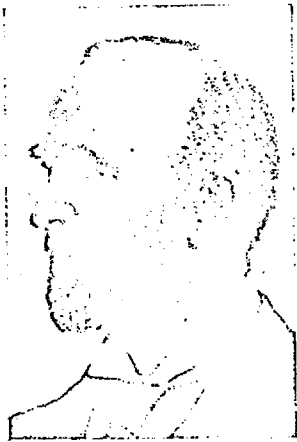


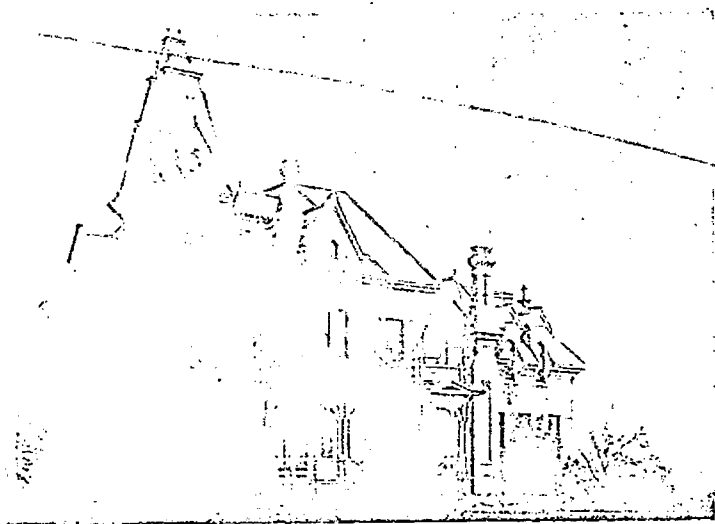
THE GROWING NEED OF A HOSPITAL IN INGERSOLL

For years the need in Ingersoll for a public hospital had been growing. The only service obtainable up to 1909 was that of private hospitals and private nurses. A sanitorium, the former Watterworth property on Oxford Avenue, with Miss Sharpe, a trained nurse as supervisor, and Miss Kate Ryan as her assistant, proved fairly satisfactory for a time but it was not what was really desired.

The idea of establishing a hospital in Ingersoll took root late in 1908 and was vigorously promoted by the medical fraternity with Dr. J. M. Rogers actively participating. He in turn received the whole-hearted support of such public-spirited men as Joseph Gibson, postmaster; Thomas Seldon, exporter; John E. Boles, merchant; Stephen Noxon, manufacturer; George Naylor, merchant; and J. Anderson Coulter, of the Morrow Company.



JAMES NOXON



ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL, 1909

THE NOXON HOME

For nearly a century the name of Noxon has been a household word in Ingersoll. In the early 1850's James Noxon came to Ingersoll and established the Noxon Implement Co and by 1872 this company was employing between two and three hundred men—the most important firm in town. Its farm machinery became world-famous, being sent far and wide not only across Canada and United States, but to the West Indies and the countries of Europe as well.

In 1874 the late James Noxon built a palatial, cast-iron residence on the street which now bears his name. With a fine background of a finely-wooded park which in autumn turned into a brilliant blaze of glory, it was considered one of the beauty spots of Ingersoll. For a quarter of a century the Noxon home was the centre of the social life of Ingersoll. Some of the ladies even now recall with a thrill of pleasure more than a half-century ago the occasion when, as belles of that age, they graced the brilliantly lighted ball-room of the beautiful house on the hill. The generous hospitality of the Noxons was enjoyed by many distinguished personages including Sir Wilfrid Laurier when he visited Ingersoll in 1895.

This magnificent property was later purchased and occupied as a home by the late Dr. Angus McKay, beloved physician of Ingersoll and vicinity for many years, and still held very dear in the memory of many of the older residents, for his personal generosity, sympathy and integrity. He was known in Toronto where he served in the Provincial Legislature sixteen years as "the handsome member from South Oxford".

PLANS LAID FOR FOUNDING A HOSPITAL IN INGERSOLL

On January 28, 1909, a group of representative citizens met in the council chamber to consider purchase of property which might be converted into a hospital. Properties under consideration included the George Christopher property on Thames Street North, the Kirkwood property on Thames Street South, and the Dr. McKay property on Noxon Street. Among those present at this meeting were Doctors J. M. Rogers, J. A. Neff, James B. Coleridge, and D. W. Carroll; Messrs. J. Anderson Coulter, J. D. Knapp, Wm. E. Elliott, W. F. Johnston, Raymond Hunt, Frank Bain, Fred Richardson, A. H. Ellis, C. C. L. Wilson, Charles O'Neill, Mayor George Sutherland, and Reeve Sandi M. Fleet. Dr. J. M. Rogers was in the chair.

Dr. McKay stated he would sell for \$8,000, reserving the stable and also the field on the east side containing the cottage. He would give all gas and electric light fixtures, the two ranges and a 90-gallon hot-water boiler, also the book-case in the library for the use of the hospital, and he would contribute \$2,000. to the building fund. In case the stable be removed, he would erect a shed sufficiently large to accommodate four horses.

Dr. McKay's offer was accepted, and a committee to solicit money to buy the home was appointed as follows: Doctors Rogers, Coleridge and Neff; Messrs. C. C. L. Wilson, Walter Mills, W. F. Johnston, J. Anderson Coulter, A. H. Ellis, and F. W. Bain. At this meeting, the following suggestions were discussed:

- (1) that Town Council should make a grant,
- (2) that churches set aside a hospital Sunday,
- (3) that factories should be solicited with the hope that each firm would match subscriptions of the men.

The generous response of citizens soon indicated they were heartily in accord with the project, and establishment of a hospital in Ingersoll became an assured fact. A committee was appointed to procure necessary forms and information from the Provincial Secretary's department in connection with formation of a Hospital Trust.

ing sovereign. The following gentlemen were appointed provisional directors: Thomas Seldon, Stephen Noxon, Mayor George Sutherland, Raymond Hutt, Joseph Gibson, George

Naylor, and John E. Boles. This group was empowered to take necessary steps to obtain a charter under direction of legal advisor J. L. Paterson. As the campaign for funds continued, W. C. Forman, merchant, advertised that ten per cent of all his sales for one month would be donated to the hospital fund. June 8, 1909, Town Council made a grant of \$1,000, and Dr. Rogers reported that \$8,000 had been secured by subscription to date.

At a general meeting of subscribers June 25, 1909, the following permanent directors were appointed: George Sutherland, Raymond Hutt, Joseph Gibson, Stephen Noxon, Thomas Seldon, John E. Boles, George Naylor. Subsequently these officers were elected for 1909-1910:

President	-	-	-	George Sutherland
Vice-President	-	-	-	Joseph Gibson
Treasurer	-	-	-	R. J. Robertson
Secretary	-	-	-	Raymond B. Hutt



DR. ANGUS MCKAY

Who gave generous financial assistance in the founding of the hospital



DR. J. M. ROGERS

Leading spirit in the founding of Alexandra Hospital and member of the Board of Directors for many years.



The First Hospital — Once a Private Home



OPENING OF ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

SEPTEMBER 22, 1909

The work of converting the residence into a hospital was under way during the summer of 1909, and the formal opening took place, September 22. This was a happy occasion in the lives of Ingersoll residents. Hundreds inspected the hospital, and to many it was a revelation. It still retained much of its home-like atmosphere, as the alterations necessary to convert it into a hospital had been slight, and yet in equipment and facilities in general, it was considered "a complete and modern hospital in every sense of the term". There were sixteen rooms and accommodation for twenty-five patients.

Mayor George Sutherland, energetic president of the Trust, gave the address of welcome, and voiced hearty appreciation of assistance from those in all walks of life bringing this project to maturity. Postmaster Joseph Gibson made an earnest appeal for financial assistance. Including generous contributions from W. C. Noxon, son of the former owner of the building, and from Malcolm Schell, M.P. for South Oxford, around \$650 was contributed the day of the opening.

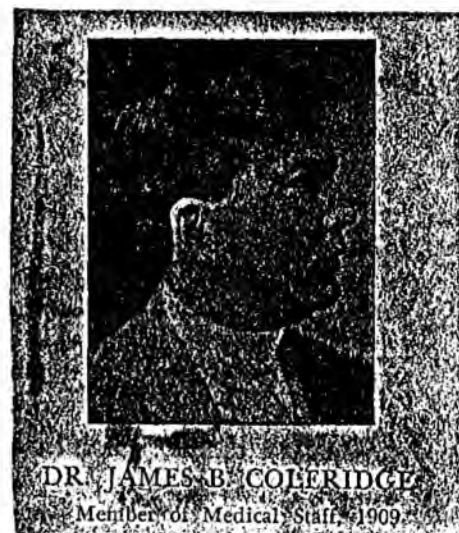
Visitors toured the various wards. One was furnished by the Missionary Circle of King's Daughters, as a public ward for women, another four-bed ward was furnished by Lady Dufferin Chapter, Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire. On the second floor there were some beautiful private wards: the Mary A. Coulter Ward, furnished by J. Anderson Coulter in memory of his mother; the Louise Noxon Ward, furnished by Mrs. Stephen Noxon in memory of her daughter; the Morrow Ward, furnished by Mrs. John Morrow; and the Ingersoll Collegiate Ward. Mr. W. C. Noxon supplied the furnishings for the Reception Room. Fraternal organizations and industrial plants contributed largely toward equipment of public wards.

members of the **original** medical staff: Dr. I. R. Walker, Dr. A. McKay, Dr. J. A. **Neff**, Dr. J. B. Coleridge, Dr. D. W. Carroll, Dr. F. D. Canfield, Dr. J. M. Rogers and Dr. Ralph Williams. Dr. Williams is the only surviving member of this original staff.

Special mention was made of the gift of a piano from the late William Watterworth. The report showed that the superintendent, Miss Ada C. Hodges, had filled the position very satisfactorily and the nurses had performed their **duties** in a manner indicating full realization of the responsibilities of their noble calling. The Medical Staff had given not only very **will- ing service**, but also fine financial assistance as well.

One hundred and twenty patients were treated in the hos-

pital during the first year in comparison to one thousand and fifty-five in 1949. In the life of the hospital nearly 20,000 patients were treated.



Crown. The doctor had been severely burned on the night of Ingersoll's big fire in 1872, when he attempted to rescue a valuable horse from a burning stable. He was known throughout the community for his generosity and sympathy, and his kindly interest in children. It had been Dr. Carroll's wish that the new wing be used as a Sick Children's Hospital, but it was found necessary to make other plans.

The first baby born in Alexandra Hospital was Roy Alexander Brookfield, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Brookfield, Ingersoll. He was born on March 11, 1911, and Dr. Ralph Williams attended. Roy Brookfield now works at Morrow Screw and Nut Company, and still has the silver cup presented to him by the Hospital Trust on the occasion of his birth.

On February 22, 1916, the first twins were born in Alexandra Hospital. They were Elizabeth and Margaret Taylor, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Taylor, and they were also presented with silver loving-cups. The proud father was chemist at William Stone Sons, Ltd. Dr. Ralph Williams again attended.

March 27, 1944, for the first time triplets were born in the local hospital. They were Nancy Marguerite, Alice Grace, and Joyce Mabel, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Alderson, R.R. 1, Thamesford. Dr. C. A. Osborn attended.

In 1917 the first X-ray machine was installed. Spurgeon Poole, of Folden's, contributed \$1,000 to make this equipment possible. Dr. Jupp of Woodstock was appointed to operate it.

Between 1923 and 1928 many improvements were made. A new electric range and electrically-equipped sterilizer were installed. Miss Hodges' brother presented an electric dish-washing machine. A garage was built, parking space arranged and shrubs planted about the grounds. A course in dietetics was arranged for the nurses-in-training and a Miss Brown, a professional dietitian, was engaged to give a series of lectures. Lady Dufferin Chapter, Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, presented a Union Jack. Membership of the Trust was increased from eight to ten. In December, 1928, a tuberculosis

clinic was established. Alexandra Hospital became a member of the Ontario Hospital Association.

Between 1929 and 1932 additional equipment for surgical work was installed. For some time the Board had been considering the advisability of admitting women to the membership of the Trust. Finally, at the annual meeting in 1929, two ladies, Mrs. Verne Meek and Mrs. W. F. Drum, were added to the Board. In 1930, owing to impaired health, Miss Hodges, the superintendent, was granted two months' leave of absence, and Miss Janet Pringle, an Ingersoll graduate, was appointed



RAYMOND B. HUTT
Secretary, 1909



JOSEPH GIBSON
Vice-President, 1909



R. J. ROBERTSON
Treasurer, 1909



ROYDEN G. START, K.C.
President
1937, 1939-1941, 1946-1950

On September 1, 1909, Miss Ada C. Hodges, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Hodges of London, Ontario, became Superintendent of Alexandra Hospital, Ingersoll. A splendid disciplinarian, possessing a charming personality, and having had wide experience in hospitals in United States and Canada, Miss Hodges was highly qualified in every respect for the responsible position.

Graduating from West Side Hospital, Chicago, in 1901, she remained in United States for three years following her graduation, and also took a post-graduate course in surgery. During her nursing experience in Chicago Miss Hodges assisted the world-renowned Dr. Lorenze, of Vienna, the "bloodless" operator for hip disease, when he visited America. For five years previous, to coming to Ingersoll she followed nursing in her home city. The valuable service she rendered in this com-

munity can hardly be calculated. It was her untiring efforts and close application to duty which have given the institution the efficiency to serve this community as it has for the past forty years.

On completing her twenty-fifth year as Superintendent, she was presented by the Women's Auxiliary to the Hospital Trust with a beautiful silver tray suitably engraved. In the following year on the occasion of King George V's Silver Jubilee, she was presented with the King's Medal in recognition of long and faithful service.

In June, 1937, at the last graduation ceremony supervised by Miss Hodges, Mr. George Sutherland, first President of the Hospital Trust, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, presented Miss Hodges with a substantial cheque. Mr. Sutherland remarked that Miss Hodges had won the respect and love of every graduate nurse under her supervision, and that she had given her very best, not only to Ingersoll, but to the whole of Oxford County.

While Miss Hodges was superintendent a radio was presented to the hospital by Mr. Raymond H. Swetland, of Cleveland, Ohio, a friend of the Hodges family. It was one of the first radios installed in any hospital in this area.



THE FIRST SUPERINTENDENT

Miss Ada C. Hodges
1909-1937

(Mrs. Donald Rose, Ottawa)
SUPERINTENDENT 1937-1942

Miss Hodges was succeeded by Mrs. Elizabeth Duff of Welland. Possessing a charming personality, and a very energetic and sympathetic nature, she soon won the confidence of patients and doctors alike.

Many important changes and improvements took place in the hospital during Mrs. Duff's term of service. There was so great an increase in the number of patients that beds were added in every available space, even to the Board Room.

It was with deep regret that the Board accepted the resignation of Mrs. Duff. Her strict adherence to duty and her kindly interest in patients had won the admiration of the medical staff, nurses, and citizens in general. Mrs. Duff did much in her sympathetic way to relieve the distress, not only of patients, but of their relatives and friends when visiting the hospital. It was not unusual for her to serve a friendly cup of tea to some one anxiously awaiting news from the operating room. Such little acts of kindness are not soon forgotten.

MISS L. GERALDINE COPELAND
SUPERINTENDENT 1942-1945

Although this was one of the most difficult periods in the history of the hospital, the new superintendent gave splendid service. During 1943 it was practically impossible to obtain sufficient staff to keep the hospital successfully operated. However, the local Red Cross organization gave able assistance to

the nursing staff, and members of the "Order of the Eastern Star" assisted in the diet kitchen department.

It was during this time that the Ingersoll Lions Club generously donated the first incubator for the nursery. This contribution saved many lives which would otherwise have been lost.



MRS. ELIZABETH DUFF
(Mrs. Donald Rose, Ottawa)
Superintendent 1937-1942



MISS L. G. COPELAND
Superintendent 1942-1945

MRS. R. L. SMITH
SUPERINTENDENT 1945-

Mrs. R. L. Smith, widow of the late Dr. R. L. Smith of Forest, and children, Carol and Robert, moved to Ingersoll in 1944, and on January 2, 1945, Mrs. Smith assumed her duties as superintendent. Following the difficult years of 1942-1944, the Hospital directors were fortunate in securing the services of Mrs. Smith. Mrs. Smith is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Mott and was born at Oil City, Ontario. She is a graduate of Victoria Hospital, London, Ontario. Although many unforeseen changes have been made, due to innovations and overcrowding, Mrs. Smith has risen to the occasion and carried on most successfully. Modest and unassuming, but thoroughly efficient and intensely human, Mrs. Smith has won her way into the hearts of all those with whom she has come in contact. Since 1946, Mrs. Smith has taken over in its entirety the work in radiology at the hospital.



MRS. R. L. SMITH
Superintendent 1945-



MISS LORETTO ANGLIN
(Mrs. Thomas Comiskey)
Acting Superintendent on several
occasions.
Assistant Superintendent 1942-1946

of a capable board of trustees, and Miss Hodges.

Applicants were advised to apply in person, when possible, to the superintendent. Applicants were to be between the ages

of 18 and 30, and were usually accepted in February. No fees were required. Students resided on the third floor of the hospital. A monthly allowance was made to cover incidental expenses—preliminary and junior term, \$5.00; intermediate year, \$8.00; and senior term, \$10.00 per month.

Students did 12-hour duty with a two-hour rest period for day duty. Lectures were given by the Medical Staff, the classes being held in the Hospital library. The nurse's uniform consisted of the usual blue and white stripe, white shoes and stockings, apron with narrow bib the first six months, after which a wide bib was worn.

Beginning with the second year, a wide belt was added to the apron, and for the third year a black velvet band was worn on the cap. The cap was merited at the end of the third month, provided the student nurse met the requirements of the school. No capping ceremony was held at that time.

One cannot write of the Nursing School without calling to mind the efficiency of the superintendent, Miss Hodges. As the hospital was staffed entirely by student nurses, she filled the position as surgical, obstetrical, X-ray and emergency nurse, working with the student nurses in every way. The nurses were on call twenty-four hours a day under her capable supervision.

At that time, maid service and nurses' aides were unknown. All surgical dressings, bandages, etc., and all the hospital sewing and mending were done by the staff.

The maximum staff was five students, four on day duty, and one night nurse. A student nurse was given night duty at any time after her first three months in training. Night duty was twelve straight hours with no rest period permitted. She had full charge of two floors, the nursery, telephone calls, and answering door bells. In those days the majority of visitors rang the door bell, and more often than not, through the evening, patients' bells, door bells, and telephone all rang together.

An occasional social affair was arranged for the nurses and their friends, but being so few in number the girls were more or less like a little family. Graduation Exercises were usually held in the Town Hall, these being arranged by the Women's Auxiliary to the Trust. Graduation pins were presented by the President of the Women's Auxiliary, and the diplomas by the President of the Medical Staff. A program of speeches and musical numbers completed the

difficult and strenuous at that time than at present. However, such was not the case. The modern technique in surgery and advance in medicine in past years have made more demands upon the skill and ingenuity of the nurse, and much more is expected of her. These changes and innovations added to the overcrowded conditions prevalent in Alexandra Hospital for some time have called for every atom of resourcefulness of superintendent and staff.

In 1937, the Nurses' Training School was closed by the Provincial Department of Health, following an order-in-Council that all training schools in smaller hospitals should be eliminated.

GRADUATES OF THE NURSES' TRAINING SCHOOL, ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

1909-1937

Bodkin, Reta M. (Mrs. Aubrey Nunn); Buckley, Ina (met death in a motor accident); Church, Amy I. (Mrs. Charles Cowell); Clement, Elsie; Currie, Evelyn (Mrs. F. David); Daniel, Ella (Mrs. Fred S. Newman); Forbes, Miss; Forsythe, Helen (Mrs. Allan Phillips); Henry Violet; Hobart, Helen; Hooper, L.; Hudson, Isabel (Mrs. Alex. McShimming); Hughes, Miss (died while in training); Kenny, Veda (Mrs. Morrison McBride); Lloyd, A. D.; Lowery, P.; McDougall, Miss; McEwen, Evelyn B. (Mrs. Everett Quinn); McIntyre, Norma (Mrs. Currie Wilson); McKay, Agnes; McTiernan, Ina; Martin, Madeline L. (Mrs. Clarence Campbell); Maynard, Lillian (deceased); Minty, Elsie; Pfaff, Emma E.; Pettit, Florence M. (Mrs. Eugene Anger); Pringle, Janet E. (Mrs. Carson); Riebel, Almira M. (Mrs. Grant Wright); Robertson, Mary E. (Mrs. Wilfred Laflamme); Russell, Sadie E.; Siple, Ethel M. (deceased); Stevenson, Violet S.; Thomas, Grace (Mrs. Colin Belore); Tomlinson, Miss; Turner, Ruby (Mrs. Ronald White); Waitson, Julia.



MISS ADA C. HODGES
First superintendent (seated) with

ORGANIZATION

The Board of Trustees has from its beginning had the active support of a Women's Auxiliary. Following closely on organization of the **Trust**, a large and representative meeting of ladies of the town interested in the proposed hospital was held in the Council Chamber February 21, 1909. Dr. Neff gave a short address, explaining the hospital needs. Mrs. L. G. Menhennick was asked to take the chair and Mrs. Alex MacCaulay acted as secretary. It was decided to organize a Women's Auxiliary, and election of officers took place as follows:

President—Mrs. R. J. Robertson declined the office, and Mrs. W. A. Sudworth was elected in her stead.

Vice-Presidents—Mrs. C. C. L. Wilson, Mrs. John E. Boles, Mrs. Thomas Waterhouse, Mrs. Justus Miller, Mrs. Walter Mills, and Mrs. John Henderson. (These represented the various churches.)

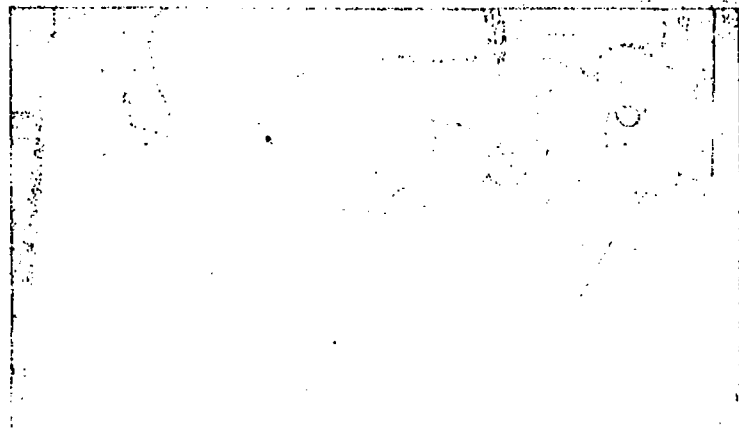
Secretary—Mrs. Alex. MacCaulay

Treasurer—Mrs. Frank W. Bain

A committee of 24 ladies was appointed, including Miss Helen Coleridge (Mrs. J. D. McDonald), Mrs. R. B. Hunt and Miss Belle Brown (Mrs. T. N. Dunn), still active members of the Women's Auxiliary.

On April 7, 1909, the Women's Auxiliary to the Hospital Trust met with the president, Mrs. W. A. Sudworth, in the chair. Mrs. Thomas Seldon was elected a vice-president from King Street Methodist Church. It was decided every lady "of any consequence" should become a member on payment of fifty cents, and committees were formed to canvass for subscriptions. As a result of this canvass, the ladies raised \$1,000.

On the day of the opening, September 22, 1909, the Women's Auxiliary assisted to a very marked degree in making the occasion a happy one.



represented at the annual conventions. The Fingersoll Auxiliary was honoured at the last annual meeting in 1949 when their president, Mrs. P. Michael Dewan, was appointed Recording Secretary of the Provincial Association.

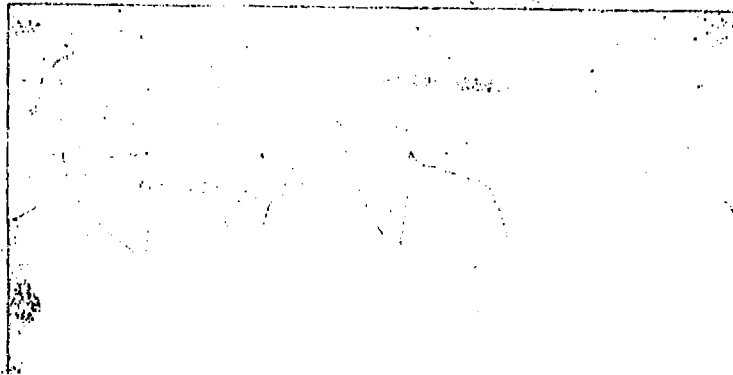
From the earliest days of the hospital, the Auxiliary has always co-operated with the Trust in making important changes and improvements. During periods of financial stress they have repeatedly made successful attempts to furnish the necessary funds for supplies and equipment. A visiting committee was appointed annually and regular monthly visits paid to the hospital to ascertain needs.

Some of their earlier projects were the electric wiring of the building and the installation of a large kitchen range and laundry. They have also provided yearly supplies of linens, cottons, kitchen utensils, dining-room furniture, draperies and silver. The Auxiliary equipped a nursery which was furnished with bassinets by Keystone Rebekah Lodge. With the aid of the Home Economics Classes of Memorial School and of Women's Institutes, fruit showers were arranged.

The nurses' quarters on the third floor of the hospital were furnished and maintained. Some years ago the Auxiliary co-operated with the Trust in the purchase of an ambulance and contributed \$400 to this project.

One of the dearest wishes of the Auxiliary, and its main objective for some time, had been the building of a nurses' residence, and \$2,000 was raised for this purpose. However, at that time, in 1929, building was not considered feasible. Later the Trust rented the Dean property on Thames Street South, as a nurses' home. By January, 1935, during Mrs. C. B. Scoffin's term as president of the Auxiliary, the residence was ready for occupation and officially opened. It continued in operation for three years.

This Women's organization has not been remiss in the sometimes "little unremembered acts of kindness and love". Read-



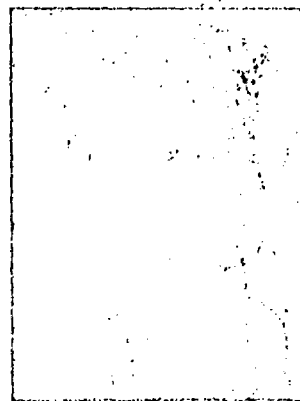
ing material (of prime importance to those confined to hospital) is provided for patients. The excellent service of Mrs. F. T. Manning as convener of the Library Committee cannot be over-estimated. Mrs. Manning has made a large collection of books and magazines, and with the assistance of Miss Betty Crawford, public librarian, has arranged to classify the books and prepare them for circulation within the hospital.

Flowers were always presented to the nurses at graduation and the nursing staff remembered with gifts at Christmas. The Auxiliary made itself responsible for holiday decorations at the hospital and arrangements were made with the local school and church choirs to sing Christmas carols. The Salvation Army Band and Y's Men's Boys' Band also furnished music at this season.

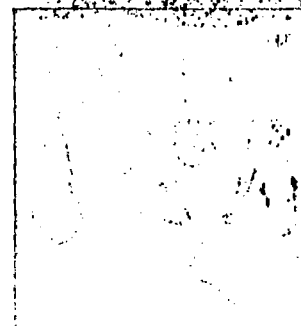
The ways and means of raising funds have been many and varied. The usual teas, bridge parties, home-cooking sales and concerts were held, as well as the staging of plays. One year "a mile of coppers" netted \$545.02. For many years "The Hospital Dance" in Christmas week was very popular. Of late, "Rose Day" has taken the place of some of these. "The Florence Nightingale Tea" in May, and "Rose Day" in June have become a tradition. A "Penny Sale" in October, 1949, netted a substantial sum.

In 1948 and 1949, with the new hospital becoming a reality, members of the Auxiliary seemed to be inspired. Under the excellent and efficient leadership of the president, Mrs. P. M. Dewan, the work went forward by leaps and bounds. The membership was so rapidly increased that meeting in private homes was discontinued, and the meetings were held in the 'Y' building on Oxford Street. The interest of nearly every woman's organization, service club, and fraternal organization in Ingersoll and surrounding country was enlisted, and their response was magnificent. Too much credit cannot be given the resourceful and indefatigable president, Mrs. Dewan, whose superb management brought the Auxiliary to such a high state of efficiency.

MRS. W. A. SUDWORTH
First President of Women's Auxilia
1909-1910



MISS ANNIE MOON
Treasurer 1922-



kitchen and the operating room). A special fund known as "The Furnishing Fund" was set aside for this purpose. Representatives from all organizations contributing to "The Furnishing Fund" were invited to attend the Auxiliary meetings, these representatives to act in an advisory capacity. Radio talks on behalf of the new hospital were arranged by the members and members of affiliated organizations.

Generous contributions were received from service clubs, women's organizations, fraternal societies, individual citizens and former residents. Through the untiring zeal of its members and the encouragement and support of nearly every citizen, the efforts of the Auxiliary were crowned with success, and the necessary amount of \$32,051.41 for furnishing the new hospital was reached. In June, 1949, the contract for furnishings was let to the Robert Simpson Company Limited, Toronto.

A beautiful and artistic "Book of Remembrance", the work of Miss Betty Crawford, will be given an appropriate place in the corridor of the new hospital.

This brief record of the Women's Auxiliary to Alexandra Hospital would not be complete if special mention were not made of Miss Annie Moon, who since 1922 has faithfully served the Auxiliary as its efficient treasurer. On March 31, 1947, Miss Moon was honoured by the Auxiliary with the presentation of a sterling silver brooch and ear-rings, and corsage of roses, having at that time completed her twenty-fifth year as treasurer.

COMMITTEE ON FURNISHINGS

Left to Right: Mrs. P. L. Smith, Miss Annie Moon, Miss Alice Moon
Mrs. P. M. Downes

GROWING NEED OF A NEW HOSPITAL

The war years were the hospital's most difficult. Coupled with the ever-increasing number of patients seeking treatment, and resulting serious over-crowding, was the inability to get sufficient staff to operate the hospital to its fullest. Almost every available person was either in the forces or in war industry. However, the Trust advertised for volunteers from women's and other organizations, and the people of Ingersoll and area came to the rescue, some offering full-time help, others, part-time. And the hospital was able to get by, though repairs had to be made continually to both building and equipment.

The need for a new, bigger, modern hospital to serve Ingersoll and the surrounding territory was becoming more and more apparent.

In 1942, the Medical Staff with Dr. C. C. Cornish as president suggested to the Trust that local industries be approached for donations toward a new hospital. In January, 1944, it was decided that the incoming Board of Trustees should be urged to appoint a committee to proceed with concrete plans to promote erection of a new hospital. In February, 1944, the Board of Trustees appointed the "New Hospital Building Committee" for the purpose of devising ways and means, giving publicity and promoting the objective of erecting a new hospital. This committee was composed of: J. M. Malcolm, K. R. Daniel, R. G. Start, Mrs. James Baxter, Dr. C. C. Cornish, and Dr. J. W. Counter. In March Ingersoll's Town Council made an additional grant of \$1,000.

In April Miss Copeland resigned and in January, 1945, Mrs. R. L. Smith, of Forest, took over and still remains a most efficient superintendent.

A number of representative citizens were added to the "New
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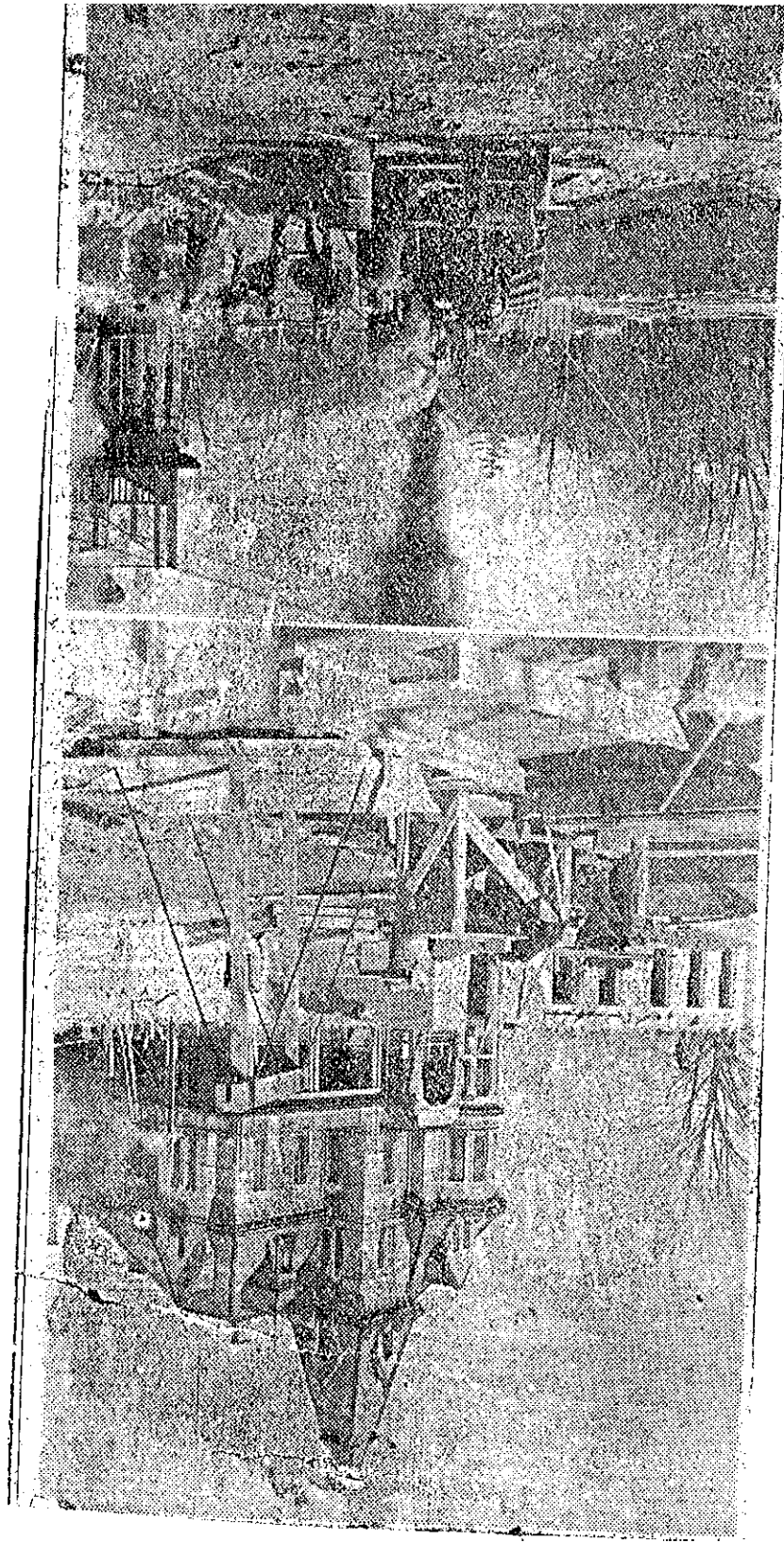
...operation, moral, physical, and financial, to raise funds for a new hospital. The Lions had accumulated surplus funds they wished to subscribe toward the project. The Board sincerely appreciated this offer, and in turn voted to subscribe \$20,000 from the Hospital's reserve funds. Mr. Allan Horton was appointed the Board's representative to co-operate with, and assist the Lions in their campaign.

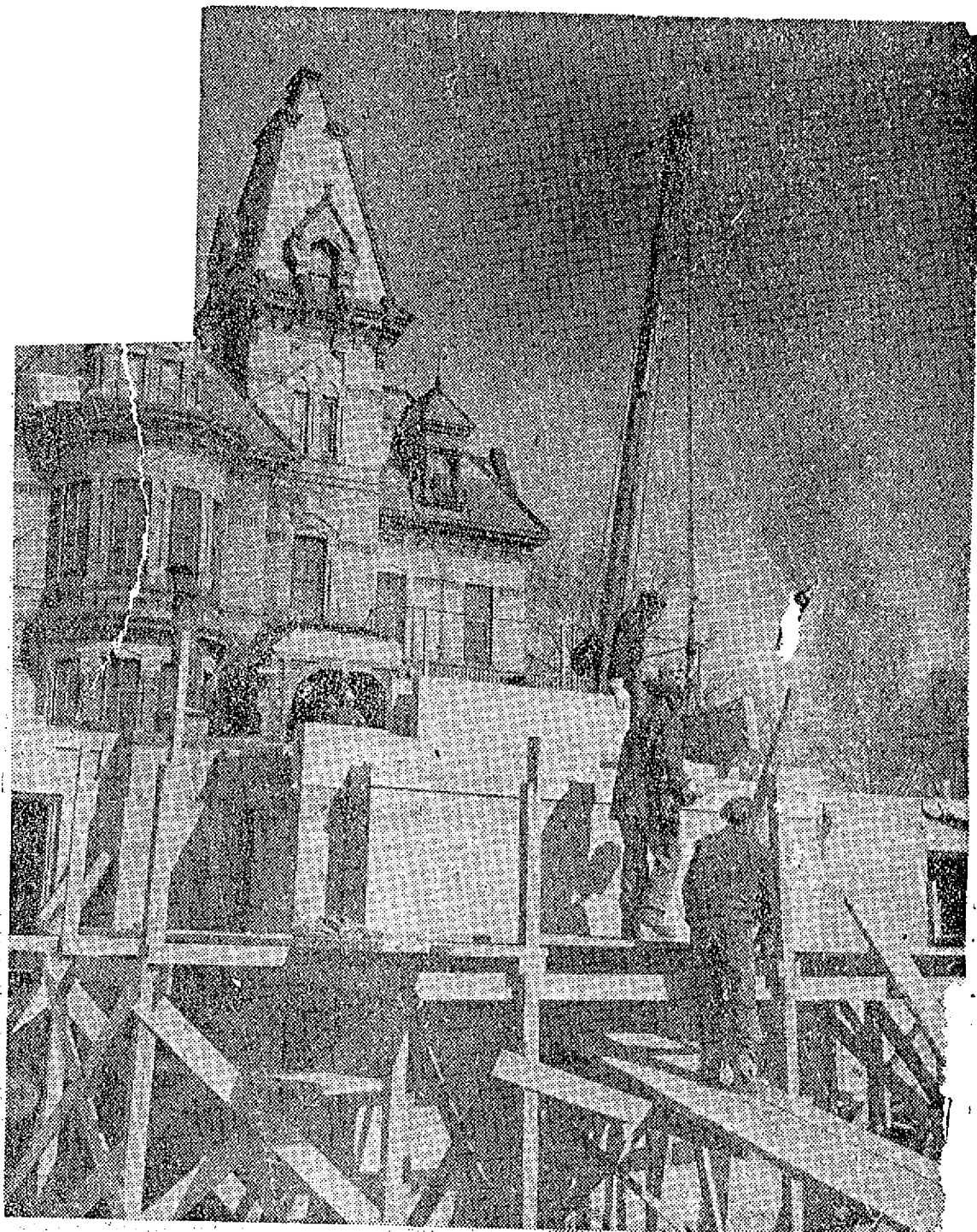
In March, 1946, the County Council set aside \$8,750 for the proposed new hospital, and recommended that the Councils of 1947, 1948, and 1949 set aside a like amount for the same purpose. In November, 1946, preparations were made to submit the new Hospital question to the ratepayers. Members of the Chamber of Commerce and of the Women's Auxiliary assisted materially in getting out the vote on the question "Are you in favour of the council granting \$150,000, and the issuing of debentures therefor, to Alexandra Hospital for the purpose of assisting in the building of a new hospital at an estimated cost of \$275,000?" On December 9, 1946, the vote carried 1038 to 414.

At the annual meeting of the Trust, Feb. 9, 1949, election of Trustees resulted as follows: R. G. Start, President; R. W. Green, Secretary-Treasurer; Mrs. F. H. Adams, Mrs. James Baxter, W. E. Cragg, T. N. Dunn, R. S. Foster, C. J. Hines,

Allan Horton, A. E. Izzard. A committee consisting of R. S. Foster, chairman, Mrs. Baxter and Allan Horton was appointed to make arrangements for the laying of the cornerstone Wednesday, March 16, 1949. It was a snowy day but hundreds turned out for this significant occasion in the life of the new hospital. Allan Horton acted as chairman in the absence of Mr. Start, who was ill. The invocation was given by Rev. G. W. Murdoch, president of the Ministerial Association, and K. R. Daniel, of Ingersoll, M.P. for Oxford, spoke, and brought a message from Hon. Paul Martin, minister of health. After Mr. T. N. Dunn, long associated with the hospital, had placed the copper box containing documents, photographs, coins and other articles of interest in it, Mr. Green laid the cornerstone for the new hospital. The mayor, Dr. J. G. Murray, lauded the people for making the hospital possible, and Mrs. P. M. Dewan, the president of the Women's Auxiliary, gave a stirring message.

It is of interest to know precisely what went into the box that went into the stone: a copy of the first annual report of the hospital, 1910; a copy of the latest report, 1949; The Ingersoll Tribune, edition of March 10, 1949; Sentinel-Review, special Ingersoll section of March 10, 1949, and edition of March 15, 1949; list of patrons whose generosity made furnishing of the hospital possible; copy of the program on the occasion of the laying of the cornerstone; photograph of the Board of Trustees, and another of the medical staff; photograph of the superintendent, Mrs. R. Lee Smith; latest issue of Canadian and Newfoundland postage stamps and coins (it being the year of 1949).





THE NEW ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL, rising above the weather beaten mansion that forms the present institution, will be the most modern small hospital on the continent when it is completed.

THE NEW ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

BY ALLAN HORTON

Chairman of the Building Committee

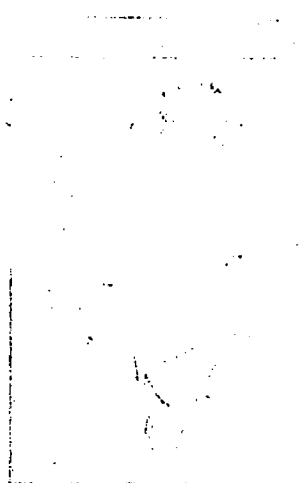
The new hospital is as modern in design and equipment as it is possible for the builder's art to make it. The essentials such as heating plant, kitchen and laundry are sufficiently large should the occasion for expansion arise.

