

Hospital closing is 'big trouble'

By CONNIE RAE
Times staff writer

Mississauga will be in big trouble over the closing of Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital if the Ministry of Health doesn't approve funding for additional services, says Al Whiting, executive vice president of Mississauga Hospital.

Whiting, a member of the subcommittee of professionals studying the closing, says the committee wants a crisis intervention team to operate in the emergency department of Mississauga Hospital and a community mental health clinic for outpatient care.

These services were requested before the Lakeshore closing was announced.

The hospital has never had outpatient care or alcoholic treatment centre and could not cope with the situation without the crisis intervention team and a community health clinic, Whiting says.

Whiting says the utilization of three people in the emergency department to handle social problems and a community health clinic would cost about \$350,000 a year.

The committee will meet with

similar committees in Etobicoke North, North York and Toronto in mid-April.

Kip Holloway, executive director of the Peel District Health Council which is funded by the Ministry of Health for \$100,000 a year, said the council's position was "no position at all until the committee had finalized its report."

"We'll take a stand if the Ministry turns us down but it's a waste of time to get your blood pressure up until that happens," Holloway said.

Holloway said there was "just so much money available" and things like detox centres would be based on need. It may make more sense to suggest a combined centre for Peel and Etobicoke, he said.

There are about 225 Peel patients in Lakeshore, which houses 1140 patients. Of the 230 outpatients, about 40 are from Peel.

"There are relatively few that will be affected by the transfer to Queen Street or Hamilton to justify keeping Lakeshore open," Holloway said.

The Queen Street Mental Health Centre was built to handle 700 patients and can handle the more serious patients, he added.

Report requested on doctors out of OHIP

Peel Regional councillors have asked Peel District Health Council to prepare a report on the facts and implications of local doctors leaving the Ontario Health Insurance Program (OHIP).

The request, introduced by Ward 4 Councillor Larry Taylor as a result of an article by Times reporter Deborah Irvine and concerns voiced by his constituents, resulted in light debate by councillors about conflicts of interest, socialism and free enterprise.

Irvine reported that 24 per cent of Mississauga's doctors have left the program, a figure that was disputed by Ward 2 councillor Margaret

Marland, who said seven of 100 general practitioners in the city had left the program.

The 24 per cent represents all doctors who have left OHIP.

"We should tread very carefully in an area of private agreement between a patient and his doctor," Marland said. "We really have no business there in the first place."

Ward 8 Councillor Steven Mahoney said Marland's comments were "so far to the right they're almost fascist."

"The OHIP problem my constituents are facing is a serious social problem," he said.



KEN KERR/THE TIMES

A sure sign of spring

Amanda Maund gets the old heave-ho from friends David Reid, Dawn Sawdon, Derek Sawdon and Conrad Tapp.

The kids designed their own spring-time fun in their Park Royal

neighborhood. They tied the rope to a tree and took turns at the helm.

THE LAW

Stereo equipment stolen

Police have charged two men in connection with theft of stereo equipment from a Ponytrail Drive Home in February. Charged is Derek Keith Searle, 18, of Kings Masting Crescent and Kevin Docherty, 19, of Delcus Crescent. The two will appear in court April 6 on charges of break and enter and theft.

Vandals attack buildings

Vandals were busy over the weekend in public buildings. Police say Westwood Pool on Morningstar Drive was broken into and a chunk of asphalt dumped into the swimming pool, causing \$150 damage. Over \$250 worth of windows were broken at Darcel Senior Public school in Malton. At St. Edmunds Separate School on Melton Drive vandals ransacked the principal's office and at the Valleys Senior Public School vandals threw pictures on the floor, littered the washrooms with paper towels and discharged one fire extinguisher and stole another.

No April Fool for police

On April Fool's Day a foursome removing a chesterfield from an apartment building at 7110 Darcel Ave. made attempts to return it after a police officer spotted them. Failing to see the humor of it, police charged John and Jeanette Doreuelle, 24, of Bramalea and Grace Saunders, 20, of Bramalea and Phyllis Saunders, 22, of Rexdale, with theft.

