

New challenge in retirement years

By ERKKI POHJOLAINEN, WHITCHURCH — John Watling sought a hobby to help pass the time as he neared age 65 and a forced retirement. His work with stained glass began as just that—a hobby. But now, it's more like a full time job.

Helen Watling, John's wife, also does creative work that occupies

most of her time. And this too began as a hobby. Together, they form Jaylor Enterprises on the Bloomington Road east of Hwy. 48, specializing in stained glass, ceramics, knitting and folk art.

A renovated kennel, beside their house, is now a studio. Walking into the converted dog house, one sees a vast array of art, rang-

ing from glossy ceramic figurines to fruit baskets, painted in a rainbow of colors in infinite detail. The second room is John's shop where sunlight, filtered through stained glass, splashes on the walls and floor flooding it with a spectrum of hues.

"We're not in it to break our backs," the 69-year-old retired

electrical engineer said in the studio. "We did that for 30 years with the dogs (Great Danes). We're just doing this to supplement our pensions."

As an electrical engineer for the province, John was away from home much of the time. "I liked my job," he said comparing it to what he does now. "I used to work with high voltage electrical equipment in hospitals and institutions throughout the province. Working with little pieces of glass is sure different."

John suffered a coronary several years ago and had a stroke a year later. But that hasn't slowed him down. On top of working at his craft about five hours a day, he teaches three, three-hour classes a week.

"About a year after I started doing stained glass, I was recommended as a teacher," John said. Soon after, he began holding evening classes at Stouffville Dist. Secondary School, Wednesdays; King City Secondary School, Mondays and in his own shop, Tuesdays.

Looking back, John said, he would have liked to discover the joy of doing stained glass years earlier. But, he said, hindsight is pointless, adding he enjoyed working as an engineer and he enjoys his work now. For John and Helen Watling, that's all that really matters.



The retirement years have brought new challenges into the lives of John and Helen Watling, Bloomington Road, Whitchurch-Stouffville. What started out as a hobby has grown into a full-time business known as Jaylor Enterprises Limited. —Erkki Pohjolainen

Editor's Mail

Rights eroded physician claims

To the Editor:

The concern expressed by most of Ontario's 7,500 Family Doctors who oppose the Peterson government's proposed Health Care Accessibility Act, deserves special attention.

Unlike many of our physician colleagues, most Family Doctors, (greater than 95 per cent), are NOT opted out and DO NOT "extra bill". Our concern is for our patients and the future of our health care system. Our fight is for the freedom of those of us living and practicing medicine in a country which once took pride in protecting the rights and respecting the integrity of individuals such as ourselves.

Over the past decade, the costs involved in maintaining a quality health care system have escalated and the public purse has been stretched beyond its capacity to afford the resources required. Rather than admitting its failure to come to grips with this scenario, governments have found it politically expedient to create the myth that paying doctors is the problem.

As Family Doctors whose role each day is to act as advocates on behalf of those for whom we care, we are asking our elected officials

to review the facts and to address the real issues of concern to our patients.

We applaud any discussion which honestly addresses the issue of "accessibility", but surely, when we speak of better access, we must be speaking about issues such as improving the facilities and resources available to care for the elderly, the disabled, the abused, and the underprivileged. Surely we must be referring to the need for increased community services, improved home care programs, and more appropriate utilization of our hospitals for both in-patient and out-patient care. Surely we must recognize that it is in areas such as these that the real problems with accessibility to health care exist.

For most Family Physicians, passage of the Peterson government health bill will have little or no impact upon our incomes, but will have major impact upon our freedom and our rights.

For most of our patients, passage of this Act will make little or no difference with respect to their access to doctors, but it will also do nothing with respect to improving their access to other vital health care needs.

The real problem, facing not only doctors but all Canadians, is not "extra-billing". It is the ongoing trend towards underfunding and the resultant deterioration of our health care system.

The real dilemma facing the population of Ontario today is not related simply to accessibility to health care. It is rather more significantly the question of accessibility to political wisdom.

Sincerely,
Calvin Gutkin, M.D.,
President,
Ontario Chapter
of Family Physicians
of Canada

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