

Four physicians criticize OHIP

STOUFFVILLE — Four out of six doctors in Town say they want to "opt out" of the present Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP), The Tribune learned through interviews with the physicians this week.

They generally agreed their grievances toward OHIP were financial, but other reasons, such as government control, were cited as well.

Recent surveys show that Ontario family doctors are falling drastically behind other professions in net incomes.

The trouble began in 1971, when OHIP agreed to pay the physicians 90 per cent of the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) fee schedule. But the payments have dropped, and now there is a 36 per cent discrepancy between the two schedules.

If a doctor decides to withdraw from the plan, he would bill his patients directly, using the OMA fee schedule as a guideline. He could charge more or less if he chooses, and would be flexible with people who couldn't afford the higher rate.

Presently, OHIP pays a doctor \$7.65 for treating a patient with, for example, a sore throat. Under the Association guideline, he could earn \$11.00.

Dr. Donald Smith, Stouffville Medical Offices, says he was the only one of three doctors in the office who wanted out of the plan. Since then, the other two are considering it.

"We work twice as long for the same pay. Doctors just can't afford the time away from their practices, therefore enrollments are down in post-graduation schools. For some doctors, it has

even become economically unfeasible to continue working in the emergency department of a hospital, because of the time they have to be away from their offices."

An M.D. at the Stouffville Medical Centre, Dr. Elmer Uzans, says he is not satisfied with the plan.

"The fee schedule is inadequate. It seems the government is using OHIP for political, rather than medical reasons."

He has thought about opting out, but at present feels it would be difficult.

Dr. Donald Petrie, also at the Centre, agrees.

"Most of the G.P.s in Town are nice guys who don't want to offend people by making an issue of money. If it weren't for the roots established here, the

easiest way for us to get rid of these hassles would be to go to the States."

Dr. Petrie believes doctors find it "distasteful" to put a price on what they do, but he confesses, he becomes annoyed when he compares his income to that of the average plumber or television repairman and finds his lower.

Since Dr. Peter Izso, Medical Offices, entered the system as it presently operates, he feels he hasn't much to complain about because he can't compare it with previous methods.

"It's simple, and we don't have to worry about the hassles involved in private billing."

"I think a lot of doctors are concerned primarily with the government control OHIP exerts, and secondarily with the financial end of it."

York Region

Road widths extreme claims Town mayor

STOUFFVILLE — Mayor Eldred King doesn't agree with York Region's general policy on road allowances, not in Whitchurch-Stouffville anyway. He feels road widths (fence-to-fence), should not be a full 120 feet. Such right-of-ways, he claims tend to encourage future councils to expand pavement widths and thus accommodate heavier volumes of traffic. Maintenance costs are also higher, he says.

Regional cohort, Ron Moran of Markham doesn't altogether follow Mayor King's line of thought. He says a 120 foot road allowance is not only good planning—but smart, thinking economically. "Now is the time to do it," he told The Tribune, "the purchase price of land is a lot less to-day than in the future."

Mr. Moran points to 17th Avenue in Markham as an example. The road there has been reconstructed for two lanes "and may stay that way for 15 years", but the road allowance is 120 feet to accommodate expansion if needed.

With regard to McCowan Road (7th concession), Ron Moran says no decision had been reached on future width, in

fact, the project is only in an early design stage. He notes, however, that jog eliminations had been approved for the intersections of 16th, 18th and 19th Avenues.

On the same subject, Eldred King says the "dog-leg" at the corner of 7th Line and the Stouffville-Gormley Road will be removed, similar to what's already been done at the 5th Concession. Also, a 2,300 foot section of the 7th, from Lemonville Church through to the Bloomington Road, will be widened and re-built.

Ex-convict needs a job

Can you help?

Bob Neilson, recently released from Kingston Penitentiary, is looking for permanent work—any kind of work.

For almost two months he's been searching the ads and walking the streets, without success. He's discouraged.

If you're in a position to employ this man, he can be reached by calling 888-1750. He says you won't be sorry.

Lions Club

Winter mardi-gras in park and arena

STOUFFVILLE — The annual mid-winter Mardi-Gras, sponsored by the Stouffville Lions Club, will be held this Saturday in the town park and at the arena.

Activities will include sleigh, cutter and snowmobile rides (11 a.m. to 1 p.m.); competitions between service clubs (2 p.m.); an exhibition of skill by the Stouffville Figure

Skating Club (8 p.m.); a teen dance in Latham Hall (8:30 p.m.); a broomball game between the Kinsmen and the Lions (8:45 p.m.) and public skating with prizes for best costumes at 9:15 p.m.

Coffee and refreshments will be provided by the Kinettes; hot dogs by the firemen.

Admission is free to all arena events, also the teen dance in Latham Hall.

Inland newspapers capture 22 awards

Sister newspapers of this newspaper, owned by Inland Publishing Co. Limited, are winners of 22 awards in the Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association's (O.W.N.A.) Better Newspaper Competition.

Leading the way is The Mississauga News, winner of six awards including best over-all newspaper in class 7, Ontario's largest circulation group for newspapers over 16,001.

Other awards for The Mississauga News in its class are: best sports pages, best local advertising, best classified advertising, and in the Premier awards category, best photo layout and best special edition (6,501 and over). All newspapers enter the Premier competitions.

