

Doctor migration to the States reaches 'stampede proportions'

By RON WALLACE
Liberal Associate Editor

The numbers of doctors heading to the United States have reached "stampede proportions", the president of the York Central Medical Association said Friday.

But they're not leaving because they're dishonest, Dr. Ted Boadway added.

Dr. Boadway, with York Central Hospital's Chief of Staff Dr. Peter Granger, were addressing a press conference to explain why five doctors have left or are leaving the Richmond Hill hospital for positions in the United States.

Economic and non-economic issues are the causes of doctors leaving, but Dr. Boadway had no knowledge of any doctors double-billing and leaving the country before investigations could be carried out.

"That's a total fabrication," Dr. Boadway said. "If there are dishonest doctors, they should be treated ruthlessly."

Dr. Boadway was responding to a suggestion that some doctors had billed Ontario Hospital Insurance Plan (OHIP) and sent the same bills to the Workman's Compensation Board.

"When OHIP gets a sniff (of an error in billing), they're like a pack of hounds," Dr. Boadway said.

The doctor told of a situation in his own office when he overbilled OHIP by \$780. OHIP representatives found the error quickly, but also caught an under-billing of \$500.

"We sawed off at \$280," Dr. Boadway said.

Dr. Boadway urged the College of Physicians and Surgeons would also be interested in hearing if doctors are double or overbilling.

The group doesn't move very fast, he said, but it also doesn't stop until all the answers are known.

Doctors who are leaving Richmond Hill are finding new lives in the United States with little or no trouble.

"It's easy to relocate there," Dr. Boadway said. "Six weeks and I'd be set up."

There is a shortage of family doctors in the States, Dr. Granger noted.

Who they are

Who's gone?

Four of the five doctors who have left or are leaving this area to set up practices in the United States were revealed at a press conference Friday.

They include Dr. Ju Kuo Kuang, Dr. Leon Bloom, Dr. Harvey Socol and Dr. L.N. Pivnick.

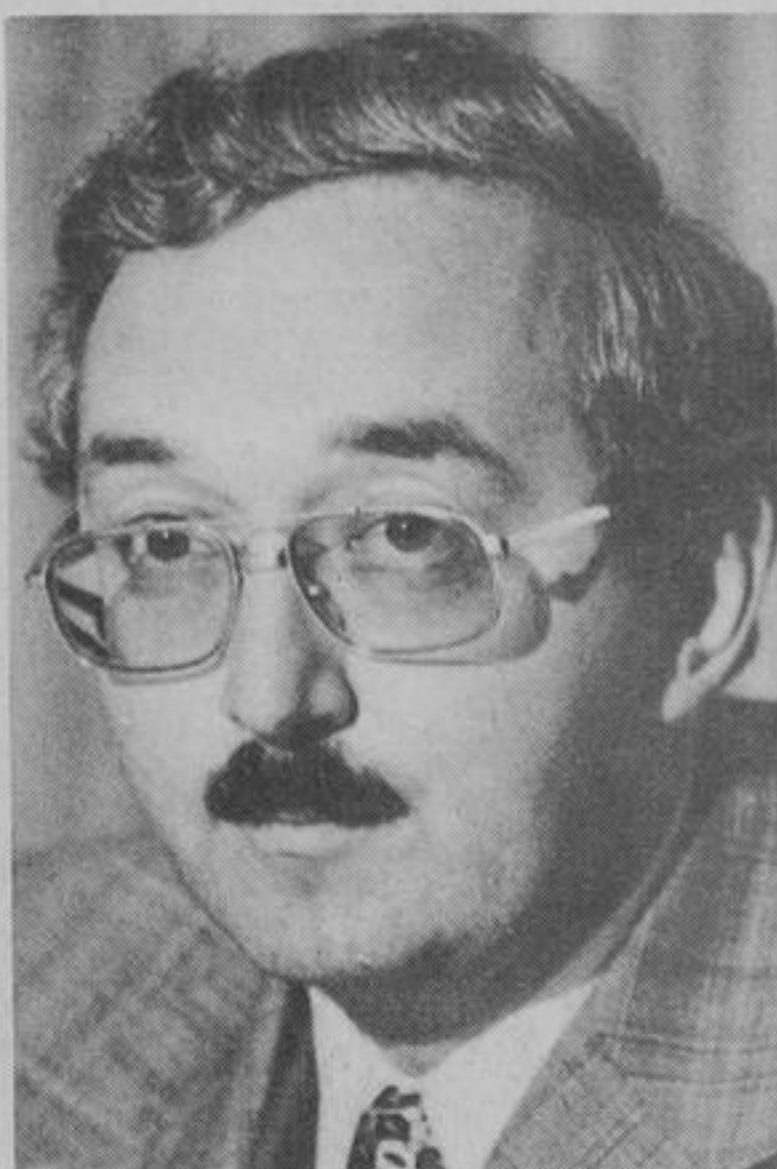
A fifth doctor, "a prominent Richmond Hill physician" wishes to remain anonymous, Dr. Ted Boadway told The Liberal.

