

## Dal researches hips

A team of orthopedic surgeons, led by Dr. Michael Gross, will research hip prostheses in a five-year, \$500,000 study. The study will involved up to 150 volunteer patients a year at the Victoria General Hospital.

## Chemicals on CD

Dalhousie has installed a new computer system to catalogue its chemicals. The system is the first of its kind in Canada, and other Canadian universities are using the system as a model from which to design their own.

The low-cost system, which uses CD-ROM technology to store information on compact discs, allows users to check the nature of chemical with which they are working, and can help prevent dangerous reactions.

## Race workshop at MSSW

In an upcoming workshop at the Maritime School of Social Work, Dr. Clare Brant, assistant professor of psychiatry at Western, will speak on the effects of culture and race on members of the helping professions. Brant, a clan member of the Mohawk tribe Bay of Quinte, is the chair of the Canadian Psychiatric Association's Native Mental Health section.

Dr. Carole Christensen, a professor at McGill, will examine the development of cross-cultural awareness.

## Dal's Rhodes Scholar

Dalhousie law student Rick Southcott has been named a Rhodes Scholar. Southcott received an undergraduate degree in science at St. Francis Xavier, and has been awarded two scholarships at Dalhousie. Southcott will now interrupt his study of law to take an undergraduate arts degree at Oxford.

This is the sixth consecutive year a Dalhousie student has been named a Rhodes Scholar.

## Hemophilia and AIDS

Health and Welfare Canada has funded a \$60,000 study into hemophilia and AIDS. The study, which should be complete by March of 1991, will be evaluated by Dal's School of Nursing.

Hemophiliacs face a high risk of contracting the HIV virus due to broken skin which heals slowly and frequent blood transfusions. The study is being conducted in Halifax, Ottawa, and Vancouver.

# Canada's private U

by Mike Adler

TORONTO (CUP) — Canada's first private university may be part of a massive development planned for a Toronto suburb.

On Jan. 12, a local group announced a plan to build a privately-funded, secular university in the township of East Gwillimbury, 40 kilometres north of Toronto. The provincial government is expected to announce sometime in March whether it will allow the institution to open.

The new university would be located in Queensville, a small rural hamlet in the centre of East Gwillimbury. A crossroads with a few buildings, it is easy to miss. A new town of 30,000 would be built around the institution.

A development consortium called Queensville Properties has set aside 100 acres of land for the university, on the condition the university gets government recognition, said a spokesperson for the consortium.

Building a privately-funded, secular university in Ontario has been prohibited for 30 years. But a group fronted by former colleges and universities minister Bette Stephenson has spearheaded the East Gwillimbury project.

"The opportunity to develop a university town does not come around every day," said local mayor Bob Featherstonhaugh. He described reaction to the plan from the township's 17,000 residents as "very positive."

A private university is needed because government funding of public universities has not kept pace with increased student demand, Stephenson said.

Her group believes the area around East Gwillimbury needs a university because it is "one of the most rapidly-growing regions in the country, but it has no post-secondary education (facilities)."

An Ontario government advisory group heard presentations from Stephenson's group a year

ago, and released a discussion paper on private universities last October. The group's review of the government ban should be completed soon.

Stephenson said the university would be self-sufficient.

But Greg Elmer, an official with the Ontario Federation of Students, said a private university would set a "dangerous precedent" in Ontario, because its tuition would be beyond the reach of most students. The OFS is dedicated to universal access to post-secondary education in Ontario, and supports the idea that tuition should be free.

Stephenson said she "hasn't the vaguest idea (how high the tuition would be)," adding it would be significantly higher than at public universities.

Retired University of Toronto mathematics professor David Anderson, another driving force behind the private university, said they are considering "free tuition," where students would pay their fees after graduation.

Will Sayers, who represents university administrators in Ontario, cautions that private universities in the U.S. eventually ask for public money.

Ontario's public universities are more concerned with the quality of potential programs and graduates and how they would be regulated, he added. "We would like employers to know that a BA or BSc is of equal value no matter where you get it in Ontario."

Sayers said Ontario's public universities, which have traditionally opposed private ones, are "fine-tuning" their response to the government paper.

When a universities working group suggested last month that Ontario universities drop their opposition to private institutions "in principle," reaction from

members forced the committee to start revising its report.

Stephenson said the quality of education at the private university will be reviewed regularly by an external committee.

"The only goal of this institution is excellence. We will make that apply to faculty and students," she said. "If they don't live up to it, they don't stay."

Stephenson said there are already a large number of people interested in making donations, although benefactors are still being sought.

But ministry official Jamie Mackay said it may be impossible for Stephenson's group to raise the money necessary for even a small university. "You have to get an awful lot of donations," he said. Ontario will give its universities \$1.8 billion next year.

All universities in Ontario are really "private," because their boards of governors have legal autonomy, Mackay said.

"We really have a system of private universities which are publicly financed. They are not creatures of the government."

He added the ministry would not consider any proposal unless a private member's bill to establish the university is actually introduced in the legislature.

Anderson, who campaigned for private universities for 15 years, promised in 1988 to establish one by last September, using church basements and empty classrooms if necessary.

Stephenson said the university would open before the end of the decade, and would specialize in science and environmental engineering.

Anderson wanted to name the university after Canadian poet John McCrae, but McCrae's relatives opposed the idea, Stephenson said. His current favourite is James Wolfe University.

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