On the ground floor are dining-rooms and lounges for nurses and staff, also the laboratory. The nurses' dining-room and lounge are so arranged that they may be combined into one large room suitable for meetings. The out-patient division with its emergency operating room is on this floor, also the X-Ray department. Three separate X-Ray services have been installed, the T.B. Chest X-Ray, which, it is hoped, will serve every patient entering the hospital; the emergency X-Ray for fractures; and the main X-Ray, the last mentioned having been placed at a cost of almost \$10,000 and capable of doing the most difficult work.

On the main floor we find the admittance and administrative offices and a fine Board Room to the north of the main lobby. Each floor has a compact utility section consisting of a flower room, diet kitchen, utility room and wash-room, all sections being built directly above or below each other in order to obtain the most economical plumbing. On this floor are three four-bed wards, six two-bed wards, and four private rooms, each two being connected by a lavatory.

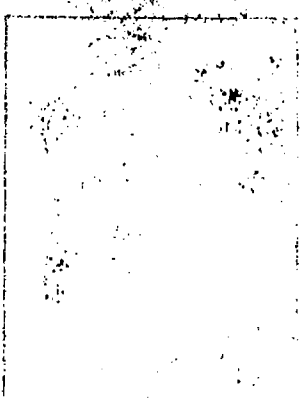
The second floor has two four-bed wards, four two-bed wards, and four private wards. On this floor is a very compact and modern obstetrical division with the most up-to-date conveniences and facilities. The pride and joy of this floor is the beautiful nursery containing fourteen baby cubicles, each of which is a glass-partitioned completely equipped unit. The nursery has fine viewing windows for the use of proud parents and friends, and the whole division is separated from the rest of the floor by double swing doors opening only one way.

The third floor has not been completed, but has been arranged so that fourteen more beds, if necessary, may be added at a minimum expense. On this floor are the usual utility section, one four-bed ward, two two-bed wards, and a surgical section. Of this last division we are particularly proud. It consists of two operating theatres, major and minor, complete



R. W. GREEN

Secretary-Treasurer
1930-1950



JOHN E. GAYFER

Member of Board for 27 years.
President 1925, 1928, 1931,
1932, 1935

utmost care, after consultation with our doctors. Here again, for best protection, the surgical section is kept entirely separate from the rest of the floor by double doors.

There are two main stairways, one at either end, and a large semi-automatic elevator placed about the centre of the building, and serving all floors. The building is served by electricity and gas, and is steam heated by stoker-fed coal furnaces. It has been made as fire-proof as possible, the only wood used to any extent being that in the doors. Complete fire-fighting equipment is installed on all floors—in addition, for better service, there is a direct line to the fire-hall. In case of a hydro cut-off, an emergency lighting unit will furnish light for the operating rooms, the obstetrical room, every third light in the corridors, and all emergency exit lights, and in addition will furnish power for the water circulator, stokers and elevator.

This beautiful buff brick building has been designed with the greatest care, after close contact with Provincial Department of Health officials, and has been built of the best material by a competent contractor. As a whole it is extremely compact and complete. No necessary expense that would make for efficiency and service has been spared. We feel that it is complete in every detail and equipped to give the most modern treatment.



Alexandra Hospital Trust Annual Meeting Held; Elect New Trustees

At the annual meeting of the Alexandra Hospital Trust held in the council chambers last evening, the directors were gratified to note a more than average attendance and a more than better average attendance.

R. G. Start was appointed chairman of the meeting and R. W. Green, secretary.

Trustees for the year were elected as follows: Mrs. F. H. Adams, Mrs. Inase Baxter, W. E. Cragg, T. N. Dunn, R. W. Green, Cliff Hines, Allan Horton, A. G. Murray, J. M. Malcolm, R. G. Start.

MEET NEXT WEEK

The reorganization meeting for the appointment of the various officers from the board of trustees will be held Wednesday, February 13.

Expressions of appreciation and thanks were extended to the superintendent, Mrs. Lee Smith, the nursing and medical staff of the hospital and all employees there for their efficient work of the past year, especially in consideration of the fact that it was a difficult year through insufficient help and a heavy number of patients treated. These expressions were voiced by R. W. Green and J. F. Fulton.

Mr. Start, who acted as chairman due to the absence of President T. N. Dunn who has been ill, gave a review of the work during 1943 and drew special attention to the fact that this was a record year in regard to the number of patients admitted and treated at the hospital. The increase is noted in the report of the superintendent.

BUILDING INADEQUATE

Mr. Start also noted that the building is very old and is proving entirely inadequate. It is overcrowded and its construction is such that it is not possible to do the best work there as is the wish of the staffs.

Mr. Start said the existing circumstances in regard to this inadequacy of the building for its present extensive needs demonstrates conclusively the real need

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The financial statement, presented by treasurer R. W. Green showed the following items in connection with the operating expense at the hospital for the year: Food supplies, \$7,706.31; drugs, medical supplies, surgical supplies, etc., \$4,486.25; laboratory and pathology, \$169,000; X-ray supplies \$244.21; furnishings, bedding and linen, laundry supplies, housekeeping and cleaning supplies, \$1,984.12; fuel and heating, light and power, water, \$1,725.64; insurance and interest on bank overdrafts and loans for operating, exchange, etc., \$458.44; maintenance repairs to buildings, repairs to plant and equipment, \$849.24; stationery and postage, office supplies, telephone, freight, cartage, rent, Ontario Hospital Association fees, etc., \$1,419.81; salaries and wages \$29,594.73; total operating expense, \$48,637.75.

In the operating revenue, it was shown that from private patients, semi-private patients and pay ward patients, the total revenue was \$29,777.96 and from extra services from patients \$6,428.18; the maintenance from municipalities, grants from municipalities and county of Oxford on the 1944 deficit a total of \$5,028.90; provincial government grant for patients \$40880; out-patient revenue (treatments, X-ray and other services) \$947.13; a total of \$42,590.97. The non-operating revenue included interest on investment and income from property owned by hospital \$809.19, interest from endowments and other trust funds \$202.50, donations and bequests, \$1,395.75. These included Women's Auxiliary to hospital, cash \$197.67, supplies \$590.00; Ora Circle King's Daughters \$69.83, Kiwanis Club \$50.00, William Ross estate \$488.25; recovery of old accounts \$301.21, a total of \$2,708.65, making a grand total of \$45,299.62 for operating revenue.

The net loss for the year was \$7,133.52.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

In the superintendent's report, presented by Mrs. Lee Smith, it was found that the number of patients admitted during the year was 958, an increase of 41 over the total of last year. The total patients days of all patients treated was 11,962 (nursery 1,938 days), and patients X-ray during the year totalled 293.

Mrs. Smith expressed thanks and appreciation to many who assisted during the year and her report in part reads:

"We wish to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Hospital Trust who have supported us so willingly and faithfully during the year. May we particularly thank the medical staff and nursing staff for their co-operation, assistance and loyalty; the Ladies' Auxiliary for their generous supply of linen, dishes and silverware; the Ora Circle of The King's Daughters for their donation of supplies to our nursery department; the Kiwanis Club of Ingersoll for their donation of money; the Salford Women's Institute for the interest they have taken and for their donation of money.

"We appreciate the interest the Lions Club are taking in sponsoring the campaign to raise funds for a new hospital that is so badly needed. To them we extend our best wishes. And to any other persons who have assisted in any way to the benefit of Alexandra hospital, we thank you."

Hospital is Beneficiary

Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Alexandra Hospital, Ingersoll and the Canadian Red Cross Society, Ontario Division at Toronto, are principal beneficiaries in the \$49,120.08 estate of Howard S. Fallows, West Nissouri farmer who died on Jan. 28 of this year. Each organization is expected to receive \$9,466.08 as an equal share in the residue of the estate.

Lay Cornerstone Of New Hospital As Crowds Watch

In a brief but moving ceremony, the cornerstone of the new Alexandra Hospital here was laid Wednesday.

Scores of officials, dignitaries and citizens in all walks of life, and from many miles around, looked on as Mr. Roy W. Green, long prominent in hospital work, laid the stone for the modern hospital which will open by Easter, 1950, it is hoped. When completed, there will not be a finer hospital in the country.

With Royden G. Start, president of the hospital trust, absent through illness, Allan R. Horton, the vice-president, and chairman of the new building committee, acted as master of ceremonies. The ceremony lasted only 30 minutes and was broadcast over CKOX. A recording for later broadcast was also made by CPPL, London.

Daniel Is Speaker

Mr. Horton welcomed all those who thronged the area just beside the old Alexandra Hospital, to take part in one of the town's historic events, and then Rev. George W. Murdoch, of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, and head of the local ministerial association, gave the invocation.

K. R. Daniel, M.P. for Oxford, who came down from Ottawa, specially for the occasion as guest speaker, lauded the efforts of all, from the rich to the poor, who had made the new hospital possible. He pointed out what a tremendous benefit it would be not only for Ingersoll but its neighboring, friendly communities.

Mr. Horton then asked Mr. T. N. Dunn, a member of the board of trustees, to place the bronze con-
tributor in the stone. Mr. Dunn read the list of the documents and articles contained in it. They included: the first annual report of the old hospital, of 1910, and the annual report for 1948; copies of The Ingersoll Tribune and The Sentinel-Review; photographs of the hospital trust, the medical staff and Mrs. R.

hospital, and a scroll bearing the names of the organizations and two people who had contributed \$100 per more, expressly for the furnishing of robes in the hospital.

List 33 Groups

There were 38 organizations listed, together with the names of Mr. Lewis Sandick and the late Mrs. E. A. Wilson. Long before her death, Mrs. Wilson had asked in her will that a certain sum go to the new hospital for that purpose.

There is a little story behind getting the prime minister and his wife as patrons, and getting their signatures on the scroll. Mrs. P. M. Dewan, president of the Women's Auxiliary, was down to meet Mr. St. Laurent on his quick visit to Ingersoll, and time being short she gave the scroll to Hon. Paul Martin, minister of health, who took it to London, had Mr. and Mrs. St. Laurent sign it in the meantime, then had it delivered back here in time for placing in the stone. On it Mr. St. Laurent had written, "In memory of a hasty visit to Ingersoll."

After the foot-long container had been placed in the stone, Mr. Horton called on Mr. Green to lay it. It bore the simple inscription, "1949." Then Mr. Horton asked Mr. Green to accept as a gift the silver trowel made specially for the occasion, and engraved: "Presented to R. W. Green, on the occasion of the laying of the cornerstone of the Alexandra Hospital, Ingersoll, Ontario, March 16, 1949."

Built special platform

A special platform, about eight feet high, was built for the occasion, and colorfully decorated in red, white and blue ribbon. Seated on it were Mrs. Murray, wife of the mayor; Mrs. Dewan, Mrs. I. H. Adams, of the hospital trust; Mrs. Green and Mrs. Dunn. Spectators sat in cars or braving the blowing snow standing below and around the platform. Among those present were Judge and Mrs. Schwenger, from Hamilton, parents, and Mrs. Bill Schwenger, wife of the builder of the hospital. Many others prominent in Ingersoll and area life, were present, including Warden and Mrs. George Fewster.

"This is a proud day in Ingersoll's history," said Mr. Daniel, who said he brought from Hon. Paul Martin, national minister of health

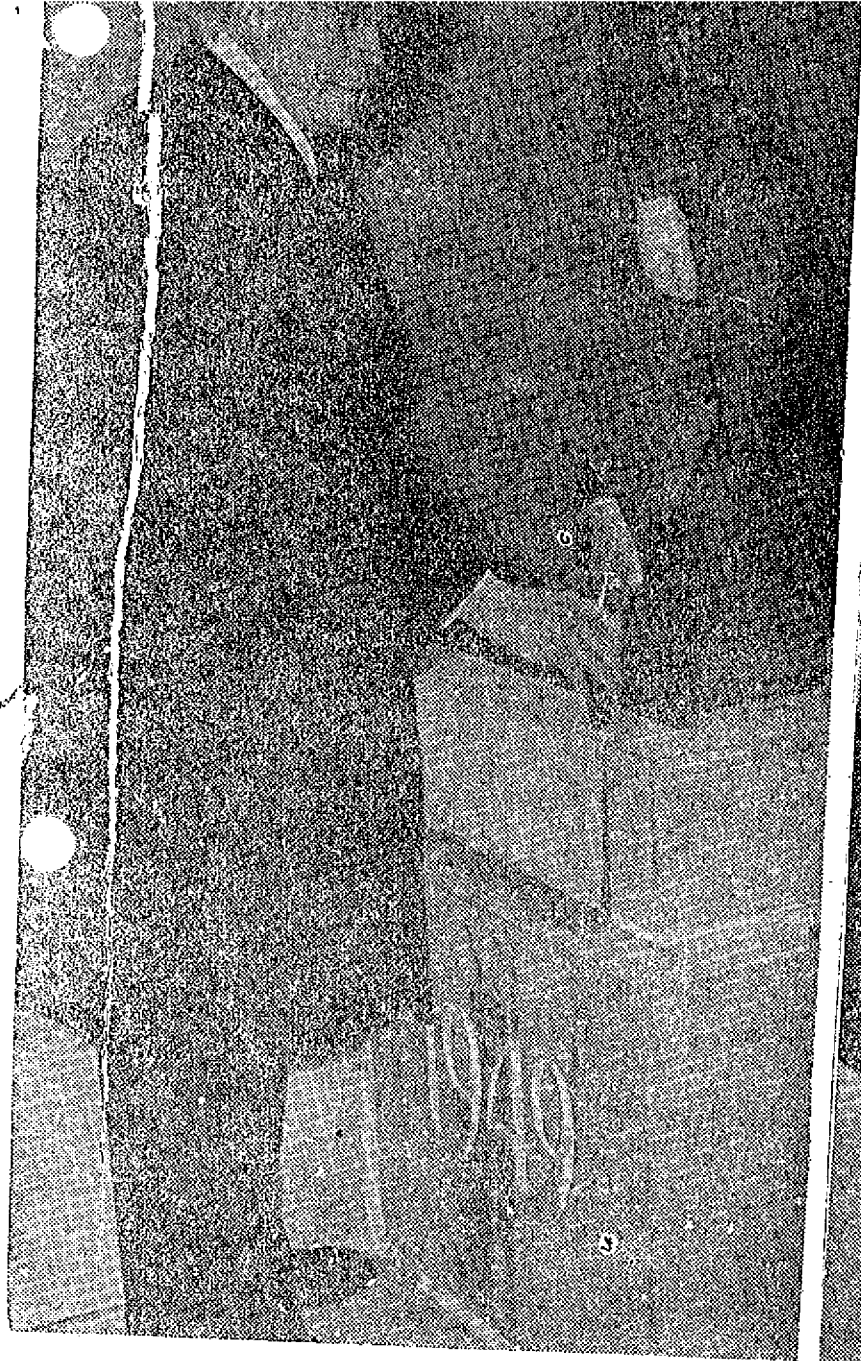
Like an expert Mr. Green handled the trowel, and patted the stone in as though he'd been a bricklayer for years. "I declare this stone well and truly laid," he said.

Then Mrs. Adams, long connected with hospital work, presented a bouquet to Mrs. Green.

Mayor Murray said it was "a very important day for Ingersoll and surrounding community." "I want to pay tribute to all who have contributed to this great work which is going to mean so much to all of us. The hospital will render great service. And I want to pay tribute to Mr. Bill Schwenger, who is doing us a grand job."

"This is a happy day," Mrs. Dewan, who has done tremendous work for the new hospital, said. "We feel just like kiddies who have waited for Christmas. Seldom have women been asked to take on such a job, and seldom have they responded so well. This day is a great day for all who are working for this hospital and for all who will benefit from it."

After the ceremony ended, a reception was held in the St. James' Anglican Church parish hall.



R.W. Green
Secretary-treasurer
Board of Trustees
--lays the stone



T.N. Dunn
--deposited box of
documents in cornerstone



GROUP AT LAYING OF CORNER-STONE

Left to Right: Dr. J. G. Murray, Mayor of Ingersoll; Rev. G. W. Murdoch, President of the Ministerial Association; Mrs. P. M. Dewan, President of the Women's Auxiliary; Mr. K. R. Daniel, M.P. for Oxford; and Mr. Allan Horton, Chairman of the Building Committee.



ALLAN HORTON

Chairman of the Building Committee

Prepares to Move

As they prepare to move from the old hospital, into their new, shiny, modern Alexandra hospital, here is a list of the staff, headed by Mrs. R. L. Smith, superintendent:

Mrs. Reta Nunn—Graduate of Alexandra Hospital, Ingersoll, assistant superintendent.

Miss Isobel Paisley—Graduate of St. Joseph's Hospital, London, supervisor of operating rooms.

Miss Edna Frank—Graduate of St. Joseph's Hospital, London, operating room nurse.

Miss Helen Arnott—Graduate of

Miss Helen Lynch—Graduate of St. Joseph's Hospital, London, supervisor first floor.

Mrs. Phyllis Murray—Graduate of Calgary General, Laboratory and X-ray Technician.

Miss Elizabeth Jarrett—Graduate of Victoria Hospital, London, nursery supervisor.

Miss Mary Cade—Graduate of Hamilton General Hospital, general duty.

Mrs. Margaret Anderson—Graduate of Hamilton General Hospital, general duty.

Mrs. Margaret Anderson—Graduate of St. Mary's Hospital, Timmins, general duty.

Miss Cozette Daniel—Graduate of

Woodstock General Hospital, general duty.

Miss Geraldine Dillon—Graduate of St. Mary's Hospital, Kitchener, general duty.

Mrs. Marion Murray—Graduate of Buffalo City Hospital, general duty.

Mrs. Mary LaPlamme—Graduate of Alexandra Hospital, Ingersoll, general duty.

Mrs. Almira Wright—Graduate of Alexandra Hospital, Ingersoll, general duty.

Miss Pauline Dykeman—Graduate of St. Joseph's Hospital, London, general duty.

Mrs. Paula McLachlan—Graduate of St. Joseph's Hospital, London, general duty.

Miss Pietzi Mulder—Graduate of Amsterdam, Holland, general duty.

Nurses' Aides—Mrs. Irene Abbott, Miss Beth Dunn, Mrs. Elena Minler, Mrs. Rita Mul, Mrs. Ethel Paddon, Mrs. Ella Swackhammer, Mrs. Nora Yake, Mr. Gordon Godby, orderly.

Kitchen—Mrs. Beatrice Brown, cook; Miss Anne St. Clair, assistant cook; Mrs. Annie Bradford, general help; Miss Helen Smith, general help; Mrs. Irene Smith, general help; Mrs. Gazzola, general help; Miss Fern Groves, general help; Miss Vera Hutchjinson, laundress; Mrs. Thelma Kemp, assistant laundress; Mr. Wesley Smith, janitor.

Office—Miss Olive Bradford, secretary; Miss Dorothy Callander, switchboard operator.

Mr. Wilton Hobbs, chief engineer and maintenance.

Snip of Scissors Opens Hospital

One snip with a pair of silver scissors and Ingersoll's new Alexandra hospital was officially opened yesterday. After his speech to the hundreds of men, women and children who thronged about the gleaming structure, the Lieutenant-Governor, Hon. Ray Lawson, accompanied by Mrs. Lawson, stepped up to the front door and cut the gold and purple ribbon, with the words:

"I now declare this new Alexandra hospital officially open and ready to relieve pain and suffering."

The hospital, however, will not be ready to receive patients until July 1, or thereabouts.

The Lieutenant-Governor, who got terrific cheers from the youngsters of the public schools and Sacred Heart school when he said he'd ask Mayor Murray to declare a holiday for them Friday, arrived with Mrs. Lawson and their party right on the dot of 4 p.m. With the playing of God Save The King by the Y's Men's Boys' and Girls' band, Joe George, director, the 30-minute opening ceremonies got underway.

After snipping the ribbon, whose colors were those of the hospital, Mr. and Mrs. Lawson, accompanied by R. G. Start, president of the trust, and Mrs. Start; Mr. Allan Horton, chairman of the building committee, and Mrs. R. L. Smith, supervisor and administrator of the new hospital, entered to sign the beautiful, hand-painted Remembrance Book done by Miss Betty Crawford, librarian and painter of note.

"You are to be congratulated," His Honor told Miss Crawford.

Mrs. R. B. Hutt, whose husband was first secretary of the original Alexandra hospital, handed Mr. Lawson the pen. Mr. and Mrs. Lawson may be the only ones to sign the book.

Many people had worked

went. Borrowed radios scattered throughout the old hospital allowed patients to hear the opening ceremonies just next door.

The youngsters from the schools paraded up, headed by the Pipe Band. Many carried flags. All cheered like mad when the official party arrived. Mr. Start was chairman for the occasion and after his remarks he read two wires of congratulations, one from Mrs. Elizabeth Rose, former supervisor, and another from Hon. Paul Martin, minister of health.

Lawson Signs Remembrance Book After Opening New Alexandra Hospital



The Lieutenant-Governor, Hon. Ray Lawson, is seen with Mrs. Lawson, signing the beautiful hand-painted Remembrance Book created by Miss Betty Crawford, librarian and well-known painter. Miss Crawford is seen with Lawson discussing the book which will remain in a glass case in the lobby of the hospital. This photograph was taken by Ron Laidlaw, of the London Free Press, and The Tribune is grateful to the Free Press for also engraving the picture and rushing it to Ingersoll in time to appear in this issue of The Tribune.

All Can Be Proud Says St. Laurent



I welcome this opportunity to send greetings and congratulations to the people of Ingersoll and vicinity on the occasion of the formal opening of the new Alexandra Hospital on June 15.

These citizens can well be proud of the notable contribution which they have made not only to the building of a fine hospital but also to the strengthening of that spirit of group enterprise which is so important in the general development of any district and of our country as a whole.

I should like, on this memorable occasion, to extend to them my best wishes for a successful opening of their new hospital and for continued success in the building up of their community.

Prime Minister.

Ottawa,
1950.

Finest Small Hospital on North American Continent

Late in the spring of 1950, when the last piece of equipment is moved into Ingersoll's new Alexandra Hospital, the town will have the finest small hospital on the North American continent, according to Dr. Phair of the Ontario Department of Health.

If ever there was a town deserving of that honor it is Ingersoll, where two years of whole-hearted public support have gone into the collection or promised donation of close to \$500,000 toward the building and equipping of the new building.

Roy G. Start, president of the Alexandra Hospital's board of trustees, recently reported on the financial status of the building fund. His report shows grants of \$65,000 from the Province of Ontario, more than \$61,000 from the Federal government, a municipal debenture issue for \$150,000, a county grant of \$55,000, a township of North Dorchester donation of \$500, a Lions Club donation of \$12,000 from a fund that they are still increasing, \$49,000 from 29 companies and firms, \$17,500 from 157 individuals, and \$20,000, representing the investments of the hospital itself.

It all started when the citizens of the town, realizing fully the over-crowded condition of the old Angus MacKay home, which has served as the Alexandra Hospital for 40 years, voted strongly for the financing of the new building.

London's well-known institutional architect, L. G. Bridgman was called in to design the structure and the contract was awarded to energetic young Bill Schwenger, owner of the Schwenger Construction Company Limited, who had already outfitted Ingersoll with Canada's most modern sewage disposal plant and one of the country's most up to date swimming pools.

On November 1, 1948, with 48 men, he moved onto the job and began the difficult task of

will officiate at the ceremony.

When the building is completed, on or about the first of next March, the ground floor will contain dining-living rooms for both the nurses' aides and the nurses, a modern X-ray laboratory, an extensive heating plant, an up-to-the-minute laundry, and the kitchen facilities for the whole hospital.

The main floor will house the offices, one, two, and four bed wards, and a sun room at the south end. The second floor will be chiefly obstetrical with delivery rooms and all the necessary equipment as well as more wards of all sizes.

The third floor will be largely surgical. Two modern operating rooms as well as pathological labs and other departments under the heading of surgery will be there, along with some beds. The building will be serviced by two full length stairways and one elevator.

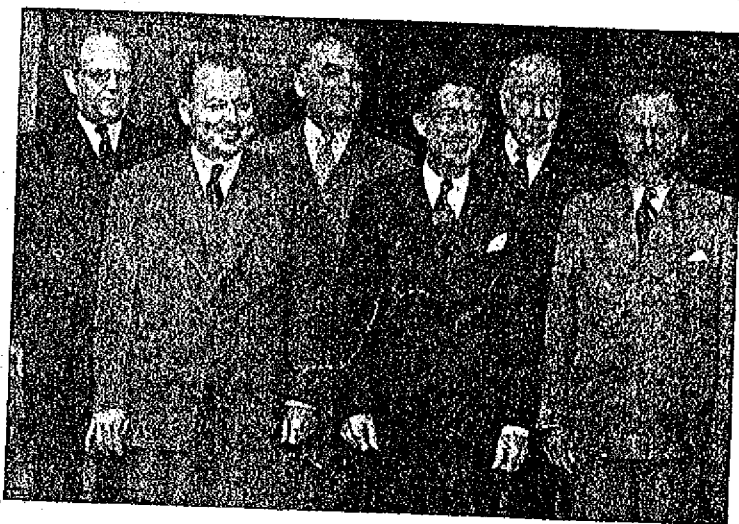
The 60-bed capacity of the new hospital will constitute a vast improvement over the now outmoded 30-bed hospital which a 10-fold increase in patients during the past 40 years has taxed away beyond capacity. An extra operating room, greatly improved cooking and heating facilities, space to accommodate an increased staff, and a complete obstetrics department will be other features that will increase the value of the building.

The necessity for building the new hospital, just a few steps from the present building, with a minimum of noise, has resulted in the construction being all cement block. This will be faced with buff-colored pressed brick and white stone. The only steel in the structure is the series of horizontal beams over the ground floor. Already in place, these joists were all bolted to avoid the racket of rivetting.

The new institution, 180 feet by 50 feet, with an additional 42 foot square boiler and furnace room, promises to



1950 BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL
Back Row, Left to Right: R. S. Foster, John Mitchell, T. N. Dunn,
C. J. Hines, Thomas Pellow, Reeve of West Oxford and County Repre-
sentative on Board, Dr. G. H. Emery, Dr. C. A. Osborn, Medical
Representative on Building Committee.
Front Row: Mrs. F. H. Adams, A. E. Izzard, R. G. Start, A. R. Horton,
R. W. Green, Mrs. James Baxter.



MEDICAL STAFF, 1950
Left to Right: H. G. Furlong, G. H. Emery, C. C. Cornish, J. W. Rowsom,
J. W. Counter, C. A. Osborn

MEDICAL STAFF—1950

Dr. Ralph Williams

Dr. C. A. Osborn

Dr. J. W. Counter

Dr. J. W. Rowsom

Dr. H. G. Furlong

Dr. J. Reg. Rogers

Dr. C. C. Cornish

Dr. G. H. Emery

Citizens of the community at large mourned the passing of Dr. J. D. McDonald, who met death by drowning, while on his way to relieve the victims of a railway wreck following the Thames flood of 1937. The doctor was highly esteemed by both medical fraternity and nursing staff of the hospital.

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL TRUST—1950

Past President	Mrs. James Baxter
President	Mrs. P. Michael Dewan
First Vice-President	Mrs. P. L. Smith
Second Vice-President	Mrs. F. G. Rich
Third Vice-President	Mrs. P. T. Fleischer
Recording Secretary	Miss Dora Harrison
Assistant Recording Sec'y.	Mrs. W. S. Ashman
Corresponding Secretary	Miss Alice Walker
Treasurer	Miss Annie Moon
Assistant Treasurer	Mrs. Robert Hutt

PRESIDENTS OF THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY TO THE
ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL TRUST 1909-1950

Mrs. W. A. Sudworth	Mrs. Verne Meck
Mrs. R. M. Morrow	(3 years)
Mrs. J. E. Neff	Mrs. E. A. Wilson
Mrs. John E. Boles	Mrs. C. B. Scoffin
Mrs. F. D. Canfield	Mrs. W. R. Veale
Mrs. J. M. Rogers	Mrs. R. Elford
Mrs. W. J. Elliott	Mrs. James Baxter
Mrs. Verne Meck	Mrs. J. H. Nancekivell
(two years)	Mrs. Verne Meck

Mrs. J. E. Gayler	Mrs. James McGee
Mrs. J. W. Counter	(2 years)
Mrs. James Buchanan	Mrs. James Baxter
Mrs. J. E. Hargan	Mrs. P. M. Dewan
Mrs. H. A. Copeland	(3 years)



EXECUTIVE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY, 1950

Left to Right: Miss Annie Moon, Mrs. Robt. Hutt, Mrs. P. L. Smith,
Miss Dora Harrison, Mrs. P. M. Dewan, Mrs. W. S. Ashman, Mrs. F. G. Rich,
Miss Alice Walker, Mrs. James Baxter,
Mrs. P. T. Fleischer
(Inset)



PRESIDENTS OF ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL TRUST

1909-1950

(This list is incomplete as some records were not available)

1909-1910	1931-32
George Sutherland	J. E. Gayfer (2 years)
1911	1933
Harry Wilson	John J. McLeod
1923	1934
R. W. Green	T. N. Dunn
1924	1935
James Enright	J. E. Gayfer
1925	1936
J. E. Gayfer	George D. Beck
1926	1937
R. W. Green	R. G. Start
1927	1938
George Sutherland	T. N. Dunn
1928	1939-40-41
J. E. Gayfer	R. G. Start
1929	1942-43-44-45
C. H. Sumner	T. N. Dunn
1930	1946-47-48-49-50
George Sutherland	R. G. Start

LADIES WHO HAVE SERVED AS MEMBERS OF THE
ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL TRUST 1929-1950

Mrs. Verne Meck	Mrs. F. H. Adams
Mrs. W. F. Drum	Mrs. James Baxter
Mrs. J. E. Hargan	

The Hospital Trust gratefully acknowledges and sincerely appreciates the following bequests:

Year	Name	Amount
1919-1920	Victory Loan Committee	\$5,000.00
1921	Estate of George Shelton	200.00
1924	Dr. D. W. Carroll	813.55
1925	Miss S. Frances Stimson	1,000.00
1929	Mrs. Sarah Macaulay	609.90
1931	Mrs. Elsie Bartley	500.00
1934	William Sandick	1,000.00
1934	William Ross	3,669.03
1935	James H. Thomas	5,000.00
1937	Miss Jessie C. Gerrie	300.00
1939	Canadian Legion, Ingersoll	250.00
1940		

was considered a challenging opportunity and was accepted with alacrity.

Under the wise generalship of its resourceful President, Mrs. P. M. Dewan, and her able co-workers, plans were laid and the community was surveyed for potential contributors. Appeals were made to individuals, church organizations, women's associations, community clubs, township councils, fraternal and other organizations in Ingersoll and surrounding territory. The response was enthusiastic and most generous. Approximately 100 members of the Auxiliary raised \$32,054.41 for the Furnishings Fund.

The list of donors following will give an accurate accounting of the various gifts. Cost of furnishing private rooms and two-bed wards includes linens, drapes and extra furnishings; cost of furnishing four-bed wards was brought down through judicious use of re-conditioned furniture from the old hospital.

8 SINGLE WARDS

	Room No.
Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Kennedy	123
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Condos	219
Mr. Louis Sandick	214
Mrs. H. B. Henwood and Mrs. E. H. Townsend	208
St. James' Anglican Church	118
Women's Association, First Baptist Church	117
Ladies' Aid, St. Paul's Presbyterian Church	112
Lady Dufferin Chapter, I.O.D.E.	213

Ten Two Bed Wards

Salford Women's Institute	
Salford Community	127
Knights of Columbus	110
Women's Association, Trinity United Church	109
Catholic Women's League	
Norsworthy Chapter I.O.D.E.	223
Verschoyle Community	206
Mt. Elgin Community	225
Beachville Patriotic Society	
Beachville Community	144
West Oxford Women's Institute	
Township of West Oxford	224
Township of North Oxford	
Grace Patterson Women's Institute	310
Christina Armour McNaughton Chapter I.O.D.E.	
Women's Auxiliary, Alexandra Hospital	311

Six Four Bed Wards

The Kiwanis Club	111
2nd Ingersoll Boy Scouts	
Plant and Welfare Association,	
Wm. Stone & Sons Ltd.	312

The King's Daughters— Ora Circle	
Welcome Circle	201
Missionary Circle	
Superintendent's Office	
Sisters Of The Skillet	102
Waiting Room	
Independent Order of Oddfellows	
Keystone Lodge No. 69	108
Samaritan Lodge No. 35	
Dining Room	
Nurses' Lounge	
Women's Auxiliary, Alexandra Hospital	19 and 20
Doctors' Lounge	
Companions Of The Forest	
Canadian Order of Foresters, Court Salem, Zenda	239
Nurses' Station	
St Paul's Presbyterian Girls' Guild	137
Nurses' Station	
Good Companions	235
Nurses' Room	
Girls of The Staff, Wm. Stone Sons Ltd.	304
Sun Room	
Collegiate Institute	
Club Wiana	125
Sun Room	
Dickson's Corners Ladies Aid	
Admiral McDougall Chapter I.O.D.E.	221
Doctors' Consultation Room	
Canadian Legion, Branch No. 119	
Canadian Legion, Branch 119, Ladies' Auxiliary	309
Nurses' Station	
Oxford County Hadassah	
Mr. and Mrs. I. D. Alter	323

Children's Two Bed Ward	
The Lions Club	128
Children's Two Bed Ward	
The Lions Club	129
Obstetrical Case Room	

DONATIONS OF AMOUNTS LESS THAN \$100. WERE
MADE BY

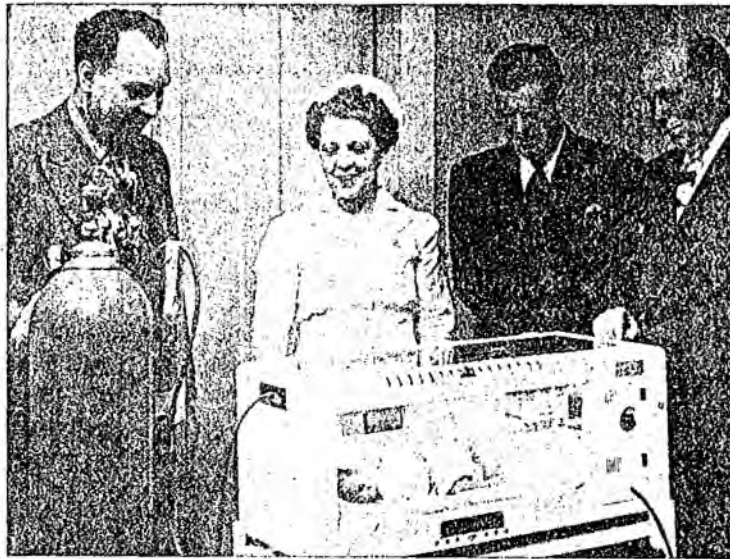
Banner Women's Association
Big 8 Society, Ingersoll
Ingersoll Citizens' Salvage Committee
L.O.B.A., No. 538, Ingersoll
Young Business Girls' Club
Mrs. W. C. Noxon, Toronto
Mrs. Isabel Baxter
Mrs. E. D. Duff
Mrs. Laura Daniel
Mrs. Annie Hargan
Mr. S. H. Noxon, California
Mrs. D. H. McKay
Eleanor G. Reeves
Mrs. Francis J. Timberlake, Concord, Conn.
Mrs. E. K. Wood
Auxiliary contributed \$7,402.19

All travelling expenses in regards to the furnishing of the hospital were borne personally by the members.

Mrs. Mark Simpson and Miss Marjorie Kearney donated their services in typing numerous and lengthy reports.

Other donations include:

Coyle and Greer—clock for the lobby
Miss Gladys Lambert—a chime clock for nurses' lounge
Operating table—Kiwanis Club of Ingersoll
Incubator—Lions' Club of Ingersoll, Ontario
Flag—Mrs. Isabel Baxter
Record Book—Miss Effie Bower, Miss Alice Walker
Two oil paintings—painted and donated by Gordon E. Payne
Two oil paintings, by Gordon E. Payne—purchased and donated by the I.O.O.F.—Keystone 69, Samaritan 35
Electric Juice Extractor—Ladies' Auxiliary to Canadian Legion.
Christening Font—St. Paul's Presbyterian Guild
Oxygen tent—Mr. and Mrs. John B. Mitchell
Oil painting—painted and donated by Harry Whitwell
Remembrance book—Betty Crawford
Radio—Superintendent and Staff of Alexandra Hospital
Silver cup for first baby born in hospital—Sisters of the Skillet.



MRS. SMITH, SUPERINTENDENT, ACCEPTS THE
INCUBATOR, PRESENTED BY THE LIONS CLUB,
INGERSOLL

Members of the Club shown are, left to right: C. D. Palmer,
—Kenneth Ekins and Morris Rowsom

Spirit of People Lauded by Lawson

Following is the text of the speech given yesterday by the Lieutenant-Governor, Hon. Ray Lawson, as he opened the new Alexandra Hospital:

Today we are celebrating a momentous and an historical occasion in the history of Ingersoll.

It is nearly two years since we last came to Ingersoll, our pleasure at that time being the official opening of the Wilson Memorial Swimming Pool.

During the intervening months I have heard many complimentary remarks regarding the pool which Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Wilson gave to this community. This modern pool, with all the newest accessories, has been a model for other pools being built throughout the Province.

Today we are marking another milestone in the history of Ingersoll. We are pleased to take part in this ceremony opening this fine new Hospital, a building erected for the benefit of the whole community. The people of Ingersoll and district are to be congratulated on their vision and foresight and their great community achievement.

The endeavour to extend to all citizens the best possible medical and surgical facilities with skilled nursing care, will contribute in no small way to the general well-being of all in this Community, and to all those who have given freely of their time in bringing this splendid structure to such a successful completion, a great debt of gratitude is due.

Need Pride in Community

For pride in one's own community—the endeavour to extend to all citizens the best possible medical care and surgical facilities—is the very spirit that best serves to make a nation prosperous, contented and happy.

The progressive and energetic character of our people acting together for mutual welfare is the force which makes so many of our Ontario Communities outstanding models of self improvement.

To all who worked or gave, we wish to express our sincere thanks and to heartily congratulate them, for if ever a Hospital belonged to the people of a community, this Hospital is surely an outstanding example. It is an example of what free men and women in a free country can achieve, and so long as the bricks and mortar stand it will be a monument to those who have so loyally supported and worked for it.

Our Province owes a great debt to them.

A Hospital in a community may well be likened to any public utility or any public service and you may well be very proud to have this Hospital completed with the highest poss-

This building is well equipped and is prepared to provide the greatest of all services, "the saving of human lives."

Here, by the services of the strong and well, the ailing are protected through an agency which has for many years been deserving of praise and blessings particularly in times of catastrophe and suffering.

Great advances have been made in hospital facilities and accommodation, just as great advances have been made in medicine and surgery. Any conventional hospital, though faithful to the tradition of the past, must keep pace with the progress of the age.

In our Province, actually under construction at the present time, there are 21 new building projects under way, as well as 69 substantial additions being made to existing hospitals, which will provide a further 6730 new beds, making in all a total of 23,227 hospital beds available when these building projects have been completed.

On all sides we hear people complaining of hospital charges being so much higher than they were 20 years ago, - - (this may be correct as far as the daily rate is concerned, but medical science has greatly improved and new, expensive "wonder drugs" are in every-day use.

The average person stays in hospital less than half the time necessitated 20 years ago for the same ailment, and is usually able to quickly return to gainful occupation, so that the hospital bill in total is actually far less.

Shows Unselfishness

During the past year many of the world's greatest doc-

tors have visited our Province and today I am particularly reminded of Lord Whitby, who was head of all transfusions and the blood bank in the last great war; and Lord Webb-Johnson, President of the Royal College of Surgeons in England, and Sir James Learmouth, the famous blood vessel surgeon who operated on the King.

While on a trip to England last month, I had the pleasure of again meeting these famous doctors who praised our Canadian contribution to medicine and surgery that has gained the admiration of visitors from all parts of the world. This great work could not have been accomplished but for the well-equipped and well-staffed hospitals in our Provinces. Nor could it have been accomplished had it not been for the men and women in our Province who have worked for larger, more efficient hospitals and well-equipped laboratories.

The construction of this institution suggests that there is and has been in this community, that fundamental unselfishness which must be the cornerstone of every community project.

Greatly Impressed

When I had the opportunity of being shown through this new building, I could not help but feel greatly impressed by the evidence on all sides of the sound planning and the skill applied by all concerned.

May I sincerely congratulate the people of Ingersoll and district for the vision in building this Hospital as a useful and humanitarian achievement.

And in conclusion, let me again congratulate you on your great success in achieving a concrete dream, one that will serve to mark your untiring devotion and great work for humanity in raising the standard of health and to help others live a more effective and satisfying life.

I know that if you are fortunate enough to retain the same committees in charge who have already distinguished themselves, there need be no apprehension as to the inestimable value of **this** hospital to your community.

Always **keep** in mind that no individual or group of people ever rise to their full power until they are inspired, dominated and driven by a great purpose, kindled into a master passion, and all people are to be measured not by the things without, but by the things within, not by environment or possession, but by the reach of their inner purposes, and by the splendor of their ideals.

In New Hospital"

June 15, 1950

(By Alan Havard)

One thing, above everything else, stood out most in my mind when I took a sneak preview of the new Alexandra Hospital, under the guidance of building chairman, Allan Horton. It was the complete absence of anything white.

Somehow the color white has come to be associated in everyone's mind with hospitals, doctors and nurses. It stands as the symbol of purity. But not in this ultra-modern new institution on Noxon Street; in its place are pleasing pastel shades of green, blue, and pink, that are restful to the eye and give a sense of peace and security to a patient. As Mr. Horton remarked, "white is hard on the eyes, look around the countryside and you'll find not one natural thing colored white."

That is the way it is in the new hospital. The only white that you can see is the porcelain of the bathroom fittings. Even the doctors will wear green gowns in place of the standard white ones.

