

Editor's Mail

Reader fears bigotry

Dear Sir:

Our beautiful Town of Markham is being divided by a frenzied wall of bigotry.

The board of any company or hospital must be comprised of free thinking, many-faceted people, who can debate each problem that arises in a humanistic fair manner.

At the election for hospital board members last Thursday, the decision to raise annual dues for members to an amount that will restrict a portion of hard working Markhamites and our young future leaders to a non-voting role of their hospital is very sad indeed.

I have been left with the horrible feeling that before I sit to a cup of tea with a companion, or do business in Markham, I should first ask which "side" they are on.

Which of us has not in our lifetime tried to rescue a nest of unhatched robin's eggs from predators. I have. Does that make me

"pro-life" or "for life"? Certainly, but not single-issue. Rather it is the basis for caring about our elderly, abused children and adults, widows, and everyone who suffers.

From where I sat last Thursday, I would rather have voted for the school bus driver or the fair-minded young people that spoke up seeking an equal voice in their hospital than the folks that have dollars in their eyes and who seemed only interested in keeping out people with views other than theirs.

Our long awaited hospital won't be worth having if it is not one body — listening to all its parts and beating with one human heart.

Let's get off our wall and embrace one another, and together build a real community hospital where everyone's views and feelings will be respected.

Kathleen Ramsperger
Markham



It's a celebration! Economist and Sun staff took a minute from busy Weekender schedules recently to pay tribute to a successful first year of Weekender circulation. Publisher Bruce Annan

proudly holds our first anniversary cake and said he looks forward to future successes.

— Sjoerd Witteveen

Local pharmacist fights battle against OPA

By PAUL PIVATO

Most pharmacists either don't give a damn or are too afraid to speak out, says Bill Crothers, owner of Crothers Pharmacy stores in Markham and Unionville.

But the same can't be said of Mr. Crothers, an outspoken critic of the organizations who govern Ontario's pharmacies.

For the last year Mr. Crothers has been involved in a long and tangled legal battle with the Ontario Pharmacists Association

(OPA). Last week he scored a major victory when Judge Douglas Coo ruled that the OPA president was holding office illegally and could no longer serve on council.

Mr. Crothers argued that the president was not elected and therefore held office in violation of The Corporations Act.

"We told the Board of Directors what they were doing was illegal but they kept putting things off and stalling," says Mr. Crothers. At that point he enlisted the aid of his brother Richard, a lawyer from Orillia, and filed a series of

injunctions to prevent non-elected members from serving on the OPA council.

Despite last week's legal triumph, Mr. Crothers is still waiting for a decision on a series of other related cases before the court.

"It's taking up too much time," says Mr. Crothers, a silver medal winner in the 1964 Summer Olympics. "There are times when you feel like you're banging your head against a brick wall."

Just recently Mr. Crothers became embroiled in another con-

trovercy with the Ontario College of Pharmacists (OCP). The OCP found 11 pharmacists guilty of professional misconduct for overcharging, but Mr. Crothers argues that the OCP's council members are not being investigated for the same offense.

"They (council members) are being treated differently," says Mr. Crothers. "They should be the first to be disciplined and they should be the most severely disciplined."

OCP registrar William Wensley denies charges that council members are being shielded from disciplinary measures. "All of the people in the province are being treated the same way," he says.

But the OCP registrar is aware of Mr. Crothers' protest: "I was a little sad when he saw fit to say our activity was morally atro-

cious. Perhaps he didn't have all the facts."

Mr. Crothers says he has received little in the way of moral support and no financial support. "Most of the pharmacists just don't give a damn. It's like anything else — if it doesn't affect you, you don't bother about it."

When Bill Crothers served as an OPA council member 10 years ago, he was the only member who did not accept an honorarium. He refused the honorarium as a matter of principle: "I don't believe in it," he says. "I served in order to give my personal contribution, not for money."

Today, 10 years later, Mr. Crothers is still fighting on matters of principle. "If you know something is wrong and you don't do anything about it, then you're as bad as the others."

Heart transplant successful

(FROM PAGE 1)

whether or not I was going to get a heart," she adds, explaining that her request for a donor heart was circulated throughout North America.

She waited about three weeks until May 9 before receiving the good news. A suitable donor was available and the transplant was to take place the next day.

"I had about a week to live when we got the heart," she says wringing her slender hands. "It's a very scary feeling, but I wanted to keep fighting for my family and my husband."

Among the relatives rooting for her were her parents, her in-laws, brother Darryl and sister Marla and her husband Kevin Fraser. Her aunts and uncles Elda and Harold Knights and Darlene and Grant Wideman also kept close touch as did her pastor, Myles Toop.

Her husband explained that despite the weight she had lost and her weak condition, she was at a peak when they received word of the donor heart.

She was the ninth heart transplant patient to undergo surgery

at Toronto Western. The operation was under the direction of Dr. Tironé 'Magic Fingers' David.

4½-hour surgery

Surgery began at 1 a.m. and Heart Donor Co-ordinator Eileen Young acted as a relay messenger for the full 4½ hours, dividing her time between the observation area of the operating room and Mrs. Babineau's family.

"We always knew what was going on thanks to her," Mr. Babineau said.

The frail but strong woman credits the success of her operation to a devoted faith in God and the prayers said for her by members of Markham and Stouffville Missionary Churches, Minden Baptist Church and Smythe St. Cathedral in Fredericton, New Brunswick (Mr. Babineau's hometown).

"God has a purpose for everybody's life," she says with conviction. "He's using me this way so that if somebody sees me, they're going to ask about me, and I can try to strengthen them by telling them about God."

She tells of phone calls from strangers who knew about her condition through her father's business contacts.

"I had people from Montreal to South Carolina praying for me. These people didn't even know me, but they would call me at the hospital. There was so much love coming from them," she said.

When asked what she looked forward to most Mrs. Babineau replied with a smile, "My first swim in the lake, and telling others to give as donors."

Mr. and Mrs. Babineau agreed there is a serious shortage of organ donations which could be alleviated if people realized what a gift it is.

"Someone gave me life again," she says with a determined look that tells us she will live a full life for herself and the donor of her heart who wasn't as lucky as she.



Colette Babineau's glowing face belies her still-weak condition. The heart transplant recipient has returned to her parents' home in Minden to recuperate and reacquaint herself with the rest of her family and her husband. "It's like getting remarried," she said. The 23-year-old Markham resident, formerly of Stouffville thanks her family, friends, and members of local churches for their prayers and good wishes.

Editor's Mail

Board access exclusive

Dear Sir:

In regard to your commentary on the up-coming election for trustees for the Markham/Stouffville Hospital.

I was surprised by your open support of the wealthy being the voice of the people. Many young families have not \$40 to become members of the hospital. Yet they too care greatly about the standard of our hospital. The rich have a long record of abusing their power. If we want a vote by

the people, give the people opportunity to speak. Every person, pro or con the abortion issue can take the time and afford the \$5 membership. Do I sense a fear that the people may truly be against an abortion clinic? If that is true, God will truly bless our hospital and it's endeavors to save the lives of all (not only babies) who are unable to help themselves.

Teresa L. Ninkovic
Stouffville



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