

Refugees screened for illnesses: Red Cross

FROM PAGE 1

choice whether I wanted to be there or not."

Walters said another Aurora woman who was helping her with the refugees has also tested positive for tuberculosis, which is potentially fatal if left untreated. The woman could not be reached for comment.

Although Walters insisted the volunteers were told the refugees posed no health risk, she claimed she has since learned some had active tuberculosis and hepatitis A and B. Vaughan-King-Aurora MP Maurizio Bevilacqua was unavailable for comment yesterday.

Red Cross spokesperson Mary Ferguson only learned about the condition of Walters and the other woman yesterday from reporters.

day from reporters.

This is the first case she has heard of where a volunteer who worked with the refugees at a military base is claiming to have contracted tuberculosis. However, CTV reported Sunday that six Royal Airlines flight attendants who brought refugees to Canada now have TB.

As far as Ferguson knows, none of the refugees at Base Borden had active tuberculosis or any other communicable disease.

She stressed the refugees were screened for a variety of illnesses in Trenton, where they first entered Canada. Those with diseases were treated in Trenton, not sent on to other bases.

Ferguson wondered whether Walters may have contracted TB when she took refugees to visit sick family members at a Toronto hospital where tuberculosis patients are treated.

Ferguson said volunteers were given instructions not to go into hospital rooms of patients with TB.

Walters admitted she took the children of a man with tuberculosis to the hospital to visit him, but never went inside.

While volunteers helping at the base were told refugees had been screened, Ferguson said they were also advised to have up-to-date shots, be in good general health and use precautions to stop the spread of germs, such as washing hands after changing diapers.

But the Red Cross, which oversaw the volunteers, did not guarantee their safety. "At no time were volunteers given a carte blanche statement that any refugee is cleared of any infectious disease," Ferguson said.

The Red Cross will soon send routine letters to volunteers advising them to contact their doctors if they have any health concerns.

Walters, who tested negative in May, only learned she had tuberculosis about 10 days ago after going to her doctor suffering from fatigue.

Walters' tuberculosis is inactive, meaning she isn't contagious. But without treatment, the disease usually becomes active in two to five years. It is transmitted through the air to others in close contact.

Because Walters is 38 years old, her doctor said she shouldn't take medication to prevent the disease from progressing because it can have devastating effects on her liver.

But Walters planned to ask her doctor late yesterday to reconsider because she fears putting her family at risk.

"I want medication. I have four kids, I have a husband, I have friends, I have family, I have friends who have children."

Those who want information on the lawsuit can contact Walters at 713-1075.



ROBYN WALTERS
Visited refugees with active tuberculosis.

Do You Need A Financial Planner?

Do you find that you spend more time planning for a vacation than you do planning for your financial future? Are you at the stage of wanting to put your financial house in order but don't know how to start?

A good way to begin is by getting some professional help. A financial planner will work with you to prepare your own financial plan, help you determine which investments are best suited to achieve your financial goals, create a savings program to build your assets and explain the potential rewards and risks of different investments. Another great benefit of having a financial planner is to help you stick to your financial plan.

One easy way to find a planner is to ask your friends and relatives for recommendations. People are usually willing to give a good reference. We recommend interviewing two or three planners.

What should you look for when choosing a planner? There are a variety of questions you should ask during the preliminary meeting with the planner. Obviously, you must inquire about their qualifications, the products they sell and the fees or commissions they charge. However, if you want to establish a long-term (many years) working relationship, then you should also consider the planner's philosophy of doing business. This often determines whether it will be a good fit for both the investor and the planner.

Here are some great questions to ask:

- What can I expect from you? (e.g. a financial plan, an investment strategy, regular communication and reviews)
- What kinds of clients do you work with?
- What is your philosophy towards investing?
- How do you arrive at your recommendations?
- What types of investments do you recommend?
- How do I know if a particular investment is right for me?
- How can I be sure that I'll be able to retire comfortably?
- How often will I hear from you?
- What if I have a question and you're not there?
- How much do I need to invest with you?
- (Is there a personality match between the planner and you?)

If you need to get your finances in order, we encourage you to invest in professional financial help. **Carol Clements, Sandy Parsons and Signy Lawson** of **Money Concepts** specialize in investment counselling, estate planning, life, disability, critical illness and long term care insurance. We would be pleased to assist you in determining or reviewing your needs in any of these areas.

Choosing a financial planner should be the most important investment you'll make.



Carol Clements, Signy Lawson, Sandy Parsons

Down-to-earth financial management. Your terms. Your comfort.

MONEY CONCEPTS

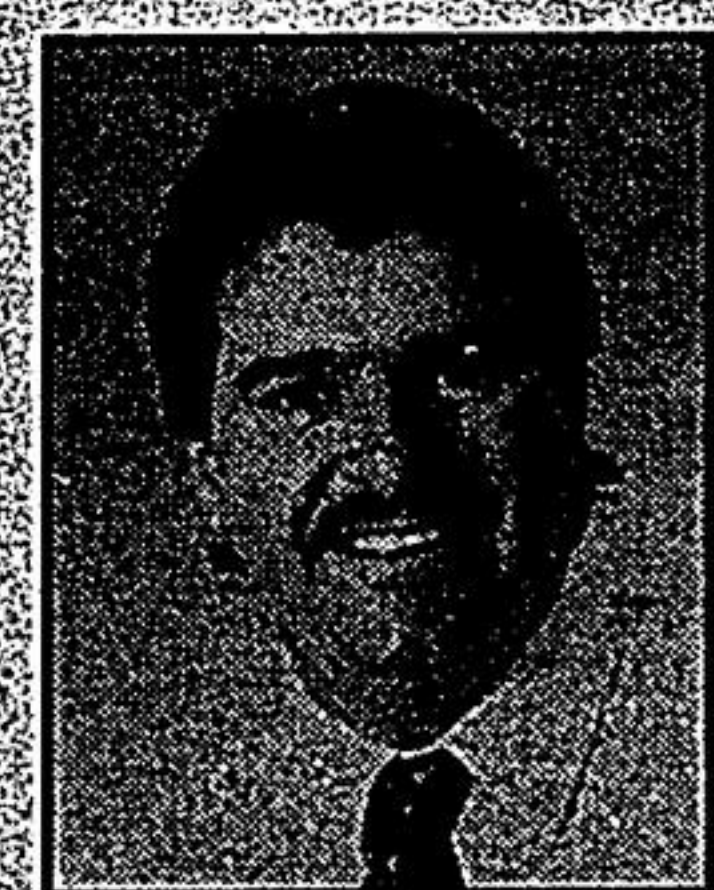
Money Concepts Group Capital Corp. N.F.M.S. Insurance Agency Inc.

**6132 Main St.,
Stouffville**

(Just West of the Train Station)

642-4540

Fax: 642-4537 Email: mconstf@interlog.com



JIM BELL
SUPERIOR WATER

Extra storage became a necessity for my business. And self-storage was the answer to my problem. I needed security, convenience, and affordability. Townline Self-Storage's features made the decision easy. Give them a call.

Computerized access system Security cameras
Well-lighted and fully fenced Door alarms available
Moving supplies available 10' high ceilings

HEATED STORAGE AVAILABLE

ASK ABOUT OUR YEARLY AND HALF-YEARLY RATES

TOWNLIN
SELF-STORAGE

Bloomington and York/Durham #30

905-642-9998