

CHECK-BACK

Several items featured in last month's Lantern deserve a follow-up.

1) The Lyndhurst Bridge...saved at last, through the hard work of the Save the Bridge Committee and the involvement of various Ministries, the Counties Council revoked their previous decision and will now restore the Bridge, (the oldest in Ontario) to its original state. Work will be done to strengthen the existing structure, leaving it as a single-lane bridge and maintaining its attractive and historical worth. Well done S.T.B. Committee!

2) Petty crime in the area moved to one of our neighbouring communities, Westport. Plagued for several nights by a series of break-ins, residents have expressed concern about the changes occurring in our usually safe environment. Let's all make a concerted effort to keep an eye out for unusual and strange activities in all our communities. 3) The Separate School funding issue is still on at least the School Board's mind. Leeds & Grenville County School Board have contacted all municipal councils in the County and requested that a referendum question be placed on the ballots for the November election. This would give the ordinary citizen the opportunity to let their feelings on the issue be known. Perhaps councils should be asked by their local citizenry to oblige and the results would then allow the Provincial government a true picture of the situation before further decisions are made.

*If you would like to comment on any items in the Lantern, we welcome input from our readers. Send letters, (signed) to Box 136, Elgin, Ont. K0G 1E0.



ASK YOUR PHARMACIST

Frogs, warts, and myths

(NC) — "My little girl has a small wart on her finger. Her grandmother insists she got it from playing with frogs. Could this be true?"

No. Your daughter didn't "catch" a wart by catching a frog — although that is one of the most persistent bits of folklore around. Nor can she be sure to get rid of it by plastering it with cut potatoes or castor oil, or saying charms by the light of the moon, or selling it to a stranger.

Warts are benign skin lesions caused by a papovavirus. Approximately 10 percent of the population is susceptible to this virus which has at least five different strains. Different kinds of papovaviruses cause different kinds of warts. For example, planar warts are found on the soles of the feet, common warts on the hands and fingers, periungual warts near the nails. For some reason yet unknown, children and teenagers are the ones who usually get warts.

For some other reason not fully understood, about 20 to 30 percent of all warts will go away on their own with no treatment at all within 6 months, and another 30 to 40 percent will disappear within two years. This is a high spontaneous cure rate. It goes far to explain the "success" of folklore's remedies, too.

If a wart is bothersome or has not gone away in six months you should treat it.

You can treat common warts yourself if you are



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sure the lesion on your hand or finger is a common wart and not some other sort.

You cannot treat a planar wart by yourself. These grow into the sole of the foot, hurt a lot, and must be treated by a doctor. Don't even try. See a doctor.

For common warts several non-prescription products are available. Compound W[®] and Duofilm[®] are typical of the ones that use salicylic acid to slough off warty tissue. Follow the directions carefully. If you don't, you can cause extensive tissue damage and scarring. Make sure you know what you are doing. Your pharmacist can advise you on the proper application of products for common warts.

One more warning: No one with diabetes or a circulatory disorder should use a salicylic acid wart-remover. Ask your pharmacist for help.

An advisory column written by The Canadian Pharmaceutical Association, Ottawa, Ontario

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