

## S. O. 31

Partridge Island, a small island in the middle of Saint John harbour, is a piece of Canadian heritage. It was used as a quarantine station and welcomed over three million immigrants and mariners between 1785 and 1942. Two thousand quarantined immigrants died on the island and their graves are located there. Partridge Island was designated a national historic site in 1974.

The year 1997 marks the official observance of the 150th anniversary of the great Irish famine. Saint John's Irish community will be marking the next three years on the island with special exhibits as well as an Irish homecoming and memorial service in 1997.

I, as well as the people of the most Irish city in Canada, Saint John, and the province of New Brunswick, call on this government to revisit the decision to sell this national historic site of Partridge Island. We ask that it be transferred to the Department of Canadian Heritage for preservation.

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## GRAND RIVER HOSPITAL

**Mr. Andrew Telegdi (Waterloo, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the House of the birth in my community of the Grand River Hospital on April 1, 1995. This dynamic new beginning in health care in the Waterloo region came together with the amalgamation of the Kitchener-Waterloo hospital and the Freeport hospital. The Kitchener-Waterloo hospital and the Freeport hospital represent 175 years of caring with their unique strengths and proud history of service.

The new Grand River Hospital will be governed by one board of trustees and managed on two sites by one administration. It will continue to provide the high standard of quality, innovation and accomplishment to the residents of Waterloo region. What is unique about this event is that it was initiated by two former hospitals with the aim of delivering the best possible quality of service and maximizing existing resources.

The people comprising the leadership of the two former hospitals are to be commended for their vision in pioneering this union under the aegis of the Grand River Hospital. Their efforts are to be applauded by all Canadians.

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## GOVERNMENT MINISTERS

**Mrs. Brenda Chamberlain (Guelph—Wellington, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, the people of Guelph—Wellington know that leadership requires risk taking and real leaders do not back down from doing what is right. That is why they are proud of our Prime Minister, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Minister of Labour.

These leaders have acted and succeeded where many others would have failed. One has worked hard to make the world

aware of the impact of overfishing. The other, knowing how the country was suffering, put an end to the rail strike.

These ministers could have listened to the usual negative remarks of the Reform Party and the destructive policies of the Bloc. Instead, they took risks and did what was best for Canada, because what they did was right.

We are fortunate they are our leaders who are not afraid to act. We thank them for standing strong.

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● (1405)

[Translation]

## INTERNATIONAL HAEMOPHILIA DAY

**Mr. Nick Discepola (Vaudreuil, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, April 17 is International Haemophilia Day, and I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Canadian Haemophilia Society for its excellent work.

[English]

The Canadian Hemophilia Society was founded in 1953 by people with hemophilia as a self-help group. Today the range of people it helps and the ways in which the help is offered have broadened considerably.

In the 1980s about 40 per cent of hemophiliacs and 1,200 other Canadians became infected with HIV through contaminated blood. The primary goal of the Canadian Hemophilia Society is to ensure safe access to the Canadian blood supply.

[Translation]

Much progress has been made. Today, thanks to greater awareness and technical developments, the risks of contamination through blood transfusions are almost nonexistent.

[English]

We can all help too by donating blood, time, or money. After all, we are all related by blood.

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[Translation]

## BURUNDI

**Mr. Stéphane Bergeron (Verchères, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday, referring to the current tensions in Burundi, I asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs whether he recognized that concrete action was urgently needed, by supporting the deployment of a monitoring force in that country among other things, as the Burundian ambassador to Canada requested on March 23 before the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs.

In response, all the minister said was that no request had been received from the Government of Burundi along the lines of the moving plea made by the Burundian ambassador. The minister should know that the Government of Burundi has no leeway.