

Govt. 'red tape' slows health centre

By Donald Deacon, M.P.P. York-Centre YORK-CENTRE

Perhaps, like me, you may have seen an article in the Globe & Mail last week, telling how the small community of Drayton, Ontario, out of desperation for adequate local medical service, built itself a Community Health Centre without any assistance from the Ontario Ministry of Health. In fact, the only government assistance they received was a Federal Local Initiative Program to help on the preliminary construction of the Centre.

And, if you are wondering just what all this has to do with us, then I should tell you that the Ministry has not reflected the enthusiasm of Dr. Potter, the Minister of Health, in helping us develop a community health centre right here in Markham.

The facts are these: The Markham York Hospital Board held a series of meetings during the past winter with the local doctors and consulted with Dr. Slingerland, the local Medical Officer of Health, and representatives of other community health care facilities regarding the establishment of a 24 hour Health Care Centre in Markham, on a portion of the 50 acre hospital site on the 9th Line, donated so generously by Art Latham.

It was agreed that, in an attempt to determine the health care needs of this community, five

hundred families in Stouffville, Unionville and Markham and the surrounding areas, would be surveyed. The Ministry of Health undertook to provide a professionally formulated questionnaire and to cover other costs. Local residents on their part, under the leadership of Mrs. Dorothy Jenner, agreed to provide fifty people who would undertake to carry out the survey, probably interviewing ten families each and tabulating their health needs. In this way a good cross section of the community could be obtained and an accurate idea of the health care requirements could be estimated.

The questionnaire was supposed to be ready by the middle of August, and the survey completed by the second or third week of September. The volunteers were approached and agreed to serve. As far as the Markham community was concerned, all systems were "go". However, here it is the third week of September. There has, to date, been no sign of the questionnaire that the Ministry of Health was to provide. There has, of course, been no survey carried out and our Health Care Centre is as far away as ever.

I have, in the past, commended Dr. Potter as perhaps the only Minister in the Davis Cabinet who has shown any understanding of the local problems of the people and communities of this Province. He feels,



Executive

Six ladies comprise the charter executive of the Stouffville Branch, Beta Sigma Phi. They are (left to right) - Doris Lapp, director; Carolyn Durnan, treasurer; Dianne Darling, president; Ella Sumner, vice president; Beverley Kettle, secretary and Marilyn Garlick, vice-president. Nine new members were welcomed. The gathering was held at the home of Mrs. Ronald J. Garlick, R.R.1, Unionville.

—Jim Thomas.

and has stated publicly, that local health care problems and needs are best handled locally by the people most aware of those problems and needs. However, the Drayton situation and the Markham delays would indicate that some in Dr. Potter's Department are determined to retain their strangle hold on all aspects of the Province's medical program.

We need to organize a District Health Council in the Richmond Hill, Thornhill and Maple area, and also one in the Woodbridge Kleinburg area.

If Dr. Potter wishes to see his excellent ideas put into operation, he is going to have to by-pass the bureaucrats in his Department and assign the responsibility and provide some unconditional grants to areas which form a District Health Council representing a cross section of all the health care facilities as well as the people of a community. He can rely on such Councils to put the local health care facilities on a first class and efficient operating basis.

Moving - house and all

STOUFFVILLE - When some people move, they really move - taking the house with them.

Richard Powell is such a person. His residence, adjacent to Roberts Trailer Sales, is to be moved a short distance north on Hwy. 47, to a vacant lot on the south side of Boyer Street.

Mr. Powell's plan was discussed by Council, Sept. 12, when Bylaw Enforcement Officer Marshall Miller outlined the request.

"We haven't been in the habit of allowing houses to be moved", observed Mayor Ken Laushway. "It's landed us in a jam in the past".

The Mayor referred to an incident some years ago, when a home ended up in the centre of Main Street, disrupting traffic for a time.

After brief discussion, it was agreed to notify Mr. Miller that Council had no objection.

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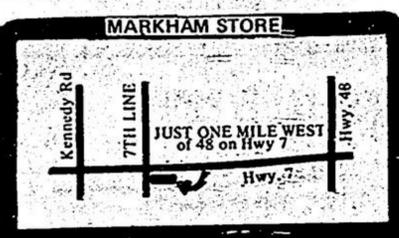
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