That doctor has not yet left this area.

The doctors represent numerous years of service in this district and it will take "years to re-establish" similar practices, Dr. Boadway said.



DR. TED BOADWAY



DR. PETER GRANGER

Both doctors admitted having thought of the idea to move south.

"Yes, I've thought of leaving," Dr. Boadway said, "but I do have a commitment to this community."

"I've thought of it, too, but I've lived here for 15 years and I like it," Dr. Granger said. "I will make an effort to stay and make it work."

Doctors are leaving Canada because, according to Drs. Boadway and Granger:

— net incomes fell short 41.5 per cent of the Consumer Price Index;

— net incomes fell short 53.8 per cent of Wage and Salary Index;

— net incomes fell 50 to 70 per cent short of the increase experienced by almost all other professional groups.

"The indexed federal pension plan which has slid in without the public understanding it and which has made the federal politician and civil servant a class separate from and above all other

Canadians, has symbolized to some physicians across Canada, a moral bankruptcy of our leaders," Dr. Boadway said.

The doctors also charge that numerous and increasing "layers of bureaucracy" exist, "all of which purport to tell the deliverer of Health Services how to perform his function".

Dr. Boadway said there have been continuous appeals to various ministries, but "much of my efforts have been totally wasted".

Drs. Boadway and Granger agreed that the medical profession made its big mistake in the early 70s when it agreed to no increase in income.

"We were crazy to do it," Dr. Boadway said, "but we thought we should set an example in the community."

Shortly after that the Anti-Inflation Board came into effect, and doctors were locked into minimal wage increases.

But doctors, who Dr. Boadway described as "scarcely a group of renegades", take a long time to fight back.

"It needs five to six years of percolation before a cohesive group is formed," Dr. Boadway said.

Only now are doctors attempting to bring the problem to the public.

While five of York Central's 65 doctors have planned to leave Canada, there is no shortage of doctors at this time.

But more and more doctors coming out of Canadian universities are finding it easier to set up practise in American cities.

Loyal True Blue and Orange celebrates Silver Jubilee

BY DIANE MARSHALL

A special tribute to the Queen's Silver Jubilee was held at the Loyal True Blue and Orange Home on Yonge St. as a finale to the summer program called Camp Kee Chi Ha (short for keep children happy) last week.

About 40 children dressed in costumes from various Commonwealth countries representing Canada, Australia, Wales, Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Bermuda, India, Scotland and Guyana participated in a State Dinner attended by the Queen's representative.

Following the dinner, the delegations proceeded to the auditorium where awards were given to winners of the Commonwealth Games which were held earlier in August and included swimming and track and field events.

During the royal reception, ambassadors presented their group to Lady Gwilliam, the queen's representative, and performed for her.

The Canadian delegation, dressed as Indians, French-Canadian loggers and hockey players sang a couple of Canadian songs namely "Allouette" and "Land of the Silver Birch."

The Australian "koala bears" and the Indian sari girls danced for the royal representative.

Australian will speak to Rotarians

It's World Understanding Week, as far as Rotarians throughout the globe are concerned, and the Richmond Hill club is doing something about it.

Next Tuesday, at the regular Rotary meeting, their guest speaker will be from Perth, Australia.

Elizabeth Anne Casey, a graduate of the University of Western Australia, will live in Richmond Hill for a year while continuing her studies at the University of Toronto.

A Rotary program allows her the 12-month trip to Canada.

Richmond Hill Rotary meets at 6.30 p.m. at the Black Hawk Hotel on Yonge Street, south of Elgin Mills.

After all the delegations were concluded, a Royal Ball was held where everyone was invited to waltz.

The Loyal True Blue and Orange Home will be honoring the Queen's Silver Jubilee again September 11 when they hold their annual open house featuring the East York Country Dancers, Pipe Bands and the Bokhara Court Drill No. 22 Marching unit of Toronto.

Tours will be conducted through the Home and everyone is invited to attend. The children who live at the home are between the ages of three and 12.

