eight day itinerary? See your professional travel agent for info.

JULY 1, 1997 IS THE DAY WHEN HONG KONG goes over to Chinese rule and there is an increased interest in travel there by Canadians prior to that date. SUN-QUEST offers THE HEART OF HONG KONG program and it is proving very popular. They expect huge increases in travel next March, April and May, so get your booking in now. It is indeed a fascinating place to visit!

YUKON TERRITORIES had almost nine times their population come visit them last year. This year they expect many more as they celebrate the 100th anniversary of THE FIRST GOLD STRIKE! Next year they will open the Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre, a \$3.3 million structure that will house the story of the ICE AGE. June, July, August - good months to go there, but also the 'shoulder seasons' of May and September are fairly good too, and prices can be better then.

For the CRUISE ELITIST we have ENCORE CRUISES' Tiffany Collection of ships featured in their own brochure. CUNARD'S Royal Viking Sun, QE2; the SEA GODDESS ships; RADESSON DIAMOND; and the WINDSTAR series (a favourite!) are featured. See your official travel agency to get your copy today and to do your 'long range' planning!

DID YOU KNOW: A Canadian Company has announced plans to build several five star hotels in CUBA. Vancuba Holdings of Vancouver has committed some \$400 million to the project starting in Havana, then to Cayo Largo, and near Matanzas.

TRAVEL TIP OF THE WEEK: Be sure the CREDIT CARDS you are taking to use on your vacation, do not expire while you are away!

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Now that's for the birds

A ceremony recognizing participants in an annual fundraising program called Birding Blitz will be held at Mountsberg Conservation Area this Saturday (July 27).

Don Ford, chair of the blitz committee, said the competition is to see who can find the highest number of bird species. Birdwatchers spent the month of May looking for birds in their back-

yards, local parks and in conservation areas. They collected pledges from friends, family, co-workers and classmates. They were competing for prizes including Robert Bateman prints, binoculars, conservation area passes, watches and film. Prizes were donated with fundraising money going to renovations of the R. Ross Craig Interpretive Centre at Mountsberg.

Golf docs wanted

The Halton Lung Association is calling for all medics to aid them with their 3-D Golf Tournament.

All dentists, druggists and doctors are invited to take part in the tournament, which is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 17 at Millcroft Golf Club. The day will include a number of competitions, prizes and a barbecue steak dinner.

The tournament has a 1:30 p.m. shotgun start with registration being accepted on a first come, first serve basis. The \$125 fee covers golf, cart and dinner. For more details, call Lynn Cameron at (905) 847-1033.

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BANANAS Product of the Tropics 33⁹⁹ /lb.	Redpath SUGAR SAVE 30¢ \$1⁶⁹ 2 kg
10 lb. New, White POTATOES PRODUCT OF U.S.A. NO. 1 GRADE \$1⁹⁹ 10 LB BAG	Gay Lea SALTED BUTTER SAVE 50¢ \$2⁷⁹ 454g

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Burlington hospital to open home

By DENNIS SMITH
Special to The Champion
Burlington hospital officials feel they can pull off at least a triple play by going into the nursing home business.

Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital announced recently it has finalized the purchase of 48 nursing home bed licences. The hospital could open a nursing home area by next March.

Such a facility would alleviate a shortage of nursing home beds in Halton Region, making use of vacant hospital space and possibly generating revenue, said hospital officials.

"We have 60 beds empty," noted Don Scott, president of Jo Brant. "Rather than mothball them, we can put them to good use here."

He added Halton is, "vastly under-served," in the area of nursing home care, with more than 500 people on a waiting list for such a facility.

People from all over Halton are served by Allendale, the large senior care facility in Milton. But families in south Halton would prefer to have their aged relatives closer by.

Hospital officials said the nursing home could earn profits, minimize overhead and provide offsetting revenues in areas like housekeeping.

Mr. Scott said the nursing home option was considered in detail during the past year and pursued seriously since the spring.

Provincial funding cuts were also a factor in the decision.

"You have to adjust and adjust and adjust," said Mr. Scott.

He said some may feel the move is a 180-degree turn, considering previous statements the hospital didn't intend to provide nursing home care.

But Mr. Scott said this referred to not wanting to use acute care beds for nursing home purposes.

Currently, 50-60 acute care beds known as (Alternate Level Care), are occupied by patients needing this type of care.

But the hospital is trying to get all ALC patients placed elsewhere, so it can regain the acute care beds, said Mr. Scott.

Between half and two-thirds of the proposed nursing home beds could be available for any ALC patients remaining at the hospital, he said.

"But maybe there will be none left by then," said Mr. Scott. "We want to get places for these patients."

The nursing home bed licences are being purchased from a defunct facility in Durham. It is anticipated provincial approval of the transfer will take in three to four months.

Hospital officials estimate it will take another four to five months to upgrade the two vacant fourth-floor wards that would house the nursing home.