

No Solution Reached For Hospital Debt Problem

Representatives of municipal councils in North York, from Vaughan to Georgina Townships, including members of Whitchurch Council, gathered at East Gwillimbury Township Hall, Sharon, to discuss their obligations to York County Hospital. Although discussions dragged on for three hours, they did not agree on a recommendation to share on an \$11,000 grant to offset the hospital's \$60,000 debt problem.

There were criticism and praise about the operation of the only

hospital in North York. All agreed that the hospital must not be closed because of its financial problems. A few suggested a recommendation to all councils to accept a proportionate grant; some tried to think of alternatives but it was left for each representative to go home and discuss it with his council.

While seeking alternative sources of aid, Reeves and deputies complained bitterly about the low grants from the provincial governments. The meeting passed a

resolution by Reeve Norman Doyle, North Gwillimbury, and Stanley Osborne, East Gwillimbury, that a petition be sent to the provincial government for larger hospital grants, with special regard to indigent and public ward patients.

The hospital's most outspoken critic, Reeve Elton Armstrong, King, complained about the basis on which the hospital had asked councils to share. Their share of the \$11,000 was to be in proportion to the number of patients they

sent to hospital.

"The basis is wrong to start with. I think it should be the number of patient days," he said.

"With an \$11,000 loss, I think there must be something wrong with the management of the hospital," continued Mr. Armstrong. "And I have been told that since this hospital board was set up, its been closed doors, a sort of dictatorship and even the doctors are not asked to the meetings; only at the end of the year is anyone invited to attend."

"I think the board is trying to do the best it can but somewhere there is something over which the board has no control," he said. "As for the \$9 a day cost per patient, I think there is something wrong with the management when you consider this hospital was given by donations."

Replying to the King Township reeve's criticisms, K. M. R. Stiver, chairman of the hospital board said, "I know the hospital can't be made to pay . . . But it should give service to the poor as well as the rich. In many cases, patients lose their earning power when they are sick and in hospital. Maybe our policy has been wrong;

Digs at House Human Skull Rolls at Feet

Digging at the foundation of his home, three miles north of Pickering Village, William Wright uncovered what is believed to be a human skull. Mr. Wright said: "As I pulled the shovel away, the skull rolled out of the earth at my feet."

Mr. Wright said that the house is about 30 years old and he had no idea how the skull happened to be beside his home.

maybe we should have raised our rates more.

"Of course I deny that the hospital is not managed properly," he continued. "The doctors have always had a representative on the board and as to Mr. Armstrong's charge that the board is a closed corporation, I certainly deny that. There have always been published notices before every meeting. Books are audited by the best accountants in Ontario."

"If you raise the rates, people will give up trying to pay and go indigent," warned Reeve Arthur D. Evans, Newmarket.

"What guarantee is there that we won't have to pay another \$11,000 next year?" Councillor McCarron, Whitchurch. "The hospital is in debt and it looks as if it is still going in debt."

Mr. Stiver said he could give no assurance that it wouldn't continue to go in debt. "I don't know what the future holds and the costs are still going up. We have raised our rates slightly and with grants, I think, we can break even this year."

Reeve Elton Armstrong said, "I think we should wait until the June sessions of County Council where we can do something for all these hospitals. Maybe we can find a way for paying not only the \$11,000 but the whole \$60,000."

Reeve Jack Rye, East Gwillimbury, said that the county was going to be asked for \$189,000 for grants to other hospitals in Toronto.

"How will we get anything from the county when its budget is already set?" asked Reeve Evans of Newmarket. "The county is giving over \$200,000 to hospitals in its budget now."

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