Most are from broken homes and are kept at the Home until the family situation is improved or the home re-established by either one of the parents.

The minimum placement period for children is three months and maximum time is usually two years but these limits are flexible.

Rice joins

Bob Rice, who grew up in Richmond Hill, joins The Liberal this week as columnist.

Bob's first column appears on Page A-4.



Speed change

Don Taylor tightens a new metric speed limit sign on Yonge Street marking the official change from miles to kilometres yesterday. The 60 kilometres per hour translates to about 37½ miles per hour.

Town support growing for Discovery Days

With Discovery Days fewer than two weeks away, clubs and organizations in Richmond Hill are continuing to report their planned activities.

Discovery Days is a project of the Richmond Hill Civic Improvement Committee and is slated to run from September 17 to 24.

On Saturday, September 17, the Richmond Hill Historical Society will hold a handicraft festival at the "Burr House" on Carrville Road.

There will be handicraft demonstrations, a bake sale and a historical art exhibit.

The Richmond Hill Square Dancers will provide entertainment.

On Sunday, September 18, a walking tour of Yonge Street will be led by Pat Hart. It begins from the town hall at 2 p.m.

Throughout the week, an open house will be held every afternoon at Burr House. Tea and scones will be served.

Meanwhile, the Richmond Hill branch of the Canadian Power Squadron will show a color film highlighting methods of safe boating, at their booth in the arena, September 23 and 24.

Films will be shown every hour. The Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps "Patriot" and the Navy League Cadet Corps "Compass Rose" will participate in the celebrations.

While plans are not definite, some marching and drill presentations may take place.

The Richmond Hill Figure Skating Club will participate in Discovery Days, and have the perfect display lined up.

"Our skaters will be on the ice in the new arena on September 23 and 24, and this should add much to our display," said secretary June Fitzgerald.

Richmond Hill's Trampoline Club will have demonstrations outside the arena, plus a booth display of movies, fact sheets and photographs.

St. Mary's Anglican Church will open its buildings to the public and will have historical and other displays of interest.

The Richmond Hill Model Airplane Club is prepared to put on an actual flying exhibition of radio controlled model planes and "U" line control model planes September 17, 18 and 24 on the fields on 18th and 19th Avenues.

The Richmond Hill Public Library has extensive plans for the week, including music, displays, puppet presentations and several other activities.

Also participating are St. Mary Immaculate Church, the Richmond Hill United Church Women, the Richmond Hill Baptist Church, and numerous other clubs, groups and organizations.

Archbishop visits Maple

Most Rev. Donald Coggan, Archbishop of Canterbury, attended St. Stephen's Anglican Church in Maple recently, not as the invited preacher, but as part of the congregation.

The Archbishop of Canterbury is the premier bishop of the Anglican Communion.

A brilliant scholar, Archbishop Coggan was once a professor at Wycliffe College in Toronto.

After the morning service at St. Stephen's, the congregation met the Archbishop and Mrs. Coggan in the rectory garden.

Lack of a quorum kills discussion

Members of York Regional Council may have plenty to say on the Report of the Royal Commission on Metropolitan Toronto, but lack of a quorum kept them from saying it at a special meeting of council last week.

The meeting was called to consider the report drawn up by former Ontario premier John Robarts and his commission, plus similar reports from the Niagara region and Ottawa-Carleton.

Summaries of the three reports, which deal with regional concerns, had been prepared by the York staff for review.

Last week's meeting, however, drew only six of the 16-member council, plus Chairman Garfield Wright, Richmond Hill's three members,

Mayor Dave Schiller, and Councillors Lois Hancey and Lou Wainwright, were in attendance, as were Mayors George Timpon of Aurora, and Gordon Ratcliff of Whitchurch-Stouffville, plus Councillor Eric Larsen of Georgina.

Councillor Hancey wondered if the members couldn't go ahead with the meeting anyway and relay their own views on various matters covered in the report.

Chairman Wright said he would not have any objections to the members putting in their personal comments, but questioned their impact.

Council will review the reports at their regular meeting, Sept. 8. Recommendations from the reports must be submitted to the provincial government by Sept. 15.



Posh wedding

Leader of the Official Opposition Dr. Stuart Smith, left, congratulates Mr. and Mrs. James W. Curran, following ceremony at King City's All Saints Church Saturday morning. The bride is Gwen Britnell, daughter of King Township

Mayor Margaret Britnell, while the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William V. Curran, R.R. 1, King. Dr. Smith and his wife, Patti, were among some 200 guests who attended the traditional wedding.