



(Photo by Hogg)

Tells all

A computerized patient information system is on trial at York Central Hospital. Jean Gourlay of Thornhill checks in "patient" Helen Armstrong of Newmarket, in Patient Reception area.

Hospital computer reveals instant data on patients

Instead of flipping through scores of information cards, receptionists at York Central Hospital can now obtain detailed data on patients at the touch of a button.

York Central Hospital is the first hospital in Ontario to implement an experimental computer project which began in May, 1976.

The terminal and data base system are linked to the Ontario Ministry of Government Services' Leaside Datacentre computer.

Funded mainly by the Ministry of Health, the project has three months to justify itself, said John

Flint, the hospital's assistant executive director and project director.

If the Ministry of Health decides not to continue with the computerization on such a scale, the hospital will turn to mini-computers.

The major advantage of such a system is that patient information has to be entered only once and can then be used in all departments.

This means fewer information duplicates and lower costs in staffing.

One of the main problems with such a system is the high initial cost.

"I cannot estimate the

cost of the system at this point because we are in an experimental stage and we use free-time on the main computer now," said Mr. Flint. "There are studies and evaluations being done to determine how well the project is meeting its objectives."

Each patient entering the hospital is given a central admission number under which all the information about that patient is filed.

Display screens above a typewriter show information about an individual shortly after the code number is given.

"There have been a couple of cases where the patient refused to give information if he knew it was going directly into a computer," said Mr. Flint. "I guess they were worried about the confidentiality of the computerized system."

As a protective measure, information will be given by the computer only to people with the proper code numbers.

Not as much time is spent filling out forms and past information about a patient is all filed

in the central registry making it easier for the staff to find.

At the outset of the operation, it was proposed that the computerization of a pharmacy stage should be implemented by July 1, but the Ministry of Health does not want to invest any more money until the present system of Registration and Admissions is justified financially, as a working unit, said Mr. Flint.

It seems inevitable that computerization will become standard for hospitals in the future but it is hard to convince people to change.

"I'm an optimist and believe the Ministry will become aware of the benefits of modern computer technology especially to keep track of the masses of information which keep expanding," he said.

If the program is successful, it will only be the beginning of a chain of computerization to improve patient care at York Central Hospital and could bring about a great many changes in hospital operations throughout the province.

221 students graduate

Excitement ran high among the 221 Grade 8 graduates of Crosby Heights Senior Public School recently as they collected their certificates marking the end of their elementary school days.

On the platform to greet the young graduates were the three principals, past and present, of Crosby, Eldon Gooding (1957-1973), Dr. Peter Ross (1973-1977) and Kel Tonner.

The CHSS athletic trophies were presented by physical education teachers Joan Moon and Paul Matthews to the two top all-round athletes Dorothy Norman and David Allen.

Once again the House Team trophy was won by Olympic House and received by captains Elizabeth Wiggins and Paul Harrietha.

After the certificates were presented individually to all graduates, the school band, under the direction of Jim Morrison played several selections.

The top 10 academic students for the year were Laurie Lynden, Avis Maher, Jennifer Lord, Lorraine Sharpe, Debbie Murray, Susan Beattie, Tracy Porter, Barbara Sculthorp, Brad Limpert and Jennifer Downie.

The two students with the highest marks, Laurie Lynden and Avis Maher, received inscribed books given by the York County Board of Education.

Laurie Lynden was the valedictorian.

Presentation of the certificates for the most improvement was made to Gary Loman, Patti Burch and Dennis deAngelis.

Winners of the E. F. Gooding Award, for all-round proficiency in academic subjects, participation in and contribution to the sports and social programs of the school, were Peter Anagnostopoulos and Jill Harris.

Secretary of State Secretariat d'Etat

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in the hill

Puppet show to Hill Library

A puppet show will be held in the Richmond Hill Public Library on Wright Street Wednesday, August 3, beginning at 2 p.m.

The show will be presented by three students operating under a grant from the ministry of culture and recreation and the Young Works Program.

The puppets, Blossom Possum, Cecil Bear, Professor Groundhop and Little Red Riding Rabbit will entertain children from the age of four at the afternoon performance.

Due to the limitation of space in the auditorium, admission is limited to 150 children and tickets should be obtained prior to the date of the show.

Tickets are available in the boys and girls room of the main library.

Lewis-Thompson

Yvonne Mary Lewis of Richmond Hill was married to Paul Duncan Thompson of Weston, June 18, at St. Mary's Anglican Church officiated by Rev. Bern Barrett.

The bride wore a jersey and lace gown and bridesmaids wore tangerine color dresses with chiffon jackets.

The reception was held at the Richmond Hill Lions Club.

The couple received congratulatory telegrams from Hong Kong, England, Vancouver and Elliot Lake.

She is the daughter of Mary Lewis, 100 Centre St. W., and has lived in Richmond Hill all her life.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth R. Thompson of Weston and is a marketing officer at Manufacturers Life Insurance.

The bride is in the public relations division of the same company.

The couple is now living in Etobicoke.

Man grabbed, loses \$200

A man was grabbed and pushed into a car carrying four men and two females while leaving the Richmond Inn the evening of July 8.

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- Do not let someone talk you into doing work you weren't planning to have done.
- Always obtain estimates from several reliable firms.
- Insist that all details be written into the contract before you sign—including the type and amount of work to be done, any extras, and the total cost.
- Keep the down payment to an absolute minimum.
- Never pay in full until the work is finished to your complete satisfaction.
- If financing is necessary, arrange it yourself with a bank or reputable finance company.

In addition, your Provincial government wants you to know what your rights are under the Consumer Protection and Business Practices Acts.

- The Consumer Protection Act allows you to cancel any contract, to be performed and paid for in the future and signed in your home, if you send a registered letter within 48 hours of signing—even though work has already started.
- The Business Practices Act provides fines and jail terms for people who deliberately deceive, mislead or lie to consumers.

For a free information kit, write to:
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Sidney Handleman,
Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations

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