Injuries kill 16-year-old girl

A 16-year-old Mississauga girl died Wednesday at Toronto General Hospital as a result of head injuries suffered in an automobile accident Tuesday, March 20. Police say Lisa Westguard of 1033 Lorne Park Rd. was driving north on Country Club Crescent in Clarkson from Water's Edge Road. Upon approaching Apple Lane, police say Westguard failed to negotiate a curve and crashed into two trees.

Man hit every which way

Two Quebec youths were charged with assaulting a man and his wife in Bramalea Centre Theatre last Thursday night during the movie Every Which Way But Loose. Police say the youths were drinking and causing a disturbance. When a man got up to leave, a scuffle ensued and one youth allegedly took off his boot and struck the man over the head. Police say when the man's wife attempted to protect him she too was struck. The man required nine stitches. James E. Chaput and Sean R. Titus are charged with assault. Chaput was also charged with possession of a dangerous weapon. The two will return from Quebec to appear in court April 6.

6% tax rise probable

City needs \$2 million for works projects

By JOHN STEWART
Times staff writer

The city is so short of funds for 1979 construction projects that it will use \$2 million worth of taxpayers' money to finance capital works.

The result is a probable five or six per cent municipal tax rise this year, rather than the one or two per cent council originally expected.

City manager Ed Halliday and finance commissioner Donald Ogilvie have presented councillors with a five-year capital budget calling for no issue of debentures this year or next.

The city is already 2.6 per cent above its self-imposed debt limit. Mississauga wants to keep the debt, now estimated at about \$200 per capita, at 25 per cent of the net tax levy.

But over \$9 million in works are still proposed for 1979. About \$6 million of that is from developers' levies which were collected previously. About \$2 million is from the current budget and \$720,000 comes from previously approved debentures to be issued this year.

The city will try to get additional provincial subsidy for road projects in 1979. Most of the city's normal subsidy for the next two years is already allocated to the Burnhamthorpe Bridge project.

"It doesn't take a Philadelphia lawyer to figure out that the city is financially not in what you'd call a responsible position to carry out major works," said ward 9 Councillor Ken Dear.

He agreed with the limitation on debt, but pointed out that the restric-

tions mean most of the funds will service new growth, leaving no major works to upgrade the older areas.

Dear urged council to "bite the bullet" in 1979 and accept a larger tax increase rather than keeping taxes down this year and raising them much higher in 1980.

Ogilvie explained that the problem of upgrading existing capital deficiencies and replacing deteriorating facilities will increase in future. Most of the levies council will receive in future will be specifically earmarked for projects in new areas.

Halliday said the city's roads needs study calls for about \$106 million of upgrading work over the next five years.

Because of the difficulty experienced in past years in setting aside funds for a new city hall, Halliday recommended that a \$1 million annual fund be established to finance the work.

Other recommended capital works for 1979 in engineering are reconstruction of Winston Churchill Boulevard from Burnhamthorpe Road to Eglinton, realignment of Creditview Road, reconstruction of Carolyn Road, resurfacing of Old Carriage Road and design of the CPR-Burnhamthorpe Road grade separation.

Engineering money is also set aside for streetlights, land acquisition and storm drainage work on the Cooksville, Mary Fix, Sheridan and Little Etobicoke Creeks. Park Royal storm sewers are also to be improved.

The transit capital budget is for 12 replacement buses, 30 bus shelters

and the expansion of the Easy Rider system.

The fire department will get \$400,000 for a new Meadowvale West station. In addition it is seeking extension of the Dixie Station, completion of the training facility and \$95,000 for a pumper unit.

Once the capital review is complete, council will be set to adopt their 1979 budget and set tax increases.

Accident closes runway

One of the runways at Toronto International Airport was closed for almost six hours yesterday after a private twin-engined aircraft went off a runway.

The plane, owned by Northern Telecom, was carrying five passengers and two crew members, none of whom were injured. The accident occurred as the plane was landing just before 9 a.m. The runway was back in use by 2:40 p.m.

Transport Canada had some difficulty pulling the plane from the mud. After study, it was decided that the incident was not serious enough to warrant further investigation. The pilot apparently didn't leave enough room for the landing.

The problem caused some delay in flight arrivals at the Malton airport.