

# Nursing home owner happy with funding

After writing many letters and lobbying governments at every level for support, Alex Jarlette is finally happy.

The local nursing home owner was pleased to receive word recently that the province would substantially increase funding to privately-owned nursing homes.

What it means to Jarlette and other private nursing home owners across Ontario is more money to pay for food and health care of the residents in the homes.

"We're very pleased," said Jarlette, who owns the Villa Care Centre on King Street in Midland.

"This is a major change in government policy that has just occurred."

Health Minister Murray Elston announced over \$88 million in extra funding July 15. "We want to be sure that nursing home residents will feel secure, comfortable and cared for," he said at the time.

But for Jarlette and the Ontario Nursing Home Association (of which he is a board member), the fight is still not over. Jarlette says he would like to see privately-owned homes brought up to the same level of funding as municipally-owned homes.

He recognizes that will be a major hurdle, but still it is one that many of those connected with the industry see as the logical next step.

"The expectations of people are very high today," said Jarlette. "But they have to realize that the ability of the government

to pay for everything is just not there."

He added that the government would have to raise taxes dramatically in order to provide the kind of health-care system - including all hospitals, nursing homes and home care programs - that Ontarians expect.

"You don't get anything for nothing," Jarlette said.

During the Ontario Nursing Home Association's fight to extract more money from the government, Jarlette and others wrote letters to many local municipal councils asking for support. Midland Town Council voted against supporting Jarlette.

However, other councils did support him and many nursing home staffers also voiced their support. Many wrote letters to the editor criticizing the province for underfunding homes.

"Public response has been a big, big help," he said. "The whole thing shows that government does work."

Jarlette said private homes had been underfunded for a long time before "the situation became critical."

The extra money for better meals and staffing will not be delivered until Oct. 1. However, money for accreditation will be increased retroactive to April 1. Jarlette added that he would like to see more money for programs, such as physiotherapy, in homes for the elderly. "These programs will be necessary with the aging population," he said.

## NDP won't win election: Lewis

Despite an NDP sweep in three byelections last week, Simcoe North MP Doug Lewis says he is optimistic for the future of the Conservatives.

Lewis, the Conservative government house leader, said he was not "overly surprised" that the New Democrats won the three byelections. The party is at a record level of support, topping both the Liberals and Conservatives in national support.

"They're riding high right now," he said, "but byelections are just snapshots on a certain day."

Lewis said once Canadians sit down and take a hard look at the policies of the NDP, they will realize the Conservatives have much more depth.

"The NDP had a holiday. Sure, Ed Broadbent looks good," he said, "but let's trot out all their policies and see how they wash."

Lewis said he was happy with the progress the government has made in the past six or seven months. The Tories, he said, will run the next campaign on their record "and we will win."

## \$8,000 damage

A 1983 Pontiac received about \$8,000 damage and its three occupants suffered minor injuries after the car entered a ditch and rolled over July 18.

Midland OPP report the car was southbound on Ogden's Beach Road when the driver failed to negotiate a curve in the road.

Twenty-six year old Aaron Laughlin of Barrie has been charged with impaired driving and excess alcohol. He is scheduled to

appear in Penetanguishene Provincial Court July 23.

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## On to Disney

George Haworth was camping on Beausoleil Island last week when he heard the news on the radio: he had won a trip for two to Disney World in Florida. Mr. Haworth was one of about 2,800 people who tried out the CKMP dart-throwing contest during the Midland Sidewalk Sale. For 25 cents, entrants got a

chance to bust three balloons with three darts and have their name entered in a draw for the trip, supplied courtesy of Terri's Travel in the Edward's Square Mall and Treasure Tours. All profits from the draw went to the Huronia District Hospital Capital Campaign fund. Here, shown left to right

are: Bryson McQuirter, community chairman of the campaign fund; Bob Bennett, CKMP manager; Terri Clark, owner of Terri's Travel; George Haworth, winner of the trip for two; his son Jamie Haworth; and Joe Jaxa-Debicki, of CKMP sales.

## Worried parent called 'overprotective'

A Midland man worried that heavy trucks and speeders on his street might harm young children was described as an "over-protective" parent at a public safety meeting last week.

John Reed, who wrote a letter to Mayor Al Roach

expressing his worries and asking for action, was turned down by the public safety committee.

Reed lives on Victoria Street. He said in the letter the road is "literally another Highway 400."

"Without sidewalks, the safety of the pedestrian

and small children on bicycles are really 'critical accidents' just waiting to happen," the letter said.

Police Chief Ernie Bates said he recognised the street as being a problem because "it's an open area. It's just like driving through fields."

The police have sent cruisers equipped with radar to Victoria Street several times, he added. But that had the effect of "chasing the speeders from one street to another."

In the letter to the mayor, Reed asked for a three-way stop at Woodland Drive and Victoria Street, additional 50 km/h signs and "Heavy transport prohibited" signs (to deter trucks which Reed said

also use the street). Chief Bates said the on-radar heavy trucks using Victoria Street would be dump trucks engaged in construction in the area.

The committee turned down Reed's requests.

Ironically, said Chief Bates, the day he went to check out the situation himself there was an accident right at the same corner Reed was worried about.

## Police seek Friar thief

Crime Stoppers of Simcoe County and the District of Muskoka, along with the Penetanguishene Police Force, request the public's assistance in identifying the persons responsible for numerous break-ins at the Friar Restaurant.

Sometime during the night of Nov. 14 and 15 last year, someone entered the Friar by forcing a door on the east side. They then entered the office area and stole approximately \$1,500 in cash. The restaurant was again broken into on

Feb. 6, 1987 and on March 7. During the Feb. 6 break-in, about \$300 in cash was stolen; the culprits were scared off during the March 7 break-in. Police believe all three were related.

Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$1,000 to anyone who

provides information that leads to an arrest in this case or any other case.

Callers are never required to reveal their identity or to testify in court.

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