

Supplying north with doctors aim of program



Family Medicine North Resident Dr. Laura Parna and Dr. Keith Wilkes.

by Darren MacDonald
The News

For the foreseeable future, Schreiber and Terrace Bay will have a full complement of four physicians, including three full-time doctors.

The fourth will be a resident working toward their certification in Family Medicine, under the Family Medicine North program.

"The residents are going to be here on a more or less continuous basis," says Dr. Keith Wilkes, preceptor, or supervisor, for the program at the McCausland.

Family Medicine North is a program associated with the Northwestern Ontario Medical Program. It has two basic goals: one is to allow post-graduate physicians to obtain certification in Family Medicine; the other is to create a supply of doctors who have experience practicing medicine

in the north.

"We are now in the position of training physicians who will be acclimatized to small town practices," says Wilkes. "Not physicians who are trained in a big city and suddenly find themselves in a small town and don't know what end is up."

The residents will spend two months each at the McCausland. The current schedule has doctors booked through the next eight months, with the

first, Dr. Laura Parna, having started July 2.

"The idea is that if physicians are trained in the north, they'll stay in the north," says Parna, who, like the remaining residents scheduled for the McCausland, is in her second year of post-graduate study.

Certification in Family Medicine usually takes two years.

"Most of the residents who have chosen to enroll in the

program are interested in having small-town practices," says Parna.

"A point we want to get across is that the residents are fully qualified physicians," says Wilkes. "Patients should feel free to come and see (Parna). They can make appointments through my office, and be seen by her with my overall supervision."

Although the initial program is scheduled to run for the next eight months, he says he hopes to make the program permanent.

"My aim will be to have a full-time resident here, each in two month blocks, and to have

them become a permanent presence in the community for years and years to come," says Wilkes.

"We'll be covered for eight months of the year anyway."

Also new at the McCausland is the planned installation of Medline, a computerized data base that will allow the hospital access to summaries of the latest articles in medical journals.

"It's a computer program that allows us access to up-to-date literature from a data base centred in Washington," says Parna.

Medline is expected to be on line in the near future.

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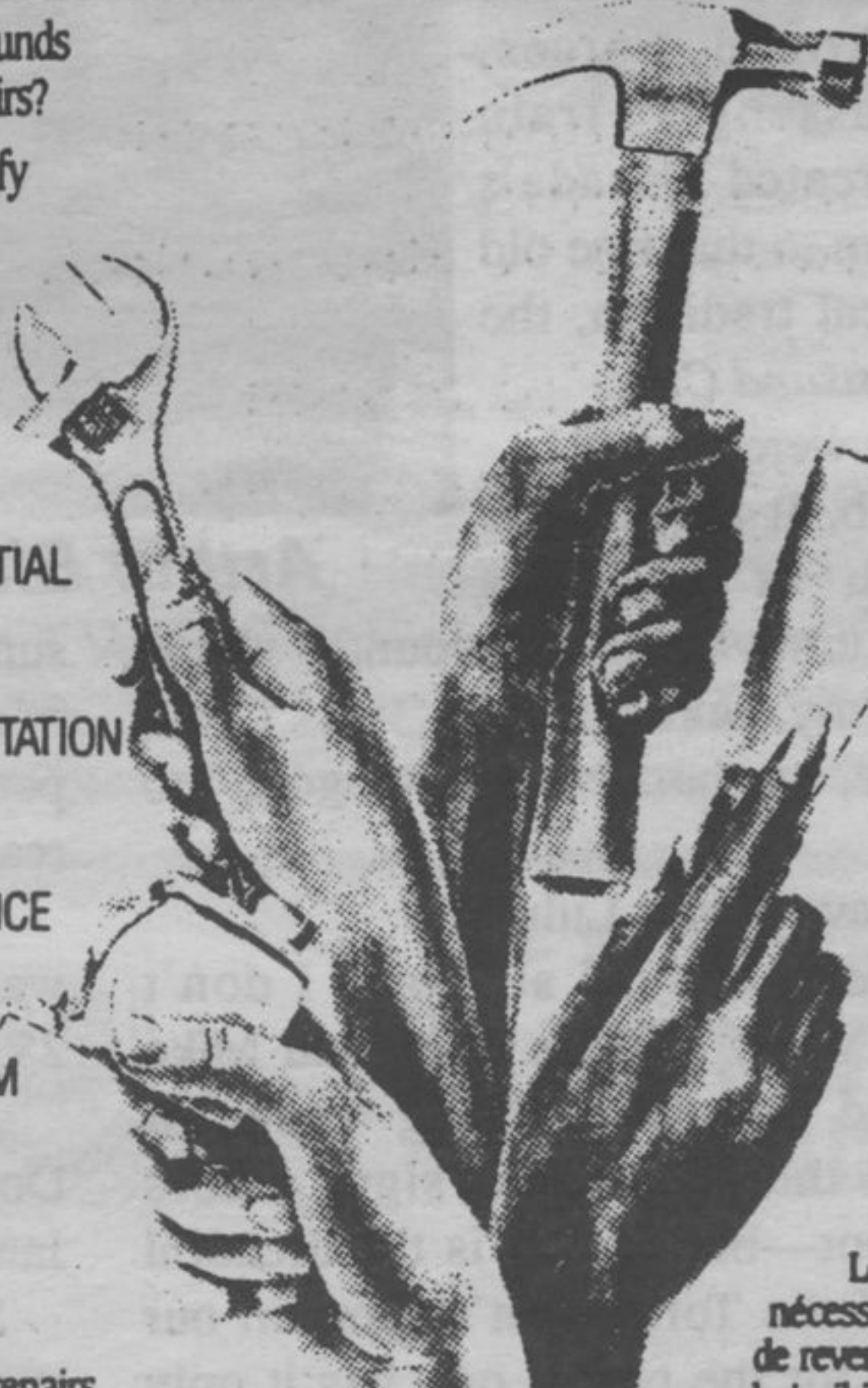
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Mr. & Mrs. Cosimo Figliomeni are proud to announce the graduation of their son David from Algonquin College in Ottawa, with a diploma in Marketing/ Administration. David is presently working in the vehicle sales department of G. Figliomeni & Sons.

THE McCAUSLAND HOSPITAL

would like to take this opportunity to thank the Terrace Bay Fire Department for their participation in our Fire Drill, Wednesday, July 8, 1992. We are pleased to say that it was very successful.

Our apologies to any individuals who were inconvenienced when trying to enter the Hospital grounds during the drill.

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