

Annual Meeting - continued from page 1

At Birchwood Terrace the major changes were made in the cooking equipment in the kitchen. There are still a number of changes to be made in this area and an overall plan has been approved by the Senior Citizens' Branch so that ongoing improvements can be made over a period of time. Proper signs for the Home have been planned, one of which has been completed and the other two will be installed as soon as weather permits. Thirty-two combination storm windows have also been installed.

In 1976 we have planned to continue with the room conversion at Pinewood Court and at Birchwood Terrace a craft room and room renovations will be continued and have been included in the 1976 budget.

In December, 1975 the Minister of Social Services the Honourable James Taylor announced to all Home Administrators the restraints that would be applied to all Homes in the Province, at a meeting in Toronto. In January the Minister held a meeting in Thunder Bay in which the restraints were outlined and I was invited to attend.

The Minister first stated the reasons for the restraints, explaining that spending had to be curtailed as over the past five years the Ministry's spending had increased from 363 million to 992 million, a 20% average increase each year. The country's economy was not keeping pace with these increases, therefore, we faced a financial crisis and, without adopting these restraints we faced the same situation that New York City was encountering. The Minister then explained the restraint program in detail.

The three major items that affect our program are:

1. Capital and spending will be restricted except where programs are in progress.
2. Operating Budgets are to be restricted to a 5.5% increase over subsidies paid by the Province in 1975.
3. Wages will be allowed to increase by 8%, however, the overall Budget will be restricted to the 5.5% ceilings.

The Minister expressed the hope that Homes would maintain these services to residents. He reviewed a number of areas where we may seek assistance with our programs.

Present restraints will limit the Board's plans for community work. Work in the community will be limited to the program that has been carried on in the past, where the Administrator and the Director of Nursing have been visiting Senior Citizens in their homes and interviewing those interested in applying to

the two Homes that are operating.

I would like to welcome the delegates from the Municipalities and if they have any questions or suggestions in relation to the work with Seniors in the District we would be only too pleased to hear their submissions.

We appreciate the support we have received from the Municipalities and the communities we serve and, look forward to their continued support."

Following the Chairman's Report the Administrator reported on the operation of the two Homes and, the work in the community. Delegates were very interested in the operation of the two Homes and reviewed the plans that were being made in Schreiber and Marathon in regards to the possibility of establishing Senior Citizens' Housing in these two areas.

Mr. Daneff reported on the twenty bed unit that is now operating in Geraldton, which is the only town in the area with low rental income for Senior Citizens' Housing. Both the Board and the delegates are interested in tying the Senior Citizens' Housing with the two Homes that are now operating in the area.

The meeting finished with a tour of Pinewood Court. The delegates were very pleased with the condition of the Home.

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