Doctor George Emery met up with us while we were going around and his words, spoken simply and proudly, seem a very adequate commentary on the hospital: "There isn't another town of comparable size that can offer nearly as much as this."

Many Sleepless Nights

A lot of sleepless nights and hard work have been Allan Horton's lot in the building and now it is completed his eyes mirror a father-like pride in his work.

The huge dining room and staff rest room on the ground floor were first on the list of places to visit and the light green walls and acoustic ceilings make it a pleasant place, the grey mastic tiled floors softening noise and making easy walking. Sliding doors of imitation, lime-colored leather, separate the dining room from the rest room, so that when the Women's Auxiliary hold their meetings in the dining room, the staff can still use the rest room.

Across the corridor is the large, fully-equipped kitchen that offers everything extra-special in cooking equipment, and beside it are two large work and storage rooms that can, if necessary, be converted to extra bed space.

The pride started beaming out from Allan's face when we reached the emergency reception ward on that floor. He began pointing out the special pieces of equipment, such as the special explosion-proof switches that cost \$50 each. Ether and other anaesthetics will be used in this room and it has to be proof against flash explosions. Two other items he pointed out are standard in each of the operating rooms and the delivery room as well. On the wall is a pump and gauge connected to a small motor. Tubes can be run from the pump into a patient's throat in order to remove mucus threatening to choke him. The other was the view box for X-rays. With the photo lighted up in the view box, the surgeon can follow at a glance just where he has to work, say in the case of a fracture.

Next to this room Mr. Horton pointed out the miniature X-ray, donated by the Department of Health. "Although it will not be used for

food wagon, by which hot food can be served to any part of the institution just as it comes from the ovens.

The main office and entrance hall are on the first floor—and it is one of the building's noticeable features that it is styled with four floors, but looks only to have three—and here again are the soft pastel shades and simple, modern furniture and lighting. The reception counter, styled in designed light oak, runs the width of the room on one side of the centre aisle and the middle of the counter is inset to hold an illuminated remembrance book, prepared by Betty Crawford. At the left of the main doors, as you enter, will be the large plaque to be erected to commemorate the work done by the Lions Club in sponsoring the new hospital.

The pride in Allan's face that had already shown, however, was nothing compared to the happy joy with which he pushed open the doors to the nursery. Here, in gentle blues, are 14 cubicles where the new-born babes will spend their first days. Each cubicle is glass enclosed and as fully-maintained as a self-contained apartment. Each has its own crib, lockers, in fact, everything Junior could possibly need. At one end is a special isolation room so that sick babies will not endanger the others.

Another of the modern trends in this fine, new building Allan pointed out in the operating rooms, though it is standard throughout the hospital. All the stools, tables and etceteras are of stainless steel.

The hospital is equipped with two operating rooms. One, explained Dr. Emery, is for the minor 'dirty' operations and the other for the more serious major ones. The word 'dirty', he said, is applied to cases where infection had set in. After such operations the whole theatre has to be disinfected and with a smaller, separate operating theatre for these cases the work was minimized. The main one, incidentally, holds another piece of equipment that is the pride and joy of Allan's life. It is the huge light in the centre, just high enough for the surgeon's head to go underneath in comfort. This light can be moved into any possible position with one hand as it tips to any angle and runs along parallel rails overhead.

One of the last rooms in the hospital we visited was one of the two-bed wards - - comfort, plus! The beds are the type that make you feel sleepy just looking at them and curtains can be pulled round each bed separately. Soft pastel shades on the walls, matching drapes, bed lamps on flexible arms and the bedside tables. These tables can do pretty well everything except get up and walk. Pull one rack and it swings into an over-the-bed table. Push another and you have a comfortable book rest for reading. Move another and you have a large mirror for shaving or prettifying up. Turn it round and you have a stand for the wash basin. Little drawers for knick-knacks pull out here, there and everywhere. And all the stylish radiator tops, blending into the rooms' color-schemes, were presented by builder, Bill Schwenger.

That was it pretty well. I saw the board room, the superintendent's room and several others on the same line. You can see them for yourselves at open day this Saturday and Sunday. It is of course, a foregone conclusion that their appointments are the very latest word in modern design and

Storks Get Set, on Marks As Big Prize for First Baby

They do say there is sharp rivalry in Ingersoll's stork camp these days. For one thing there is that title — "First baby born in the new Alexandra Hospital". That would be a real honor; something to boast about for years. Can't you hear the belligerent 6-year-old arguing "I was so the first baby!" Or an embarrassed adolescent — "Well . . . yes . . . I was". And all too soon — "Goodness, so I was. Makes me feel my age".

But aside from such an honor, the storks have an eye toward the very practical — and very lovely — gifts that Group 1 of St. Paul's Ladies' Aid have arranged. These ladies early last fall decided to make a layette for the first baby and now it is complete and ready to be presented. The work was not done by the group as a whole, but represents the gifts of the individual members.

There are diapers and shirts, nightgowns and kimona, soakers, toiletries, dress, slip, knitted jacket, bon-

net and booties, blankets, carriage covers, quilted pad, hot water bottle — all the things to gladden the heart of a young mother. It will be on display at the hospital during the opening.

Under the leadership of Mrs. J. A. Buchanan and Mrs. A. Henderson the Group have enjoyed preparing the gift. Now they are looking forward to presenting it.

INGERSOLL HOSPITALS

Alexandra Hospital

50th Annual Report



Ingersoll, Ontario

Chc
Vic
Tre

MANAGEMENT

B. Coyle,
P. M. Dew
H. A. Hort
G. K. New
J. W. Row
M. Simpson

G. K. New
B. Coyle
J. D. Dunc

MEDICAL STAFF

S. S. Bland,
C. C. Cornis
G. H. Emery
J. Kellner, M
R. Kosmal, M
G. W. Krug
J. Lawson, M
J. R. MacKe
J. W. Rowsc
G. B. Westr

INGERSOLL HOSPITALS

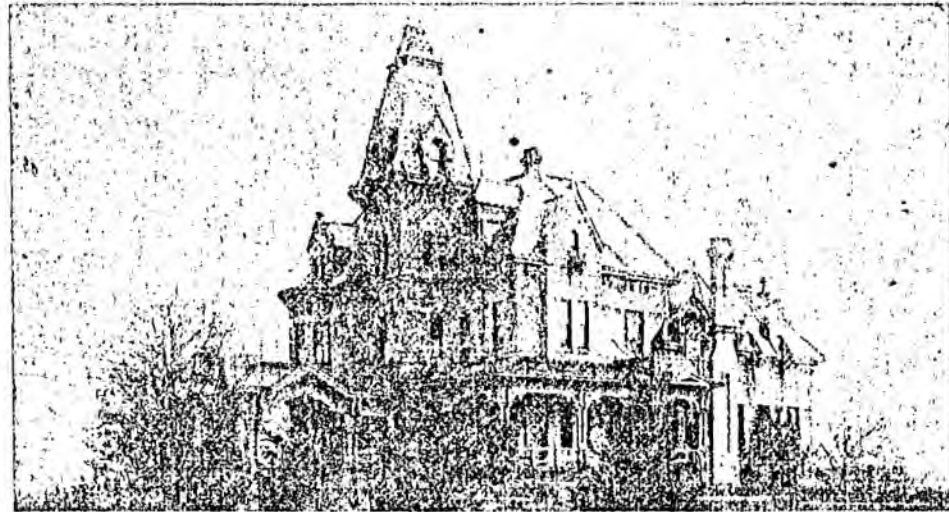


**ANNUAL
REPORT**

ALEXANDRA
HOSPITAL -

Ingersoll

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL



MAY

Opened September 1909

Ingersoll's fine Alexandra Hospital is a tribute to hundreds of public-spirited men and women who over the years have given so much of their time, energy and money to make it possible.

Up until 1909 there had been only private hospitals and nurses to give the town and community service, and more than this was needed. At the beginning of that year a group of representative citizens met to discuss the possibility of a public hospital. Dr. J. M. Rogers presided at the meeting and among those attending were Drs. J. A. Nuff, J. B. Coleridge and D. W. Carrow; J. A. Coulter, J. D. Knapp, W. E. Elliott, W. F. Johnston, R. B. Hutt, F. Bain, F. Richardson, A. H. Ellis, C. C. L. Wilson, C. A. O'Neill, Mayor George Sutherland and Reeve S. M. Fleet. From this meeting came a decision to purchase the Dr. Angus McKay property (formerly the James Noxon home), on Noxon Street and the generous response of citizens made the purchase possible.

When the Alexandra Hospital was opened in September, 1909, the 16 rooms with accommodation for 25

patients was considered "a complete and modern hospital in every sense of the term." Wards and private rooms were furnished by organizations and by individuals.

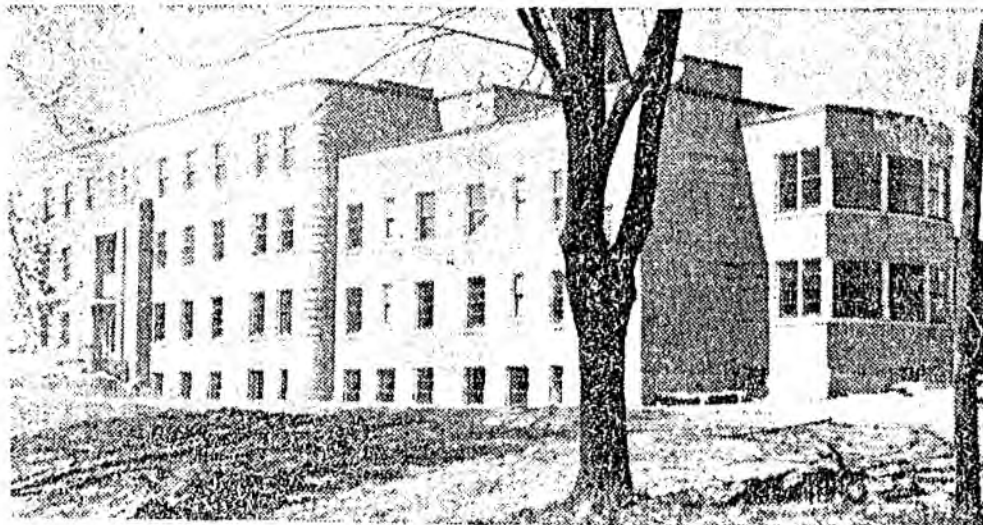
The hospital continued to grow. In 1916 a new wing was added through a bequest in the will of Dr. D. W. Carroll. In 1917 the first x-ray machine was installed. New equipment, new services were added, but while the hospital grew, so did the need and by the time of the second world war, the necessity for a new and bigger building was evident. In 1944 a committee was formed to promote this objective. The Lions Club pledged support and did much to assist the fund-raising campaign. Ingersoll voted in December, 1946 in favour of issuing debentures for the building and two years later, March, 1949, the cornerstone was laid.

The beautiful building, completely modern in design and equipment, was opened in June, 1950, by the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, the Hon. Ray Lawson. It would be impossible to tell the amount of volunteer effort that went into the com-

pletion. The Women's Auxiliary to the Trust worked unceasingly toward the furnishing of the building and the value of their accomplishments went far beyond a dollar and cents accounting. The response from the town and the surrounding community was astonishing. Practically every citizen played a part in the erection and furnishing in one way or another.

The staff of the hospital has always been of the highest ability. Miss Ada Hodges, the wonderful lady who was the first superintendent, served for 28 years. Mrs. Elizabeth Duff was superintendent from 1937 to 1943, followed by Miss Geraldine Copeland, and in 1945, Mrs. R. L. Smith, who just recently resigned this post. For many years the hospital was a training school for nurses, but for some time now only graduate nurses and nurses' aides have made up the nursing staff.

Now serving the entire district, the new Alexandra Hospital continues the fine tradition of the old, offering the best in care for those whose needs it serves.



Opened June 1950



THIS IS INGERSOLL'S Queen Alexandra Hospital, built in the 1940's for \$275,000 to replace the original structure erected in 1909 and named for Queen Alexandra. There were 1,911 admissions last year, and hospital officials see continued growth in the future as steps are taken to provide for many new forms of treatment.

Ingersoll Hospital Growth Continues; Future Bright

About 120 patients were treated at Alexandra Hospital in 1909-10, the first year of the hospital's operation. In 1963 there were 1,911 admissions, illustrating the ever-growing demand.

The first Alexandra Hospital was opened in Ingersoll Sept. 22, 1909 and the cornerstone of the new building was placed nearly 40 years later, March 16, 1949.

BUILDING COSTS ROSE

It took just over a year from the beginnings of an active movement for a hospital here in 1908-09 before the building was occupied. It took more than seven years from the time the need of a new hospital was first suggested, to the construction of the present building.

The first hospital cost about \$20,000 while the new building cost about \$275,000.

One of three properties first under consideration for use as a hospital was the then 35-year old residence of James Noxon on the street which bears his name.

Owned by Dr. Angus McKay, one of the hospital's original medical staff, he offered to sell it for use as a hospital for \$8,000, and made a contribution of \$2,000 to the building fund.

At the time of its conversion in 1909, the hospital was a castle-like residence with a background of a wooded park. It was considered one of the beauty spots in Ingersoll.

NAMED FOR QUEEN

On April 29, 1909, it was decided at the suggestion of Dr.

McKay, to name the hospital "Alexandra" in honor of Queen Alexandra, wife of the reigning monarch.

The first Board of Trust, elected for 1909-10 were: George Sutherland, president; Joseph Gibson, vice president; R. J. Robertson, treasurer; Raymond B. Hutt, secretary; with Stephen Noxon, Thomas Seldon, John E. Boles and George Naylor as members.

The official opening took place on Sept. 22, 1909. The new hospital retained much of its home-like atmosphere, yet in equipment and facilities in general, it was considered "a complete and modern hospital in every sense of the term."

There were 16 rooms to accommodate 25 patients.

HOSPITAL FIRSTS

The first patient, Thomas Pettit, was admitted Sept. 23, 1909, and the first operation was performed the next day by Dr. J. M. Rogers.

The first baby born in Alexandra Hospital was Roy Alexander Brookfield, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Brookfield of Ingersoll. He was born March 11, 1911.

Five years later, on February 22, the first twins were born. They were Elizabeth and Margaret Taylor, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Taylor.

Triplets took a little longer. On March 27, 1944, Nancy, Alice and Joyce, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Alderson, R.R. 1, Thamesford, were born.

During the 40-year life of the first hospital, nearly 20,000 patients were treated.

A nurses' training school operated in conjunction with the hospital almost immediately after its opening until 1937, graduated 36 students.

During the war years, the growing need for more room and increased facilities became acute, and in 1942, movement was started toward this end.

On Dec. 9, 1946, the question, "Are you in favor of the council granting \$150,000 for the building of a new hospital at an estimated cost of \$275,000?" was put to the ratepayers. The vote carried 1,038 to 414.

IN CORNERSTONE

Items placed in a box which went into the cornerstone, March 16, 1949, included: a copy of the hospital's first annual report, the latest report, Sentinel - Review special Ingersoll section of March 10, and the edition of March 15; the Ingersoll Tribune, March 10; copy of the cornerstone program; list of those who helped furnish the hospital; various photographs and a number of coins and stamps (the latest Canadian and Newfoundland, that being the year the latter joined Canada) and signatures of Prime Minister and Mrs. Louis S. St. Laurent as honorary patrons.

Since 1949, facilities have been steadily improved and a high excellence of staff work, both medical and administrative, maintained. The hospital has been fully accredited by the Canadian Council of Hospital Accreditation for the past three years.

Three points Administrator

Peter Bree mentioned in favor of the continued growth and prosperity of the hospital are that "we are accredited, have good diagnostic facilities and co-operation between staffs our environment is conducive to growth."

If the hospital is to grow, it will have to come on the basis of an increasing population, he noted. "We are gradually experiencing some growth now, and our town and district would appear to be ready for growth." The third point he mentioned was Ingersoll's close proximity to London and Woodstock. "Many of the top specialists are available for consultation, close by for the continuing study of our medical staff."

Best Service for Least Cost Declared Aim of Hospital

The aim of the hospital is to give the maximum service for the minimum of expense. G. A. Friesen, administrator of Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital, told Ingersoll Kiwanis on Thursday on the occasion of their "Hospital Night."

Special guests for this occasion included Mrs. James Baxter, member of the Alexandra Hospital Trust; Mrs. P. M. Dewan, president of the Women's Auxiliary; Mrs. F. H. Adams, member of the Trust; Mrs. R. L. Smith, superintendent of the Alexandra hospital and Cliff Hines, chairman of the property committee of the hospital board. Roy Start, president of the board, introduced all these guests, also Kiwanians who are members of the board, such as Bob Foster, Allan Horton, T. N. Dunn and Arthur Izzard, and three past presidents of the Trust, John Gayfer, John McLeod and George Beck. He referred to the great work of Roy Green, for over 25 years a member of the Trust, who was home celebrating with his wife and friends their 40th wedding anniversary.

Roy Crolley was introduced by his boss, Norman Horton, and birthday greetings were sung for George Beck. Mr. Izzard outlined the program for the opening of the new hospital, and Roy Start announced that next week's speaker, (tonight's), would be Lieutenant-Governor Harvey Flett of Stralford, making his official visit to the club. A cheque for the Kiwanis donation to the Manitoba Flood Relief Fund will be presented to him.

Bob Foster introduced Mr. Fries-

en, an acknowledged authority on hospital administration. He was thanked by Arthur Izzard.

Mr. Friesen said he had had an opportunity of going through Ingersoll's new hospital and he could fully appreciate the time, energy, money and enthusiasm that had gone into it. The keenness and enthusiasm had to be maintained in the hospitals' operation, too, he said.

"I'm just afraid that one day the government will take over hospitals, and that, heaven forbid!" he said. "We must show the way. We must keep our house in order so the government won't have to take the step. If they do, then the personal factor, the human element, will be taken from it."

Mr. Friesen said he would like to see hospitals divided into regions, with a medical centre for every region, which would provide experts in every line of medicine to hospitals which could not afford their own specialist.

He said every step must be taken to prevent hospital costs—and the cost to the patient—from getting higher. "We could take our lead from industry, and steam-line," he said. He described innovations at his own hospital that were saving thousands of dollars annually. A new laundry iron for example, that does 800 sheets an hour and folds them too. They make their own medicines in many instances too, and he told of buying a bottle of medicine in the hospital for five cents which cost him \$1.25 at a drug store. His hospital, too, he said, is making its own laundry and floor soap, "and

we are cleaning our whole hospital for \$1.14 per week."

Mr. Friesen said he was "appalled" at the type of person generally working in a hospital laundry. He said it was general practice to consider anyone who had done washing at home suitable to do the washing in a hospital, and he said this erroneous belief cost many hospitals thousands of dollars in waste and wear and tear on bedding.

Mr. Friesen suggested it was "folly" for a hospital the size of Alexandra hospital to have a nurses' training school. The time was coming, he predicted, when the standards required of nurses would be much higher, and a small hospital just couldn't afford the equipment, staff and general facilities to give that training. "And you need no nurses' residence," he added. He foresaw the day when all nurses would work an 8-hour day, 44-hour week. He also predicted the time when nursing training would be part of a university curriculum, or under university affiliation, giving a graduate not just a diploma, but a degree.

"Nurses are professional people and should be treated and regarded as such," he asserted.

Mr. Friesen said he hoped to see the day when no patient would need a "special" nurse. "The nurse, and we of hospitals, have to make the patient feel he is an individual, and that we are interested in him," he continued. "In the larger hospitals, particularly, there is too much of this heat the body, empty the bed, get the patient out soon as possible, treatment. The patient deserves the maximum service at the minimum cost."

L. A. Westcott asked for volunteers to take a couple of crippled young men of Ingersoll to ball games throughout the summer.

Alexandra Hospital Corporation Elects New Board Of Directors

Board Officers To Be Named Next Week

INGERSOLL — Only 19 hardy souls, of an expected 100, braved freezing rain and treacherous driving conditions, last night, to attend the annual meeting of the Alexandra Hospital Corporation, held in the lounge of the hospital.

Ten Ingersoll men and one from Thamesford were nominated for positions on the board of the directors, necessitating an election for the 10 vacancies. Those elected were, R. G. Start, Peter Dewan, Blake Coyle, Norman McLeod, Kenneth Swance, J. D. Duncan, B. W. Carr, R. J. Clifford and John Hunsberger, all of Ingersoll, plus Robert McFarlan of Thamesford.

From these 10 men, the chairman and other officers will be appointed at the next meeting of the board scheduled for next Tuesday.

The resignation of King Newell, a member of the board for 11 years, was accepted with regret. Mr. Newell said that he was resigning because of pressure of business. Blake Coyle, chairman of the Board for 1964, presented Mr. Newell with an engraved plaque in recognition of his service to the board.



BLAKE COYLE, left, chairman of the Alexandra Hospital Board of Directors, presents a plaque to King Newell for services to the hospital board. Mr. Newell announced his retirement from the board at last night's annual meeting. He had served on the board from 1954 until this year and was president in 1960-61.

(page 1 of 2)

SURPLUS

In the financial statement, read by R. G. Start, it was shown that total income for the year of 1964 amounted to \$489,389, while total expenses were \$487,770, showing a surplus at the end of the year, of \$1,619.

Income in 1964 was \$31,426 more than in the previous year, while expenses were also up by the amount of \$31,251, leaving an increase in surplus of only \$175.

In other business of the meeting, Chairman Blake Coyle told the members that for the second time in a row, the hospital has received full accredited status. He said, "this evidence of the quality of care in our hospital, is the best manner by which we, the Board, medical and hospital staff, can prove to you, the community, that our patients will receive good care."

Mr. Coyle pointed out that the average length of stay in the hospital is higher than the provincial average, and that all beds are filled for the better part of the year.

He said that this, plus the pressure of the ever increasing hospital load, creates a constant demand for more space. It is the responsibility of the Board, the taxpayers and the medical staff to see that this demand is met, but only if the need is real.

CAUTIONS

Mr. Coyle cautioned against unrealistic use of beds and treatment facilities, saying, "Not only will this result in expensive and unnecessary building of beds, but will also invite greater control of our day-to-day operations by government agencies."

Mrs. Mary Graham, president of the Women's Auxiliary, in her report, said there was excellent support from the public in the money raising projects of the Auxiliary. It reflects the way the public views the hospital and also is an endorsement of the fund raising methods.

She reviewed some of the services carried out by the Auxiliary during the past year which included the operation of the gift shop and library cart, sponsorship of the blood donor clinics and many others.

In connection with the blood donor clinics, Mrs. Graham said that an endeavour such as this requires the active participation by many members in the telephone soliciting. But through their efforts, many new donors have been added to the already impressive Ingersoll Blood Donor list.

Mrs. Graham, in dealing with finances of the Auxiliary, said that the fund drives for the year had netted approximately, \$3,300. She said that although the Auxiliary spent some of its earnings in other ways, the biggest part of the money was used for hospital projects. Items purchased for the hospital amounted to \$970.61.

In other activities of the Aux-

iliary, prizes were arranged for, and awarded to the staff in recognition of the winner of the window-art contests. Throughout the year, the Auxiliary arranged for tray favors to be made by ladies and junior groups for special occasions.

STAFF REPORT

Reporting for the Medical staff, Dr. G. B. Westman, vice-president, said that 1964 was the busiest year in the history of the hospital and medical staff. This was measured in both patient load and staff activities.

Emphasizing the duties of the medical staff, Dr. Westman said that there was a weekly meeting of the admission and discharge committee to review and ensure proper utilization of beds.

The medical record and Tissue committee also met weekly to discuss all deaths, including stillborn and newborn. Also discussed at these meetings were hospital infections, patients who stayed 30 days or more, autopsies, transfusions, plus all statistical data pertaining to medical care of patients.

There were also monthly meetings of the medical staff. These were devoted to receiving committee reports, clinical discussions and other business. Some of the recommendations that were made after months of careful study and review, were the purchase of the heart monitor, the Bennett Intermittent Positive Pressure apparatus and the initiating of the cervical smear screening test.

In the Management Committee report, the acting chairman, King Newell stated, "Quality of care is no accident. It depends on a great deal of knowledge. It also requires the continuous education of key personnel, and to this end, several employees were sponsored to attend educational sessions."

The report pointed out that nurses on the staff had attended seminars in obstetrics, gynaecology, geriatrics, surgery and nursing care, as well as attending the annual convention where much knowledge was gained of new products.

PATHOLOGIST

Mr. Newell pointed out that when the Pathologist, Dr. Ross Mackenzie tendered his resignation early in the year, the Ingersoll hospital had entered an agreement with the Woodstock General Hospital for the work to be done by Dr. Michael Dietrich, who in turn has shown a tremendous interest in the work of the hospital and the medical staff.

In other management activities, the insurance plan covering employees was reviewed by the Chamber of Commerce and the cost and benefit was increased. The committee approved the extra expense to the hospital.

The contract with the International Union of Operating Engineers was ended and a new three year contract signed. Approval was given to recommendations of the medical staff relating to the cancer screening survey. This program, new to the hospital, revealed the concern of the medical staff for the type of care in the hospital and community.

Mr. Newell said that good public relations has been one of the aspects of the committee work. He said, "the co-operation of the local news media in presenting our hospital image to the public is appreciated."

PROPERTY

N. L. McLeod, chairman of the property committee, stated that the hospital building is gradually becoming older and too small to house the ever increasing hospital load and special services. He said, "As it stands now, there are several departments working under a space handicap. There is no morgue service being performed here at all, and our storage and employee locker facilities leave much to be desired."

Mr. McLeod said that patient service has gradually taken over non-patient areas such as the administrator's office and the sunrooms. He said that right now, they are not permitted to build, but adds "the day will come when we will have to. This

is one of the items that our committee studies continuously."

In work done during the year, Mr. McLeod mentioned that the coal stokers had been changed to oil. New water softeners had been installed and the badly outdated water distilling plant and sterilizing equipment was completely replaced.

One of the problems still with the hospital, said Mr. McLeod was that of plaster damage. It's hoped that during 1965, a new experiment might reduce this problem. Improvement was made in the parking facilities by building a separate Doctors' parking lot. The regular parking lot was improved by increased lighting and a safer entrance was created for the east side of the building.

X-RAY EQUIPMENT

X-ray equipment for the hospital was continually being upgraded and \$9,000 was spent in this department. Other medical purchases amounted to \$5,000, and \$3,000 was expended for furniture, cleaning and kitchen equipment.

Mr. McLeod said that something that has to be faced very soon is the scrapping of the old elevator and the building of a new one. He said that it is becoming evident each year that the service of the present elevator is less than adequate. Quotes have already been called for replacement of the elevator.

J. D. Duncan, chairman of the Joint - Conference committee, said that this group is made up of three medical staff members and the hospital administrator. This committee is concerned with matters of interest to all parties, the Board, Medical Staff and the hospital.

Among the items reviewed by this committee are the Medical Care summary, which is a statistical accounting of the hospital care, and also the matter of accreditation and the recommendations made by the accrediting body, the Canadian Council of Hospital Accreditation.

Hospital addition due at Ingersoll

INGERSOLL—Biggest project to be announced in this Oxford County town during 1967 was a \$1,245,000 addition to Alexandra Hospital.

Ingersoll's share of the project will be about \$165,000. It is expected that tenders will be called early this year and construction will start before the spring.

The hospital will expand from 11,000 square feet to 28,000, while the number of beds will increase by five to 75.

Labor and delivery room area will more than double, and 1,000 square feet will be added to the surgery.

Emergency, and outpatient, physiotherapy, laboratory and morgue, administration, radiology, dietary, stores, house-keeping and laundry areas will be expanded.

Building expansion, to include three storeys and a basement, will be to the east of the present hospital. The parking lot will also be extended further east.

Plans are to create an "H" design.

Consultants for the hospital have projected plans for future additions that would enlarge the hospital to 500 beds by the time the area population reaches 100,000. Population of the hospital's area is now 14,200 persons.

Ingersoll's centennial park, south of Canterbury Street, was completed with the exception of a chain link fence. The \$21,600 spent on the park included dressing rooms, leveling and landscaping.

The public school board bought property during the year on Thames Street for expansion of Victoria Memorial

School. Tenders are to be called soon for a \$173,000 multi-purpose room.

Ingersoll is also paying \$92,000 towards the new \$2,025,000 county home for the aged, under construction in Woodstock.

The home will have 180 beds. Cost is shared, with Oxford County paying 58 per cent, Woodstock 32½ per cent and Ingersoll 9½ per cent.

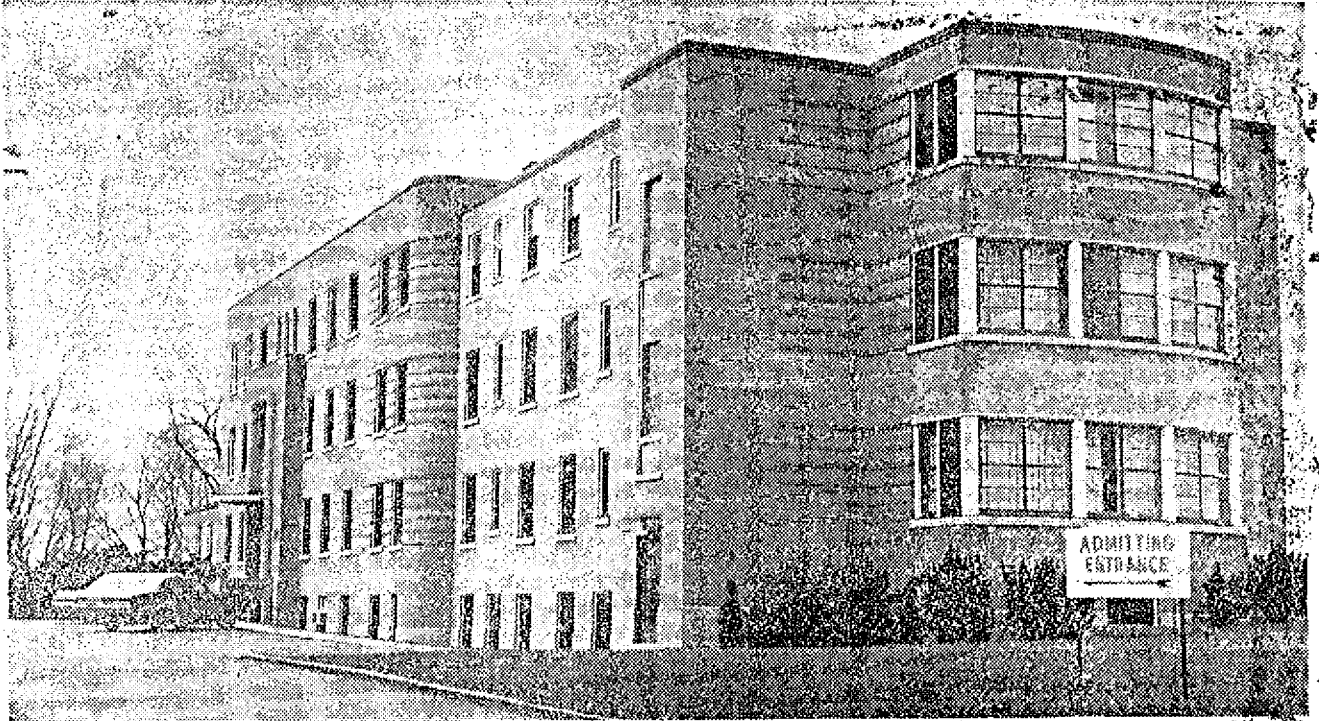
Tenders have been called for the J. N. Meathrell Bridge which will span the Thames River at the Ingersoll waterworks two miles west of Ingersoll.

Estimated cost is more than \$120,000. It will replace a span more than 60 years old.

Lancel Consolidated Developments Ltd. of Toronto was awarded a \$25,000 contract for alterations to the federal building at Ingersoll in September. The building houses post office and manpower centre.

William A. McIntyre took over the duties of clerk-treasurer in April. He was formerly PUC secretary-treasurer at Chesley.

Donald Reid of St. Thomas was hired as full-time recreation director also in April.



Start is expected before spring on a \$1,245,000 expansion of Ingersoll's Alexandra Hospital. Floor space will be increased from 11,000 to 28,000 square feet.



SOD TURNED FOR HOSPITAL ADDITION

Sod turning ceremonies Monday afternoon at Alexandra Hospital in Ingersoll were held to mark the beginning of work on the new hospital addition and renovations to the present building, of which the town's share is \$250,000. With the ceremonial spade and shovel, from left, John

Hunsberger, chairman of the Hospital Board, Mrs. Stephen Bangarth, president of the

Women's Auxiliary, Mayor G. B. Henry and Administrator G. L. Hayter.

June 20, 1968

Alexandra Hospital Auxiliary Has Interesting History, Active Present, Many Plans for Future

By Margaret Marshall

The Auxiliary to the Hospital Board plays an important role in making necessary equipment available and the patients stay in the hospital as pleasant as possible.

The purpose of the volunteer Auxiliary group is to assist the hospital in every possible way in the interest of the best patient care. This purpose shall be accomplished under direction of the hospital administration, by interpretation of the hospital to the public, by service to the hospital and its patients and by fund raising in a manner satisfactory to administration and in harmony with the planning of the community.

On February 21st, 1909 a large and representative meeting of ladies of the town of Ingersoll, interested in the proposed hospital held a meeting. It was at this meeting a decision was made to form a Women's Auxiliary. Mrs. W. A. Sudworth was elected as president. Each church in Ingersoll had representatives on the Auxiliary Board and once a month, until 1930 the Churches held a hospital Sunday and donated the collection to the hospital.

The Women's Auxiliary has always played an important

part in seeing to the needs of the hospital. In the beginning they took the responsibility of hospital linen, which included hemming sheets, making pillow cases etc., purchasing silver dishes, rolling bandages and making jams and preserves for the kitchen. The Auxiliary also supplied crutches and wheel chairs for those who needed them outside the hospital.

One of the largest objectives ever launched by the Auxiliary was the furnishing of new hospital in 1950. Following much hard work and promotion, the necessary amount of \$32,081.41 had been raised from all walks of life and a contract for furnishings was let to the Robert Simpson Co. Ltd. in Toronto.

Fund raising projects have been many and varied. One year "a mile of coppers", netted \$452.02. For many years the Hospital dance held during the Christmas week was considered a social highlight in Ingersoll. This was later replaced with a Rose Tag Day which is still an annual event held in May during Hospital week. This year due to the opening of the hospital addition, the tea will be held

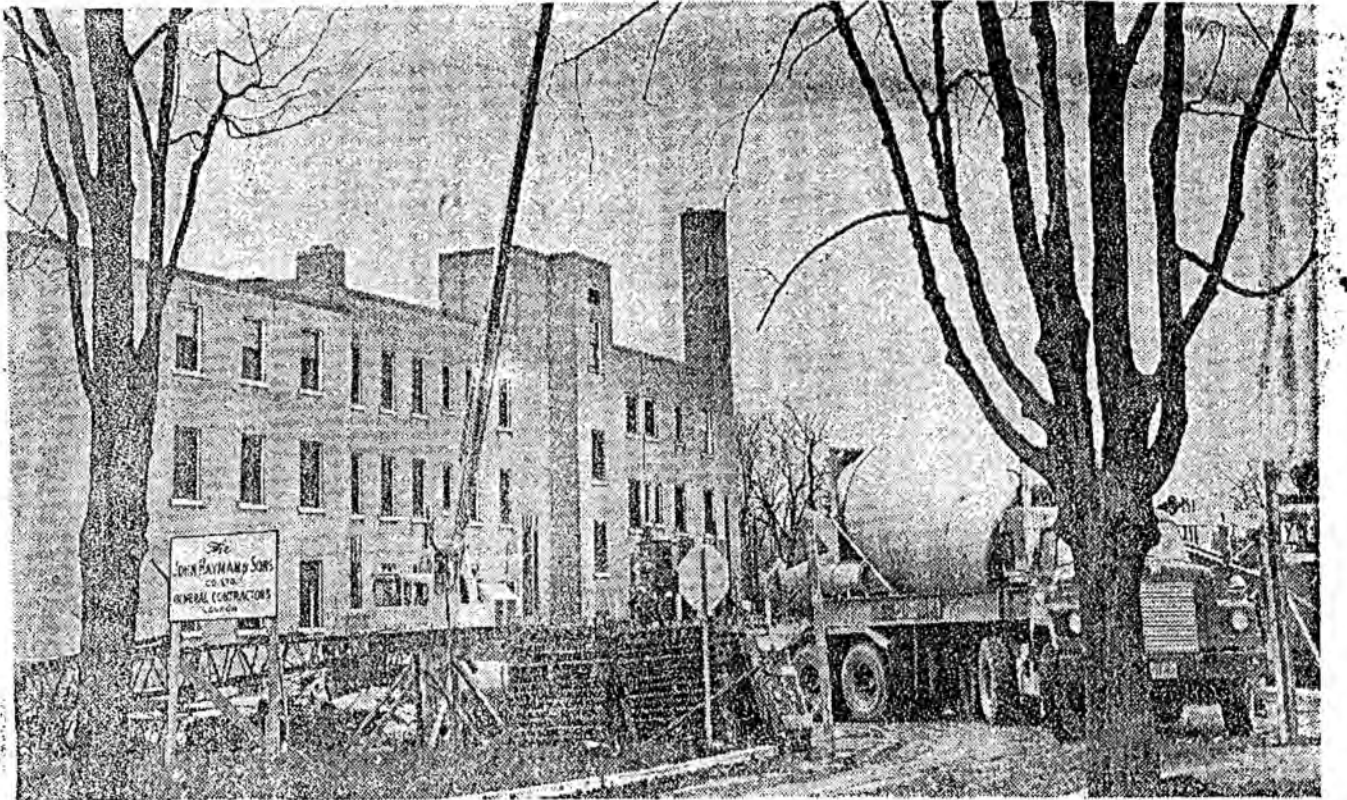
April 23rd. The Penny Sale which has been carried out for the past thirty years, through the co-operation of local businesses and service clubs has proved to be a very successful fund raising event. During the past 60 years the Auxiliary have given over \$200,000 to the hospital through money raising projects.

Today the Auxiliary has a total of 165 members including volunteer hospital workers.



Mrs. Stephen Bangarth
—Auxiliary President

with Mrs. Stephen Bangarth as president.



Ingersoll's Alexandra Hospital will gain about 17,000 square feet when a \$1,817,000 addition opens this fall. The three storey and basement wing will form an "H" pattern with the existing building.

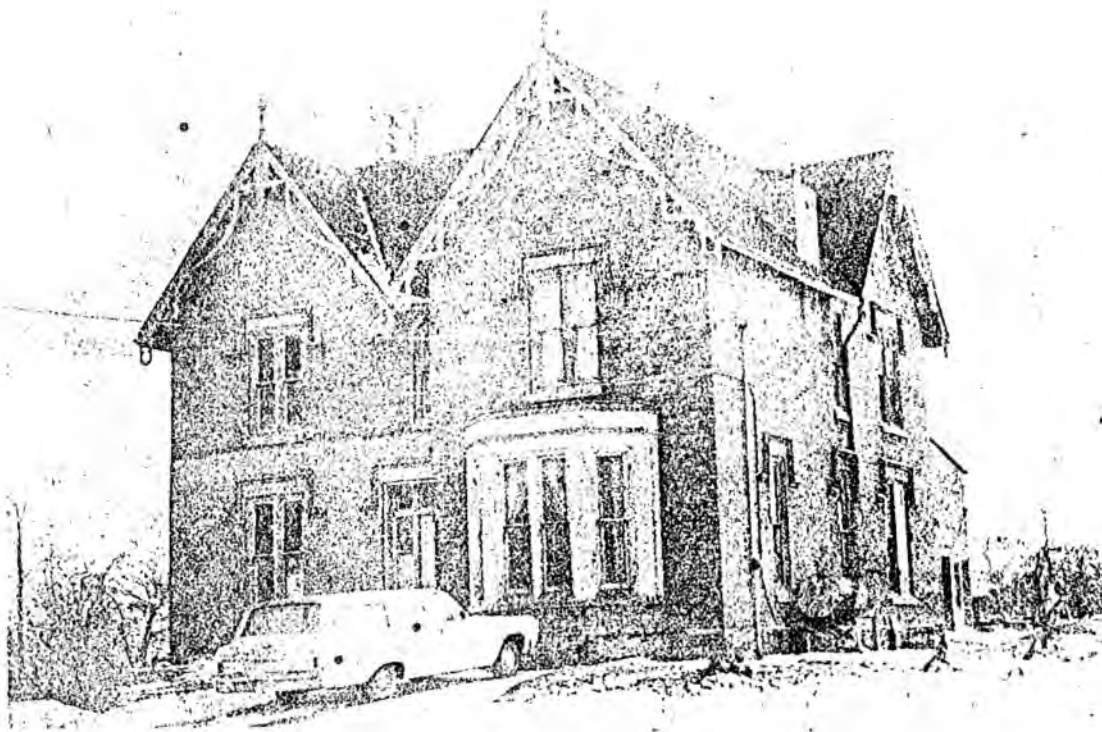
London Free Press
January 11, 1969.

Ingersoll's Hospitals

Several Homes Were Once Hospitals in Years Gone By

By BYRON G. JENVEY

From the files of Mr. Jenvey's local history



This house is located half way on Oxford Avenue west towards North Town Line .

(Editor's Note - With the latest edition to Alexandra Hospital almost completed , it is interesting to look back at the hospitals of the past . The Tribune is privileged to print this story on Ingersoll's hospitals, from the files of Ingersoll respected historian Byron G. Jenvey .

"Bud" Hayter , administrator of Alexandra Hospital told The Tribune he hopes the official opening will take place in early May .)

In June 1889 a movement was started to establish a general hospital in Ingersoll . A petition was circulated but only a few signatures were secured . Times were hard , money was scarce and the project was dropped .

In 1898 Dr. J.M. Rogers opened a private hospital , for his patients , in the front rooms of the O'Neill house on the north side of Francis St. ,

this house being the second house west of Earl St. A family occupied the other portion of the house. A nurse was in service in this hospital. Dr. Angus McKay had a hospital in the same year in a house at the corner of Victoria St. and McKeand St. A nurse was in charge here.