Oshawa This Week is third in the same class capturing four awards. Included are best composition and layout, best editorial page and best tabloid front page in the Premier division.

The Brampton Guardian has the best front page and best photography in the same class.

The Georgetown Independent is the best newspaper in Class 5 (circulation 6,501 to 10,000) with five awards. In addition to best over-all, Georgetown Independent has the best editorial page, best sports pages, best classified advertising and best news and feature.

The Milton Canadian Champion is third in this class.

The Newmarket Era is third in Class 6 (circulation 10,001 to 16,000). It also wins best front page, best classified advertising and in the Premier division, champion correspondent for Marie Wheeler's column.

Last year Inland Publishing Co. Limited newspapers captured 14 awards.

The awards will be presented at the O.W.N.A.'s annual convention to be held March 1-3 in Toronto.



Feeding time for three kids and a lamb

Last week, twin lambs were born to a ewe on Jim Rae's farm, Conc. 7, Whitchurch-Stouffville. One appeared a little weaker than the other so received special care and attention. Here, 'baby' is

given his noon-day bottle by (left to right) - Kelly, Stacy and Terry Rae, children of Bob and Sharon Rae, RR 2, Stouffville.

Jim Thomas

Water purity is suspect - Wedley

STOUFFVILLE — "Pure water" at the sanitary landfill site, east of Hwy. 48 and north of the Bloomington Road?

There's no certainty of this, says Ward 2 councillor Becky Wedley, even though the mayor, she feels, has indicated all is well. She fears recent statements by the mayor may, in her own words, "lull residents of Whitchurch-Stouffville into a false sense of security". She points out that opinions ex-

pressed by Mr. King are not necessarily those of Council "and most certainly not mine".

Councillor Wedley's concern is based on the fact that several test holes, that previously revealed some degree of pollution, now are completely pure—purer than any landfill site has ever shown anywhere. Professor R.W. Gillham, the Town's "watch-dog" over this project,

considers this "highly unusual", she says. So also do officials of the Ministry of the Environment and other engineers.

"There's a possibility that 'chemical activity' is taking place under the site, causing clouds to travel, effecting only one or two or more wells. Certain chemicals, working together, can form another chemical that has the ability to purify, thus pure water at some locations on the property," said the councillor.

"It should be pointed out too," she continued, "that certain chemicals working together, can also form deadly poisons".

The Ministry, Becky Wedley says, is working in close cooperation with Professor Gillham in an effort to explain the unexplained.

"Certainly," stated the councillor, "you cannot dump millions of gallons of liquid chemical waste into open lagoons daily for three years and not have it come back to haunt you".

With respect to the Town utilizing this site, councillor Wedley says "no way".

She feels such a decision would jeopardize the municipality's position at future hearings or law suits, should Stouffville's water become polluted.

Groundhog "Phil" gone senile - reader

Is it six more weeks of winter or is spring just around the corner?

According to officialdom in Punsutawney, Pennsylvania, "Phil", the town's all-glorious groundhog, saw his shadow, Friday and scurried back to his hole.

However, Mrs. Ed Boniface of Claremont feels the folks down Punsutawney way have their signals crossed. She says when the groundhog sees its shadow, it definitely stays out, signifying spring's on its way. Her reference is Page 42 of the Farmer's Almanac.

Alex Davidson, RR 1,

Stouffville, attended the Punsutawney ceremony last year and reports the groundhog always sees its shadow regardless of the weather and, yes, it runs back into its lair for another six weeks.

Mrs. Boniface isn't convinced.

"I think old "Phil" gone senile—had the biscuit," she said, "and should be retired. His prognostications are all wrong".

What does Alex Davidson say.

He's not so sure that either Phil the groundhog or the Farmer's Almanac should be taken too seriously.

"Cream of the crop"

Expert gymnasts

STOUFFVILLE — When it comes to athletics, boys are in a class by themselves—so they think.

However, they might think differently, should they be so brave as to attend an extra-curricular gymnastics course, Thursday afternoons at Orchard Park School.

The neat, trim athletes are, you guessed it, all girls.

Hour-long workouts are deadly serious, yet fun. The kids

are preparing for an Area Meet in May, likely at Aurora.

Volunteer instructors include staff teachers Ron Robbins and Eva Wolf along with Barbara Halmague, a coach from York University. Karen Smith and Stacey Lintner, two Orchard Park grads now attending Stouffville High, often drop by to lend a hand.

Both Ron and Eva are pleased with the progress the girls have made. Ron manages

the older gals; Eva the smaller ones. Each participant is looking forward to the day she can test her skill against gymnasts from other schools. Team members include Tracey Emery, Robyn Grove, Tammy Yake, Norma Sayers, Anne Christie, Laura Baatz, Jenny Tosney, Leslie Stronach, Charmaine Lintner, Nicolette Ertl, Elaine Marshall, Melanie Hoff, Michelle Bridgman and Penny Larstone.

Region of York Praise for police

YORK REGION — Praise for police? Sure, all the time, revealed Chief Bruce Crawford at a Commission meeting last week.

Chief Crawford said that in January alone, he had received no less than fifteen letters of commendation



This spring, fourteen young gymnasts will represent Stouffville at an Area Meet, likely in Aurora. One of these is certain to be 10 year old Jennifer Tosney, North Street, Stouffville. Here, she practices a hand-stand under the watchful eye of Karen Smith, Elm Road.

Jim Thomas