

Hospital has closed on busy days

Hurononia District Hospital is so overworked it often must close its doors to all but "life-threatening emergencies," said chairman Arnold DeCarli.

He was speaking to a meeting of the Simcoe County District Health Council, held at HDH last Thursday afternoon.

Two weeks ago the hospital closed three times because it was so full, he said.

When that happens, says DeCarli, Penetanguishene General Hospital gets the overflow.

patients a day, said DeCarli. On an average day 54 emergencies pass through the doors.

But on a peak summer day, that number can climb beyond 150. "You can imagine what that does to our staffing needs and just the physical space of the hospital," DeCarli explained.

He told the group that the hospital is in the last two weeks of its massive fundraising campaign. The goal of \$2 million has almost been reached, he said.

"We were told it was impossible but we are pleased to say the community has responded very, very well."

The money raised will go towards opening an existing, uncompleted wing and to buying much-needed emergency equipment.

DeCarli said "we have every intention of completing the capital cost of that expansion ourselves. We hope we are providing the leadership necessary to demonstrate to the Ministry of Health and to you that we are not standing here with our hands out."

The new wing will be used for long-term care, as much of the hospital is clogged with that use already.

He also said HDH would like to tie itself in with PGH as far as long-term, strategic planning. The two institutions already share some facilities, such as laundry and use of high-tech medical equipment.

"There may be some question about the two hospitals," DeCarli said. "Are we friendly competitors or are there hard feelings? That may have been the case in some part of our history but that is not the case now."

Midland is growing, said DeCarli, and therefore HDH must grow too. But Midland is also growing old, and with that the hospital has to take a look at what kind of care it will provide in the future.

"I see an increase in long term care," he noted. "An older population demands more acute services as well, not just long term care."



DeCarli

"While it may appear we are running very smoothly and efficiently, our problem can be summed up in one word - and that's volume," he told the group of about 20 health unit members.

"Last week we have quite literally been closed three times to anything but life-threatening emergencies. Of course we look after those in desperate need."

The hospital had over 50,000 patients last year. On average during 1986 it was 89 per cent full.

But last month alone, said DeCarli, HDH was bulging at 94.7 per cent capacity.

The emergency ward was designed to handle 30



Key

Hairdressing demo

There will be a demonstration of hairdressing techniques this Thursday evening at the Salvation Army Citadel.

It's Women's Fellowship Time, and hairstylist Donna Fehely will be there.

Everyone is welcome to come watch a makeover in progress.

The citadel is at the corner of Second Street and Dominion Avenue. The evening starts at 7:30 p.m.



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HOS responds to campaign

A \$10,000 cheque from Huronia Office Services was presented to Gord Key, HDH's ad-

ministrator, last Friday, by Moreland Lynn, centre, and Ralph Lynn, right, on behalf of

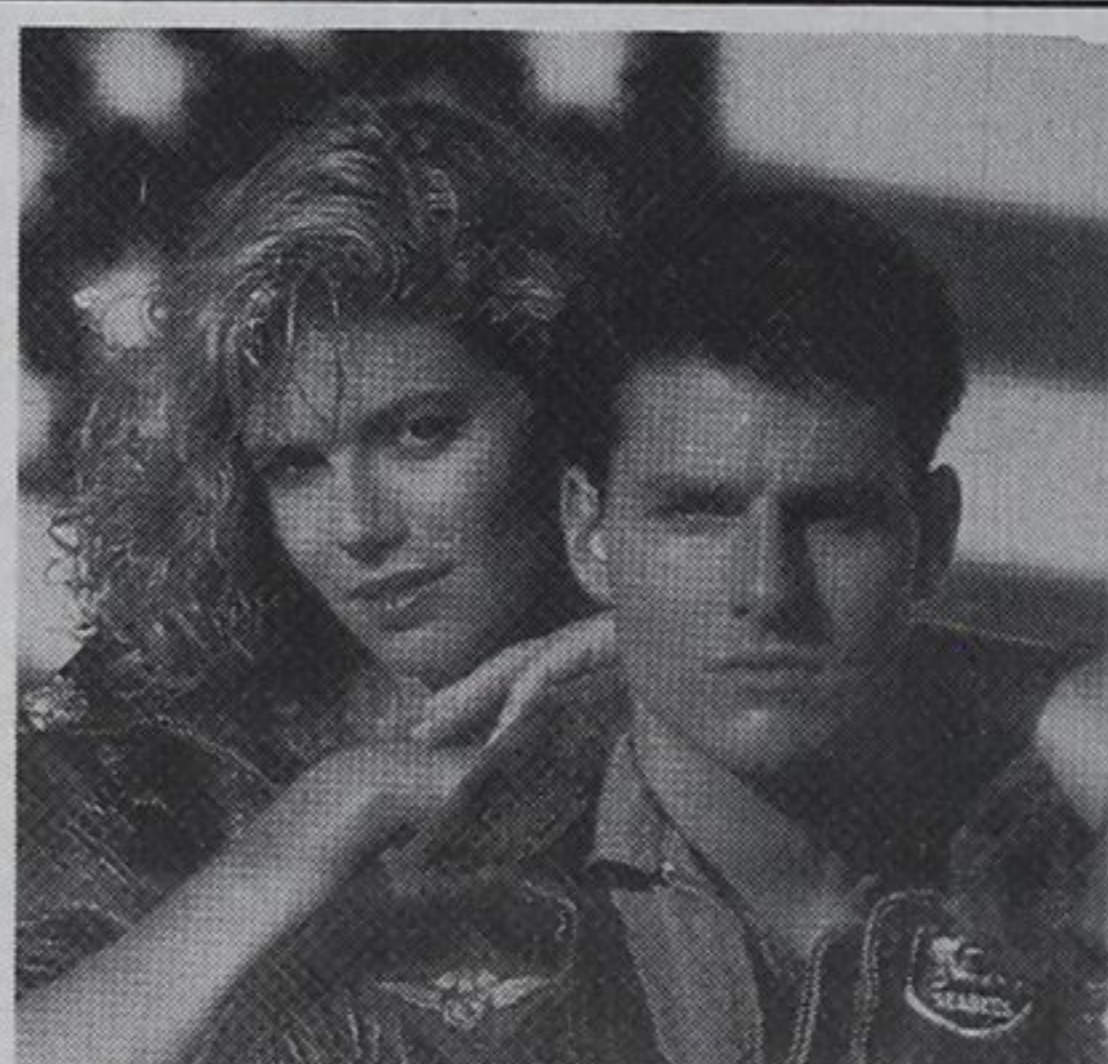
themselves and Ken Beatty, all of Huronia Office Services.

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