In 1900, the doctors of the town joined in establishing a public hospital in the William Waterworth house on the west side of Oxford Ave. This was a two storey white brick house about midway between Jura Lane and the North-Town line. This hospital provided sufficient accommodation at the time. Modern equipment was installed . Babies were born here instead of in the homes which was a new venture. Several serious operations were performed here.

In 1909, the residence of Dr. Angus McKay, on Noxon St. , was purchased for a hos-

pital for \$6520.00, including a large area of surrounding land. It was named "Alexandra Hospital." A Hospital Trust was appointed the same year, to manage the affairs of the Hospital. George Sutherland was its first President . This beautiful building was built by James Noxon, President of the Noxon Bros. farm implement manufacturing Co. It was said to be the most beautiful residence between Hamilton and Windsor at the time. It was noted for its wide winding cherry staircase. It was built in 1874 at a cost of \$10,000 . As a hospital in 1909 it had 16 beds and during the year 120 patients . This building was sold to wreckers in 1951 for \$1500 and demolished to make room for parking space for a new hospital .

It was in 1945 that the Hospital Trust decided that the hospital was too small to accommodate patients and modern

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

equipment. The Trust received much encouragement from Service club in the town and many private individuals within and without the town to build a new hospital. The town council passed a bylaw to grant the Trust \$150,000 on approval of voters in the town. The vote was taken on Dec. 9th, 1946. Results in favor 1038, against 386. The advisory committee to the Council was L. A. Wescott representing service clubs; President, Robert Carr, merchants, R. Henley, C of C; A. E. Izzard, Industry; Byron Jenvey, Board of Health; Herbert Fuller, labor, Allan Horton and James Spavin, the council. A new hospital was constructed by the Schwenger Construction Co. The cost was \$565,000. The laying of the corner stone took place on March 16th, 1949, R. W. Green secretary of the Trust performed this honorable duty. The official opening took place June 14th, 1950. The Honorable Ray Lawson, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario declared the hospital open. The building contains 317,000 bricks, 60 tons of structural steel and 9 1/2 miles of wire. In 1959 an air conditioning system was installed at a cost of \$15,000. In 1960 a third storey was completed and a new portion added at the north end. The rooms in the third storey are for chronic patients and the north part for storage and administration offices. Cost of these improvements was \$116,750. T. N. Dunn a former president of the Hospital Trust placed a container in the corner stone, which contained newspapers of the day, coins, stamps and other articles of interest.

In 1967 a proposed addition was being considered.



This house is located on the corner of McKeand Street and Victoria Street .



This house is located second house west from the corner of Earl Street on Francis Street .

Ingersoll Alexandra Hospital

by Margaret Marshall - Thamesford

Prior to 1909 there was a long felt want for a Hospital in Ingersoll both by the medical fraternity and the citizens in general.

As sufficient funds were not available for a building it was determined to find a residence which would suit itself to this purpose. Hence the home of James Noxon was purchased. This home was built on a wonderful park surrounding area, in 1874. The home was the centre of Ingersoll's social life for a quarter of a century. Among the visitors was Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1895.

This magnificent property was later purchased and occupied as a home by the late Dr. Angus MacKay.

On January 28, 1909 a group of citizens headed by Dr. J. M. Rogers purchased the home from Dr. MacKay at a cost of \$6520 which included all gas and electric fixtures, two ranges, a 90 gallon hot water boiler, and a book case for the library.

On April 29, 1909 it was decided at the suggestion of Dr. MacKay that the name of the hospital be "Alexandra" in honour of Queen Alexandra, wife of the reigning sovereign. In June 1909 a Board of Directors consisting of seven men with George Sutherland as president was organized. On September 22, 1909 the formal opening of Alexandra hospital took place. It was considered "a complete and modern hospital in every sense of the term."

There were sixteen rooms and accommodation for twenty five patients. There was a medical staff of eight Doctors Miss Ada C. Hodges performed the duties as superintendent of nurses, who's term of service was 1909 to 1937. The hospital offered nurses training from 1909 to 1937. Miss Ethel M.

Siple and Miss Lillian Hayward enjoyed the distinction of being the first nurses to graduate from Alexandra hospital on October 1st, 1912.

The first baby born in



Roy Brookfield
—First Baby

Alexandra hospital was Roy Alexanuer Brookfield on March 11th, 1911. Mr. Brookfield is still residing on 173 McKeand St., Ingersoll.

A new wing was built onto the hospital in 1916 through a bequest in the will of the late Dr. D. W. Carroll.

Following the second world war the need for a new, bigger, modern hospital to serve Ingersoll and surrounding territory became apparent and following several years of planning the first corner stone of the new Alexandra hospital was laid March 19, 1949 by Mr. R. W. Green, an active member of the Board of Directors.

The new Alexandra Hospital was officially opened on June 16th, 1950. The Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Hon. Ray Lawson officiated.

This was a memorable occasion. It was noted in the press that community generosity and co-operation had never been so prominently associated with any local enterprise as in the building of the new hospital.

The hospital was situated just beside the Old Alexandra hospital, (formally the Noxon home). The sixty bed hospital was considered the very finest building of the most modern construction, with the best of equipment. The hospital had a total of eight doctors on staff and 12 graduate nurses with Mrs. R. L. Smith as superintendent. Mrs. Smith resigned in July 1952.

The first patient to enter the hospital was Miss Annie Moon, a long time member of the Auxiliary.

April 12, 1951, a "Walking Blood bank", was established in Ingersoll. Rather than blood or plasma storage at the hospital like other centres, district residents were invited to have their blood tested and typed. When certain blood was required people were invited to have their blood tested and typed. When certain blood was required people were invited to give a transfusion.

This was continued until October 1960 when a blood bank refrigerator was purchased.

July 19, 1951, The Lions Club of Ingersoll presented a cheque to the Hospital Trust, thus making Ingersoll's Alexandra Hospital completely paid for in just over one year.

In 1952 a total of 1744 patients were admitted to the hospital. Mrs. G. A. Boechner took over the duties as superintendent in this year.

A grant of \$2,498 was received from "The Atkinson Charitable Foundation", on Feb. 21st, 1953. This grant covered the cost of sterilizing equipment.

The first hospital administrator, E. W. Roeder was appointed in October 1953 by the Board of Directors. He continued until 1959 when P. Brel took over.

In 1961 a third floor was added to the existing building to increase the bed capacity by sixteen making a total of seventy beds.

In a report given in 1964 the Hospital Administrator reported the cost of \$20.95 per patient a day. It is interesting to note in 1949 the cost was \$6.57 and today is \$40.00.

Ingersoll Tribune
April 15, 1970 (page 1 of 2)

J. H. Hunsberger, Chairman of Alexandra Hospital board and several other community minded citizens decided that a new expansion was necessary, especially in the areas of emergency, X-ray and laboratory facilities in 1967.

In October of that year it was announced a \$1,245,000 addition would be constructed on the hospital but the amount was increased to \$1,817,307 in September 1968. Higher costs were blamed for the rise.

Although it would only increase the bed capacity by five, the area expansion would be from 11,000 square feet to 28,000 square feet. The cost of the project was borne by the Ontario Hospital Commission, the Town of Ingersoll, the county of Oxford, and private donors.

J. H. Hunsberger with the help of Mrs. S. Bangarth, president of the Womens Auxiliary and G. B. Henry, Mayor of Ingersoll preformed the sod turning ceremonies on September 1968, marking the official start of a major addition to Alexandra Hospital.

G. L. Hayter took the position as administrator in 1967 and became personally involved in Alexandra hospital and its new additions.

On a recent tour of the

nearly completed hospital, I was most impressed with the facilities available. Mr. Hayter, my guide, very capably outlined the function of each section and the importance it plays in modern day medicine.

For the comfort of the patient there is piped in music through out the hospital and in obstetrical labour room is television. The hospital is completely conditioned by way of computer-gearred controls. Each floor will have its own sun room and waiting room.

Beginning April 1st an ambulance service was organized from the hospital twenty four hours a day and available to anyone in the area by calling 485 - 1700.

The operating theatre is equipped with up to date equipment. Oxygen is piped through out the whole building from their own bulk storage tank located just outside the hospital.

The expansion allowed for two delivery rooms and two labour rooms. Prenatal classes will begin on completion of construction.

"The sixteen bed pediatric wing is like a dream come true", said Mr. Hayter. When completed it will include a play room for convalescing children.

A large bright Physiotherapy room will provide a vital

part in the rehabilitation of the patients.

The new laboratory with its up dated equipment will answer a multitude of questions

A blood bank makes it possible for the hospital to have blood on hand twenty four hours a day.

The X-ray department can produce a print for viewing in 90 seconds.

In medical records numerous shelves are observed with each shelf containing five tons of papers. An up to date tape recording system will save both time and money.

The completely modern stainless steel kitchen is built to serve a capacity of 150 patients. The food is kept warm with hot pellets. The complete hospital can be served in twelve minutes. An other first is the Central dispatch area. Everything used on the floors with the exception of food is fed through this area.

Every wall in the hospital has been re-plastered, painted and fire proofed with a fibre glass mixture. New fibre glass drapes were specially designed

to add to the decor and furnishings.

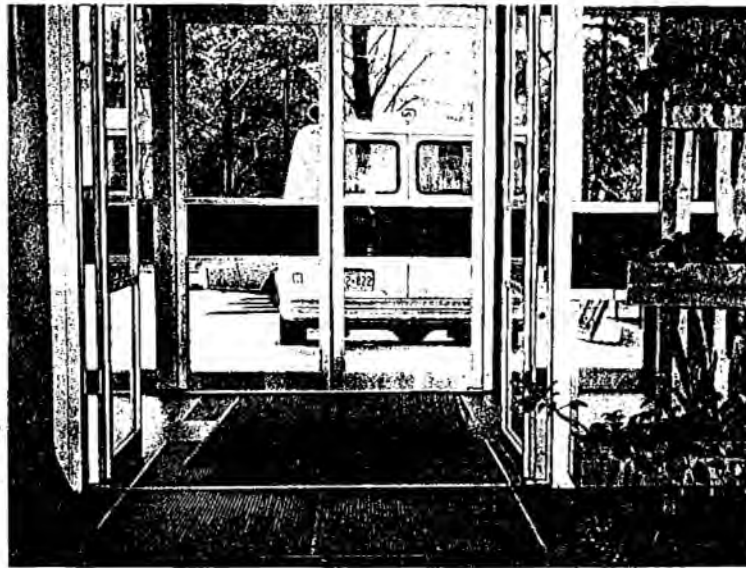
The addition provides classrooms for nurses and up to date laundry facilities. Each floor has its own ice machine and kitchenette.

The hospital has on hand to serve the public, twelve

doctors, a pharmacist, three laboratory technicians and one hundred fifty staff personal. There are fourteen members on the Board of directors headed by Jack Hunsberger. The hospital enjoys 85% occupancy year around.

Ingersoll Tribune
April 15, 1970

FORMAL OPENING



AMBULANCE ON 24 HOUR CALL AT MAIN ENTRANCE ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

THE NEW ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 1970

2:30 P M

AT THE HOSPITAL

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND

CASTLE-LIKE RESIDENCE BECOMES FIRST HOSPITAL

INGERSOLL--Alexandra Hospital and its history is entwined with that of the town of Ingersoll. The first Alexandra Hospital was formally opened for use by the citizens of Ingersoll and district on Sept. 22, 1909. The name "Alexandra" was given to it in honor of Queen Alexandra, wife of the reigning king. But behind that historical day is a history of a building and families important to the early town.

In the early 1850's, James Noxon came to Ingersoll and here established the Noxon Implement Company which employed between 200 and 300 men. They produced farm machinery which became known throughout the world and was exported to the United States, Britain and Europe. In 1874, James Noxon built a castle-like residence where the present hospital stands. It

was one of the showplaces of the town and was known as the centre of social activity.

The hospitality of the Noxon family, the balls held in the graciously-appointed ballroom and the scenic beauty of the site of the home was a byword in early Ingersoll.

The Noxon home was the place where notables visiting the town were entertained, among them Sir Wilfred Laurier when he came to Ingersoll in 1895.

For 25 years the Noxon home stood solidly on the brow of the hill overlooking Smith's Pond and in those days it was a show-place against a magnificent background of woodland.

McKAY HOME
The property then was purchased by Dr. Angus McKay who was a revered physician in Ingersoll and area for many years.

He was known for his sympathy, generosity and integrity. He was a member of the provincial parliament for 16 years and was then known as "the handsome member from South Oxford".

Some 10 years later, Dr. McKay agreed to sell the home for use as a hospital. The price was \$8,000. He also agreed to contribute \$2,000 to the building fund which would make the home into a hospital.

In the agreement, Dr. McKay reserved the stable and field on the east side of the residence which contained a cottage and stable. With the house went all the gas and electric light fixtures, two ranges, a 50-gallon hot water boiler and the bookcase in the library for hospital use. Should the stable be removed he agreed to build a shed large enough to accommodate four horses.

HOSPITAL PLANS
For years the need for a public hospital in Ingersoll was recognized. The only services obtainable up to 1909 were private hospitals and nursing homes. A sanatorium, the former Watterworth property on Oxford Avenue, with a Miss Sharpe, a trained

nurse as supervisor and a Miss Kate Ryan as assistant was the only reasonably satisfactory service available.

The idea of establishing a hospital in the town was promoted in 1908, backed by local doctors.

The late Dr. J. M. Rogers was in the vanguard of this movement, supported by other public figures such as Joseph Gibson, postmaster; Thomas Selton, exporter; John E. Boles, merchant; George Naylor, another merchant; Stephen Noxon, manufacturer and J. Anderson, Coulter of the Morrow Company. Properties considered as possible hospital sites were the George Christopher residence, the Kirkwood property and the Dr. McKay home.

Dr. McKay's offer was the one to receive the nod of the committee and a fund-raising project instituted. The town council made a grant, the churches set aside a hospital Sunday and factories were solicited for donations from employees. On all sides the response was good and the first Alexandra Hospital Trust was set up.

George Sutherland was the first president of the Trust and Joseph Gibson the vice-president. R. J. Robertson was treasurer and R. B. Hutt the secretary.

As the campaign for funds continued, W. C. Forman who had a store on the main street, advertised that 10 per cent of his sales for a month would be donated to the hospital fund. In June of 1909 the town council made a grant of \$1,000 and Dr. J. M. Rogers reported that the \$8,000 had been subscribed.

RESIDENCE TO HOSPITAL

During that summer, work on converting the original Noxon home to a hospital got under way and the opening was in September.

Many of the home-like attributes were retained and there were 16 rooms and accommodation for 25 patients.

The address was given by the mayor, George Sutherland who also was president of the Trust. Contributions continued to come

in and on opening day, \$650 was given towards the hospital.

As visitors toured the hospital by the hundreds, it was seen that rooms and wards were furnished by local charitable organizations and by individuals in memory of various family members.

The first patient, Thomas Pettit, arrived the next day and the first operation was performed by Dr. Rogers on that day also.

Members of the original medical staff were Doctors I. R. Walker, A. McKay, J. A. Neff, J. B. Coleridge, D. W. Carroll, F. D. Canfield, Ralph Williams and J. M. Rogers. Superintendent of Nurses was Miss Ada Hodges.

During the first year of operation, 120 patients were treated in the hospital. Within 25 years this number climbed to over a thousand per year.

During the existence of the original Alexandra Hospital, approximately 20,000 patients were treated.

The first baby born in the new hospital was Roy Alexander Brookfield. The first twins were Elizabeth and Margaret Taylor, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Taylor. Dr. Williams attended at the birth of the first baby and of the twins.

DR. D. W. CARROLL

In 1916 a bequest from the will of Dr. D. W. Carroll enabled the Trust to build a wing to the hospital. Dr. Carroll had hoped the new wing would be a hospital for sick children but the Trust found it necessary to make other plans.

Dr. Carroll was known throughout the area for his interest in children and had a reputation throughout the town for his kindness and sympathy.

Dr. Carroll was a member of one of Ingersoll's earliest pioneer families, his father receiving a land grant from the Crown.

Dr. Carroll himself had been burned seriously on the night of Ingersoll's big fire which wiped out a large portion of the business district. Dr. Carroll attended

(Continued on Page 11)

**THE INGERSOLL
SANITATION COMPANY
LTD.**
IS PROUD TO EXTEND ITS
CONGRATULATIONS TO
Alexandra Hospital
35 KING STREET WEST
485-2431

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TO THE ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL

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451-6450



HOSPITAL AUXILIARY HOLDS PURPLE AND GOLD TEA

THE AUXILIARY TO ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL TRUST has been, for over 60 years, a staunch supporter of the hospital, constantly working to raise funds for needs and improvements. The recent Purple and Gold Tea was one of their willing and successful efforts. Standing from the left are Mrs. Dorothy Christie, Director of Nurses at Alexandra Hospital; former Auxiliary president, Mrs. Lewis McCombe and the present president of the Auxiliary, Mrs. Stephen Bangarth. Seated from the left are Mrs. E. L. Haley, Mrs. Harold Minjer, Mrs. John Pounds and Mrs. Dennis Horsman.

(Continued from Page 10)

empted to rescue a valuable horse from the burning stable. IMPROVEMENTS

The first x-rays were installed in 1917 with Spurgeon Poole of Folden's contributing \$1,000 to make this equipment possible.

Between 1923 and 1928 many improvements were made with a new electric range and electrically-equipped sterilizer added. A garage was built, parking space arranged and some landscaping.

Women were admitted to the Board of Trust in 1929 when Mrs. Verne Meek and Mrs. T. N. Dunn became members.

In 1930 Miss Hodges was granted a leave of absence due to ill health and Miss Janet Pringle, an Ingersoll graduate, took over the duties. NURSES' RESIDENCE

A nurses' residence had been talked about for some time but it was not until 1934 when the Dean property on Thames St. South was rented that one came

into being. The Trust looked after the rent and the Women's Auxiliary was responsible for the cost of operation.

Miss Sadie Uren was appointed supervisor of the residence and the new housing for nurses was opened in 1935.

In 1936 the hospital moved into a new phase of public service with a chest clinic on the first Wednesday of each month.

In 1942 a laboratory was installed.

EXPANSION NEEDED

The years during World War II were the most difficult for the hospital with over-crowding and staff shortages.

When the Trust advertised for assistants, persons from Ingersoll and area came to the rescue, both full and part time. By this time the hospital required almost constant repairs both to equipment and to the aging building. The time obviously had come

THE TIMES, Wednesday, May 6, 1970--11
 It was a snowy day in March of 1949 when the cornerstone was laid by Mr. Green. The mayor of that time, Dr. J. G. Murray spoke as did Mrs. P. M. Dewar, the president of the Auxiliary. ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL 1949
 The new hospital was as modern in design and equipment as was possible at that time.
 On the ground floor were dining rooms and langes and the laboratory. The outpatient division had an emergency op-

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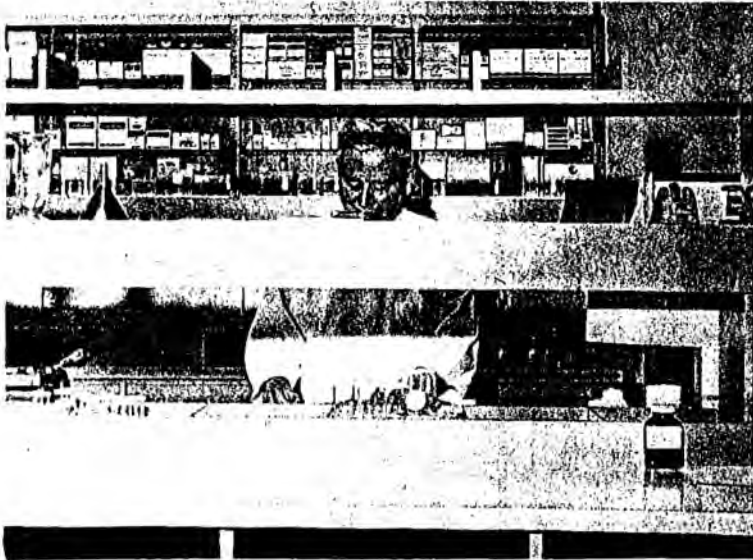
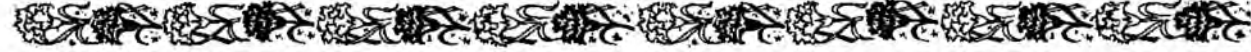
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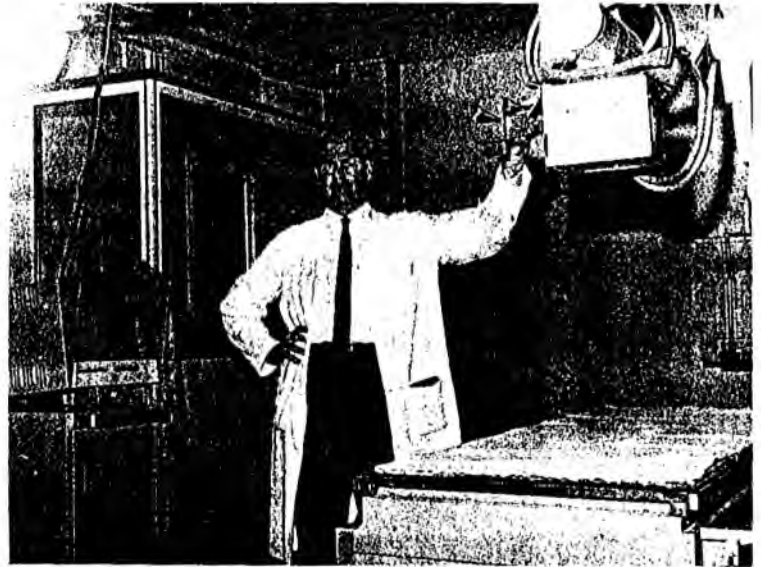


PHARMACY DEPT

PHARMACY DEPARTMENT is the central point in the hospital which all medicines are prepared and forwarded to the Hospital Wards through Central Dispatch. The Pharmacy Department has an up-to-date system of categorizing drugs in a swartz cabinet. It also has generous storage space for bulk items. MELVIN TAGGART, Pharmacist is seen busy with prescriptions.

X-RAY DEPARTMENT

THE X-RAY DEPARTMENT now functions in bright and new surroundings on the first floor in contrast with its former location in the basement of the old hospital where the department was cramped and 'bulging at the seams'. Expanded in area and equipment, it includes a separate office for the radiologist, two diagnostic rooms to replace the original one, an automatic processor to replace hand development of films and is thus capable of a large work volume. One of the diagnostic rooms is equipped with the latest intensifying equipment, television camera and monitoring screen, videotape recording, all contributing to faster and more accurate diagnosis of all gastric examinations. Seen in the X-ray department is Chief Technician GEORGE FOSTER.

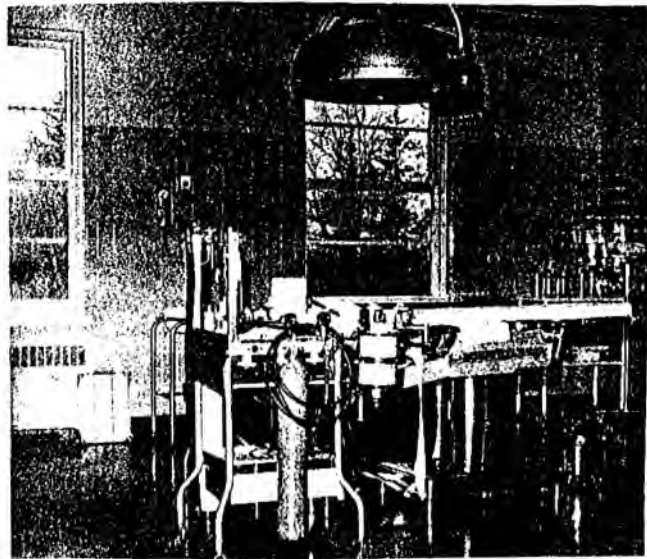


CENTRAL SUPPLY

CENTRAL SUPPLY DEPARTMENT brings into the new Alexandra Hospital an orderly storage area of large proportions through which passes all the supplies to the various departments. Central Supply means the hospital is enabled to buy in bulk at substantial savings. Medical, dietary, maintenance and all other supplies come into the building through this area. GORDON MILLER, Purchasing Agent, is seen at work in this supply store.

OPERATING SUITE

THE OPERATING SUITE is still in the same location but has had extensive renovations. It now includes two surgical rooms, two work areas, recovery room and change rooms for Doctors and Nurses. Air conditioning and fluorescent lights have been installed. A new table has been purchased for surgery in the major room. Another asset for surgery is the installation bulk tank storage of oxygen nitrous, eliminating the handling of individual tanks. The sterile area of the main operating theatre is glimpsed here through the doorway.



OBSTETRICAL DEPT

THE OBSTETRICAL DEPARTMENT is now a separate unit with the Labor and Delivery Suite at the far end of the second floor and the Nursery and Post Partum units located in the new wing. The enlarged Delivery Room has two labor rooms. Oxygen and wall suction as well as communications are provided. The Post Partum units have their own bathrooms equipped with showers. Early ambulation of the patient with supervision is therefore promoted. A Fathers' Room has been provided for those anxious waiting hours. An Ingersoll district mother-to-be is seen here awaiting the arrival of her child under the care of Nurse Mrs. Ruth Johnstone.

WAITING AREAS

WAITING AREAS are strategically placed throughout the hospital and are furnished in a pleasantly modern fashion. Bright and cheerful colors, comfortable furniture, good lighting for reading while waiting combine to give both visitors and patients those areas away from the actual hospital rooms which provide living-room atmosphere and informal surroundings for visiting, conversation or reading. Two visitors at the hospital are seen in one of the sunrooms with its attractive wrought iron furniture.



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LOCAL HOSPITAL NURSES' SCHOOL UNTIL 1937

INGERSOLL--A nurses' training school was organized almost as soon as the Noxon-McKay home was converted into Alexandra Hospital and was managed by Miss Ada Hodges.

Applicants had to apply in person whenever possible and had to be between 18 and 30.

Student nurses lived on the third floor of the hospital and no fees were required. They received a monthly allowance ranging from five to \$10 per month depending on year of training.

Students did 12 hour duty with a two-hour rest period for day duty. Lectures were given by the medical staff and classes were held in the hospital library.

Their uniform was of a blue and white stripe worn with white shoes and stockings. The aprons had narrow bibs for the first six months after which a wide bib was worn.

Beginning in the second year a wide belt was added to the apron and for the third year a black velvet band was worn on the caps. The cap was awarded at the end of the third month providing the student met the requirements. There were no capping ceremonies at that time.

With the early hospital staffed entirely by student nurses, superintendent Miss Hodges was surgical, obstetrical, x-ray and emergency nurse. The nurses were on call 24 hours a day under her supervision.

At that time there were no auxiliary services and all dressings, bandages and hospital sewing and mending had to be done by the staff.

The maximum staff was five students with four on day duty and one night nurse. Night duty meant 12 hours straight with no rest period permitted.

The lone night nurse had to take charge of two floors, the nursery, telephone calls and even answer the doorbell. In those days the majority of visitors rang the doorbell.

While the hours were long, the great advances in techniques and care of today had not come into being although more demands were made on the skill and ingenuity of the nurse on duty.

The training school for nurses was closed by the Provincial Department of Health in 1937 when all training schools in smaller hospitals were eliminated.

it goes to the main distribution panel located in the former boiler room.

A comprehensive and rather sophisticated system of hospital-owned intercommunications has been provided to facilitate the new concepts of centrally located services which are the basis of administrative design of the hospital.

The system provides for instant communication between patient and nurse, nurse and the service area and the various centres for the supplying of materials and servicing. This saves time and effort on the nursing floors and provides more efficient information when required.

In addition to the above, the use of telephone and dictating services are provided.

A step saver in communications is the "pocket pager" which all doctors and key hospital personnel carry and use.

The pocket paging system eliminates the use of a public address system and thus cuts down the noise factor.

NURSERY AREA

THE NURSERY in the new wing of the hospital has respected the color code recognized by Mr. Stork for many decades -- pink for girls and blue for boys.

New bassinets have been provided in pink and blue with oxygen and suction outlets at each.

A "suspect" nursery or isolation area also is available for any infant whose condition warrants this type of care.

The nursery is constructed with glass panels which allow for constant supervision by the nurse from the nurses' station.

The nursery is adjacent to the post partum unit with the result that the new mothers are able to watch their babies a great deal.

It is the hope of the hospital that, with a separate obstetrical department, more instruction can be provided for mothers in infant care.

Formulae are no longer made in the department but are provided from the Central Dispatch on a twice-daily basis.

The formulae are pre-sterilized vacuum sealed and no longer require refrigeration but is fed to babies at room temperature.

The newly born infants receive medical examination in the medical area adjacent to the main nursery. This is done by the doctor in charge and the record is included in the medical chart of the infant.

Premature care is given in the isolettes. This may include premature babies, infants born by Caesarean sections, infants of diabetic mothers or RH negative mothers or any other baby with respiratory distress or other disability.

In addition, light therapy is provided for infants with elevated bilirubin. This is also given in the isolette with additional lights above the unit. The hospital finds the isolettes to be "busy little houses" most of the time.

The smaller obstetrical unit makes it possible to have a closer relationship with the parents and the newborn child as the nurses care for them from admission to discharge with the ultimate result of better patient care.



DEPARTMENTS OF HOSPITAL

DIETARY DEPARTMENT

THE DIETARY DEPARTMENT is a very important part of the hospital. Food plays a major role in the well-being and recovery of the patient.

Proper food, well prepared and attractively served is essential to good patient care. Acceptance and nutrition also are important.

The new kitchen is twice the size of the former kitchen. With its spacious walk-in freezers the hospital can buy in bulk and always have an abundant stock of good fresh food on hand.

A new convection oven makes speedy work of the turning out of a multitude of items. For example, 30 pies can be turned out in 50 minutes; 264 meat patties can be baked in 10 minutes or 130 quarters of chicken come out done to a turn in a mere half hour.

The two section steam cooker is an invaluable addition for the cooking of vegetables, eggs and sometimes fish, meat, poultry and some desserts.

Foods for patients' trays is kept warm by the use of the "pellet" system for hot plates and insulated stainless steel soup bowls and teapots.

It contains three 125 horsepower boilers instead of two 60 horsepower which was previously used.

These boilers can be run on natural gas or oil. Two boilers are used in winter with one on stand-by in case of an emergency.

The steam produced by these boilers is used for heating, humidifying or dehumidifying as well as for laundry, hot water, pressure cooking, sterilizing, making distilled water and air conditioning.

Next to these boilers is the large refrigeration machine with its cooling tower located on the roof of the boiler house. This machine used with the heating and ventilation system throughout the hospital keeps it cool in summer and warm in winter.

In the former workshop next to the boiler room has been installed a standby diesel generator which starts in three to five seconds if there is a failure of the regular power system. It produces power for the entire hospital including all motors.

On the heating and ventilating system there are individual room thermostats which work with the single and double duct systems to ensure completely fresh and tempered air to all rooms and sections at all times and is capable of reducing any infections to a minimum through a series of filters.

New plumbing includes more baths and showers with accommodation in shower stalls for wheelchair patients.

Included in the new service is purified oxygen from a bulk storage tank located at the rear of the hospital and piped to all departments as well as suction clinical compressed air, nitrous oxide, etc.

The electrical service, servicing both the old and new parts of the hospital, is underground from Thames Street to a new transformer bank located behind the new boiler room. From there

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OUTPATIENT AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

For many years the Outpatient and Emergency Department was housed in one room in the basement of the old hospital. It was inconvenient for both patients and doctors who had to wait long and tiresome periods. Emergency cases were treated with priority. Time passed and emergency outpatients outgrew the one room. Now, with the new addition to the hospital, there are four rooms fitted to look after all types of emergency and medical cases.

There is a fully-equipped fracture room, a recovery room, two operating rooms and an examining room with two tables. This area has its own autoclave which speeds up sterilization of instruments and dressings. All is modern and convenient.


There still is a problem of waiting at times by the medical patient when doctors who make the appointments get tied up by emergency calls so the patient, if not too ill, has to wait. Emergency cases are treated promptly. If possible, their family doctor attends. They have a choice of doctor-- the doctor on call that day of their family doctor.

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AMBULANCE SERVICE

by **TED WINTER**

When someone mentions the word "ambulance" what is the first thing you think of? Is it flashing lights? Sirens? Or could it be speed?

Too many people think of ambulances in this way only. Too many fail to realize that these things represent perhaps a meagre five per cent of what an ambulance is in reality.

In times past it may be there was far too much emphasis placed on flashing lights, sirens and speed. Unfortunately this has left an indelible imprint on the mind of the average person and as a result a natural reaction of apprehension has resulted in old and young alike.

In this writing and in articles to follow, we hope to enlighten you to the REAL facts of ambulances and their functions and to tell you about the 90 to 95 per cent of which you may be unaware. For example, did you know that approximately 90 per cent of all ambulance calls are NOT emergencies?

That's right. Nine out of every 10 calls handled by ambulances are what we call "routine" -- that is, they are of a nature that do not require emergency treatment. This type involves the transfer of patients from a residence or nursing home to the hospital for treatment, from hospital to hospital or from the hospital back home again.

Few people seem to be aware of the fact that there does not need to be an emergency situation in order for an ambulance to be called and its services sought. If you fall at home, at school, at work or at play and you suspect you might have a broken bone (fracture) -- if you become sick or see someone else suddenly become sick and be in need of medical attention -- you should feel free to call for an ambulance.

Too many well-meaning persons have caused further injury to a patient by plopping him or her in the back seat of a car and rushing them to the hospital on the assumption that it is quicker. In some instances it may very well be quicker -- BUT -- is it worth risking further injury or maybe death to the patient?

Now let us think briefly about emergency situations: Did you know there is a special way to transport a patient who suffers from a heart attack or a stroke?

Did you know you can kill a patient who has a back injury, by improperly handling him?

These are only two of many emergencies with which you should not try to cope unless you have proper training and equipment.

Are you willing to jeopardize the life of a friend, dear one or any other person under the guise of "helping" him? If you really want to help, you can do much by speaking comforting words while waiting for the services of an ambulance or the doctor.

AMBULANCES OF TODAY are a far cry from the converted station wagons and trucks of yesterday.

The ambulance at Alexandra Hospital is fully outfitted with the newest and most efficient oxygen and resuscitation equipment. Of course, rescue equipment is a must for all types of emergencies and our ambulance has wrecking bars, chains, ropes, shovels and hacksaws, all stored in special compartments to supplement the regular supplies contained in the vehicle.

In the next article we will acquaint you further with things you should know about your ambulance service and what-to-do until the ambulance arrives.

AUXILIARY SERVES THE HOSPITAL FOR 60 YEARS

The Women's Auxiliary has been a moving force for the good of both patient and hospital from the earliest days of Alexandra Hospital.

Some of the projects of the Auxiliary in earlier days included the installation of a large kitchen range and laundry and the electric wiring of the building.

They provided yearly supplies of linens, cottons, kitchen utensils, dining-room furniture, drapes and silver.

They equipped a nursery and with the aid of home economics classes of Memorial School fruit was canned.

They furnished and maintain-

ed the nurses' quarters in the building.

At the time the residence was obtained for the nurses, the Auxiliary were of great assistance. They had originally raised \$2,000 toward the building of a new residence which was not needed when a home on Thames Street South was purchased for the purpose.

The Auxiliary provided books for the patients, presented the graduates with flowers and remembered the nursing staff with Christmas gifts. Holiday decorations were the responsibility of the Auxiliary.

Through the years they have raised money by means of

teas, bridge parties, tag days, bake sales, concerts, plays and one year a "mile of coppers" netted \$545.02. Dances and of late years, a "penny sale" have provided funds.

Under the direction of the president, Mrs. P. M. Dewan, in the years of 1948 and 49 preceding the opening of the new Alexandra Hospital, the Auxiliary had a great increase in membership.

The furnishing of the new hospital was the largest objective ever undertaken by the Auxiliary.

Representatives from all organizations were invited to the meetings of the Auxiliary and encouraged to contribute to the "Furnishing Fund".

In all, over \$32,000 worth of furnishings were obtained.

Individual families, fraternal and service organizations, religious bodies and others came forward with generous donations.

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL BOARD CHAIRMAN



JOHN HUNSBERGER

PHYSIOTHERAPY DEPARTMENT

PHYSIOTHERAPY DEPARTMENT deals with a great variety of patients. Some have fractures, some are arthritic or stroke patients, some have neurological conditions or injuries.

Whatever the patient's condition or handicap, it is through physical means that this department tries to improve their condition.

Specific exercises strengthen the stiffened joints, weakened muscles or mobilize stiffened joints. Paralyzed muscles are retrained and hopefully become useful again.

Physiotherapy department now has an attractive room in which 20 to 30 patients can be treated at one time if need be. There is a variety of equipment with which to bring the patient back to good health and if this is not possible then to try to assist him or her to the ability to return to work or be independent at home.

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SKILLS DEVELOPED IN THERAPY AREA

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY at Alexandra Hospital is a prescribed part of the patient's treatment. Its purpose is to restore the disabled person to the maximum physical, mental and social capacity.

The department is now located in a large, bright and cheerful room which provides facilities for weaving, leather work, rug making, sewing, knitting, toy making and other interests.

For a change of pace from therapeutic work to play, there are games like bean toss and croquignole for co-ordination.

The weight of the bean bag can be controlled so that as the arms and hands grow stronger, the bean bags are made heavier.

Twice weekly, with the help of volunteers, the patients are brought into a group situation which helps the patient to come out of a state of isolation into which he may have withdrawn and provide an environment that will give him a sense of belonging and improve self-confidence.

In warm weather, the program is carried on outdoors. Once a month, slides or hingo add variety for long term patients and birthdays are not forgotten, with special parties on these occasions.

For the stroke patients, every effort is made to get the affected limbs to function again. In the beginning it may be necessary to use the weak hand to anchor the work, then hold it, until he or she progresses to the point where the hand participates in the work.

These patients progress from weaving to finer movements such as ceramics. If one arm is paralyzed, the remaining good muscles need to be strengthened and sometimes taught unfamiliar things such as learning to write or sew with the left hand or vice versa.

The Occupational Therapy department is indebted to the volunteers who give time and energy in moving patients to and from the department, who assist in the preparation and finishing of hand work and who take part in actual group programs.

PHARMACY DEPARTMENT

PHARMACY DEPARTMENT is a far cry from the crowded quarters it occupied in the old hospital basement.

It is a large room with plenty of working area and a dispensary counter in the centre designed with considerable space for expansion, in communication with all departments and private offices and for interviewing pharmacy needs representatives.

From Pharmacy Department all medicines are prepared and forwarded to the hospital wards through Central Dispatch.

The new pharmacy has an up-to-date system of categorizing drugs in a swartz cabinet, as well as storage space for bulk items such as intravenous solutions, sterile water, etc.

The new pharmacy area is expecting and is geared to greater use now that the hospital has returned to normal after two years of construction and renovation. This hospital activity reduced the patients and thus intake.

DONATIONS TO ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

INGERSOLL LIONS CLUB	\$6,000.00
KIWANIS CLUB OF INGERSOLL	\$5,000.00
ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL AUXILIARY	\$4,500.00
INGERSOLL YOUNG PEOPLE (Raised by a Walkathon. Held in trust by Ingersoll and District Community Services until donated.)	\$1,548.82
DR. CHARLES C. CORNISH JR. IODE	\$ 529.00
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- POCKET PAGERS FOR MEDICAL STAFF AND DEPT. HEADS
- TELEVISION CAMERA AND MONITORS FOR SAFETY SCAN OF HOSPITAL ENTRANCE

CENTRAL DISPATCH AREA SUPPLIES ALL HOSPITAL

CENTRAL DISPATCH is the area within the hospital where supplies and equipment necessary to medical and nursing care are collected, received, processed and stored under careful supervision so that they are ready and available to all nursing areas and other departments.

This department is evident in the operating room, the obstetrical ward where every sterile pack, dressing, glove or whatever other supplies are required are handled by this unit.

It is likened to the circulatory system of the body, reaching out to every department of the hospital and governed by the central system.

This Central Dispatch is now located in the basement, adjacent to Supply Stores, comprising of a decontamination room, steam room, work room, solution room and dispatch centre. Formerly it was known as Central Supply Room, located in a small area adjacent to the operating room theatre on third floor.

The stainless steel carts for each ward are equipped with sufficient supplies for an anticipated 24 hour period but should additional trays, dressings or other needs be required at any time, they are ready and available from this department. These carts are delivered to each ward daily in the morning, one containing sterile supplies, one miscellaneous and the third one for soiled equipment.

Each cart is carefully checked at three each afternoon by the department's personnel and if additional replacements are necessary, stocks are replenished and the carts returned to their respective wards.

To provide effective service, Central Dispatch endeavours to carry out certain procedures routinely.

The solution room has piped-in distilled water which is put in flasks and sterilized. Sterile distilled water is on hand at all times.

The most modern equipment, the turbomatic washer, the washer-sterilizer and the general purpose high speed steam powered sterilizer assure complete sterilization and effective service to all areas of the hospital which is most essential for the promotion of good patient care.

OBSTETRICAL DEPARTMENT

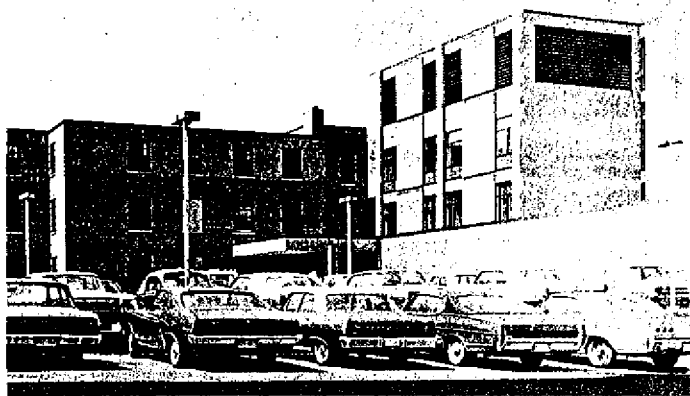
THE OBSTETRICAL Department is now a separate unit with the delivery suite at the far end of the second floor and the nursery and the post partum units located in the new wing.

The delivery room has been enlarged and the two labor rooms are on the opposite side of the corridor. Oxygen and wall suction are provided in these rooms together with communications.

There is a cheerful locker room for the nurses and also a room for the doctors to change into delivery room apparel and for resting while awaiting the arrival of the Stock. A fathers' room has been provided for the anxious hours of floor-pacing and nail-chewing while waiting.

The Post Partum Units have their own bathrooms with showers and early ambulation of the patient with supervision is encouraged and promoted.

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL



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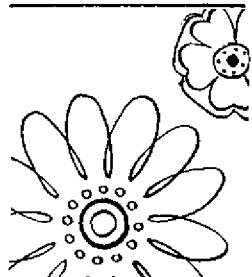
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WE ARE PROUD TO BE A PART OF THE CELEBRATIONS ON THE OPENING OF THE NEW ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL. TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE MADE THE EXPANSION POSSIBLE WE OFFER OUR SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS.

THE TIMES



New officers for Auxiliary

INGERSOLL — A past-president's pin was presented to Mrs. Stephen Bangarth at the annual meeting of the Women's Auxiliary of Alexandra Hospital.

Mrs. Ken Swance, reporting on the gift shop that opened last year, said an 'appreciable' amount of money was turned over by the shop to the auxiliary.

Mrs. Milford Naucekivell said 2,351 hours had been donated by hospital volunteers. Mrs. P. M. Graham presided over the election of officers. Mrs. E. L. Haley presented the nomination report.

Elected to office were president, Mrs. Robert Kerr; honorary president Mrs. J. D. Mac Donald; past president, Mrs. Bangarth; second vice president, Mrs. Lewis McCombe; secretary, Mrs. Russell Stringer; treasurer, Mrs. Roy Garland; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Richard Seldon, assisted by Mrs. Mark Simpson, and press reporter, Mrs. Art MacIntosh.

Alexandra now boasts intensive care area

INGERSOLL — Establishment of an intensive care area is the newest quest for Alexandra Hospital.

The hospital has grown over 60 years into a medical centre that boasts equipment and services often not found in large cities.

Last year, the hospital underwent a \$1,750,000 expansion program.

The hospital currently is working towards a \$29,240 expansion to take in an intensive care area.

Approval has to be obtained

from Ontario Hospital Services Commission, before the hospital can convert an area into a complete intensive care service.

The new Alexandra Hospital was literally designed from inside out during construction to conform to the many new operational procedures.

MORE FREEDOM

Group related functions and close proximity of supplies now permits medical staff to devote maximum attention to caring for the sick, said administrator G. L. Hayter.

A large area of the first floor is devoted to an impressive pa-

thology department, which includes sections related to acutology, biochemistry and haematology.

The engineering department, located in the basement of the hospital, provides emergency power, steam, air-conditioning and ventilation.

The specialized engineering air-conditioning and heating systems circulate 100 per cent fresh air that is properly humidified to the entire building.

A new piece of equipment was added to the X-ray department which provides faster service on X-rays. An automatic processor

was installed in the dark room of the department.

The equipment, with its image intensifier unit, allows a brighter image which is observed through an optical system.

Television techniques are also used in the X-ray department.

The new structure, situated on the north-east side of the hospital, cost \$25,000. The cost is levied to Ontario Hospital Service Commission, emergency health service branch.

It houses the two-bay garage, a modern office, reading room, locker room and wash bay.

60 YEARS

The history of Alexandra Hospital spans more than 60 years

in the life of Ingersoll and neighboring communities.

In 1874, James Noxon built a palatial castle-like residence on Noxon Street.

The property was purchased by the late Dr. Angus McKay who occupied the building as a home for many years.

The only service obtainable up to 1909 in Ingersoll was that of a private hospital and private nurses.

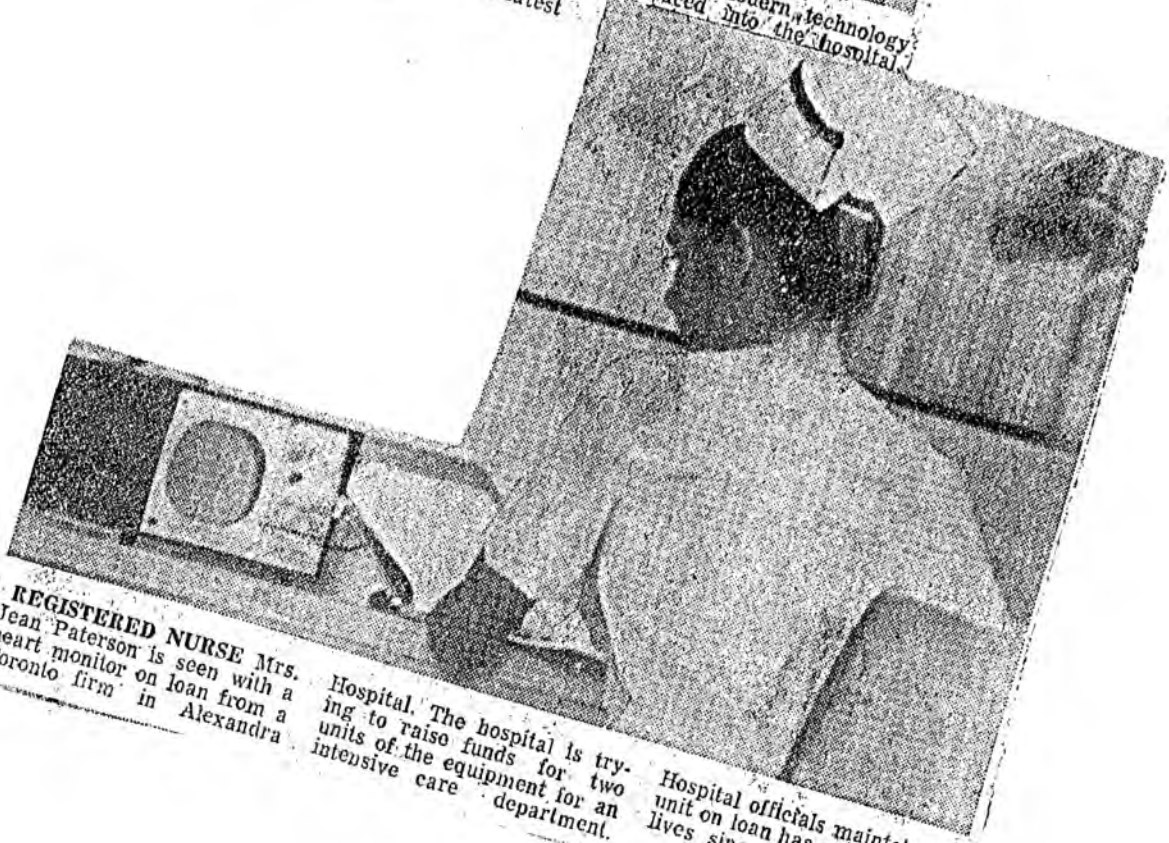
Dr. McKay sold his residence for \$8,000 for a hospital in 1908.

In 1946, town council voted in favor on plans for a new hospital. It opened in 1949.

intensive care



CHIEF X-RAY technician George Foster isn't shirking on the job at Alexandra Hospital watching his favorite sport. The televised X-Ray tests show up on the tube and can be played back by technicians. It is one of the latest pieces of modern technology introduced into the hospital.



REGISTERED NURSE Mrs. Jean Paterson is seen with a heart monitor on loan from a Toronto firm in Alexandra Hospital. The hospital is trying to raise funds for two units of the equipment for an intensive care department. Hospital officials maintain the unit on loan has saved several lives since it was installed. (Staff Photo)

Hospital continues to add

By GEORGE THOMAS
Administrator

Alexandra Hospital has continued to play a very important role in the life of this community and has expanded its services in an effort to become the total community health centre as advocated by the report of the Health Planning Task Force, chaired by Dr Fraser Mustard, Dean of McMaster Medical Centre in Hamilton

Nineteen-seventy-four was a very successful year at Alexandra Hospital, with both in-patients and out-patients treated at the hospital during the year increasing from the previous year

Better utilization was made of the in-patient beds available to this community through the co-operation of the hospital medical staff

More patients were treated on an out-patient basis than ever before in the history of this hospital, which is a trend which has been advocated by the Ontario ministry of health over the past few years in the hope that the total in-patient beds for the province may be reduced in order to help control mounting health costs

There were 1,873 patients under care during the year in the hospital which accounted for a total of 21,357 patient days. Visits to the hospital out-patient Emergency Department increased from 6,882 in 1973 to 7,369 in 1974

Our Intensive Care unit treated 135 patients in 1974, of which 59 were heart patients and the remaining 85 had other serious conditions. The average length of stay for this unit was 27 days per patient

NEW DOCTORS

Several new doctors were welcomed to this community during this past year. Appointed to the associate staff of Alexandra Hospital in general practice were Dr James N Kirk of Ingersoll and Dr Terry A Polevoy of Thamesford.

Dr Polevoy received his fellowship in paediatrics during the year, which resulted in his appointment to the consulting staff of the hospital also

Dr Paul L Hart from Dorchester was appointed to the courtesy staff in general practice.

Dr Sleem Feroze of Woodstock was appointed to the consulting staff in the specialities of obstetrics and gynecology and Dr Robert Houston from Thamesford was appointed to the dental staff of the hospital.

Congratulations were extended to Dr John Rowsom on receiving the Glenn Sawyer Service Award, give by the board of directors of the Ontario Medical Association to physicians who have rendered

significant service to the profession and to their local community

Congratulations are also in order for the administrator, George Thomas, who received his fellowship in the Royal Society of Health in February of 1974.

Brian Taylor, a fourth year medical student, spent a one-month externship at Alexandra Hospital in October of 1974. It is hoped that additional medical students might be encouraged to spend time at our community hospital

Several meetings have been held with representatives of the three teaching hospitals in London, as well as the University Health Sciences Centre in the hope of arranging for undergraduates for post graduates in family practice to spend some time here with a view to developing better communications and relationships between the London referring hospitals and our community hospital.

It is also felt that undergraduates in the practice of communicable diseases, physiotherapy and occupational therapy could be attracted to this community on the basis that we have a very active and thriving rehabilitation centre here which could prove to be a very valuable practical experience to the undergraduates

HIGH STANDARDS

Along this line, one of the main objectives of the Alexandra Hospital, as stated in the bylaws is to provide education and maintain high educational standards.

Along this line, continuing educational programs for both hospital staff and medical staff alike were carried out throughout the past year and staff members were encouraged to attend appropriate educational seminars and workshops.

Congratulations were extended to William Lewis, housekeeping supervisor, on the successful completion of his hospital housekeeping course.

Alexandra Hospital tried to hold the line on inflation as much as possible during this time of soaring health costs and has been very successful in keeping the total expenses within the supplementary budget authorized by the Ontario ministry of health.

Wage settlements made with hospital employees, both union and non-union, were fair and equitable and also were contained within the guidelines established by the ministry of health. The hospital board of trust tried to maintain internal equity within the organization in dealing fairly with all employees

One of the largest capital equipment purchases made last

year was the installation of a new image intensifier system and closed circuit television monitoring system in the X-ray department at a cost of 28,000. The radiologist, Dr. George Kruger, from Woodstock found that he was unable to obtain a true image with the present equipment and, as such, could not guarantee the results of his findings, therefore classifying this installation as an immediate necessity

RESOLUTION

As a result of the breakdown of this equipment, which had only been installed in 1969, the board of trust sent a resolution to the Ontario Hospital Association at its annual meeting held in Toronto in October of 1974 requesting that the ministry of health re-evaluate the lifespan of such specialized electronic equipment now being used in health care institutions with a view to reducing the time of depreciation from fifteen years to a more realistic period of time.

This motion was supported by the Ontario Hospital Association, District Hospital Council 2, and was approved at the annual meeting in Toronto.

Consideration is now being given to revising the Canadian Hospital Accounting Manual, produced by the Canadian Hospital Association, which is used as a guide by the ministry of health in allowing depreciation of hospital equipment

One of the most welcomed additions to the hospital's medical equipment was the purchase of a portable fetal blood flow detector for the obstetrical department. This is a highly sensitive ultra-sound diagnostic instrument with wide-angle transducer used to locate minute functional movements in obstetrics.

The Auxiliary to Alexandra Hospital donated a set of new parallel bars and a True Trac portable traction machine for the physiotherapy Department.

MEMORABLE EVENT

One of the most memorable events of the year of 1974 was the train derailment on May 31 in which 57 patients were treated at the hospital. It must have been gratifying to the community to know that during such an emergency the whole community was able to rally together to co-operatively go into action with greatest dispatch.

The hospital staff has many times been congratulated for the excellent manner in which it handled both disaster situations last year.

The first emergency situation of the year happened on Feb. 15, 1974 when 33 patients were treated at the hospital, due to an incident at one of the local in-

Equipment
to serve
Community

Ingersoll
Progress Edition
March 31, 1975
Sentinel-Review

dustries.

It was most gratifying to know that this community hospital was used as an example of preparedness, which spurred other hospitals to revise and update their hospital disaster plans.

One of the big topics of discussion today is district health councils, which were advocated by the ministry of health and were endorsed by the Health Planning Task Force, chaired by Dr. Fraser Mustard.

After considerable research on this subject, the hospital Board of Trust and medical staff felt that a district health council for Oxford County itself would not be approved by the ministry of health because it had neither the minimum population requirements of 100,000 persons nor the total availability of comprehensive health services.

TOO UNWIELDY

They also agreed that a proposed five-county district health council composed of the counties of Oxford, Middlesex, Elgin, Huron and Perth would be too large and unwieldy for proper co-ordination of health services.

They did agree to support the formation of a three-county district health council, comprising the counties of Oxford, Elgin and Middlesex, as this would be a more workable union for the effective planning of the future health services to be delivered in this area.

The administrator, George Thomas, was appointed to represent the hospitals in Oxford County on a liaison committee by the Oxford County District Health Services Council to work with the London Health Council and representatives of the counties of Middlesex and Elgin to investigate the possibility of the formation of a three-county district health council.

At present the negotiations in this regard are progressing well and there is a possibility that such a district health council could become a reality in the not-to-distant future. A genuine effort on the part of all those who operate health care facilities and those involved in the delivery of health services is a definite requirement for a successful district health council.

There should certainly be no fear on the part of anyone that London would dominate such a council.

The Oxford County District Health Services Council again continued to function as a planning committee for the co-ordination of health services within the County of Oxford and is recognized as the official body to conduct negotiations with the counties of Elgin and Middlesex with a view to establishing a tri-county district health council.

The Oxford County District

Health Services Council reports directly to the ministry of health and is not a committee of any restructured municipal government.

The Oxford County Home Care Program was started on July 2, 1974, and appears to be operating quite successfully.

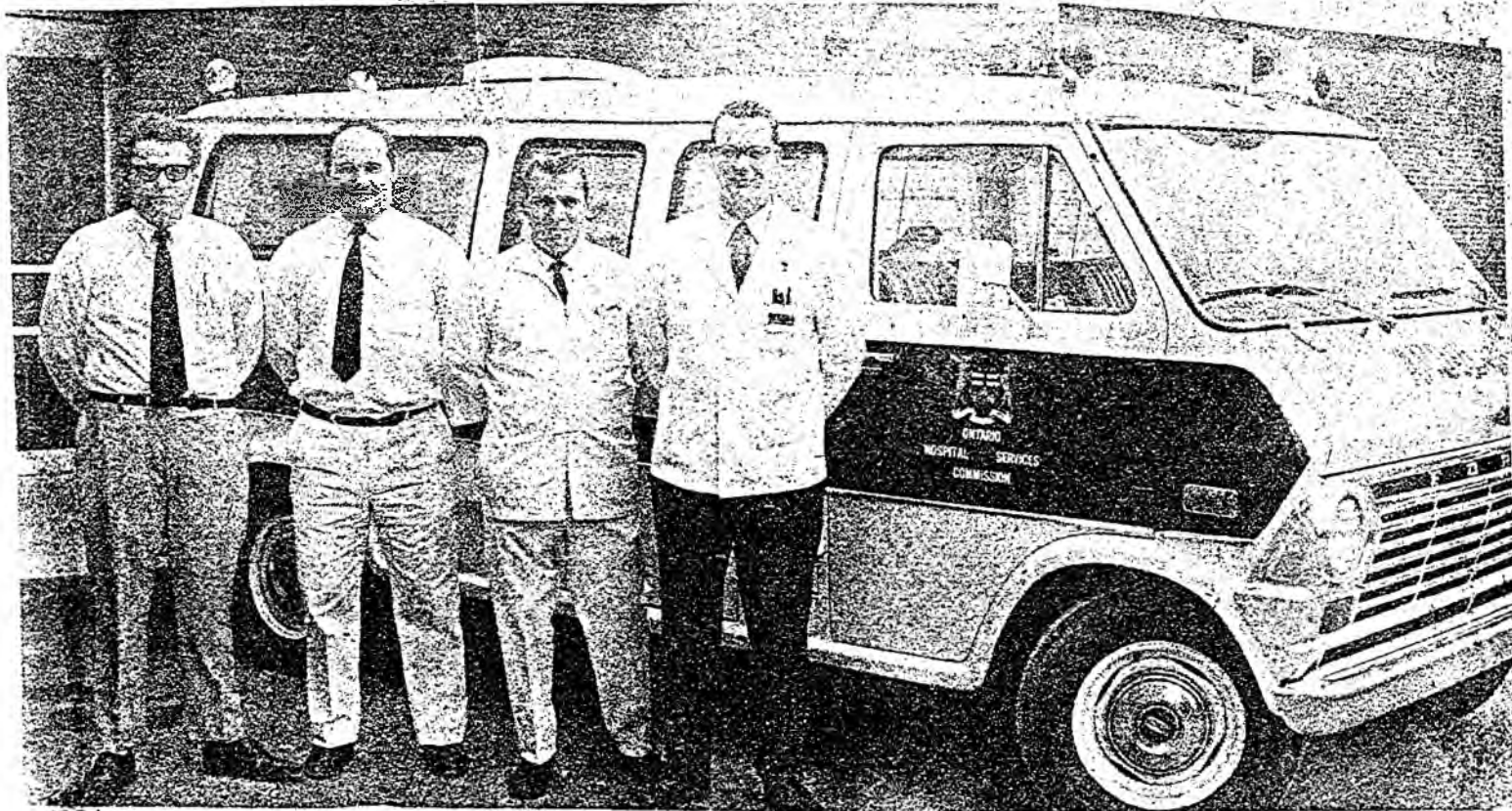
Such a home care program

appears to have been long overdue and has certainly been a valuable addition to the health services provided throughout the county.

Ambulance Service

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

PLEASE DIAL 485-1700



Ready For Any Emergency

Alexandra Hospital now is providing ambulance service which began April 1st. In charge is Ted Winter pictured on the right with part of his duty staff Murray Wonch, Larry Foster and William Hardman. These with other members of his staff will provide found the clock service in this area.

L.F.P. Jr 19 '75

Nursing assistant program approved

INGERSOLL — The administrator of Alexandra Hospital here said Wednesday the board has approved establishment of a registered nursing assistant training program.

George Thomas said the program will be held at the hospital starting this fall and will be part-time, running for two days a week for two years.

It is being held in conjunction with Fanshawe College and has been approved by the Ontario College of Nurses. About two dozen students are expected to take part.

Mr. Thomas said most of the nurses' aides working in nursing homes in the Tavistock area are expected to take part in the program to upgrade their skills.

LONDON FREE PRESS
June 19, 1975

Sentinel April 18, 1975

Smoking ban reaffirmed

Alexandra Hospital board Wednesday re-affirmed its partial ban on smoking in an effort to stem the rising number of fire deaths of patients who smoke in public health institutions. The board was asked to take this action in a directive received from the ministry of health last month.

The hospital board last December established a smoking policy in support of recommendations of the

Canadian Medical Association and the Canadian Hospital Association. It was this policy that was re-affirmed.

Administrator George Thomas said he felt the smoking policy is fair and not prohibitive. Visitors are requested to refrain from smoking within the hospital, and are not allowed to smoke in halls or patients' rooms.

He explained that visitors were permitted to smoke only

in designated smoking areas. These include sun rooms, lounges, waiting area and cafeteria.

Patients are allowed to smoke in either designated smoking areas or in special designated smoking rooms, upon the written order of their attending physician.

The hospital staff and medical staff may smoke only in the cafeteria or lounges.

SENTINEL REVIEW
April 18, 1975

Ingersoll Times July 23, 1975

Alexandra gets eye bank unit

Alexandra Hospital in Ingersoll is now equipped to receive and transport human eyes which have been donated to the Eye Bank of Canada, following the presentation Tuesday of an eye bank container by the Ingersoll Lion's Club.

Lion's Club president Art Short made the presentation to Alexandra Hospital administrator George Thomas Tuesday morning, with Kent Butcher, district administrator of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, on hand to explain how the container is used, and to outline the role of the eye bank in facilitating corneal transplants for visually handicapped people.

A donor's eyes are removed at the local hospital by a surgeon, and placed in a small cylinder which is then packed in ice in the thermal container. The container is delivered either to the eye bank in Toronto, or to a nearby hospital such as London where

the transplant operation can be performed.

According to Mr. Butcher, time is of the essence in removing and delivering the donated eyes. They must be removed within eight hours and the operation performed within 24 hours, he said.

In the past, Mr. Thomas noted Alexandra Hospital has had to call on Woodstock for use of its eye bank container, thus limiting the amount of time available for removal and delivery.

The Lion's Club, which according to Mr. Short, has been an active supporter of CNIB work, earlier this year donated a sizeable amount of money to the organization, and is interested in promoting eye research and the availability of corneae for transplant operations.

Prospective donors, Mr. Butcher said, may apply for consent and registration forms either through their doctors, or by writing to the Eye Bank of

Canada. Ontario driver's licences, he noted, will now carry a section which a registered donor can sign indicating that he wants to donate his eyes or other parts of his body for medical purposes.

He explained that while corneal transplant operations involve using only the outer layer of the eye, the eye itself is also vital for on-going research, and may be used for either or both purposes.

Only visual problems involving the cornea can be treated by transplant surgery, he said, adding that much research has yet to be done into problems affecting other areas of the eye such as the retina.

Donors, he said, can be any age and the fact that they may wear glasses or have other visual problems does not eliminate them as donors. Even a donated eye which has an imperfect cornea can still be valuable for research.

Actual consent for removal of the eyes of a deceased person must be obtained from the next of kin following the donor's death before the doctor is authorized to remove them.

The prospective donor, therefore, is asked to register his intentions with the eye bank, and to carry with him a card bearing his signature and indicating his next of kin.

According to Mr. Butcher, the majority of community hospitals in Canada are equipped with the necessary containers such as the one presented Tuesday by the Lions.

Thousands of donor cards have been received, he said, but in order for the donor's wishes to be carried out, procedures must be such that they can be carried out quickly.

It is for this reason, he said,



The Ingersoll Lion's Club Tuesday presented Alexandra Hospital with an eye bank container that will permit human eyes donated for research and cornea transplant operations to be delivered directly to the Eye Bank of Canada. Above, inspecting the thermal container are, from the left, Lion's Club president Art Short, hospital administrator George Thomas, and district administrator for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Kent Butcher.

Alexandra gets eye container

(Continued From Page 1)

that the CNIB has worked toward having the ministry of transportation and communications make provision for identification of donors on drivers' licences.

"This way, if there is a fatal accident, investigating officers and medical people can know

immediately if the victim wishes to donate any part of his body for medical research or treatment," Mr. Butcher said.

Beginning this year, all applications for renewal of drivers' licences will include the donor section on the new licence.

Eye Bank pledge cards can be

obtained from the nearest CNIB office. Oxford County is served by the Brantford office.

INGERSOLL TIMES
July 23, 1975

Launch diabetic instruction centre at Alexandra

After months of planning and preparation, Alexandra Hospital in Ingersoll is ready to launch its diabetic instruction centre, with its first one-week course due to begin on Monday, Oct. 6.

In making the announcement Monday, hospital administrator George Thomas said that the program will be under the supervision of hospital dietician Margaret Hill, who has been largely instrumental in getting the project underway.

He said that a special room on the lower floor of the hospital has been set aside as the diabetic instruction centre, and has been equipped with all the necessary facilities for the course.

The classes will run from 8 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday, and will be open to new diabetics, as well as those who require further instruction. Subsequent courses will be held the first full week of every month, and according to Mr. Thomas, will be offered twice monthly in the future if the demand exists.

"I don't think there has been adequate instruction for diabetics in the past," he said commenting on the need for the program. "It's been left up to the individual doctor to advise the patient on diet and general personal care, and for the most part, he doesn't have the time."

He said that the average length of stay for diabetics undergoing in-patient treatment at Alexandra Hospital has been 16 days, compared with the usual length of stay which generally averages 12 days.

"We hope that the program will

help to reduce the amount of time that a diabetic has to stay in hospital, as well as giving him an opportunity to discuss his situation with other diabetics and to learn what he can do to help regulate his own condition," Mr. Thomas explained.

The program will stress a team approach to the care of diabetics, with specialists involved in diabetic care attending during the course to demonstrate, lecture, and answer questions.

Dr. John Lawson, who is to be the medical director for the program, will point out to participants the medical complications of diabetes. A registered nurse, Marjorie Martin, will explain the properties of insulin as well as the correct methods of injection, and the staff physiotherapist at the hospital, Linda Fishleigh, will demonstrate exercises to be done to maintain proper circulation.

Also included in the program will be discussed by hospital pharmacist, Melvin Taggart, on the effects of illness and drug reactions on diabetes.

Finally, Miss Hill will cover all aspects of nutrition as it affects the diabetic, including artificial sweeteners, meal planning and how to handle foods on special occasions or while travelling.

A member of the diabetic's family, for example the wife or mother who prepares meals for the diabetic patient, will also be encouraged to attend the clinic, Mr. Thomas advised.

Miss Hill, who was also

(Continued From Page 1)
instrumental in the establishing of the Oxford County Diabetic Association, has just returned from attending a workshop in Banff, Alberta, sponsored by the Canadian Diabetic Association and titled "Diabetes - The Team Approach".

She has served for 16 years as Alexandra Hospital's dietician, and will be retiring officially from her duties in the hospital kitchen to assume duties as a therapeutic dietician, including diet counselling for both in-patients and out-patients, as well as supervising the diabetic clinic.

Participants in the clinic will receive instruction on how to conduct routine tests such as urine sampling, and will have any necessary lab work done when they first arrive for their morning session at the clinic.

Following this, they will be served breakfast in the cafeteria, after which scheduled morning activities such as films, lectures and discussions will be held.

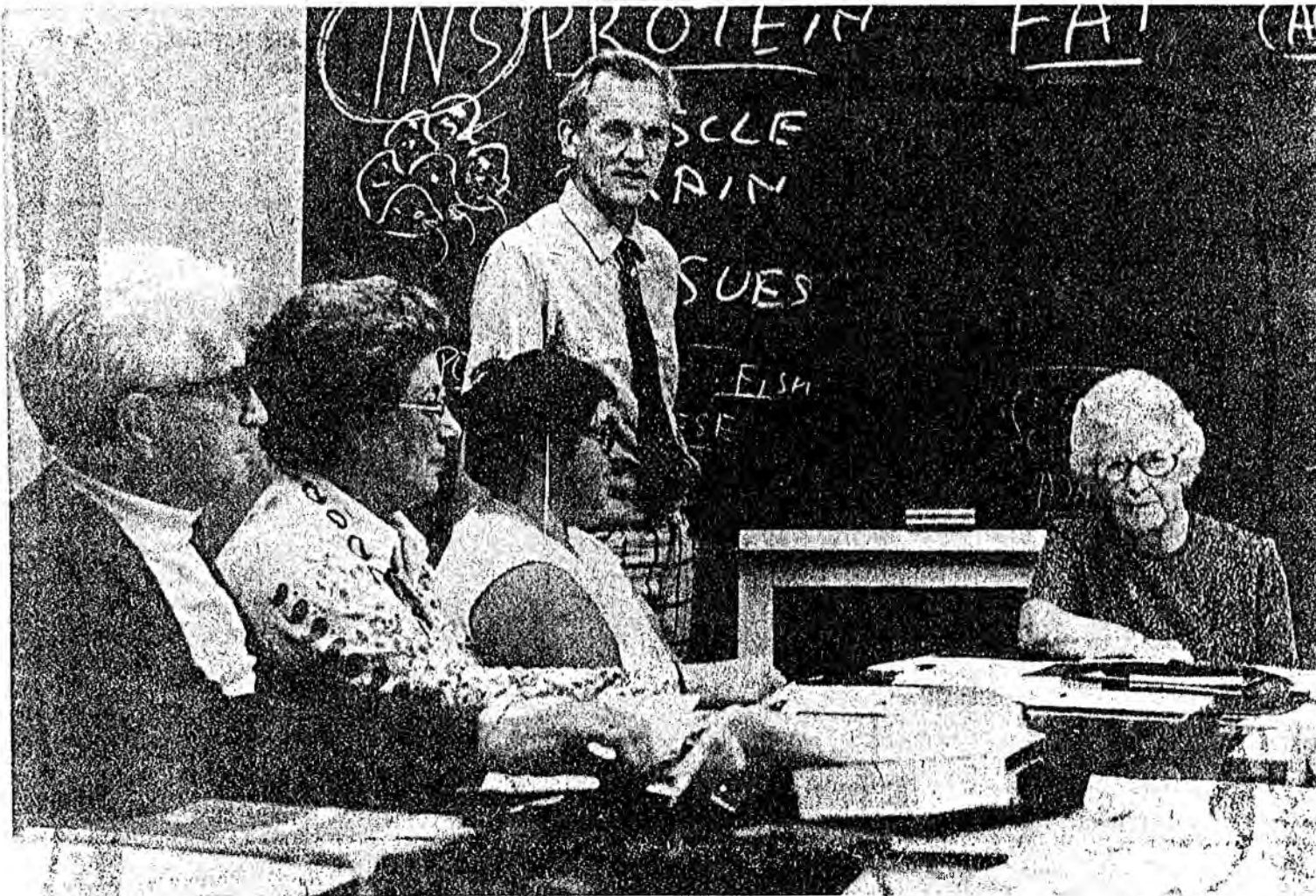
Following the half-hour group discussion at the end of the morning, individuals requiring additional counselling may remain to speak with Miss Hill or the specialist who attends.

According to Mr. Thomas, there will be an out-patient follow-up program for participants in the clinic, who will be encouraged to carry out the steps and recommendations that are discussed in the instruction periods.

In the future, Mr. Thomas suggested, the instruction centre could be geared to offering an obesity clinic along similar lines.

The diabetic instruction program has been approved by the Alexandra Hospital board of trust, and endorsed by the medical staff, he said.

He suggested that anyone interested in attending the course should approach his or her own physician as soon as possible for referral or should contact the hospital dietary services department for further information.



One of the newest public service ventures organized at Alexandra Hospital is the diabetic instruction centre. According to the hospital the classes have been well-received and above, medical advisor Dr. John Lawson discusses some of the issues

with a group. From the left are M.G. Billings, Mrs. Marie Knott and Mrs. Shirley Perry. Miss Margaret Hill, right is supervisor of the instruction. She is a former staff dietician at Alexandra.

Alexandra awarded full accreditation

Alexandra Hospital has just been advised by the Board of Directors of the Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation that the hospital has been awarded full accreditation status for a period of three years, following an accreditation survey visit at the hospital on September 15, 1975.

Full accreditation status means that the hospital has met all requirements of the accreditation survey and is providing a high quality of patient care.

A copy of the survey report has been forwarded to the Provincial hospital authorities at the Ministry of Health as government hospital authorities in all provinces have indicated an interest in receiving these reports from the Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation, which are sent to the hospitals following the accreditation surveys. The Council and the Hospital recognize the need of provincial authorities to have current information of the status and needs of the hospital in order to plan the optimum usage of their available resources, especially in these times of financial constraints.

Gerald F. Pirie, Chairman of the Alexandra Hospital Board, said the accreditation survey is done every three years, and means the hospital is up to standard.

Mr. Pirie said, though, that the survey would have no effect on provincial grants for the hospital. He said he didn't know yet how provincial government Ministry of Health budget cuts would affect the hospital.

"I have been in Toronto trying to find out, and we won't know for over a month how the provincial budget cuts will affect us."

Alexandra Hospital was commended on its organization and management and, particularly with the participation of the

Board of Trust, the Medical Staff, the Nursing Staff and the Department Heads, which reflects a genuine interest in the role and function of this hospital in the community. The expansion of services to the community through such services as "Meals on Wheels" and the Diabetic Education Program was highly commended and further activities along these lines were encouraged.

It was recommended that the Board of Trust and the Medical Staff, through the Joint Conference Committee, discuss the future role of this hospital as to the extent and limits of care, stating fairly specifically the type of cases to be referred to other centres, the limits of medical and surgical care and future extension of services to the community.

The liaison established with the Family Practice Program and the University of Western Ontario, resulting in students spending elective time at the hospital is noted with approval and should be further encouraged.

The high quality of general nursing care is noted and commended, as is the excellent and extensive inservice education program.

Special mention was made of the well-organized operation of the Emergency Services and the excellent environmental services in such areas as Infection Control, Housekeeping, Plant Operation and Maintenance, Safety and Disaster Planning. The organization of these services, as well as the knowledge and conscientiousness of the staff were highly commended.

Dietetic Service was highly commended for its excellent organization and services, both to the patients in the hospital and to the community.

Pharmaceutical services were regarded as excellent and the laboratory services were commended for the modern equipment, efficient direction and quality control.

The excellent program in Occupational Therapy was commended and further development into the therapeutic aspects of Occupational Therapy should be encouraged.

The excellent special care unit for intensive care and coronary care patients, with the Electrocardiograph link to Victoria Hospital in London was highly recommended, as was the staff for maintaining up-to-date training and personnel even though lacking Ministry of Health approval for this specialized unit.

Incorporated for the purpose in 1958 and conducting its activities in both English and French, the Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation is the only body officially authorized to conduct an accreditation program for Canadian hospitals.

Participation in the program is entirely voluntary but, by virtue of legal powers granted in its instrument of incorporation, the Council is authorized to conduct a survey and accreditation program for all Canadian hospital which will encourage Canadian physicians and hospitals voluntarily to apply certain basic principles of organization and administration for efficient care of the patient, to promote a high quality of medical and hospital care in all aspects and to maintain essential diagnostic and therapeutic services in the hospital through the co-ordinated efforts of the organized Medical Staff and the governing board of the hospital.

The Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation establishes standards for hospital operation and assists hospitals to attain those standards, while recognizing compliance with these standards by the issuance of a certificate of accreditation.

The Council is directed through a 12-member board, appointed by the four sponsoring organizations which are; The Canadian Hospital Association, The Canadian Medical Association, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and L'Association des Medecins de Langue Francaise du Canada. The members of the Board of Directors carry out their responsibilities as individuals rather than as representatives of their parent organizations and serve without remuneration. The accreditation program is voluntary and it is basic to the success of this program that governing boards assume the leading role in obtaining and maintaining accreditation status, and to this end, establish the means necessary to insure wide multi-disciplinary involvement and responsibility.



The volunteer Candy Strippers are a much appreciated group of girls from the Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute. Here, a volunteer helps in distributing supper to the many patients at the Alexandra Hospital. The hospital had a progressive year in

all departments, and although there are some fears of cutbacks this year, the administrator and staff look forward to another year of serving Ingersoll and surrounding area.

Alexandra Hospital story: a saga of care for the sick

The history of Alexandra Hospital is an unusual saga of dedication to the care of the sick which spans 66 years in the life of Ingersoll and the neighbouring community.

The history of the old hospital goes back many, many years. In 1874 the late James Noxon built a palatial, castle-like residence on the street which now bears his name. This property was later purchased and occupied as a home by the late Dr. Angus McKay, a physician in Ingersoll and vicinity for many years.

For years the need for a public hospital had been growing. The idea of establishing a hospital in Ingersoll occurred late in 1908 when plans were laid for the funding of such a hospital, using the McKay residence. The hospital, which was named after Queen Alexandra, wife of the reigning sovereign at the time, was opened on September 22nd, 1909, with 25 beds.

On March 16, 1949, hundreds of people turned out for the significant occasion of laying the corner-stone for the new hospital, which was officially opened on June 16th, 1950. The third floor of the hospital was completed in 1956.

In less than 15 short years, Alexandra Hospital has outgrown its vital role of providing its new facilities and the need for comprehensive health care expansion to a larger and more efficient operation was evident. In October of 1968 the sod was turned for the construction of new addition to Alexandra Hospital, May 12th, 1970, to give and administration of the spacious facilities as we know them today, which consists of 84 beds, 10 bassinets and the necessary service facilities, all of which were planned to accommodate future expansion, as required, to support a projected growing community.

During this past year, most of which has been at an all-time high, the construction of the new addition to Alexandra Hospital, May 12th, 1970, to give and administration of the spacious facilities as we know them today, which consists of 84 beds, 10 bassinets and the necessary service facilities, all of which were planned to accommodate future expansion, as required, to support a projected growing community.

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A total of 1,828 patients were admitted during the year, and spent 23,739 patient days in hospital. There were another 7,160 patients treated on an out-patient basis. The intensive care unit treated 113 patients during 1975, of which 54 were coronary patients. The other 59 patients had other serious illnesses requiring special nursing care such as motor vehicle accidents, overdoses and post-operative care. The average length of stay in this unit was two days per patient.

Several new doctors were welcomed to the community during this past year as members of the Alexandra Hospital Medical Staff. Appointed to the Associate Staff in General Practice was Dr. John David Simpson of Ingersoll. Dr. Brian Musico of Ingersoll was appointed to the Dental Staff and Dr. Cecil Mickelson of Woodstock was appointed to the Consulting Staff in Psychiatry. The assistance provided to this community during the summer vacation period by Dr. Jason Burger of London was very much appreciated.

Continued liaison was maintained during the year with the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Western Ontario. The Board and Medical Staff of the hospital have encouraged the use of this hospital as a training ground for medical practitioners who would be seeking a general practice position in another community of similar size to our own. Two medical students took advantage of gaining experience at our hospital last year. Mr. Robert J. Frech and Mr. Gerald Scaife.

The hospital was honoured to have been chosen as one of two small hospitals in Ontario to take part in a pilot program with laboratory students last summer through the collaboration of the Ontario Hospital Association and the Toronto Institute of Medical Technology. One of the institute's senior students worked in the hospital during the month of July to gain a learning experience in a small hospital laboratory setting and also provided practical assistance to the hospital laboratory during the vacation period.

The hospital has continued its outreach into the community through the "Meals on Wheels" program; the laboratory services provided to local nursing homes and the Chest X-ray Clinics held in the hospital on a regular basis, in co-operation with the Oxford County Health Unit and the Oxford Lung Association.

In October of last year, a Diabetic Instruction Centre was established at the hospital, under the very capable supervision of Miss Margaret Hill, Therapeutic Dietician. This program stresses the team approach to the care of diabetes. Specialists from the various disciplines involved in diabetic care attend during the week-long course to demonstrate, lecture and answer questions. A special room on the lower floor of the hospital was set aside as the Diabetic Instruction Centre, equipped with all necessary materials for this course.

Another exciting community activity involved the prenatal classes held in the Occupational Therapy Department of the hospital by Mrs. Shirley Lockwood, about our community hospital, in particular its obstetrical department, and the excellent co-operation she has received from both the medical and hospital staffs. Last month a live baby was bathed during the regular classes, which was a first for Oxford County.

Husbands are now being allowed the experience of being present in the delivery room, according to regulations established by the medical staff and approved by the Board of Trust. The criteria includes attendance at the preparatory classes presented by the Public Health Nurse, approval of the attending physician and acceptance of directions and decisions of the department personnel involved.

As a community service, the hospital agreed to the installation of an antenna and necessary equipment for the Town of Ingersoll to enable the Ingersoll Police Department to put up a transmitter-receiver station on the roof of the hospital for their Ontario-wide integrated police radio system called "Personal Radio Equipped Police."

Continued modernization and up-dating of equipment in the hospital laboratory took place last year, which means that we can boast that our community hospital has one of the most well-equipped and efficient laboratories in a hospital of this size anywhere in Ontario. Under the Public Hospitals Act, every hospital must be equipped with a clinical laboratory with facilities and staff able to make routine laboratory investigations which are necessary for the treatment of the patients in the hospital.

A new electrocardiogram machine was purchased to replace the previous fully-depreciated unit which, after being repaired, has been set aside as a back-up machine. The new E.C.G. machine complements the direct telephone line to the coronary care unit at Victoria Hospital in London because electrocardiograph tracings from this new machine may be sent directly for interpretation by specialists.

Wooden hand-rails were installed on the three nursing floors of the hospital for the convenience and safety of patients, especially post-surgical, rehabilitation and long-term patients. Special thanks go to Mrs. Alice Blackman, who is presently a resident at Oxford-Mt. Pleasant Nursing Home, for her generous donation towards this project.

A smoking policy for the hospital was established on the recommendation of the Ontario Hospital Association and the Ontario Medical Association and is being very well adhered to by both patients and staff alike. Visitors are requested to refrain from smoking within the hospital and staff and patients are requested to smoke in designated smoking areas only.

On April 22, 1975, a testimonial dinner in appreciation of Dr. John W. Rowsom's 40 years of medical service to the Ingersoll Community was sponsored by the Alexandra Hospital Board of Trust in honour of his receiving the Glen Sawyer Service Award, given by the Board of Directors of the Ontario Medical Association to senior physicians who have rendered significant service to their profession and to their local community.

Hospital Day, May 12th, 1975 was celebrated in a number of ways. A tea was held at the Senior Citizens' Centre, sponsored by the Auxiliary to Alexandra Hospital. Open House was held at the hospital with tours conducted by volunteers from the hospital staff during both the afternoon and evening.

Alexandra Hospital Board of Trust was proud to announce that the hospital had been awarded full accreditation status for a period of three years, following an accreditation survey visit to the hospital on September 15th, 1975, by Dr. Robert Kilborn, Medical Director of K-W Hospital in Kitchener, Ontario, who was very favourably impressed by the hospital's facilities and the excellent patient care being rendered to the people of this community.

Ingersoll Times
February 25, 1976

Times Feb 25 '76

Hospital Story

Full accreditation status means that the hospital has met all requirements of the accreditation survey and is providing a high quality of patient care. The Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation, establishes standards for hospital operation and assists hospitals to attain these standards, while recognizing compliance with these standards by the issuance of a certificate of accreditation.

The Minister of Health has announced that the Thames Valley District Health Council is now official. This Council consists of 19 members, five from Oxford, five from Elgin, five from London and four from Middlesex. Mrs. Violet Adams of Woodstock, Chairman of the Oxford County District Health Services Council, was appointed first Chairman of this Tri-County District Health Council.

This Council will be involved in the planning, integration and co-ordination of health services for this area and will be strictly following the voluntary health care system in that no members will receive remuneration for their services. Congratulations to Mr. Gerald Pirie, Past-Chairman of the Alexandra Hospital of Board of Trust, who has been appointed to the District Health Council, along with Mrs. Joan Francolini of Tillsonburg, Mrs. Fran McElroy of Tavistock and Mr. Ken Peers from Eastwood, who represents Oxford County Council. The Administrator, Mr. George Thomas, was a member of the original steering committee involved in the formation of this Council and the nomination of its members.

The Minister of Health, the Hon. Frank S. Miller, has announced that many changes will be forthcoming in the Province as rapidly accelerating costs are forcing changes in the delivery of health services. Restrictions of funds to hospitals in this period of rapid inflation requires a total assessment of services which can be provided in the future. It represents a challenge to the hospital field and understanding on the part of the public.

Our hospital, like all others,

has found itself caught up in the battle of inflation and trying to effectively contain rising costs within the approved budget, especially with an increased number of patient days and increased patient activity throughout the hospital. It will be most difficult for Alexandra Hospital to continue to develop as a total community health centre, capable of co-ordinating the health and social needs for Ingersoll and neighbouring communities, in these times of severe financial constraints imposed by the Ministry of Health.

The Annual Meeting of the Alexandra Hospital Corporation was held on Tuesday, February 10th, 1976. At this meeting five Board members were elected for a two-year term. Re-elected were: Mr. G.F. Pirie, Mr. W.F. Roepman, Mr. K. Newell and Mr. A. Ward. A previous Board member, Mr. Norm McLeod, was also returned to the Board.

Trustees with one year to serve are: Mr. P.M. Dewan, Mr. K.W. Hawkins, Mr. N. Cooper, Mr. T. Nancekivell and Mr. H. Fryer. Representatives appointed to the Board of Trust for 1976 were:

County of Oxford - Mr. G.B. Henry; Town of Ingersoll - Mr. J.T. Warden; Hospital Auxiliary - Mrs. F. McDougall; Medical Staff - Dr. L.B.P. Rae, President of the Medical Staff.

INGERSOLL TIMES

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Dorothy Christie presents farewell gift to George Thomas.

(Staff photo)

Hospital staff members honor departing official

Fifty staff members of Alexandra Hospital at a coffee party in the cafeteria Thursday watched director of nursing Dorothy Christie present their gift of a clock-radio to administrator George Thomas, who will leave the hospital next Friday.

Mrs. Christie said that the door of Mr. Thomas' office had always been open to all members of the staff. The hospital was very grateful to him, she said, for staying on an extra two weeks until the new administrator, Ross Bryant, could take over his position.

The new administrator will leave a position as administrator of the Blue Water Centre for Development of the Handicapped, in Goderich. It is in the building previously occupied by the Goderich Psychiatric Hospital.

Bryant will be facing a new experience in working for a board of trust at Alexandra Hospital rather than a government ministry, Thomas said, and asked the staff to give the new administrator "the same support which you gave to me."

Thomas said he also would be working under a different

system at the Queen Alexandra Hospital for Children in Victoria, B.C. which is an extended care and rehabilitation centre where children attend school during their stay.

The board of trust of Alexandra Hospital in Ingersoll should "jump on the bandwagon" and go after the new psychiatric facility recommended in the study of a plan for Oxford County, Thomas said. "But I would hope in opening up the wing which was closed by the ministry that they would open up only 16 of the beds which were closed."

Thomas said the public health unit which has now been set up in the space occupied by a former four-bed ward in the closed wing is "providing valuable work in co-operation with the hospital."



HOME TO FALL

Century home at 355 Oxford Avenue which will soon fall under the wrecker's hammer. (Staff)

Old private hospital to be demolished

One of Ingersoll's century homes at 355 Oxford Avenue which at one time was a private hospital, will soon fall under the wrecker's hammer.

Building Inspector Edward A. Hunt issued a demolition permit this week to owner Steve Czuper, 105 Bay St., Woodstock.

Local historian Byron Jenvey said that the house was operated as a private two-bed hospital by

Dr. J. M. Rogers, and a nurse, before Alexandra Hospital came into being.

According to the first annual report of Alexandra Hospital it was Dr. J. M. Rogers who vigorously promoted establishment of a hospital in Ingersoll in 1908.

Jenvey said that the hospital at 355 Oxford Ave. was in operation until Alexandra

Hospital was opened on the fine residential property of James Noxon, built about 1874.

The property at 355 Oxford Avenue according to Jenvey who was a government evaluator for 11 years, was probably built in the 1870's. He bases this on the style of the house — a two storey white brick building, square in structure with sharply-gabled roof.

Closed in 1976, wing of hospital to reopen

By ARMITA JANES
Sentinel-Review staff writer

INGERSOLL — The first floor wing at Alexandra Hospital, closed down in March 1976, will reopen Jan. 17 when an innovative health program for retired people gets off the ground.

Co-ordinator Joanne McFarlane said Thursday there is enough space available for health teaching, and recreation as well as library and kitchen facilities.

The program, the co-ordinator said, will focus on things that concern retired people of any age.

Retirees will get an insight into changes that take place in their lives when they leave the work force — physically, emotionally and financially.

Teaching periods will be short, Ms. McFarlane said, and during the day they will be interspersed with recreation and social interaction.

The program will begin each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. The minimal fee of \$2 includes a hot lunch.

During the first seven weeks, Hazel Powell, a registered nurse and Karen Cook, a dietitian, will make use of films, give lectures, and promote discussion on two topics:

—Changes affecting everyone as they age — to enable participants to understand and cope with these changes.

—Nutrition — stressing the importance of eating well; cooking and eating on a limited budget; and problems peculiar to seniors.

Anyone who would like to take part, or has a parent who could benefit from such a program, should call Greta Moore in the administration office at Alexandra Hospital.

The new day care program for retirees — brainchild of Ross Bryant, executive director at the hospital — grew out of a survey made last summer with a \$2,400 grant from the health ministry.

Local response from retirees to the proposed program designed to ultimately keep the aged out of hospitals by education, was so good that the hospital board gave its blessing to the program.

Ms. McFarlane, a former nurse at Oxford Regional Nursing Home and Alexandra Hospital, volunteered to co-ordinate the program after Bryant made a pitch to Ingersoll Community Services Association this Fall.

The co-ordinator set up the program with the help of the following volunteers: Ann Anderson, Laura Kilgour, Margaret Smith, Grant Swackhammer, Helen Beynon, Jean McDougall, Mary Land and Agnes McFarlane.

Leaky roof still plagues the hospital in Ingersoll

INGERSOLL—Alexandra Hospital has been plagued by a leaky roof and despite pleas to the health ministry for funding to rectify the situation, the roof continues to leak.

The hospital recently received correspondence from the ministry recognizing the problem but correspondence hasn't patched the roof.

The roof was built in 1970 and is described as "California style." But the California style roof has proved inadequate for Canadian climates.

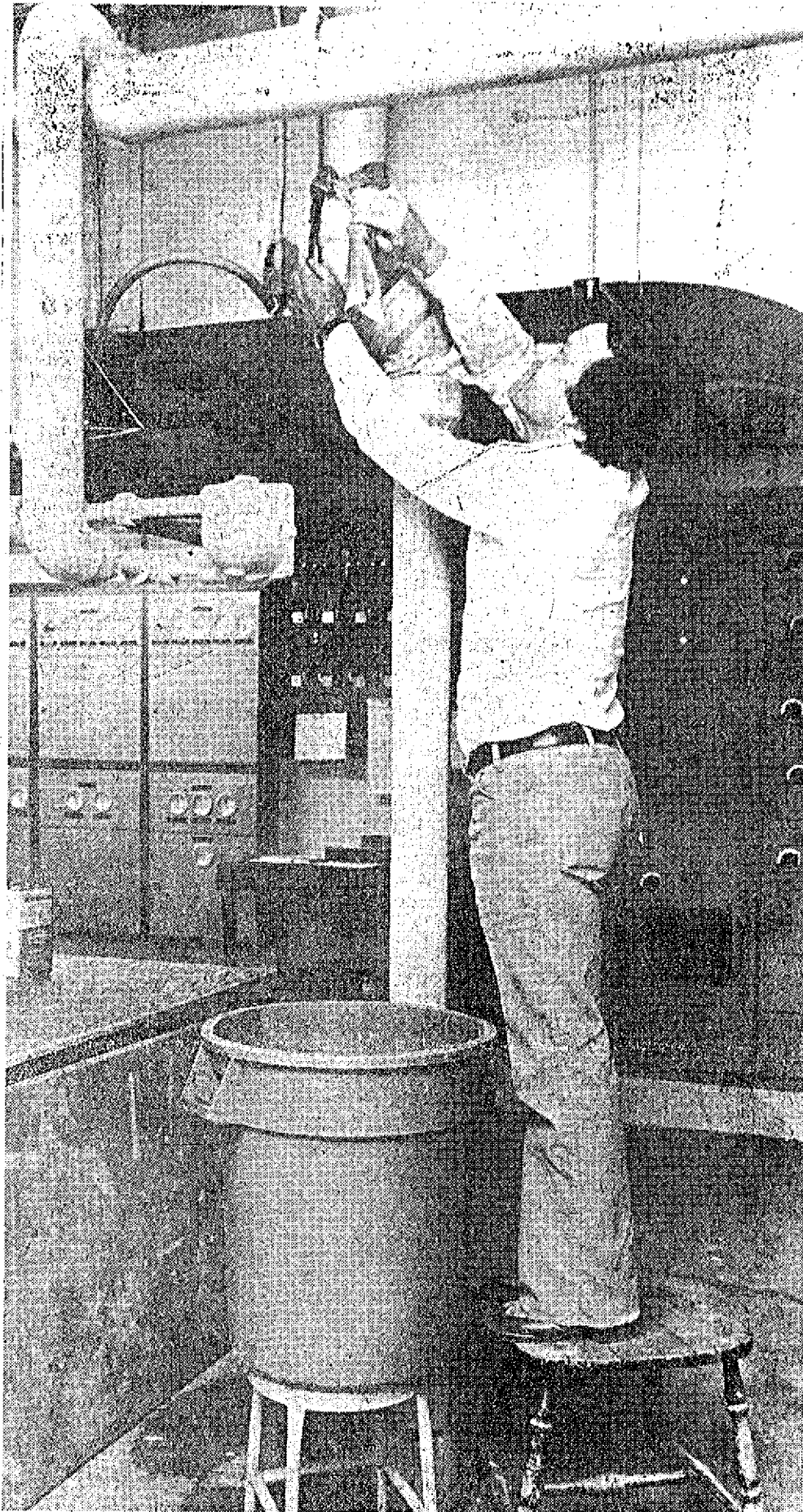
Hospital officials have used various methods to drain the water including a funnel to a garden hose. However, the roof still leaks. Friday was particularly hectic.

Estimated costs for replacing the roof range between \$34 and \$40,000. But until the ministry give approval to replace it, the hospital has to live with leaky conditions.

Administrator Ross Bryant said tenders haven't been called yet because ministry approval hasn't arrived.

The ministry will pay two-thirds of the cost of replacement, with the hospital picking up the remaining one-third.

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— Staff photo by Philip Walker
Chief engineer Ron Wilson checks out the leaky roof.

Alexandra Hospital

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Alexandra auxiliary holds 75th anniversary tea celebration

Alexandra Hospital Auxiliary met Monday in the cafeteria of the hospital. President Jean McDougall

opened the meeting with the Auxiliary prayer.

Iva Stringer read the minutes of the previous

meeting. During the conveners' reports, Alma Stephenson announced she was extremely happy about the

good work the volunteers are doing. Mrs. P. Graham announced that the next Blood Donor Clinic will be

April 11 and added that the Red Cross has honored her with a special pin for long service.

It was announced that the ventilators for the operating room have arrived. Money realized from the Auxiliary's first annual Gourmet Sale was used towards the purchase of them.

Public relations convener Bonnie Rae has announced that one of the Auxiliary's 70th anniversary projects will be the relocation of the Gift Shop to a more accessible spot. Mrs. Rae feels this will be a "real encouragement to the ladies who so faithfully staff the gift shop."

At the close of the business meeting, Glenna McComb, a past president, cut the birthday cake and tea and cake were enjoyed.



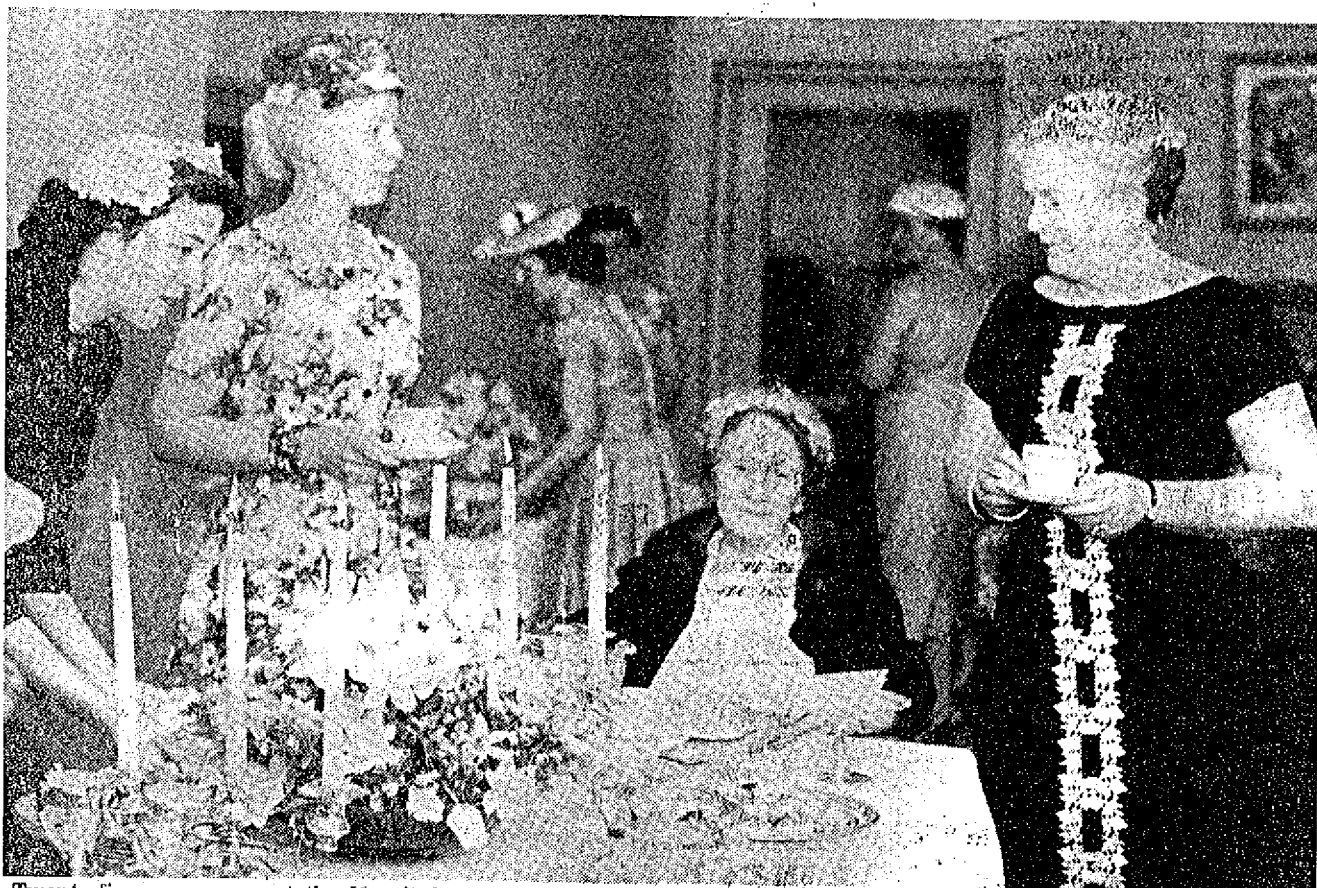
Hospital presidents of the Hospital are from left to right, Maude Fleischer, Glenna McComb, Mary Graham and the present president Jean MacDougall cut a ceremonial

cake to kick off celebrations for the auxiliary's 75th anniversary.

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February 28, 1979

Alexandra auxiliary



Twenty-five years ago, at the Hospital Auxiliary's 50th anniversary enjoying tea are Barb Westman, Barbara Hanlon, Mrs. C.C. Cornish and Helen Wark.

Maternity ward may be closed down

Ross Bryant, executive director of Alexandra Hospital, answering a question posed by Chamber of Commerce secretary-manager Herm Lindsey, admitted it was possible the maternity wing at Alexandra Hospital might have to be closed.

Bryant was answering questions from the floor after giving a gloomy report of hospital affairs to the Chamber.

The executive director explained that the April 1 budget was "still up in the air" because the necessary forms and information have not been received from the provincial government.

A deficit budget is, however, a reality, he said. Alexandra Hospital, under the government's austerity program, can only receive a five per cent increase while "we are looking at a 10 per cent inflation rate".

He said he had met last week with

members of the Board and officers of the medical staff to determine what the order to cut seven beds would mean to the community. One thing it means he said, is a loss of \$34,000. Bryant added "We are not alone; other communities are losing 17 or 18 per cent of their beds just as we are".

He agreed it was "a possibility that Ingersoll hospital could lose its maternity wing and added long term chronic beds may be affected also in the future.

Bryant also announced that the Board of Trust had decided to contract the laundry linens service at the hospital. "It can be done by others as economically, if not more economically than we can do it" he explained. He added that the union has been advised that staff lay-offs will probably result, "but like any other business we must operate in the most economical way".

Concerned over possible loss of hospital maternity ward

(Editor's Note: Like many other Ingersoll and area residents Mrs. Norman Harper, Thames Street North, is concerned over persistent rumours that Alexandra Hospital is going to lose its maternity ward. Like others, Mrs. Harper sees that step, which has so far only been termed a "possibility" by executive director Ross Bryant, as one towards the inevitable step of either closing the hospital or turning it into a chronic care hospital.)

Mrs. Harper decided to do something about it. She has spent hours and hours of researching the papers and diaries of her father, the late George Sutherland, who was not only mayor of the town at the time Alexandra Hospital was built, but became the first president of Alexandra Hospital Trust.

The writer remembers her father as being "always there" whenever something was happening to or at the hospital. She, herself became very involved with hospital life, working as a nursing volunteer during the war years when there was an acute shortage of nurses. Later, through various organizations and lodges over which she presided, she continually contributed to the hospital, until an automobile accident forced her to give up these activities.

Mrs. Harper has prefaced her interesting article with a challenge to the people of Ingersoll to "realize what your hospital means to you, to form a committee and do something about saving it."

The Ingersoll Times is proud to present this first article in a series about Alexandra Hospital, by the daughter of one of its founders.)

BY GEORGETTA HARPER

Before I was born, a group of men of the town banded together to get a hospital --

my father amongst them.

In 1850 James Noxon came to Ingersoll and established the Noxon Implement Company and by 1872 this company employed between 200 and 300 men. It was the most important firm in town. Their farm machinery became world famous, being sent far and wide, not only across Canada and the United States, but to the British Isles and other European countries as well.

In 1874 the late James Noxon built a palatial home, a castle-like residence on the street which now bears his name. The beautiful background was a finely wooded park which in autumn burst into a brilliant blaze of glory. It is still considered one of the beauty spots of Ingersoll.

For a quarter of a century, the Noxon home was the centre of the social life of Ingersoll. Some local ladies even now recall with a thrill of pleasure more than one occasion when, as belles of their age, they graced the brilliantly lighted ball-room of the beautiful house on the hill. The gracious hospitality of the Noxons was enjoyed by many noted personages including Sir Wilfrid Laurier when he visited Ingersoll in 1895.

This magnificent property was later purchased and occupied as a home by the late Dr. Angus McKay, beloved physician in Ingersoll and vicinity for many years, and still held dear in the memory of many older residents for his personality, generosity, sympathy and integrity. He was known in Toronto, when he served in the provincial legislature for 16 years, as "the handsome member from South Oxford."

Growing Need

For years the need in Ingersoll for a public hospital had been growing. The only service obtainable up to 1909 was that of private hospitals and private nurses.

A sanatorium in the former Watterworth property on Oxford Avenue with Miss Sharpe, a trained nurse as supervisor and

Miss Kate Ryan as her assistant, proved very satisfactory for a time, but it was not what was really desired.

The idea of establishing a hospital in Ingersoll took root late in 1908 and was vigorously prompted by the medical fraternity with Dr. J.M. Rogers actively participating. He, in turn, received the whole hearted support of such public spirited men as Joseph Gibson, Ingersoll's postmaster; Thomas Sheldon, an exporter; John E. Boles, a merchant; Stephen Noxon, manufacturer; George Naylor, merchant; J. Anderson Coulter of the Morrow Company and Mayor George Sutherland.

January 28, 1909, a group of representative citizens met in the council chambers to consider purchase of property which might be converted into a hospital. Properties under consideration included the George Christopher property on Thames Street North; the Kirkwood property on Thames Street South and the Dr. McKay property on Noxon Street.

Among those present at this historical meeting were doctors J.M. Rogers, J.A. Neff, James B. Coleridge and D.W. Carroll; Messrs. J. Anderson Cjoulter, J.D. Knapp, William E. Elliott, W.F. Johnston, Raymond Hutt, Frank Bain, Fred Richardson, A.E. Ellis, C.L. Wilson, Charles O'Neill, Mayor Sutherland and Reeve S.M. Fleet. Dr. J.M. Rogers was in the chair.

Dr. McKay said he would sell for \$8000, reserving the stable and also the field on the east side containing the cottage. He would give all the gas and electric light fixtures, the two ranges and a 90 gallon hot water boiler, also a bookcase in the library for the use of the hospital. He also said he would contribute \$2000 to the building fund. He promised that if he removed the stable he would erect a shed sufficiently large to accommodate four horses.

(Continued On Page 10)

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Concerned over possible loss of hospital maternity ward

(Continued From Page 9)

Dr. McKay's offer was accepted and a committee to solicit money to buy the home was appointed as follows: doctors Rogers, Coleridge and Neff; Mes-C.C.L. Wilson, Walter Mills, W.F. Johnston, J. Anderson Coulter, A.H. Ellis and F.W. Bain. At this meeting the following suggestions were discussed:

that town council should make a grant;

the churches set aside a hospital Sunday;

The factories should be solicited with the hope that each firm would match the subscription of the men.

Dr. McKay suggested that the hospital be named Alexandra after the wife of the reigning sovereign.

Alexandra Hospital Trust was composed of the following men: Thomas Seldon, Stephen Noxon, Mayor George Sutherland, Raymond Hutt, Joseph Gibson, George Naylor and John E. Boles.

Mayor Sutherland be-

came the first president of Alexandra Hospital Trust; Joseph Gibson, vice president; R.J. Robertson, treasurer; Raymond B. Hutt, secretary.

Alexandra Hospital opened September 22, 1909.

Opening Day

The work of converting the residence to a hospital was well under way during the summer of 1901 and the formal opening took place September 22. This was a happy occasion in the lives of Ingersoll residents. Hundreds inspected the hospital and to many it was a revelation. It still retained much of the homelike atmosphere, as the alterations necessary to convert it into a hospital had been slight. Yet in equipment and facilities in general, it was considered a complete and modern hospital in every sense of the term. There were 16 rooms and accommodation for 25 patients.

Mayor George Suther-

land, energetic president of the Hospital Trust, gave the address of welcome and voiced hearty appreciation for the assistance from those in all walks of life in bringing the project to maturity.

Postmaster Joseph Gibson made an earnest appeal for financial assistance. Including generous contributions from W.C. Noxon son of the former owner of the building and from Malcolm Schell, M.P. for South Oxford, around \$650 was contributed the day of the opening.

Visitors toured the various wards. One was furnished by the Missionary Circle of the King's Daughters as a public ward for women. Another four bed ward was furnished by Lady Dufferin Chapter IODE. On the second floor there were some beautiful private wards including the Mary A. Coulter Ward furnished by J. Anderson Coulter in memory of his

mother; the Louise Noxon Ward furnished by Mrs. Stephen Noxon in memory of her daughter; the Morrow Ward, furnished by Mrs. John Morrow and the Ingersoll Collegiate ward.

W.C. Noxon supplied the furnishing for the reception room. Fraternal organizations and industrial plants contributed largely toward equipment of public wards.

The first patient, Thomas Pettit arrived September 23, 1909 and the first operation was performed the next day by Dr. J.M. Rogers. In the secretary's first annual report, for the year ending September 30, 1910, the original medical staff was listed as: Dr. J. R. Walker, Dr. A. McKay, Dr. J.A. Neff, Dr. J.B. Coleridge, Dr. D.W. Carroll, Dr. F.D. Canfield, Dr. J.M. Rogers and Dr. Ralph Williams.

(Next week: Mrs. Harper discusses the nursing school and graduates, growing pains and hospital achievements).

Hospital boasts twins and triplets

(This is the second in a series of articles written by Mrs. Norman Harper about the beginning and the early stages of Alexandra Hospital. Mrs. Harper is the daughter of the late George Sutherland, former mayor of Ingersoll and the first chairman of the Alexandra's Board of Trust. Concerned over rumours that Alexandra Hospital will lose its obstetrical ward and prompted by the fear that is being shared by many Ingersoll residents that the town will either completely lose its hospital or see it turned into a chronic care hospital, she has spent hours researching her father's dairies and the early journals which he kept while he worked to make the dream of a hospital for Ingersoll turn into a reality.

Mrs. Harper has said

that she hopes looking back at the struggles people had, to make this dream come true for Ingersoll, will make the present population of the town determined not to allow the nightmare of having the hospital closed, also become a reality.)

BY
GEORGETTA HARPER

Growth and Development

In 1916 the will of the late Dr. D.W. Carroll enabled the Alexandra Hospital Trust to build a new wing to the hospital. Dr. Carroll was a member of one of the earliest pioneer families of Ingersoll, his father having received a grant of land from the Crown.

The doctor had been

severely burned on the night of Ingersoll's Big Fire in 1872. When he attempted to rescue a valuable horse from a burning stable. He was known throughout the community for his generosity and sympathy and his kindly interest in children. It had been Dr. Carroll's wish that the new wing be used as a Sick Children's Hospital, but it was found necessary to make other plans.

The first baby born in Alexandra Hospital was Roy Alexandra Brookfield, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Brookfield of Ingersoll. He was born on March 11, 1911 and Dr. Ralph Williams attended. He still has the silver cup presented to him by the Hospital Trust on the

occasion of his birth.

On February 22, 1916; the first twins were born in Alexandra Hospital. They were Elizabeth and Margaret Taylor, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Taylor and they were also presented with loving cups. The proud father was the chemist at William Stone Sons Limited. Dr. Ralph Williams again attended.

On March 27, 1944, for the first time triplets were born in the local hospital. They were Nancy Marguerite, Alice Grace and Joyce Mable, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Alderson, R.R. 1, Thamesford. Dr. C.A. Osborne attended.

In 1917 the first X-ray machine was installed. Spurgeon Poole, of Foldens contributed \$1,000 to make

this equipment possible. Dr. Jupp of Woodstock was appointed to operate it. Between 1923 and 1928 many improvements were made. A new electric stove and range and an electrically - equipped sterilizer were installed.

Miss Hodges' brother presented an electric dish washing machine. A garage was built, parking space arranged and shrubs planted about the grounds. A course in dietetics was arranged for the nurses-in-training and a Miss Brown, a professional dietician was engaged to give a series of lectures.

Lady Dufferin Chapter, Daughters of the Empire presented a Union Jack. Members of the Trust were increased from eight to 10. In December 1928, a tuberculosis clinic was established. Alexandra Hospital became a member of Ontario Hospital Association.

Women Finally Admitted

Between 1929 and 1932 additional equipment for surgical work was installed. For some time the Board had been considering the advisability of admitting women to the membership of the Board of Trust. Finally at the annual meeting in 1929, two ladies, Mrs. Verne Meek and Mrs. W.F. Drum were added to the Board. In 1930 owing to impaired health Miss Hodges, the superintendent, was granted two months' leave of absence and Miss Janet Pringle, an Ingersoll graduate was appointed acting Superintendent.

Nurses Residence Proposed

In 1934 the Dean property was rented on Thames Street, South as a nurses' residence. By January 1935 preparations were well under way for the opening and Miss Sadie Uren was appointed supervisor. The Trust was to be responsible for the rent and the Women's Auxiliary for the cost of operation.

In 1935 Dr. J.M. Rogers in recognition of his valuable service was made a member of the Trust. Miss Tilling, experienced in operating work, was appointed assistant to Miss Hodges.

In 1936 a chest clinic on the first Wednesday of each month was inaugurated. In 1937 Dr. Rowsom was appointed to take charge of the X-ray machine until the return of Dr. Jupp who had gone on an extended holiday.

Miss Hodges resigned in June 1937. Miss Loretta Anglin was appointed acting superintendent until October 1, 1937 when Mrs. Duff of Welland became

superintendent. November 1937 George Sutherland and J.E. Gayfer in view of outstanding service on the Hospital Trust, were made honorary members. Between 1938 and 1950 T.N. Dunn and R.G. Start were the efficient presidents of the Board of Trustees.

Laboratory Installed

In 1942 a Laboratory was installed. The superintendent and her assistant gradually took over the minor X-ray work and Dr. Rowsom continued to take charge of chest and other important cases. There was an acute shortage of nurses and it was found necessary to increase salaries. The rates of patients then had to be increased as this was the only source of revenue to meet the additional cost. Shortage of housing for nurses was temporarily met by renting rooms in the home of Mrs. F.N. Horton, Oxford Street. In January 1943, Mrs. Duff rendered her resignation and Miss Anglin again took charge until Miss Geraldine Copeland was appointed superintendent March 6, 1943.

Growing Need of New Hospital

The war years were the hospital's most efficient years. Coupled with the ever increasing number of patients seeking treatment and resulting over-crowding, was the inability to get sufficient staff to operate the hospital to its fullest. Almost every available person was either in the forces or in the war industry. However, the Trust advertised for volunteers from women's and other organizations and the people from Ingersoll and area came to the rescue, some offering full-time help others part-time.

And the hospital was able to get by, though repairs had to be made continually to both building and equipment.

The need for a new, bigger modern hospital to serve Ingersoll and the surrounding territory was becoming more and more apparent. In 1942, the medical staff with Dr. C.C. Cornish, as president suggested to the Trust the local industries be approached for donations toward a new hospital. In January 1944, it was decided that the incoming Board of Trustees should be urged to

appoint a committee to proceed with concrete plans to promote erection of a new hospital. In February 1944 the Board of Trustees appointed the "New Hospital Building Committee" for the purpose of devising ways and means, giving publicity and promoting the objective of erecting a new hospital. Their committee was composed of: J.M. Malcolm, K.R. Daniel, R.G. Start, Mrs. James Baxter, Dr. C.C. Cornish and Dr. J.W. Counter. In March, Ingersoll's Town Council made an additional grant of \$1,000. In April Miss Copeland resigned and in January 1945 Mrs. R.L. Smith of Forest took over. During the time from Miss Copeland's leave and the hiring of Mrs. Smith as superintendent, Miss Anglin again carried on as acting superintendent and as always excellently.

A number of representative citizens were added to the "New Hospital Building Committee", which proceeded to canvass local industries for financial assistance. In October 1945 a deputation from the Lion's Club of Ingersoll including Victor Brooks, W.G. Shipton, Percy Tuck and A.G. Murray waited on the Trust and pledged their full cooperation, moral, physical

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and financial to raise funds for a new hospital. The Lions had accumulated surplus funds they wished to subscribe toward the project. The Board sincerely appreciated this offer, and in turn voted to subscribe \$20,000 from the Hospital's reserve funds. Mr. Allan Horton was appointed the Board's representative to co-operate with, and assist the Lions in their campaign.

In March 1946, the County Council set aside \$8,750 for the proposed new hospital, and recommended that the Councils of 1947, 1948 and 1949 set aside a like amount for the same purpose. In November 1946, preparations were made to submit the new hospital question to the ratepayers, members of the Chamber of Commerce and the Women's Auxiliary assisted materially in getting out the vote on the question "Are you in favor of the Council granting \$150,000 and the issuing of debentures therefore to Alexandra Hospital for the purpose of assisting in the building of a new hospital at an estimated cost of \$275,000?" On December 9, 1946 the vote carried 1038 to 414.

Long hospital stays could be numbered, senior citizens told

By ARMITA JANES
Sentinel-Review staff writer

INGERSOLL — Long stays in hospitals will soon be a thing of the past.

Marlene Majernick, director of the Oxford County Home Care program told retirees at Alexandra Hospital Wednesday that the program, within a year, would be restructured into a long-term chronic home care facility.

Health Minister Denis Timbrell is "very much in favor of it," she said.

The obvious reasons are that it will relieve the demand on hospital beds and reduce health costs, she said.

The director compared the \$11.51 a day cost of home care with per diem cost of hospital beds in this area—\$128 in Ingersoll, \$140 in Woodstock and \$200 in London's University Hospital.

The Home Care program now provides nursing services under the direction of the physician to patients after they return home from hospital for a limited time only.

Under the new program, patients would be released from hospital sooner to convalesce at home.

Coun. Jack Warden of Ingersoll, chairman of the Oxford County board of health, said home care is going to increase 100 per cent, with funding from the health ministry.

"We are just waiting for it to strike," he said, "because when it does it will mean more staff and better facilities."

Chronic care people should not be in hospital, Warden said, "and nursing homes don't want them unless they are mobile."

But Alexandra Hospital Administrator Ross Bryant disagrees.

He says the 20 long-term patients now at the hospital could not be looked after in their homes.

However, he foresees the extended home care program bringing about a shift in patients.

By making it possible for older people to stay in their homes longer the pressure on nursing homes should be relieved, he said.

"It would help us," he said. "We have some people here who would like to be in nursing homes, but we can't get them in."

Warden foresees patients being discharged from hospital much sooner after surgery, with dressings being changed and other nursing services provided in the home where it is far less costly.

But with chronic care patients removed and patients returned home soon after surgery, Warden wonders who will be left in the hospitals.

One-third of the 60 beds at Alexandra Hospital are now occupied by chronic care patients.

And by 1981, Alexandra Hospital will have only 53 beds, which would raise the proportion of chronic care beds still higher.

"What do we do with these great big edifices we have built," asked Warden, "if we can't afford to keep them up?"

Hospital costs have now got to the point where they are out of all proportion, he said, and there is no way to bring them down because of the rising cost of fixed expenses which must be met.

Parrott promises Ingersoll hospital will remain open

Dr. Harry Parrott, Oxford MPP and Minister of Environment, emphatically denied Monday night that there was any danger of Ingersoll ever losing its hospital.

"Over my dead body will Ingersoll's hospital close?" Dr. Parrott vowed to a small group of Ingersoll residents who were meeting with Tom Parker, Alexandra Hospital Board's public relations officer.

The meeting was held in the board room of the hospital and was attended by Tom Pavey, Florence James, Herm Lindsey and Yvonne Mott. The informal committee of concerned citizens had asked, in the face of a tremendous amount of public pressure, to meet with someone from the hospital board. That committee was seeking answers to a number of questions that had been raised by the public and also trying to learn how an active citizens committee could be most effective in supporting a battle to retain the services Ingersoll now has in its hospital.

For the past six weeks there has been a serious concern in the town over the fact that under new Ministry policy Alexandra Hospital stands to lose seven more active care beds. Since executive director Ross Bryant, in answer to a question at a Chamber of Commerce directors meeting admitted there was "a possibility", that beds to go could be the obstetrical ward, both the concern and the public reaction have increased significantly.

During the two hour meeting an effort was made to rationalize the Minister of Health's policy statement. Dr. Parrott stressed he felt it was very important that the committee thoroughly understand that policy statement before it took any further action. He revealed he had personally spoken to Dennis Timbrell, telling him of

the concern that was felt in Ingersoll. He said he had been assured by the Minister of Health that he was willing to meet with a committee from Ingersoll and fully explain the policy issued by himself and the ministry.

Dr. Parrott also explained that on planning matters the Minister usually turns to the Thames Valley Health Council for advice on Elgin-Middlesex and Oxford matters and, no doubt in due course a presentation hopefully will be made through them to the Minister of Health."

The citizens committee agreed Monday night that it would be willing to send representatives to Queen's Park, along with representatives from the Hospital Board, to accept the Minister's invitation to meet with him. Tom Parker assured the committee he would make the same recommendation to the Hospital Board and hoped to have their reply within a week.

In the meantime the group of citizens is to formally organize and select a chairman. The committee hopes to be able, following the meeting with Dennis Timbrell, to arrange for a public meeting where citizens can learn the answers to some of the questions that are being asked about the future of the hospital.

Tom Pavey stressed to both Dr. Parrott and Tom Parker that in no way was the committee trying to oppose the hospital board, but rather was trying to bring some answers out into the open and offering to support the board in its fight to maintain in present level of hospital care in Ingersoll.

Dr. Parrott said as soon as he was advised of the decision of the citizens committee and the Hospital Board, he would set up the meeting with Dennis Timbrell.

The Alexandra Hospital saga

When Mrs. Norman Harper, Thames Street North, learned from various sources that there was a possibility that Alexandra Hospital's obstetrical unit might close as a result of the latest cut-backs in beds, she, like many other residents, was extremely upset. Mrs. Harper felt so strongly about the situation that she decided to do something towards making the people of Ingersoll and district aware of what they would be losing and at the same time remind them of the work that had been done by so many people so that Ingersoll could have its own hospital, and one of which they could be proud.

Mrs. Harper immediately started to research the diaries, journals and other papers of her late father, George Sutherland. Mr. Sutherland was once mayor of Ingersoll and also was the first chairman of the Alexandra hospital Trust.

This is the fourth in her series of articles and deals with a description of the hospital as it stood when the cornerstone was laid in 1949.)

BY Georgetta Harper

There were 317,000 bricks used.

Many people raised much money. Some bought a "brick" at a time for 25 cents. Others made large donations. Everybody gave as much as he could.

The girls of the staff and William Stone Sons Ltd., furnished the nurses room; the Good Companions, a nurses station; Oxford county Hadassah and Mr. and Mrs. I.D. Alter, another nurses station; the Lions club, two children's two-bed wards and the Putnam community, the obstetrical case room.

the program for the day announced, "The new hospital is as modern in design and equipment as it is possible for the builders to make it. The essentials such as heating plant, kitchen and laundry, are sufficiently large should the occasion for expansion arise."

In 1949 it was noted with pride that; "On the ground floor are dining rooms and the lounges for nurses and staff, also the laboratory. The nurses dining room and lounge are so arranged that they may be combined into one large room suitable for meetings, the out-patients division with its emergency operating room is on this floor, also the x-ray department. Three separate x-ray services have been installed, the T.B. chest x-ray which it is hoped will serve every patient entering the hospital; the emergency x-ray for fractures and the main x-ray. The last mentioned was placed at a cost of almost \$10,000 and capable of doing the most difficult work.

"On the main floor we find the admittance and the administrative offices and a fine board room to the north of the main lobby. Each floor has a compact utility section consisting of a flower room, diet kitchen, utility room and wash room, all sections built directly above, or below each other in order to obtain the most economical plumbing. On this floor are three four-bed wards, six two-bed wards and four private rooms, each two connected by a lavatory.

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

"The second floor has two four-bed wards and four two-bed wards. On this floor is a very compact and modern obstetrical division with the most up-to-date conveniences and facilities. The pride and joy of this floor is the beautiful nursery containing 14 baby cubicles, each of which is a glass-partitioned complete equipped unit."

"The third floor has not been completed, but has been arranged so that 14 more beds if necessary may be added at a minimum expense. On this floor are the usual utility section, one four-bed ward, two two-bed wards and a surgical section. Of this last division we are particularly proud; it consists of two operating theatres, major and minor, complete sterilizing and clean-up facilities and nurses and doctors rest rooms. Everything in this section has been chosen with the utmost care after consultation with our doctors.

"There are two main stairways, one at either end, and a large semi-automatic elevator placed about the centre of the building and serving all floors. The building is serviced by electricity and gas and is steam heated by stoker-fed coal furnaces. It has been made as fire-proof as possible, the only wood used to any extent being that in the doors. Complete fire-fighting equipment is installed on all floors and, in addition for better service, there is a direct line to the fire hall. In case of a hydro cut-off an emergency lighting unit will furnish light for the operating rooms, the obstetrical room, every third light in the corridors and all emergency exit lights, and in addition will furnish for the water circulator, stokers and elevators."

Hospital feels pinch but beds aren't closing

By GLENN OGILVIE
Sentinel-Review staff writer
INGERSOLL — Spiralling operational costs continue to put the squeeze on Alexandra Hospital and its administrator denies reports that the six-bed nursery will be closed to cover a deficit budget.

Ross Bryant, executive director of the 60-bed hospital, said Thursday initial forecasts indicated the hospital would be running \$30,000 in the red this year, but after six months that amount has almost tripled.

Bryant said in an interview that rumors that the hospital was closing down the nursery to cover the deficit budget, "estimated at \$90,000 now is pure nonsense."

"That's garbage, we're not doing anything like that, certainly not as far as I'm concerned," he said.

"I take my orders from the hospital board and that is what they've decided and I certainly can't imagine me ever saying 'close beds at Alexandra and leave the beds at Tillsonburg and Woodstock alone'...that's just unfathomable," he said.

Bryant has blamed higher costs of surgical supplies, drugs, wages, and energy for causing the forecast deficit along with provincial restraints of four per cent increases.

He said one of the main un-

forseen costs was unionization of another department in the hospital this year along with a couple of arbitrary wage settlements.

"We've been living with a five per cent increase on our own budget and then along comes an arbitration award giving eight per cent in salary or benefits, normal inflation increases for hydro and natural gas might be 10 per cent, 20 per cent for drugs, and around 30 per cent for surgical supplies," he said.

"With those kinds of increases it doesn't take long to see a four per cent increase disappear. It may be a sign of the times, but certainly four per cent increases for hospital budgets will not go very far with this type of thing happening."

Bryant said the solution to deficit budgets — common in smaller hospitals — is not necessarily more money.

"We have to take a look at the number of beds we have and what kinds of services we are providing to the community. It

will certainly take more than a four or five per cent increase," he said.

"I haven't talked with any of my peers where they have a balanced budget for this fiscal year. They are all running some form of deficit budget," he said. Bryant said smaller hospitals have less flexibility to make changes and cuts to programs than larger hospitals.

"It's not very easy to take beds out of service... you could lose your whole program you are providing to the community," he said. "If you take too many services away in order to balance a budget we'd find we're operating a first aid station and consequently we would not provide the community with services needed by the people who live here and pay the taxes."

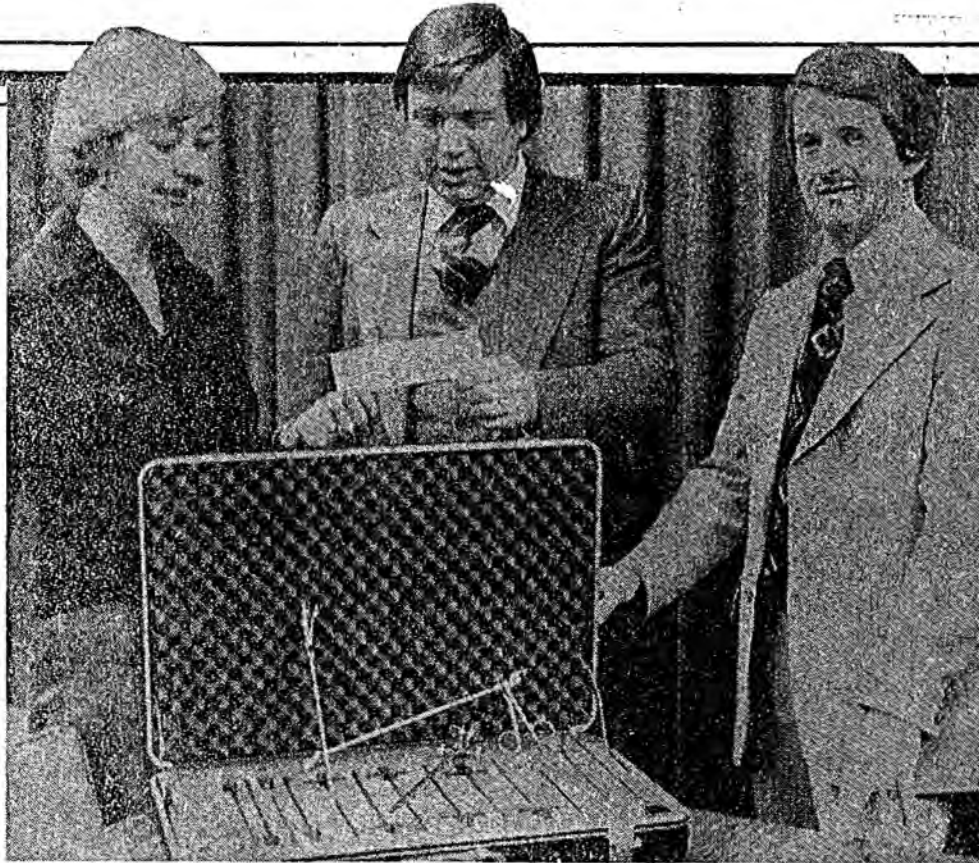
He said hospitals must look at community programs and services provided and decide what is important to keep the hospital viable and alive.

Bryant said the Alexandra

Hospital along with Tillsonburg and Woodstock hospitals have been working with the Thames Valley District Health Council to look at the community role of the hospital and what kind of services they are providing.

"But that's a project and there is nothing conclusive out of that whatsoever at this point," he said.

He said the project is in preliminary stages of organization and results would not be known for some time.



Anthea Warma, (left) president of the Alexandra Hospital Auxiliary presented the hospital with a \$7,000 cheque which goes towards the hospital's equipment needs. Receiving the cheque is hospital board chairman Allan Ward (centre) who is flanked by the hospital's executive director Ross Bryant.

In the foreground is a cystoscope, which is valued at \$5,000. A total of \$11,000 worth of equipment was purchased.

No more fund raising events have been planned between now and the end of the fiscal year, so the auxiliary is relying on the gift shop and television rentals to raise the remaining \$4,000 needed.

\$11,000 equipment donated to hospital from ladies auxiliary

BY C. J. CLARK

A total of \$11,000 worth of equipment has been purchased for Alexandra Hospital by the hospital's auxiliary and a big chunk of that amount was presented in the form of a cheque on Monday.

Anthea Warma, president of the hospital's auxiliary, presented Ross Bryant, executive director, and Allan Ward, hospital board chairman, with a cheque totalling \$7,000.

The remaining \$4,000 must be paid by the end of the fiscal year, March 31, and Mrs. Warma is confident that the auxiliary can do it. But she notes it will be close.

The 150-member hospital

auxiliary raised the initial \$7,000 through many fund-raising methods. Proceeds from the Alexandra Hospital Gift Shop and television rental are just two ways money has been raised to buy new equipment for the local hospital.

They also held a gourmet sale in November, a tea in May and then there was a quilt draw.

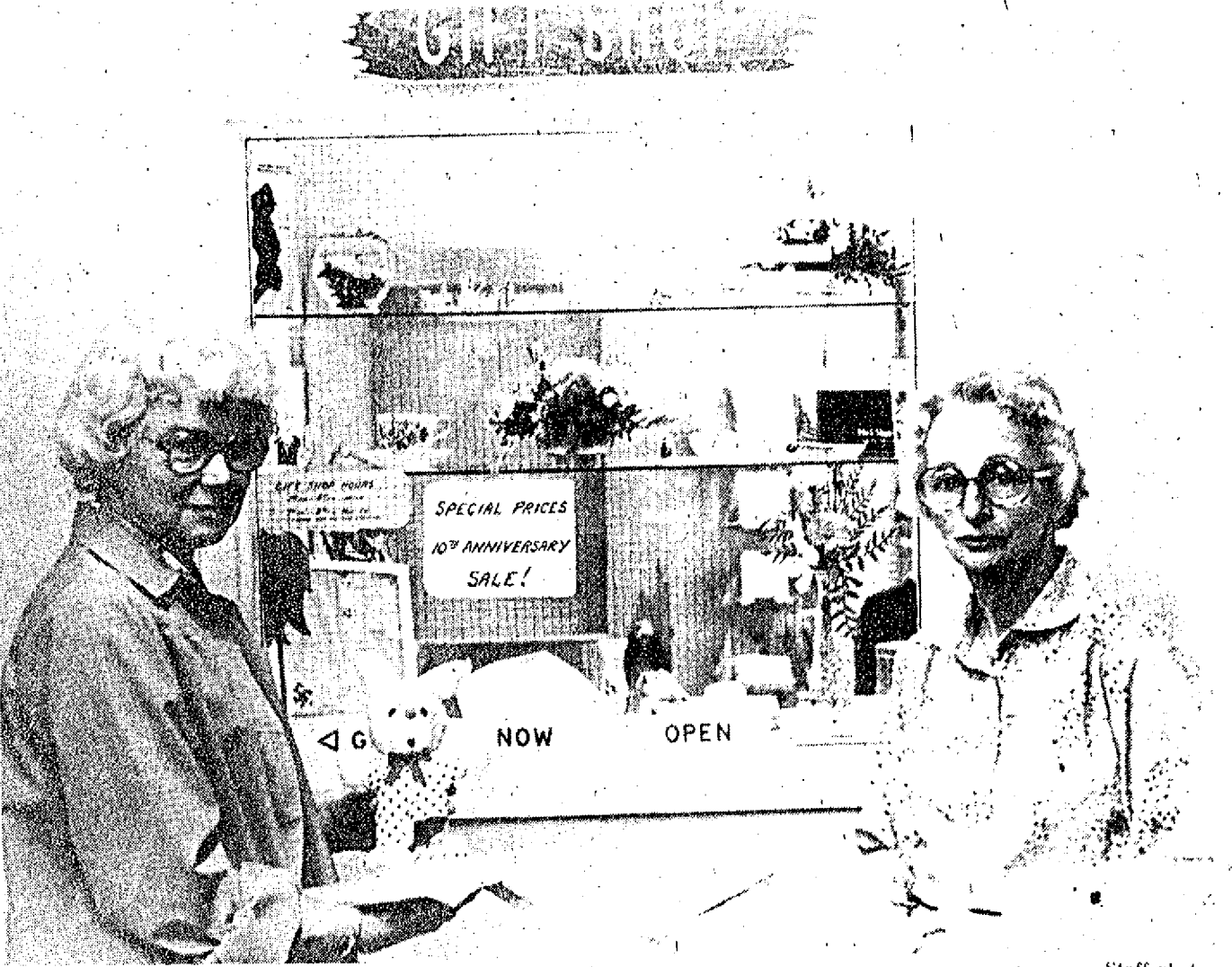
"The hospital needs to keep their equipment updated if it wishes to remain accredited," Warma said. She pointed out that the auxiliary is given a list of needs, and they are needs, and the hospital group does its utmost to raise the funds.

This year's \$11,000 went towards several pieces of equipment. A cystoscope,

valued at \$5,000, allows surgeons to see inside the bladder.

Also purchased were two commode chairs for patients, an anesthetic machine and a giant muscle stimulator for the physiotherapy department.

No more special fund raising events have been lined up between now and the end of the fiscal year.



— Staff photo

TEN YEARS YOUNG

The 10th Anniversary of Alexandra Hospital's gift shop was this week and members of the ladies auxiliary gathered for their spring meeting to commemorate the special day. Co-

convenors of the store Violet Petrie (left) and Lee Watkins display some of the merchandise which is available there.

Alexandra Hospital Auxiliary holds annual meeting

The annual meeting of the Alexandra Hospital Auxiliary was held on Monday April 21 at 2 p.m. The meeting was opened with the Auxiliary prayer and our president Anthea Warma gave a cordial welcome to all. The annual reports were given and it is estimated that 2,683 volunteer hours were given during the last year. A few

more items were purchased for the Quiet Room on the third floor of the hospital. At Christmas all the patients in the hospital received roses and the first baby born in the New Year received a sweater set from the Auxiliary. For each special holiday tray favors were provided both for patients in hospital as well as for recipients of meals on wheels. Special thanks was expressed to the many knitters who keep the Gift Shop supplied with lovely items. The Gift Shop

is the main source of income for the Auxiliary closely followed by the revenue from the TV rentals.

The executive for 1980-81 is as follows: Jean McDougall, past president and treasurer; Anthea Warma, president; Naomi Bree, president elect; Mary Hawkins, vice-president; Barbara Westman, vice-

president of equal standings; Bonnie Rae, vice-president of equal standings; Iva Stringer, recording secretary; Bertha Loynd, corresponding secretary; Barbara Newell, press rep.

The Convenors are the following: gift shop, Violet Petrie and Lee Watkins; volunteers Louise Roberts; program, Barbara Westman; volunteers, Eileen Ridolls; tray favors, Betty

Johnson; TV, Cliff Smith and Joy Foster; historian, Maude Fleisher

Mr. Ross Bryant announced that the hospital's annual meeting is to be held June 10, 1980. He stated also that the hospital at present is involved in a cost containment program which will take about 10 to 16 weeks to complete.

The Florence Nightingale Tea will be held on May 8 2-4 p.m. at the hospital. There will be a country store and bake

table as well as a penny sale.

Other up coming events are an auction to be held in June and some ladies are starting to work on a quilt to be raffled in the fall.

The business part of the meeting was adjourned and Helen Talbot gave a very informative talk on her work as an occupational physiotherapist while the members enjoyed a cup of tea.

Alexandra Hospital heading for \$108,000 deficit

By JOE KONECNY

Sentinel-Review staff writer

INGERSOLL — Alexandra Hospital's 1980 operational budget contains the largest projected deficit in the institution's history, Executive Director Ross Bryant announced Monday.

The \$2.3 million budget was approved late last month — the fiscal year starts April 1 — and after Ontario government funding, the hospital still needs \$108,000, Bryant said.

And figures used to calculate the 1980 budget are expected to be lower than actual cost of budgeted items due to spiralling inflation, he added.

"I am not optimistic these figures will stand up," Bryant said in an interview.

Last year's \$2.2 million budget included a projected deficit of \$30,000, but a provincial appeal program provided \$27,000 to erase much of the red ink.

number of methods which could be used to fill the hole in the budget.

Paring money from other departments' projections or obtaining a loan are possible alternatives, he added.

Bryant was pleased to announce hospital staff and the services they provide will not be cut back.

Each of the 60 beds currently in use and the 100 fulltime plus 50 parttime workers will be maintained.

"This was the most difficult budget I have projected," Bryant said.

Nation-wide instability of the economy — coupled with inflation — made it difficult to calculate costs, he said.

"Sometimes it was like taking a stab in the dark. Last year I couldn't believe how prices rose just within a three month period...it was just incredible."

"I don't think there are any luxuries in this budget either," he added. "The little things add up."

But Bryant is still waiting for the appeal program to be reinstated this year. In 1979 the program was announced in January.

The executive director said the 1979 deficit would have topped the \$60,000 mark if the hospital board hadn't decided to purchase laundry services instead of using in-house facilities. Three workers were laid off in that scheme.

Deficits as large as the one approved this year could not be weathered for more than two years without the situation reaching crisis proportion, he said. Two years ago, \$30,000 of the budget monies were returned to the provincial government unused.

"If the deficit grows (beyond the \$108,000 mark) there may be no stopping it in the coming years," he added.

"Half way through this fiscal year we should know how this budget will work out."

Bryant said the hospital board of directors will consider a

As an example, Bryant cited the ever changing price of silver.

Cost of film for the hospital x-ray machine — which contains silver — rose to \$1,200 per package from about \$450.

Bryant said compared to 31 Ontario hospitals which are about the same size as Alexandra, the Ingersoll institution is "in the middle of the pack" when budgets are compared.

Keeping in line with those hospitals, Bryant said salaries in the 1980 budget claim 80 per cent of funds. Last year, wages rose at inflation-rate levels.

"This is a labour intensive industry," Bryant said. He added labour union activity in two of the hospital's twelve departments increased last year and the number of workers' demands have at least doubled.

Cost for hospital beds remained the same. A ward bed still costs \$138, a semi-private bed is \$150 and a private bed costs \$160.

Two years ago, a ward bed cost \$129.

Estimated equipment costs rose to \$68,000 compared to last year's total of \$54,000 with about three-quarters of the 1980 figure representing the replacement of obsolete or aging paraphenalia.

"I don't expect one of our equipment price estimates to hold," Bryant said, rehashing his displeasure with inflation.

He plans to implement the same equipment buying scheme used last year when all purchases were made within the first three months of the fiscal year to avoid soaring costs.

The hospital auxilliary plays a vital role in the purchase of equipment. During the past two years, they've contributed more than \$20,000 to the cause.

A blood counter system is the most expensive piece of machinery on the list — \$9,500 — while most equipment requests were in the \$1,000 category.

About 10 per cent of the projected budget will be devoted to drug costs, Bryant said, and 25 per cent towards cost of natural gas. Again, Bryant said he expects the costs to change before the end of the fiscal year.

Hospital staff using program to cut costs

INGERSOLL — A cost effectiveness program (CEP) at Alexandra Hospital is expected to ease the pain of a \$108,000 projected deficit included in the institution's 1980 budget.

The 20 week scheme was developed by the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) with a primary objective of saving dollars.

CEP was initially slated to be implemented in the fall, but premonitions of the budget deficit showed the need for an earlier starting date.

Executive Director Ross Bryant said since CEP was set up on April 8, about \$10,000 worth of savings have been logged and if that trend continues, the deficit will be reduced substantially.

Hospital department heads compile lists of methods to save time and money, Bryant said. Their recommendations will be reviewed by the hospital board of directors before changes are made.

"I guess I can just express optimism about this program," he added.

"It makes darn good and sure that what we do, we do well...a self help program."

The OHA charged participating hospitals \$5,000 for use of the plan.

A pamphlet published by the OHA says the program was successfully tested in four Ontario hospitals.

The document also stated the objectives of CEP are "problem recognition and solution, productivity improvement, better resource utilization, dollar savings and management development".

"CEP is a unique hospital-operated management initiative," the brochure states. "Because its developmental costs have been underwritten by the ministry of health, it can be offered at a fee well below other cost reduction services."



Ross Bryant
...hospital boss

HOSPITALS:

Surgery increase brings higher deficits

By JOE KONECNY
Sentinel-Review staff writer
INGERSOLL — It never rains, but it pours.

That old cliché must be flashing through the mind of Alexandra Hospital's executive director Ross Bryant.

After compiling a financial report for April and May, he detected an "unusual" jump in the number of surgeries.

And the spin-off effect is not only causing unseasonably high patient volumes in some of the hospital's 12 departments, but it's also adding to the \$9,000 monthly deficit.

The institution is operating with a \$2.3 million budget and a projected \$108,000 deficit which is holding true.

Surgeries have increased by 38 during April and May, compared to budgeted figures which are based on previous years' totals, Bryant said.

The budget provides for 128 operations, while 166 were already performed.

That amounts to an increase of

303 patient-days in the hospital during the same time span, he added.

PATIENT-DAYS

By this time last year, the number of patient-days reached 2,942, but so far in 1980 the figure has risen to 3,245.

Bryant said much of the extra expense caused by the surgery boom are covering staff overtime salaries, while supplies and bedding also claimed their share of the cash.

"It has never been this high during the first two months," Bryant said. "And I don't see any (future) changes in it at all."

"We're not doing anything different this year, but it's costing us...there's more demand than there is money."

"It is usually quiet during the summer and we often close wards...let the staff take vacations and make economies there," he added. "But money is second when it comes to caring for patients."

It's uncommon, but each of



ROSS BRYANT
Costs are rising

the hospital's 60 beds are full now, Bryant said.

Total admission to the hospital was 254 during April and May, while the budget provided for 256.

Alexandra has 40 medical surgical beds and Bryant budgeted for them to be 76 per cent full during April and May, but 79 per cent were occupied.

TAKEN TOLL

The number of surgeries has taken its toll in the physiotherapy ward too. Treatments there are up by 10 per cent.

And the laboratory's duties have increased by 10 per cent too.

More patients means the number of meals must increase also, he said.

Already, the hospital has logged 4,500 meal-days — with three lunches provided every 24 hours — compared to the budgeted figure of 4,000.

Alexandra's 20 chronic care beds are busy too.

In the budget, Bryant forecast the chronic ward would be 90 per

cent full. But they've been 108 per cent full and alternative beds were set up in other areas — including the sun room — to accommodate the overflow.

"We're having a year like no other for some reason," Bryant said.

"It is as busy now as it was in April."

Although the number of surgeries was up last year compared to budgeted figures, total patient-days were lower. **REMAINED**

During April and May of 1979, 153 operations were conducted while the budget allowed for only 120.

But patients remained in hospital for 3,037 days when the budget provided for 3,100.

"We had a quiet year last year," Bryant recalled, noting the closure of one ward for six weeks.

In 1978, a ward was shut down for a month.

"You never can tell, but I don't anticipate closing a ward this year," Bryant said.

SENTINEL-REVIEW
July 15, 1980

Higher technology attracts patients

INGERSOLL — Ironically, one cause of rising surgery cases at Alexandra Hospital is something to be proud of.

Increased technology and new medical practices are attracting more people, but in turn contributing to the institution's \$108,000 deficit.

In the past, people sought more advanced facilities out of town, but an increase in services offered in Ingersoll is bucking the tradition, Alexandra's executive director Ross Bryant said.

"During the past two years, people went out of this community to see doctors and have surgery and when they do that it affects the hospital," he said.

"But now those people are asking themselves 'why go to London when it can be done here?'. London is the most common alternative."

Numerous services were added to the hospital's repertoire, including an up-beat in one-day surgery cases.

The number of surgeries is rising drastically at Alexandra and 27 per cent of recent operations were done in a day.

"It is a trend and it's growing," Bryant said.

RELEASED

Customarily, surgery patients at least spent the days before and after the operation in hospital.

But now many people can be admitted in the morning and released in the afternoon.

About half the surgeries completed in Mississauga are day care cases, the executive director said.

"They're more convenient and patients seem to like them," he added. "And the public is becoming more aware of it now too."

Bryant said the change isn't reckless. It emerged naturally. North American doctors discovered many cases don't require prolonged stays in hospital, he added.

"Patients don't leave until they meet hospital qualifications."

Successful completion of a 10-step test is necessary.

"Patients must be able to function very well...they can't just be able to open their eyes and walk," Bryant said.

After leaving the hospital, patient care is handled primarily by public health units and home-care teams, he added.

SPECIALISTS

Also adding to the surgery work-load are recent additions of specialized doctors.

Internal medical specialists — who perform internal examinations without operating — have attended the institution weekly for the past two years.

Orthopedic surgery was introduced to Alexandra at about the same time.

And a cardiology specialist recently joined the hospital staff.

More gynecological and obstetric work — examinations and surgery — were detected since another doctor was hired to boost that specialized staff to two.

"All of these are having an effect on the hospital," Bryant said.

"I don't mind being as busy as we are. We're a hospital and that's what we're here for."

Hospital's 'volunteens' help

By JOE KONECNY

Sentinel-Review staff writer

INGERSOLL — Finding time for supper isn't a problem for the nursing staff at Alexandra Hospital.

For years a thriving interest in the institution's volunteer teenage assistance program has eased much of the burden on nurses.

Formerly called Candy Strippers due to the red and white striped smocks they wear, "Volunteens" are students who donate their after-school hours to help hospital staff with everyday chores.

They usually arrive for work at the supper hour and their daily two-hour shifts not only allow nurses to take a breather, but they also make patients' stays in the hospital more enjoyable.

More than 40 teenagers — students from Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute — are registered in the program this year.

Project co-ordinator Eileen Riddolls said there's something magical about young faces that makes patients' days in the hospital seem shorter.

She said Volunteens' role is "just to be pleasant and to make sure the patients are comfortable."

FOOD CARTS

A Volunteen's job starts at 4:30 p.m. She records the start of her shift by signing a book at the admission desk. Usually two Volunteens work together each night.

Free lunch — consisting of soup, a cookie and a drink — is provided shortly after they arrive at the hospital.

Ten minutes later, the Volunteens head to the kitchen to intercept food carts for delivery to patients.

If some of the bed-ridden are

unable to feed themselves; the Volunteens courteously assume the chore. Then dirty dishes are returned to the kitchen.

Flowers, plants or newspapers left for patients at the admission desk are delivered by the teenagers.

Sometimes the Volunteens entertain patients with games.

"Be sure to talk to the patients," Mrs. Riddolls' job outline states.

"Read or point out items of interest from newspapers to them. Always remember to be pleasant and useful."

To conclude the evening, the budding nurses record the number of hours worked at the administration desk. On weekdays they work until 6:30 p.m. and weekends they work between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

EXPERIENCE

There are no monetary rewards, Mrs. Riddolls said, but it's a great learning experience for the teenagers and their maturity is enhanced too.

"It does something to their character...it makes them more sympathetic and understanding with elderly people.

"There's quite a gap at first (during Volunteens' first few days on the job), but I've noticed a difference as time passes.

"They get freer as time goes by and you can see them maturing as the year goes by."

The program is arranged in co-operation with the IDCI guidance department. The opportunity is announced in the classrooms during the first month of school and interested teenagers apply.

Often their move reflects an interest in the nursing profession.

"It gives them a chance to see what goes on in a hospital and allows them to choose a field,"

Mrs. Riddolls said.

CAREER

"From my experience here I would say this program would encourage me to go into a nursing career," she added.

Mrs. Riddolls noted her lack of knowledge about nursing diminished rapidly after she took over the program two years ago.

"Quite a few girls become Volunteens so they can go on to be nurses," she said.

Being a Volunteen provides a different outlook on life and death, she said, and "girls will lose any fears of being in hospitals."

The Volunteens come into contact with patients of all ages. But aside from the duties detailed on their job outline, Volunteens need a nurse's approval before accepting extra responsibilities.

Although all of the Volunteens are traditionally female, Mrs. Riddolls would like to see more

young men participating in the program.

"We've had a few male names on our lists in previous years, but they never show up," she said.

The length of Volunteens' work period depends on the individual and although she encourages punctuality and

patients and staff

good behavior, there are no set rules.

After a Volunteen has worked 50 hours, the Ontario Hospital Auxiliaries Association (OHAA) — which spearheads the program — presents the girl with a striped cap similar to those worn by nurses.

The OHAA provides red cap

bands to girls who work 100 hours and the ultimate achievement award is an attractive lapel pin after 200 work-hours are logged.

Mrs. Riddolls said normally the lapel pins are earned after about three years of work.

This year's Cheese and Wine Festival Queen Cindy Finley is

one of the fortunate Volunteens to be awarded a lapel pin.

SENTINEL-REVIEW

September 27, 1970

Inspectors to check Alexandra

Bryant hopes for three year approval

By JOE KONECNY

Sentinel-Review staff writer
INGERSOLL — Alexandra
Hospital will be under a
magnifying glass on Oct. 16 and
17.

Inspectors from the Canadian
Council on Hospital
Accreditation (CCHA) will visit
the institution on those days to
scrutinize the quality of health
care.

Since 1958, when a voluntary
CCHA self-help program for
hospitals was initiated, Alexandra
was among the growing number of
accredited hospitals. In 1979 about
83 per cent of Ontario hospitals
held that status.

Accreditation is a program
which indicates that the admin-
istration and operation, some
statistics, the number of qualified
staff members, equipment and the
physical plant conform to national
standards recognized professionally
and legally, according to a CCHA
pamphlet.

Alexandra executive director
Ross Bryant said two inspectors
will check the efficiency of every
duty performed in the hospital.

Much of their investigation is
conducted through analysing
various reports compiled by
hospital staff.

Before the inspectors arrive,
hospital department heads must
contribute to a 30-page report on
the duties of their staff.

The frequency of inspections
depends largely on CCHA findings
at hospitals during previous
checks.

A three-year accreditation is
the longest period awarded. The
CCHA pamphlet defines this to

mean "Standards are met or
surpassed for all essential
functions — any weaknesses are
of a minor nature.

"(The) hospital is operating in
a consistent, progressive
manner."

A one-year approval indicates
"serious weaknesses in
essential functions which could
and should be remedied within
one year.

Although a hospital couldn't
be shut down if the CCHA
standards aren't met, "it would
lose face", Bryant said.

Bryant said he follows CCHA
guidelines religiously.

Alexandra has attained a
three-year accreditation on
several occasions in the past,
Bryant said, and it was never
handed the one-year
probationary period.

Two years ago, accreditation
was attained by the local
hospital and that period ended in
January.

Inspectors made some
recommendations for im-
provement in 1978, but they
"weren't anything monumen-
tal", Bryant said.

The inspectors made as many
complementary remarks as
suggestions for improvement,
he added.

At that time, the hospital staff
was in the process of rewriting a
disaster relief plan. And one
recommendation made by in-
spectors was to test the plan.

Later the test was completed,
Bryant said, but he still believes
Alexandra would have been
granted accreditation for three
years if the disaster plan had
been finished earlier.

The dietary department, a key
area in all hospitals, was highly

praised, Bryant said.

This year, inspectors will
probably pay close attention to
two audit systems set up in the
hospital in 1978, he speculated.

AUDIT

A medical audit — where
doctors complement or criticize
the practices of their coun-
terparts — and a similar nursing
audit are running smoothly now,
Bryant said.

"They're in place and they
work...both groups have worked
diligently to keep the audits in
line."

Bryant said he's expecting to
receive a three-year rating
when the inspectors' final report
is published in about three
months.

"We've taken care of all
previous recommendations," he
said, noting they were im-
plemented shortly after the
suggestions were tabled.

"We didn't wait until the last
minute.

"We were ready for the in-
spectors in February," he ad-
ded.

"This is an awfully good way
to look at yourself."

SENTINEL-REVIEW
October 7, 1980

Hospital filled to overcrowding

By JOE KONECNY
Sentinel-Review staff writer
INGERSOLL — It's not too easy to find a bed at Alexandra Hospital these days — even if you're sick.

The 60-bed institution is now caring for 63 patients.

And due to the overflow, accommodation of in-coming patients is restricted to emergency cases only.

Alexandra's executive director Ross Bryant said Thursday some of the extra patients are kept in the sun room and others have filled beds in the children's ward.

If the trend continues, a vacant bed in the nursery ward might be employed to accommodate a woman, he added, and once that's occupied the hospital's last resort is to refer patients to out-of-town institutions.

Winter's fury adds to Bryant's problems since there's a greater chance of emergency cases during adverse weather.

"We need services that we don't have and I don't know where the answer lies," he said in an interview.

"The demand is there and we can't just turn them away.

BEDS FILLED

"If occupancy stays this way we'll be required to review our hospitalized patients to determine if they can be discharged."

Bryant said Alexandra's beds have been filled since the start of the fiscal year in April.

A similar crisis arose earlier

in 1980 when a patient was treated in the emergency ward and, since there wasn't an empty bed, the patient was referred to another hospital, he added. He couldn't recall another incident.

"There's pressure on all hospitals in Ontario," Bryant said.

"(The health ministry) decreased bed ratios across the province and it's starting to hurt a little bit."

The root of the problem at Alexandra is an over-populated chronic-care ward.

More than 30 patients fill the ward, which normally accommodates 20. Last year, the ward was only 80 per cent full.

The logical alternative is to transfer some of the chronic patients to nursing homes, Bryant said, but local nursing homes already have long waiting lists.

NO RESULTS

The Oxford County Regional Nursing Home on Wonham Street reported all of its 80 beds are filled, he added.

Bryant said the District Health Council's recent study on the topic advocates the need for more nursing homes, but there are no visible results yet.

Another possible solution is to discharge patients to their homes "so doctors can admit people who are more sick" and leave their recovery care in the hands of the Victorian Order of Nurses and other similar groups.

Patient volumes may increase projected deficit

INGERSOLL — Excessive patient volumes at Alexandra Hospital could enlarge the institution's projected \$108,000 deficit for 1980.

"We're half way through the budget year and we're half way to that deficit," Alexandra's executive director Ross Bryant said.

"But if (hospital population trends) continue, we could easily exceed the budgeted deficit."

"The increase in patient-days shoves costs up a bit."

Inflation is another factor troubling the budget, Bryant said.

Budgeted funds for some supplies — many of which are imported from the United States — are about 10 to 20 per cent short of inflated costs, he said.

And the cost of U.S. supplies reflects the country's inflation plus the exchange rate.

In the past, hospital suppliers quoted prices for six-month periods, but now their prices are

listed monthly, Bryant added.

"I guess that's what they call the ravages of inflation."

Stemming from rising inflation, hospital staff contract settlements this year have all exceeded the health ministry's 7.5 per cent guidelines.

Two contracts have been negotiated and one is still in arbitration, but Bryant is sure it will exceed guideline figures.

Growing gas and telephone bills only compound the problem, he added.

Last year, Alexandra received a \$27,000 appeal grant from the ministry to cover the 1979 budget.

The ministry is currently reviewing this year's appeal, but so far the money hasn't arrived.

If the ministry doesn't come through, the hospital's only alternative is to apply to money lending institutions.

"But you can't run a company that way and that's what we have here, a company."

Chronic care need crowding hospital

INGERSOLL (Bureau) — A lack of chronic-care facilities is causing severe overcrowding at Alexandra Hospital here, placing a strain on a projected \$108,000 budget deficit, the hospital's executive director said Friday.

Ross Bryant said he cannot see an immediate solution, adding that if the trend continues patients needing surgery may be affected.

On Friday, the 60-bed hospital had 62 patients, with the extra two accommodated in sun rooms. The overcrowding is caused by chronic-care patients, mostly elderly, he said. The hospital has 30 chronic-care patients but only a 20-bed chronic-care ward.

There are also four chronic-care patients making up the hospital's waiting list. They are staying with relatives or in out-of-town facilities. The chronic-care ward has been running at more than capacity off and on since April, having averaged 86 per cent last year.

Bryant said that so far the hospital has been lucky in handling the overflow with part-time nurses used during the summer and still available on a day-to-day basis.

There have also not been any cases where surgery has been cancelled because an average of 34 per cent of surgery has been day surgery, not requiring an overnight stay.

However, the added cost of chronic care — laundry bills are up \$5,000 while food costs are \$4,000 more than projected — will mean the hospital's \$108,000 projected deficit will be a reality and may even go higher, Bryant said.

He said the hospital has applied to the ministry of health for additional money to cover the deficit.

The hospital is working closely with the town's only nursing home — the Oxford County Regional Centre — but it is filled and has a waiting list.

Nursing home assistant administrator Gladys Green said she is giving the hospital first choice of vacancies. In the past she kept a balance between patients from the hospital and community.

She said one of the problems is the patients themselves. Green said last week there were two vacancies in semi-private rooms but chronic-care patients at the hospital said they couldn't afford them, preferring a ward room at the home instead.

The cost of a semi-private room is \$499.43 a month compared with \$347.35 for a ward. The 80-bed privately run home has 44 ward beds, eight private and 28 semi-private.

Asked if there is a need for another nursing home in the community, Green said: "I'm sure if we had another 10 beds here they'd be filled, but I'm not sure if another 60-bed nursing home would be filled either."

Bryant said the hospital is working with the Thames Valley district health council to find a solution to the problem.



FIRST BABY OF '81 AT ALEXANDRA

It's a boy again. Beth Payne of Woodstock gave birth to Alexandra Hospital's first baby of the new year — her third son. Mrs. Payne, wife of Robert, was admitted to hospital at 1:45 p.m. Monday night and the birth was

logged at 3:42 p.m. The as yet unnamed child weighed seven pounds, 15 ounces. Dr. Tom Mayberry made the delivery.

(Staff photo by Joe Konecny)

SENTINEL REVIEW
January 8, 1981

Facilities kept at maximum levels

Hospital saw an increase in usage during the year

INGERSOLL — Alexandra Hospital experienced one of its busiest years in some time during 1980.

For the first time since 1977, the hospital's workload during the summer months peaked.

And instead of closing one wing in the building to lower operating costs, all facilities and staff in each of the 12 departments were maximized.

The hospital's 60 beds were full for much of the year. In fact, areas such as the sun room were used frequently to house the unusual patient excess.

Hospital executive director Ross Bryant said the cause for the overflow was caused by an "unusual jump" in the number of surgeries, coupled with a large increase in patient-days, he said.

The hospital averaged a 115 per cent occupancy rate in chronic care beds, while budgeted figures called for about a 95 per cent occupancy.

At times, occupancy of medicine beds reached 150 per cent.

The occupancy rate had far-reaching consequences. Each department felt a spin-off effect.

And that threatened to substantially increase Alexandra's projected \$108,000 budget deficit.

But through various means — including a health ministry appeal grant — the hospital managed to handle the volume and whittle its budget deficit to about \$55,000.

Ironically, one cause of rising surgery cases at the hospital is something to be proud of.

Increased technology and new medical practices attracted more patients.

In the past, people sought more advanced facilities out of town, but an increase of services offered here bucked that tradition, Bryant added.

"During the past two years, people went out of this community to see doctors and have surgery and when they do that it affects this hospital.

"Now those people are asking themselves 'why go to London when it can be done here?'"

One of the newest developments at Alexandra was an increase in the number of day-surgery cases. About 27 per cent of surgeries were done in a day.

Also adding to the surgery work-load are recent additions of specialized doctors, often

shared with major hospitals.

Internal medical specialists — who perform internal examinations without operating — have attended the institution weekly for the past two years.

Orthopedic surgery was introduced to Alexandra at about the same time.

And a cardiology specialist

recently joined the hospital staff.

More gynecological and obstetric work — examinations and surgery — were noted since another doctor was hired to boost that specialized staff to two.

"All of these are having an effect on the hospital," Bryant said.

"I don't mind being as busy as we are. We're a hospital and that's what we're here for."

Bryant said the main reason why Alexandra was able to cope with its problems was due to the institution's board of directors.

"You can't do things like that if you don't have progressive minded trustees.

SENTINEL-REVIEW

April 7, 1981

At the hospital

Shared services may solve some financial problems

By JOE KONECNY
Sentinel-Review staff writer

INGERSOLL. — Shared hospital services may be the cure that Alexandra Hospital executive director Ross Bryant has been looking for.

Even though financial ailments still trouble the local institution as it prepares to wrap up its 1981 budget, there appears to be hope in the future.

A money-saving trend that grew during 1980 may prove to be a step towards assisting all financially troubled hospitals in Ontario, Bryant speculated in an interview.

"If you're looking at progress, you're looking at shared services," he said.

When Alexandra's fiscal year started in April, the hospital faced a projected budget deficit of about \$108,000. That figure dwindled to \$90,000 months later thanks to various in-house money-saving schemes.

And an appeal for more funding to the health ministry paid off and whittled the deficit to \$55,000 as of Jan. 1.

REWARDING

By sharing staff and services with other institutions — especially London's University Hospital — Alexandra has managed to pare money from its expense account and still maintain adequate services.

And the concept appears rewarding not only to Alexandra, but to the ministry as well.

The ministry is monitoring the shared services program, perhaps with thoughts of implementing it on a province-wide scale, Bryant speculated.

"Shared services are expanding now and they are letting us offer the same kind of services as University Hospital and

we're a much smaller community.

"University Hospital is a model in the shared services program and the ministry is monitoring it."

Bryant said Alexandra got its first taste of the program two years ago when hospital directors opted to share laundry services with 17 other institutions.

The hospitals hired an outside company to do the work.

By handling 15 million pounds of linen per year, the company saves the participating hospitals a bundle of money, Bryant added.

KEEPS PACE

Through the shared services program, University Hospital ensures that Alexandra keeps pace with technological advances.

The local hospital has an ample supply of modern medical equipment, but it can't afford to pay the specialists to maintain it. So University Hospital maintenance workers keep the equipment running efficiently.

Medical specialists, clinical engineers, specialized electricians and monitoring equipment maintenance men also share their time and knowledge in the same manner.

Alexandra also shares its dietician with Tillsonburg District Memorial. The dietician is employed here for two days and in Tillsonburg for three.

How will shared services fit into the future?

"As computers become more popular, there will be a shared system," Bryant speculated.

Staff development programs and labor relations could also be effected by the program, he added.

"There are a lot of things we can look at.

"Part of progress is planning and we'll have to be aware of what's going on in the rest of the country."

Hospital auxiliary holds annual meet

The annual meeting of the Alexandra Hospital was held Monday afternoon and Bonnie Rae was elected president for the ensuing year. She succeeds past president Anthea Warma.

Other officers elected include vice presidents Mary Hawkins and Barbara Westman; secretary Iva Stringer; assistant secretary, Maude Fleischer; corresponding secretary Sheila O'Neill; treasurer Jean MacDougall and press and public relations Barbara Newell.

Two donations were also made at the meeting. The

auxiliary presented a cheque to hospital administrator Ross Bryant for the purchase of new equipment. Another donation was made to the Memorial Fund in memory of Dr. George Emery.

It was announced Father William, a former Ingersoll resident, will be guest speaker at the Spring Conference slated for April 27 in Exeter.

The annual Florence Nightingale Tea has been set for Thursday, May 14.

The auxiliary's next regular meeting is Monday, May 25.

INGERSOLL TIMES

April 15, 1981

Former Noxon home was town's first hospital

Alexandra Hospital came about as a result of the generosity of a local physician Dr. Angus McKay in the early 1900's. He purchased a beautiful castle-like home from James Noxon who had built the estate on Noxon Street in 1874, and sold the home to be used as a hospital.

In 1909, the need for a hospital in Ingersoll was growing as there were only private hospitals and private nurses available for medical service. There was a sanatorium run by a trained nurse and an assistant, but this was not what the area residents desired, so the medical people in the community rooted the idea

of a hospital in 1908.

On January 28, 1909, a group of representative citizens met in the council chamber to consider the purchase of property which might be converted into a hospital. The McKay house was not the only one considered by this group. They also looked at the George Christopher property on Thames Street North, and the Kirkwood property on Thames Street South, but Dr. McKay's seemed to be the best offer.

He told the group he would sell the home for \$8,000, reserving the stable and also the field on the east side containing the cottage. He said he would give all gas and electric fixtures, the two ranges, a 90-gallon hot water boiler, and the bookcase in the library for the use of the hospital. He also contributed \$2,000 to the building fund and said if the stable was removed, he would erect a shed sufficiently large to accommodate four horses.

His offer was accepted and a committee was selected to solicit money to buy the home including Doctors Rogers, Coleridge, and Neff; Messrs. C.C.L. Wilson, Walter Mills, W.F. Johnston, J. Anderson Coulter, A.H. Ellis and F.W. Bain.

At a meeting on April 29, 1909, Dr. McKay suggested the hospital be called "alexandra," in honor of Queen Alexandra, wife of the reigning sovereign. After the group agreed upon this, seven men were appointed as provisional directors of the hospital. As the campaign for funds continued, W.C. Forman, merchant, told the group meeting that 10 per cent of all his sales for one month would be donated to the hospital fund. June 8, 1909, Town Council made a grant of \$1,000, and Dr. Rogers reported that \$8,000 had been secured by subscription to date.

At a general meeting of subscribers June 25, 1909, the following permanent directors were appointed: George Sutherland, Raymond Hutt, Joseph Gibson, Stephen Noxon, Thomas Seldon, John E. Boles, and George Naylor. The following were also elected officers for 1909-1910: president, George Sutherland.

The work of converting the home into a hospital was well underway during the summer of 1909, and the formal opening took place September 22.

Hospital ever-changing

Today, Alexandra Hospital is a modern hospital with all the facilities for expert medical care. Over the past year, the hospital had several activities and projects which were ongoing and some were completed.

A new roof was installed

on the 1970 addition of the hospital, the new revised Disaster Plan was tested, the Health Promotion Program for retired citizens was activated, the Ingersoll Fire Department toured the facility, the hospital was publicly inspected, and data was forwarded to the District Health Council for their bed study project.

As well, the Lions Club donated a projector for educational purposes, and a cassette recorder was donated by a community citizen in memory of a deceased family member. The Ladies Auxiliary forwarded \$11,000 to the hospital for the purchase of equipment.

The length of stay for patients in the hospital was reduced last year and it is now just over seven days. An ear, nose and throat clinic was added to the

out-patient services, and Dr. David M. Smith, a specialist in this area joined the staff of the hospital.

Several new pieces of equipment were provided for the use of the hospital including a cystoscope, two new gas machines and two ventilators for the operating room, and a portable oph-

thalmoscope and cast saw for the emergency department.

Alexandra is now a thriving part of the community with many services available to both the patients and the community. The hospital has many programs geared to the community including its senior citizens program and its pre-natal classes.

INGERSOLL TIMES
October 21, 1981

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

The Daily Sentinel-Review, Tues., March 23, 1982 Page 5

Bryant doesn't expect budget to heal deficit

By BARRY WARD

Sentinel-Review staff writer

INGERSOLL — It will be at least a month before the 1982-83 budget for the Alexandra Hospital is finalized but executive director Ross Bryant said he doesn't expect the Ingersoll hospital will climb out of debt.

The 12 per cent average funding increase for Ontario hospitals recently announced by the new Minister of Health, Larry Grossman, might cover inflation if a hospital had a balanced budget, said Bryant, "but we don't have a balanced budget."

After a \$40,000 deficit in 1980-81, the hospital forecast a \$100,000 deficit on a \$2.4 million budget in 1981-82. Although the fiscal year runs until the end of this month, Bryant said indications are that figure will be accurate.

"I would say it's going to be at least that. There were some things during the year which were beyond what we projected."

He gave heating and labor costs as examples of areas where the hospital went over budget.

AWAIT FORMULA

Bryant said this year's budget is 60 to 70 per cent finished but it's too early to project if there will be a deficit in the upcoming fiscal year.

The hospital is awaiting word on the funding allocation formula, which Grossman has

promised within two weeks, before finalizing its budget to send off to the ministry for approval. But regardless of the formula, Bryant said it was unlikely the amount would cover the accumulated deficit of at least \$140,000.

The provincial government has said hospitals will be allowed to increase their revenue through increased charges for parking and venturing into such things as gourmet meals in the cafeterias.

But Bryant said these are not viable options for smaller hospitals like the one in Ingersoll.

"I don't think we can do it and make money at it."

He did acknowledge that Alexandra was looking into "reasonable increases" in the charges for semi-private and private rooms.

As for a reduction in spending, he said there wasn't any room left for cutting costs.

"Our costs are very legitimately based," he said, noting the hospital has added no new staff or programs in the past two years.

HOSPITAL AUXILIARY SERVES COMMUNITY

BY LAURA PLUMTREE

Being a doctor's wife means more than serving cocktail parties for other doctors and their wives to Bonnie Rae. For the past five years she has been involved in the hospital auxiliary, raising funds to purchase needed equipment for the hospital.

"It's purpose is to aid the hospital, including fund raising, getting mail to patients, taking them to x-ray and physiotherapy," she said. The auxiliary holds

many projects to raise money, including a Florence Nightingale Tea Party, a gift shop, and raffles. The executive, which holds six meetings a year, also holds an annual meeting that will be coming up April 19.

Mrs. Rae has been president for the past year, and is very proud of what the organization is doing.

"Last year we raised \$8,000 and with that we purchased an ultra-sound stimulator for physiotherapy, and a bath lift which the nurses really

appreciated," she said. "This year we don't know what we will be using the money for -- they don't let us know what they need until fall.

"Money is tight right now with the economy," she continued. "Most people seem to be pretty good about it, but sometimes you wish more people would contribute. Some people have the attitude that the government funds the hospital so why should they bother."

Another service the auxiliary provides to the hospital is the Volunteens - teenagers who are actually the traditional Candy-Stripers. She also explained that the association is no longer the Women's Auxiliary, as it was traditionally known since its formation in 1909.

"Three years ago we had some men join -- they look after the televisions that are in some patients rooms -- they seem more mechanically inclined than we women are," she said.

One of the donations made to the hospital of which Mrs. Rae is proud is a quiet room on the third floor.

"If a family member dies, the family usually needs a place to talk to the doctor or a minister or priest," she said. "Our hospital never had a place to go before. Most hospitals have a chapel or something. This room is also good because if the patients themselves feel they need to be alone they can do so."

Although there are presently 130 members of the auxiliary, Mrs. Rae says there is always room for more.

"We would like to see

more members," she said. "The membership fee is only \$1., and it only takes three or four hours a week -- of course that varies with any events that are taking

place." "It's really serving the community," she said. "We appreciate the people who help and donate, but we could use more support."

INGERSOLL TIMES
April 14, 1982



Bonnie Rae holds a scrapbook in which there are clippings and photos taken over the years of the Hospital Auxiliary.

Mrs. Rae has been involved in the organization for five years, and has been president for the past year.



NEW HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

The Alexandra Hospital Auxiliary has installed its new officers. Front, from left, are past-president Anthea Warma, treasurer Jean MacDougall, recording secretary Ruth Judd, president Bonnie Rae, vice-chairmen Fern Rozon and Betty Johnson, and public relations officer Joan Butterfield. Back, are president

elect for 1983 Nancy Sissing and corresponding secretary Sheila O'Neill. They are gathered around a piece of physiotherapy equipment the auxiliary helped purchase for the Ingersoll hospital.

(Staff photo by Barry Ward)

SENTINEL REVIEW
April 20, 1982

Hospital deficit is nightmare

BY LAURA PLUMTREE

The prospect of bad news kept many people away from Alexandra Hospital's annual meeting June 15, and bad news was exactly what those who attended received, as the news of the hospital's \$125,000 deficit was announced.

This deficit was a drastic increase over last year's \$36,000 deficit, bringing the total of the last two years to \$161,000.

"We're going to appeal to the Ministry of Health for the \$36,000," said Ross Bryant, executive director. "We've paid the deficits by using money that was set aside for equipment."

Mr. Bryant explained if they do receive the money from the ministry, it will go back to the equipment fund.

"We're also going to appeal the \$125,000 deficit to the ministry," he said, "or we're not going to have any money to buy equipment."

Mr. Bryant explained the deficit was due partially to the provincial wage rates. Almost 75 per cent of the hospital's expenditures are spent on wages.

"If the appeal procedure is not successful, well, it will really be a nightmare," Mr. Bryant noted. "We may have to close wards or lay off people."

Mr. Bryant said they have budgeted for a much smaller deficit next year.

"The ministry has changed the rules," he explained. "We will have to use the interest from investments towards operating costs. The projected interest lowers the government operating costs."

Some alternatives, he continued, would be to increase the rates paid on semi-private and private rooms, or to charge for some things for out-patients.

Mr. Bryant said they are planning on purchasing equipment this year; however, if the ministry denies the appeal, there may be problems.

"So far this year we wouldn't be too badly off, but if the ministry says 'no' we may have to take another look at the equipment," he said. "We hope we'll get results."

He also pointed out the importance of people clarifying the area for their

donations.

"If someone donates money and maybe wants equipment purchased they should specify," he explained. "If there's no rider it will go into operating costs."

Mr. Bryant said he was a little disappointed in the attendance at the annual meeting, as no one from the medical staff was there as a representative.

"I guess I was a little disappointed, as attendance was down considerably from last year," he said. "I guess it's just a reflection of the sign of the times. I've been talking to administrators from other hospitals and their attendance has been down too. I guess people have their own problems and they don't want to hear more."

It was not all bad news at the annual meeting though. In Mr. Bryant's report, he noted that the number of patient days increased to 19,563. He also noted that next year the occupancy rate could be even higher.

Five new members to the board of trustees were acclaimed at the meeting. Barney Bree, Tom Parker, Norm McLeod, John Van Dyke, and Derek White will join the five trustees who were elected the previous year. There are a total of 10 elected trustees on the board, serving a two-year term. Naomi Bree, Don Hillis, Kay Oliver, Ernie Wilson and Roger McCombe complete the 10 elected officials. The four appointed trustees are Bob Ball, representing the Town of Ingersoll, Jack Warden, representing Oxford County, David Simpson, representing the medical staff, and Jean MacDougall, who represents the hospital auxiliary.

Despite the doom and gloom forecast, Mr. Bryant said he does have an optimistic outlook.

"It could be an administrative nightmare, though," he added.

Ingersoll has had many hospitals

Although you might not have realized it, Alexandra Hospital has not always been serving the area's ill with hospital care. In the pre-Alexandra days, Ingersoll had four smaller hospitals which saw the traffic of the sick through their doors.

Advances in medicine are a relatively new phenomenon. Around the turn of the century, medical practices were quite primitive in comparison to today's advanced knowledge of surgery and treatment.

From the accounts of a pioneer doctor, Abraham Groves, who practised in the community of Fergus, which is similar to Ingersoll, an insight is given into conditions of the medical profession during the 1870's. In this period, when the average life expectancy of a male at birth was 40 years and of a female 42 years, qualified doctors were indeed rare.

The universal remedy of the day was whiskey; the universal sickness was malaria. Surgery was little advanced from the Middle Ages. Doctors wore no rubber gloves and used chloroform as an anaesthetic. After an operation, one might have paid the doctor with cash. If it was not available, a chicken or cow would suffice as payment.

These were the conditions in the era of the country doctor. Two decades later, Ingersoll was to improve medical care with two hospitals of its own.

Private hospital

In 1898, Doctor J. M. Rogers opened a private hospital for his patients in the front rooms of 106 Frances Street, then known as "O'Neill House." The Tuscan styled home, converted to a hospital, was serviced by Dr. Rogers and a nurse. The Douglas Keaney family currently occupies the elegant, yellow bricked building and has found the curious evidence of their home's unusual history. Medicine bottles were found in charred condition in the backyard where Mr. Keaney supposed the doctor had a fire pit, for the burning of refuse from the hospital.

However, in the same year, D. Angus McKay also started a hospital for his patients. The hospital had a nurse in charge of service to the patients. The grey-brick house is situated on the corner of McKeand and Victoria streets.

In 1900, two years after the first hospitals were in evidence, the doctors of the town assembled to contribute their time and expertise to the institution of a public hospital. The hospital, which was located on the west side of Oxford Street, was furnished with modern equipment to accommodate operations.

When expansion seemed imminent, the residence of Dr. Angus McKay was purchased for the purpose of being the new hospital. It was named Alexandra Hospital in honor of Queen Alexandra, the wife of the reigning monarch at the turn of the century.

The gracious old mansion was certainly

large enough to serve as a hospital, although the new role seemed quite unfitting the mansion that once entertained ballroom guests and the likes of the country's prime minister, Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

The house, built by the influential James Noxon of the Noxon Implement Company, was reputed to be the "most beautiful residence between Hamilton and Windsor" at the time.

The hospital had 16 rooms for the accommodation of 25 patients at any one time. It is estimated the hospital saw the business of 120 patients per year. Alexandra Hospital, the pride of Ingersoll.



was deemed to be a "complete and modern hospital in every sense of the word."

However, by 1945, the facilities of the hospital were already outdated. It was decided that a new hospital would be built to replace the Noxon mansion in order that there would be more room for a greater number of patients and more modern equipment.

Cornerstone laid

By 1949, the cornerstone was laid in the foundation of the new hospital. The Ingersoll Tribune reported the highlights of the "brief but moving ceremony" that marked the event in glowing terms:

"Scores of officials, dignitaries and citizens of all walks of life, and from many miles around, looked on as Mr. Roy W. Green, long prominent in hospital work, laid the stone for the modern hospital which will open by Easter, 1950, it is hoped.

When completed, there will not be a finer hospital in the country"

Ingersoll residents whole heartedly supported the new hospital. An air of near frenzy was associated with all aspects of the construction, equipping and finally opening the building. In 1950, The Ingersoll Tribune reported proceedings of the opening with this detail:

"The youngsters from the schools paraded up, headed by the Pipe Band. Many carried flags. All cheered like mad when the official party arrived."

Just as the old hospital was reported to be the finest institution of its kind in its heyday, the new Alexandra Hospital was known as the "finest small hospital on the North American Continent," as phrased by Dr. Phair of the Ontario Department of Health.

One reporter for the Ingersoll Tribune described the hospital as "an ultra-modern new institution of Noxon Street." In his words, a stay in the hospital would be "the nearest thing to a pleasurable illness" he knew.

Today Alexandra Hospital continues its reputation of excellent health care. Behind it stands the service and know-how of the four other hospitals that attended to the needs of the Ingersoll community.

Dr. Angus McKay began a small operation hospital in this Victoria Street home. There was a nurse in charge at this location.

STORY AND PHOTO
BY

Marilyn
Smulders

Ingersoll Times
October 13th 1982

Hospital expansion plans begin

Alexandra Hospital has been given the go-ahead to begin preliminary plans for the expansion of its recovery room. Ross Bryant, executive director, said he hopes to complete plans within the next four to six weeks.

"The preliminary plans must be approved by the board of directors, and by the ministry of health, before the expansion can begin," said Mr. Bryant. He estimates the entire project will be done within four or five months.

The expansion will allow an increase in the recovery room from two patients to six. Mr. Bryant said the project has been in the works for the past year, and the hospital sent its request to the ministry in July.

Mr. Bryant said the need for more space in the recovery room has increased in the past three years as out-patient surgery has increased. Out-patient surgery now makes up approximately 30 per cent of the hospital's total surgery. This surgery demands the patient remain several hours in the recovery room before being released, whereas previously, patients could return to their rooms to recuperate, allowing the recovery room open longer.

Richard Treleavan, Member of Provincial Parliament for Oxford County, estimates the cost of the expansion will total \$125,000, with the ministry of health covering about \$80,000 of the cost.

Alexandra's creditation extended

INGERSOLL — Alexandra Hospital has been given a clean bill of health from the Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation.

The Ottawa-based, non-governmental body has extended the Ingersoll hospital's accreditation by three years with a glowing report on its facilities.

Although the accreditation is voluntary and is not a requirement of provincial funding, Ross Bryant, executive director at Alexandra, said he was pleased by the report.

"It's a nice thing to know," he said.

For the review, the hospital had to fill out a 35-page questionnaire and, in September, it received a visit from a representative of the council who had a background in both medicine and hospital administration.

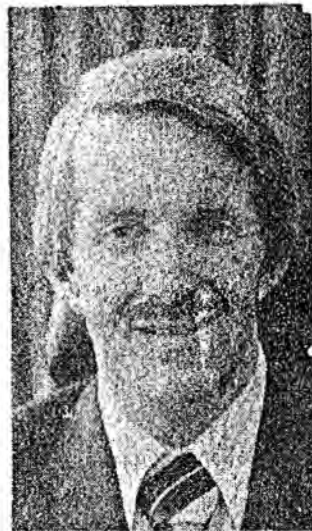
He surveyed everything from the hospital's governing body and its medical staff to the maintenance workers.

Among other comments, the resulting report called the dietetic program "exemplary" and the nursing service "well organized and high quality."

It also commended the hospital for its shared services with other hospitals in the region.

"Overall, the council seemed to be very pleased," said Bryant.

He said the three-year accreditation was a credit to the hospital's staff which has worked to meet the recommendations of previous reports which had resulted in two-year accreditations.



ROSS BRYANT
—nice to know—

Ingersoll Times
November 2nd
1982

Sentinel - Review
February 22nd 1983

Hospital receives award

Alexandra Hospital has received a three-year award from the Canadian Council on Hospital Creditation. Director, Ross Bryant said this is the first time in many years the hospital has received this award.

The creditation, which commends the hospital on overall efficiency, was received after the council conducted a two-day survey of the hospital November 8 and 9, 1982. Mr. Bryant explained the survey does quite an extensive view of the hospital, looking into every aspect of it.

"It covers clinical, managerial services, nursing, dietary plans, labs, maintenance...it's quite extensive," he said.

The council is a voluntary body, he said, not a government agency. Quite a bit of preparation goes into the survey, including filling out a 35-page questionnaire.

"It's nice to know Alexandra's a credited hospital," Mr. Bryant said. "It's consolling to me to know we perform well."

Mr. Bryant said after the last survey was done, several recommendations were made that the hospital followed. This time, he said, further recommendations were made that the hospital will expand on. "We're starting to look at long-range planning," he said, although he would not specify. "We have to look at where the hospital is going during the '80s."

Ingersoll Times

February 23rd 1983

Hospital board elections bring a pair of new faces

INGERSOLL — The Alexandra Hospital board of trust will have two new faces during the 1983-84 year.

At the hospital's annual meeting Tuesday, five candidates were elected to two-year terms on the board from a field of six.

Returning to the board will be incumbents Ernie Wilson, Don Hillis and Rev. Roger McCombe. The other two are Pat

Bell and William Hawkins. They replaced Naomi Bree and Kay Oliver who resigned since they have served for the maximum allowable period of eight years.

The five candidates were elected by the approximately two dozen members of the public who attended the meeting.

Of the 14 members on the board, 10 are elected by the public for two-year terms. The

terms are staggered so that five positions become available in one year, and the other five in the following year.

The other five publicly elected members, who attained office last year, are Tom Parker, Barney Bree, John Van Dyke, Norm McLeod and Derek White.

The remaining four board members are appointed by various body's. Coun. Bob Ball represents the municipality; Jack Warden is appointed by the county; Jean MacDougall is appointed by the hospital auxiliary; and Dr. David Simpson is the medical staff representative.

Tuesday's meeting was the last during which Mrs. MacDougall will serve as chairperson as her two-year term expired. Two years is the maximum period during which an individual may be chairperson. A successor will be chosen at the new board's inaugural meeting June 28.

Sentinel - Review

June 15, 1983

Chronic care unit highlights year

After some frustrating months health ministry came through

INGERSOLL — The re-opening of a long term care ward and government approval for the expansion of recovery room facilities were two highlights of the past year for Alexandra Hospital.

Presenting her report to the hospital's annual meeting Tuesday, board chairman Jean MacDougall said "after many months of frustration," the hospital received Ontario Ministry of Health funding to re-activate 12 beds in Ward 1 for chronic care patients. The ward was closed in

1976 because of ministry cutbacks.

Even though the ministry approved the 12 beds in principle in early 1982, the hospital had to wait until March 1983 when specific funds were allotted for the re-opening. The province is providing about \$200,000 a year for the operation of the ward.

Anticipating the opening of the ward, the hospital set moved its Senior for Health program to vacant space in the basement, after making renovations there.

The ministry also approved

renovations to the third floor to provide a new recovery room for post-surgical patients.

TESTED THE PLAN

During the summer of 1982, the hospital's disaster plan was tested three times — after two "serious car accidents and the train wreck," Mrs. MacDougall said. "The response by our staff was fantastic and made it very clear that we had planned well for such situations."

In addition, the ministry approved renovations to the third floor to provide a new recovery

room for post-surgical patients, executive director Ross Bryant said in his report. When completed this summer, the project will provide space for four more patients, bringing the total to six. The ministry is providing two-thirds of the \$75,000 cost of the project.

During the past year, the hospital handled 1,535 admissions, 10,072 emergency-out patient visits, and 110 births, Bryant reported. "The overall occupancy level for the hospital exceeded 90 per cent which in my opinion placed the facility at its maximum in-patient capacity."

The length of stay for active treatment patients decreased slightly to 7.12 days.

Several pieces of new equipment were provided for medical staff, such as a heart defibrillator, an electric operating room table, heart monitors and a chemistry analyzer.

FINALLY IN THE BLACK

Alexandra records \$223,500

surplus

By GABE PERACCHIA

Sentinel-Review staff writer

INGERSOLL — After two years of deficit budgets, Alexandra Hospital closed its 1982-83 year with a surplus of \$223,500.

Since the hospital board of trust had anticipated another deficit, the funding of the hospital was a major concern, chairman Jean MacDougall reported at the hospital's annual meeting Tuesday.

However, last October, the Ontario Ministry of Health provided extra funding so hospitals could eliminate deficits of previous years, she said. "We received sufficient revenue to eliminate our deficit."

The hospital had a \$36,000 deficit in 1980-81, and a \$125,000 deficit in 1981-82.

Of the hospital's total 1982-82 revenue of \$3,849,786 revenue, most is provided by the ministry of health.

This year's ministry allocation of \$3,339,056 was considerably larger than the 1981-82 contribution of \$2,785,665, for two reasons. Firstly, the hospital got extra funds to eliminate its deficits of previous years. Secondly, the ministry approved allocations of \$200,000 a year so the hospital could re-activate 12 chronic care beds in ward one. The ward was closed in 1976 because of ministry funding cutbacks.

DONATIONS

Other revenues include \$221,709 for in-patient services, \$142,335 for out-patient services, \$42,898 for sundry services, \$83,746 from investment income, and \$20,042 from donations.

This year's revenues of \$3,849,786 were about 18 per cent more than in 1981-82.

The hospital's expenses this past year added up to \$3,626,286, leaving the \$223,500 surplus. Total expenses were about 13 per cent more than the previous year.

Of the total expenses, 69.7 per cent were made to pay salaries of medical and administrative staff, said Mark Dawber of Hyde, Houghton and Co., the London firm that serves as auditor for Alexandra.

Other expenses were made for medical and surgical supplies, drugs, plant operation and

maintenance, dietary, housekeeping and laundry services, interest payments and depreciation allowances.

The hospital increased the value of its property by \$144,000 through the purchase of equip-

ment, such as a cardiac defibrillator, and the expansion of its post-surgical recovery room facilities, which is now under way, Dawber said. The hospital's equity grew from \$2,291,332 to \$2,570,023.

Sentinel - Review

June 15th 1983

Alexandra Hospital



THE GROUP ABOVE was elected to two-year terms on the Alexandra Hospital board Tuesday evening at the hospital's annual meeting. The members are, from left, Rev. Roger McCombe, Ernie Wilson, both incumbents, Pat Bell, William Hopkins, and Don Hillis, another incumbent. Left, in one of her last acts as chairman of the Alexandra Hospital board, Jean MacDougall delivers her annual report at the hospital's annual meeting last night. Also at the head table is executive director Ross Bryant. Mrs. MacDougall has served the maximum period of two years as chairperson. A successor will be chosen at the board's 1983-84 inaugural meeting June 28. (Staff photos by Gabe Peracchia)

Alexandra ends year with \$223,500 surplus

BY MARILYN SMULDERS

Alexandra Hospital is ending its fiscal year with a surplus, instead of a deficit as has been the case for the last two years. That report was made by hospital officials at an annual meeting last week.

When all the figures were tallied, Alexandra Hospital was \$223,500 in the black. This compares to previous fiscal years, which run from April 1 to March 31, accumulating in debts of \$158,000. This deficit was eliminated by funding by the Ministry of Health.

"The hospital has completed the fiscal year with a surplus. Since we anticipated a deficit, funding of the hospital was a major concern for the board during the first part of the year. However, in October, the Minister of Health provided extra funding to hospitals in Ontario and we received sufficient revenue to eliminate our deficit," said Jean MacDougall, chairperson of the Board of Trust.

The hospital underwent many changes during the past year, and funds are being continually funneled in the hospital to upgrade the facilities.

The hospital sought approval to operate an additional twelve long term care beds, said Alexandra Hospital Executive Director, Ross Bryant. A vacant ward on the first floor was granted new program status and accordingly funded.

Mr. Bryant said a need for recovery room expansion was recognized. Improvements made on the recovery room are expected to be completed this summer with accommodations made for six patients. The work is being funded on a cost sharing basis with the Ministry of Health.

One other change was seen in moving

"Ingersoll Seniors for Health" to a new location in the basement of the hospital. The site was renovated by the hospital staff, under the guidance of Gloria Lee who coordinated the group.

New equipment was obtained for the hospital. Staff is now assisted with a defibrillator which returns the heart to a normal state by shocking it, an electric operating room table, heart monitors, and a chemistry analyzer.

In his report Tuesday, Mr. Bryant said the hospital ran at its maximum inpatient capacity in 1982. There were 1,535 admissions, 10,072 emergency out-patient visits, and 110 births.

The annual meeting also saw the election of five trustees to the Board of Trustees. The five were elected from a slate of six candidates.

The new members are Rev. Roger

McCombe, Ernie Wilson, Pat Bell, William Hawkins, and Don Hillis. The other members who were elected last year are Tom Parker, Barney Bree, John Van Dyke, Norm McLeod, and Derek White. Ten of the 14 members on the board are elected. The four appointed trustees are Bob Ball, Town of Ingersoll representative, Jack Warden, County of Oxford representative, Jean MacDougall, hospital auxiliary representative, and Mr. David Simpson from the medical staff.

Mrs. MacDougall appraised the hospital as operating well within the guidelines set down by the Ministry of Health.

"During the past year, Alexandra Hospital has continued to provide a high standard of health care to the community of Ingersoll and the surrounding area," she said.

Ingersoll Times
June 22nd 1983

Alexandra Hospital

Re-opened ward's care "unique" for elderly long-term patients

BY RON PRESTON

The re-opened first floor ward at Alexandra Hospital is being used in a slightly different and unique way for elderly long-term patient care.

The ward, re-opened in April, is being used for elderly patients who are mobile. They dress in street clothes rather than hospital garb and are "encouraged to do as much as they are capable of for themselves" said Ann Stewart, head of nursing.

The ward is similar to a nursing home atmosphere, with the patients partaking in such social activities as bingo or a picnic on the hospital's back patio.

Some of the patients spend the day away from the hospital with family or friends, having lunch or going for a visit. Miss Stewart said she was surprised to find out that for of the patients, having an ice cream cone, something unimportant to most of us, was a treat many of these people "hadn't had in two or three years."

The most important aspect of the ward's operation is the change in attitude of the patients. Miss Stewart said there is a much more "positive outlook" than before. Many are up and dressed quite early, looking forward to the day's social activities.

Staff response has been good according to Miss Stewart. Patients of this kind need a different kind of attention, requiring less physical care. The most important thing is keeping them "mentally stimulated".

The patients are kept up-to-date on events and dates with their own calendars, clocks and activities board. The patients, who are mostly women, eat in a common dining lounge around their own kitchen table rather than in their rooms.

The staff is also enjoying the different routine of caring for these patients. The ward has one RN and one RNA during the

day, while at other times, is only one RN on the floor.

Although hospital officials refused to allow any interviews or pictures of the patients to insure their privacy, a tour of the ward revealed several smiling women, sitting in a bright visiting room, reading or chatting.

The ward has a more home-like appearance than most of us would envision a hospital, with more personal touches such as pictures, dressers and calendars.

The idea for this type of ward was created by a discussion among staff on how to create an area to respond to a particular kind of long term patient.

Miss Stewart said the practice is not likely unique to Alexandra Hospital but she

admitted that she had not worked in the past in a hospital or with this kind of arrangement.

The ward is very similar to care offered by a nursing home but "there just is not enough nursing home beds available", Miss Stewart said.

The Oxford Regional Nursing Home has an 80-bed facility and the next closest homes are in Woodstock and Tillsonburg.

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

INGERSOLL TIMES

September 7, 1983

INGERSOLL TIMES
September 7, 1983

Alexandra Hospital hires occupational therapist

New services to help the elderly

By GABE PERACCHIA
Sentinel-Review staff writer
INGERSOLL — Alexandra Hospital will soon introduce two new services for its long-term patients and senior citizens in the community.

The hospital is about to hire an occupational therapist and an activity co-ordinator to provide more therapeutic and recreational services for the elderly, Alexandra executive director Ross Bryant said this week.

The occupational therapist, who starts work in the first week of November, will be shared between Alexandra and Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital.

Alexandra set aside budget funds for the occupational therapist last spring.

However, it waited until now to hire the therapist to make it less costly to the hospital, Bryant said. "Now, it's more feasible."

As the number of long-term patients increases, Alexandra is eligible for more provincial government funds and thus, bears a smaller share of the cost of an occupational therapist.

The long-term care ward has had an occupancy rate of at least 85 per cent since it re-opened last April. However, it was only this month that the 12-bed ward hit 100-per cent occupancy, maximizing the provincial funds.

PART-TIME JOB

The ward was closed in 1976 because of reductions in funding by the provincial government.

Alexandra initially had trouble finding an occupational therapist since it offered part-time employment only, Bryant said. "We were unsuccessful in getting a part-time occupational therapist. The people were not interested in just a part-time job."

However, because Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital was also looking for a part-time therapist, the two hospitals combined their requirement to offer a full-time position.

The occupational therapist will direct exercise and leisure activities for Alexandra's long-term patients. Aside from providing a therapeutic service, the hospital also hopes that some patients can be sufficiently rehabilitated to move to more pleasant institutions such as a nursing home or home for the aged, Bryant said.

The program may also include mentally stimulating activities such as arts and crafts.

In addition, Alexandra is now

recruiting an activities co-ordinator who will divide his or her time between long-term patients and the hospital's day centre. "The activities co-ordinator will work with volunteers from the community and family members (of elderly patients) to provide recreational and social activities."

The Seniors for Health day centre serves elderly persons who live in the community, providing them with leisure activities.

The Daily Sentinel Review
Oct. 22, 1983.

SENTINEL REVIEW
October 22, 1983

Detects potential complications

Alexandra introduces ultrasound

By Gabe Peracchia
Sentinel-Review staff writer
INGERSOLL — Alexandra
Hospital will soon introduce a
new ultrasound service to spare

local residents from travelling
to other hospitals.

The new service will be
available on Mondays and
Fridays each week, starting

Nov. 4, Alexandra executive
director Ross Bryant said.

The Alexandra Hospital
governing board approved the

introduction of the ultrasound
service last week. The hospital
is now making arrangements
with a Guelph company which

provides a mobile ultrasound
machine.

Ultrasound is a technique used
in obstetrics and other medical
fields to diagnose the condition
of a developing fetus or various
internal organs.

By emitting acoustic waves
and then monitoring their reflec-
tions, an ultrasound machine
produces sharp images of inter-
nal structures on a video screen.

The equipment allows doctors
to detect potential complications
in child delivery or diseased
areas of organs such as the liver,
heart, kidney, gall bladder or
thyroid gland.

ON REFERRAL

With the introduction of the
service, many local residents
will no longer have to travel to
London hospitals, where they
often went in the past, Bryant
said.

The service will be available
on referrals by family physi-
cians, obstetrical or
gynecological specialists.

However, patients requiring
ultrasound in emergencies will
still have to go to London.

The cost of the service will be
minimal to the hospital, Bryant
said. All the hospital will have to
provide is some space for the
machine and electricity.

For patients using the service,
most of the costs will be paid
through OHIP (Ontario Health
Insurance Plan).

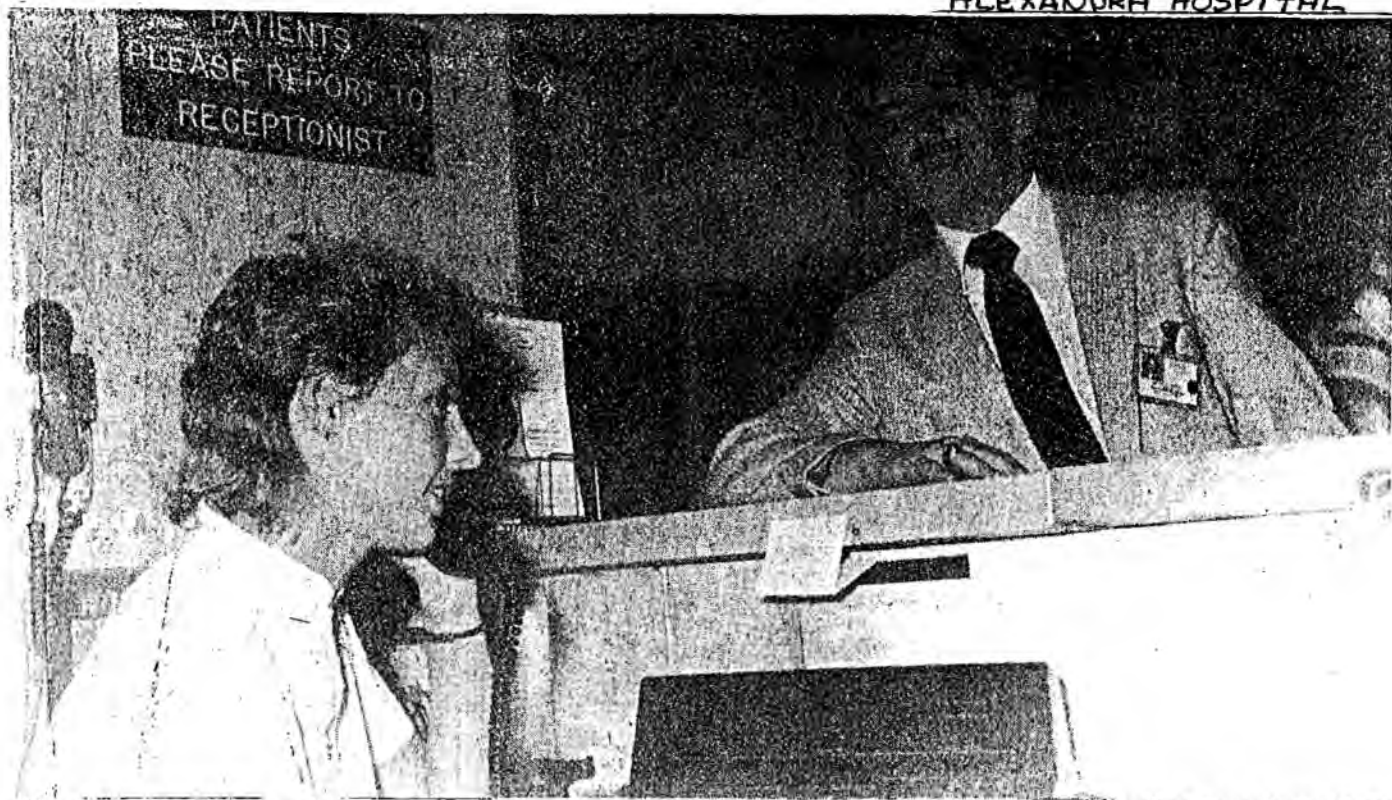
The introduction of ultrasound
has been a joint project between
Bryant and the hospital's
medical staff. The need for the
service was determined from
two sources — Alexandra's
records of ultrasound referrals
to London, and the medical com-
munity's inherent knowledge of
Ingersoll's health care situation.

The ultrasound machine will
be provided by the firm of On-
tario Mobile Ultrasound, of
Guelph.

"There are a number of other
hospitals our size that have
mobile service," Bryant said,
citing hospitals in Hagersville
and Georgetown as examples.

The Daily Sentinel
Review
Oct. 26, 1983.

SENTINEL-REVIEW
October 26, 1983



Alexandra Hospital now has a new, modern telephone system called the Mitel SX-20. Ross Bryant, executive director of the hospital, looks on as receptionist Camilla

Sutherland answers a call. The hi-tech system, leased from Bell Canada, saves the hospital approximately \$200 per month.



The Ingersoll Times
Nov. 30, 1983.

Alexandra Hospital acquired the services of Ontario Mobile Ultrasound Clinics Inc. earlier this month. The mobile service is offered every Friday morning at the Ingersoll hospital. Technician Garry Toomer works here with a pregnant patient, checking the condition of her unborn child.

INGERSOLL TIMES
November 30, 1983

Hospital, auxiliary plan 75th party

BY CHERYL STEWART

Alexandra Hospital and its ladies auxiliary will be celebrating their 75th anniversary next year and both have events planned to mark the special event.

The hospital was opened in September 1909 and the auxiliary came into existence not long after. The auxiliary's main purpose over the years has been to help the hospital acquire necessary equipment and help make patients' stays a little nicer.

The auxiliary will be holding an anniversary dinner February 26, although final plans are still being set. Tickets will be available for the public.

The hospital is planning a brochure and the hospital hopes to hold an open house sometime during the year. A hospital ball has been set for May 11. Plans are also set for a float in the Cheese and Wine Festival parade.

Publicity spokesperson for the hospital celebrations, Barney Bree, said other groups associated with the hospital will be holding events to coincide with the anniversary. The board is also planning more events that will be announced in the future.

Linda Davey, who is in charge of publicity for the auxiliary, said members are excited about the anniversary. She feels the group serves a useful purpose in the hospital and the community.

"We do a lot of things, especially for the patients who are in the hospital for a long time. At Christmas time, we bring them a rose and we do other little things. We do our best to make it a little better stay at the hospital," she said.

"I think the patients would be missing something at the hospital, the things the nursing staff doesn't have time for. We also help with the extras the hospital can't always go to the government for, such as new drapes in a room or new wallpaper," she said.

There are about 25 - 30 ladies attending meetings regularly, however, most are elderly women who have been members for many years. Mrs. Davey said the auxiliary would like to find some younger people in the community willing to give a little time to their projects.

"We would like to find the ladies who are interested in one morning or one afternoon a week. Or we would like some ladies who would like to knit or make handcrafted items for the gift shop," she said.

In putting out a plea for new members, Mrs. Davey stressed the auxiliary is not just for the elite or just for doctor's wives. She noted that of their membership, only

two are doctor's wives and the remainder come from all walks of life in the community.

Most of auxiliary time is spent fundraising or doing little jobs in the hospital. In any one year, members have raised thousands of dollars and purchased various types of equipment for the hospital. Money is usually made through draws, luncheons and teas as well as donations.

Volunteers with the auxiliary do such things as delivering mail and watering flowers on a daily basis for patients. They often help take patients to and from the x-ray department.

They operate a gift shop which is open mornings and evenings as well as some afternoons. Parties are held every month for patients in the hospital celebrating their birthday.

Auxiliary members make sure the chronic care patients have books, puzzles and candy on hand. Favors are often distributed at different times during the year to all patients.

The Ingersoll Times
Dec. 14, 1983.



Barry Ward

Auxiliary anniversary

Bad weather didn't prevent Ingersoll's Alexandra Hospital Auxiliary from celebrating its 75th anniversary with a banquet. Auxiliary president Nancy Sissing unveiled a plaque listing the names of 36 presidents since 1909 with hospital executive director Ross Bryant, centre, and board of trustees chairman Rev. Roger McCombe.

LONDON FREE PRESS
February 29, 1984

Alexandra's anniversary a time to take a look at its services

By GABE PERACCHIA
Sentinel-Review staff writer
INGERSOLL — Even though it is celebrating its 75th anniversary, Alexandra

Hospital is doing some intensive navel-gazing for four or five months.

The hospital has just started a long-term planning study that will be its blueprint for the next five to 10 years, Alexandra executive director Ross Bryant said.

The hospital has hired the Ernst and Whinney management consulting firm of Toronto to help the hospital formulate a "master plan" for its long-term role in the community, Bryant said.

The hospital board view the

planning study as its major activity for 1984, he said. "It's kind of exciting to participate in planning your future."

The hospital has not examined its place in the community so thoroughly since the mid-1960s when the last planning study was conducted, Bryant said. That study was conducted in relation to the new addition built at the hospital at that time.

EXAMINE PROGRAMS

The current study will examine the hospital's current programs, the need to delete or

add services, the hospital's future space requirements, its relationship with the Thames Valley District Health Council and other health care agencies in the area, and the needs of the community.

The consulting firm will spend four to five months interviewing hospital staff, trustees, medical staff and collecting other data, Bryant said. The hospital also welcomes comments from the community.

The hospital board awarded the contract to Ernst and Whinney after approaching three consulting firms two months ago.

Ernst and Whinney was selected for a number of reasons, such as its "positive approach" to the study, and its experience in doing studies for small hospitals, as well as other local hospitals such as St. Joseph's and Victoria, in London, Bryant said.

Bryant declined to disclose the cost of the study, but did say it could be as high as five figures.

SENTINEL - REVIEW

March 2, 1984

Alzheimer support group organized at Alexandra

BY TOM DURALIA

A support group for families with Alzheimer Disease patients is being established in Ingersoll thanks to help from Margot Southworth, a member of the London chapter of the Alzheimer Society.

She will also be recruiting and helping to train volunteers in order to set up a Family Respite Program which aids those directly and indirectly affected by Alzheimer's.

Mrs. Southworth attended Alexandra Hospital Seniors for Health meeting last week, where she listened to Dr. Albert J. Kirshen of London Psychiatric Hospital's psychogeriatric unit, speak on the disease that robs persons of their memories.

After the talk, Mrs. Southworth chatted with others in attendance and scheduled the first family support group meeting for the first Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the seniors room in the hospital basement.

The first stage of the disease is marked by a selective breakdown of memory. The person may become forgetful about recent events and other small things, similar to the effects of aging. As the disease progresses, memory loss becomes acute and other symptoms become more apparent. Confusion, restlessness, loss of concentration, extreme mood and behavioral swings and speech and coordination problems may develop.

In the final stages of the disease, persons are rendered totally incapable of caring for themselves and are bedridden until death.

The cause of Alzheimer's is unknown and there is no cure or proven treatment yet available.

It is for these reasons support groups and volunteer care-givers are so essential for the families involved, said Mrs. Southworth.

"We must show those affected they are not alone on the planet and that others have the same problem."

Mrs. Southworth said by having a support group, those involved can better understand what is happening and share different means of dealing with the problems encountered.

She said the biggest problem is lack of education. She gave one example how people tend to talk down to Alzheimer patients. "These people are not stupid," she said, concerning a common misconception. "You musn't make them look simple." Instead of talking to them like small children, which only further frustrates the Alzheimer's victim, Mrs. