

Copps Liberal health critic

More beds, new program needed to help hospitals

by Murray Moore

The cure for the overcrowding at Huronia District Hospital and other hospitals in Ontario is an increase in the number of nursing home beds and the start of a chronic care home program, Sheila Copps, the provincial Liberal party health critic, said in Midland on Wednesday.

Copps cited statistics from a new report of a committee headed by John Chantrel that concludes that 161 individuals are on waiting lists for a nursing home bed in this area, to support her argument for the need for more nursing home beds and a chronic care

home program.

On an average day, 14 patients who could be in a nursing home or at home are occupying active care beds at HDH, Copps said.

Copps criticized BOND (Business Oriented New Development), a provincial government program through which the province's hospitals are supposed to be able to raise as much as \$20 million to use for daily expenses.

She was critical of the province leaving it up to hospitals to find money on their own to make up any shortfall between operating expenses and operating funds.

HDH administrator Ted Pritchard said following her speech to Midland Rotarians that his statement that HDH would open a pub to raise money, referred to by Copps in her speech, was not made seriously. He did confirm Copps' statement that the projected deficit for HDH by the end of this fiscal year will be \$600,000. The hospital's deficit was \$100,000 at the end of the 1982 fiscal year, he said.

Copps has toured over 20 hospitals in 15 communities in the past four months as part of a Liberal fact-finding project. Only in Timmins do patients have to wait as many days for admittance as they have had to wait at times for admittance to HDH, she said. This year a wait of three to five days in the HDH emergency area or its corridors by patients before a



regular bed opens has not been uncommon. Copps was critical of district health councils. Representatives of these "supposedly independent bodies" didn't accept Liberal invitations to speak during her committee's visits to hospitals,

because, Copps said, of Ministry of Health interference. "The district health councils should have had the wherewithal to stand up to the Ministry of Health" and participate in the Liberal examinations of the state of hospitals, the Hamilton Centre MPP said. Simcoe County does not have a health council.

There exists a need "to reallocate, to regenerate, and to pay the price to keep the level of health care up," Copps said.

Hospital boards should not be in the business of making money to run hospitals, she said. And how would a group like Rotary raise money in the community for needed new equipment if people knew that the money will likely instead be spent on daily operating costs?, she asked.

Town of
Penetanguishene,
Township of Tiny
Chamber of Commerce
DIRECTORS

Due to an increase in membership, the Penetanguishene Chamber of Commerce will be taking applications for additional directors. The expansion will allow interested community members to become actively involved in establishing policies and to offer leadership in the Chamber of Commerce.

You are invited to send written applications to:
Penetanguishene Chamber of Commerce,
P.O. Box 90, Penetanguishene, Ontario.
L0K 1P0

Lourdes addition to be tendered

The contract to build an addition to Our Lady of Lourdes School will be put out to tender this month.

Local trustee Joe Klein Gebbinck said Monday that he doesn't expect that work on the addition will be completed before next December, and that students won't start using the addition until next January.

The board is financing the addition without any help from the Ministry of Education.

Neither of the applications made this year either the Simcoe County Roman Catholic Separate School Board, or from the Simcoe

County Board of Education, for capital construction grants, were accepted by the Ministry for next year.

Klein Gebbinck recounted a conversation he had with Minister of Education Dr. Bette Stephenson. "Joe, she said, 'look at it this way. More areas need new schools than need additions. We prefer to place schools in areas that don't have them first.'"

The addition will give Our Lady of Lourdes School three additional classrooms, but a fourth is needed, the trustee said.

Roby Reid's
INSTALLATION CELEBRATION
Continues until June 19

FREE INSTALLATION
ON ALL JUTE BACK &
ACTION BACK IN-STOCK
Minimum purchase 18 Sq. meters

\$1.19 Sq.M. **INSTALLATION 99¢** Sq.Yd.
ON ALL RUBBER BACK CARPETING

\$7.14 Sq.M. **NO WAX VINYL** **\$5.97** Sq.Yd.
& **OUTDOOR TURF**

in 6' and 12' width
in a rainbow of colours

1st quality
ARMSTRONG CANDIDE
\$14.97 Sq.Yd.

• Over 200 rolls to choose from
• Courteous, Professional Sales staff
• Lifetime guarantee on installation
• Roby's personally guaranteed lowest prices

Roby Reid

CARPET LAND

MIDLAND on Hwy. 27, next to Zellers Plaza 526-4231
BARRIE on Bayfield St. opp. Georgian Mall 737-5662