

PGH, HDH, Royal Victoria all receivers

by GEORGE W. TAYLOR, Q.C., M.P.P.
SIMCOE CENTRE
SOLICITOR GENERAL

Health Minister Larry Grossman recently announced an extra \$110 million in funding for Ontario's hospitals. Of this, the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie will receive \$744,700; Penetanguishene General \$111,300 and Huronia District \$267,100.

This funding increase is intended to help our hospital system maintain its levels of excellence in these tight economic times. The increase brings the total spending on hospitals to \$3.3 billion this year—more than the total budget for the whole Ministry of Health only five years ago.

HEALTH CARE

Because health care and hospitals are facts of life which affect all of us at some time, I thought it important to take this opportunity

to explain the new funding system that the ministry will be applying.

Hospitals reporting an operating deficit at the end of the fiscal year had, under the old system, to negotiate with the Ministry for a full or partial recovery of the amount of the deficit. However, this practice led to some bitter debates on the question of underfunding versus overspending.

This year, however, the new funding system will end this. We expect this to be a turn-around year for the hospitals.

The base which the ministry was using to calculate hospital budgets was established a number of years ago. Some hospitals have argued that it was unrealistically low and claimed that they were being underfunded.

This will no longer be the case. All hospitals will be given a new budget base from the current year which is based on what they actually spent to provide services last year.

AMOUNTS

In order to bring that level up to date for '82-'83, appropriate amounts will be added to account for inflation and for increases in workload. The government will also provide additional funds to fully cover the cost of salary increases negotiated under the Inflation Restraint Program once it is passed through the Legislature.

In future, the new base will be used with appropriate increases to reflect the higher costs of approved services. The government will not be prepared to accept or pay for deficits incurred in this year or future years.

Because their budgets will be based on the actual amount which they spent in the last fiscal year, hospitals should be able to continue the same levels of service as before. They will be expected to manage in a manner which will neither incur a deficit nor reduce

services in a way that will jeopardize patient care.

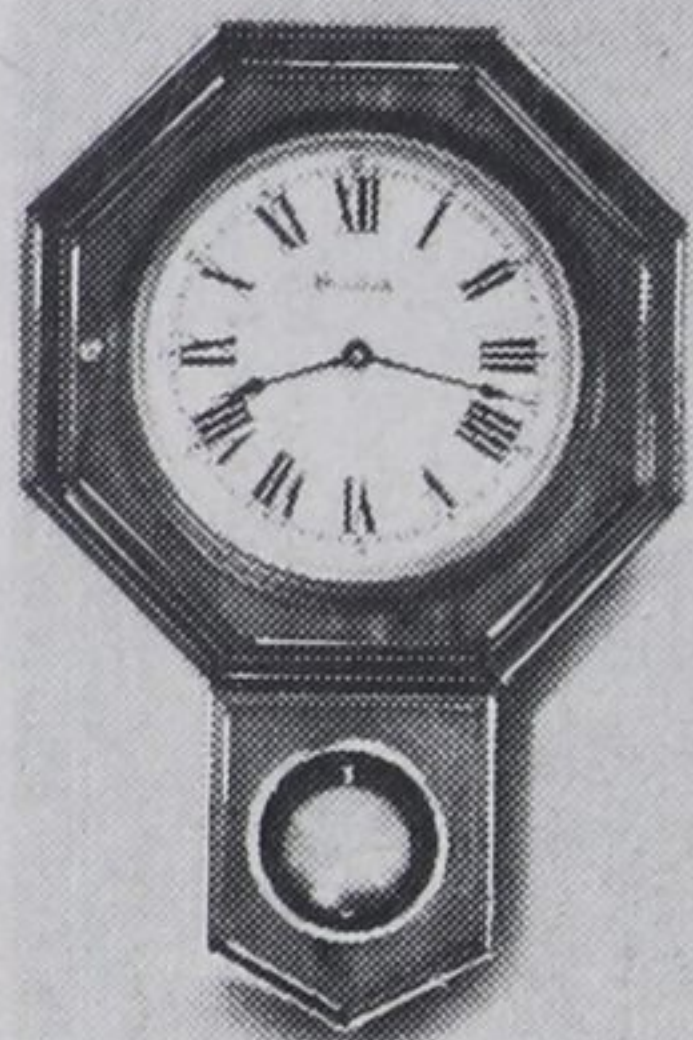
BOARDS

The Ministry of Health has offered to work with hospital boards and administrators who anticipate difficulty living within these new budgets, and the Minister of Health has written to the Chairman of each hospital board to ask for his or her assistance in dealing with the inflationary pressure on the hospital system.

Ontarians have a right to consider themselves fortunate in their hospital system. We do have one of the finest in the world, and it is available to every resident of the Province. The Health Minister's new plan will help us maintain the level of excellence we have all come to expect from our hospitals in spite of the economic climate that is taking its toll elsewhere.

Midland Town Centre Your Home for Christmas

The Right Gift for that Special person



Decorator Clocks

up to **30% OFF**

Gold Chains

up to **20% OFF**

Select one of these pre-Christmas Bargains



Gunther's Watch Centre

509 Dominion Ave.,
Midland Town Centre

526-3933

The Carpet Centre



Armstrong Imperial

Accotone

No Wax

Vinyl Flooring

Reg. \$9.99 Sq. Yd.

\$6.99
SPECIAL **6** Sq. Yd.

The Carpet Centre

258 King St., Midland Town Centre **526-8983**

Give her a beautiful
Christmas...
Maybelline



Create Masterpiece Eyes with Eye Shadow Palettes

Only **\$3.49**

For these and other great Stocking Stuffer ideas, visit...



ARCADE GUARDIAN PHARMACY

286 King Street, Midland Town Centre **526-8011**

For people who demand Fashion with their Casual wear...

we feature a good selection of clothing by

Lee

the ultimate jeans

- Jeans & Cords
- Skirts ● Jackets
- Blouses
- Warm-up Suits

All sizes for Men & Ladies!



Featuring the finest in authentic Chinese and Canadian merchandise

- Porcelains-dishes, vases, etc.
- Clothing ● Slippers
- Linens-tablecloths, napkins
- Pictures ● Souvenirs and many others!

LEE'S STORE

Open daily 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Friday to 9 p.m.

233 King St., Midland Phone **526-3596**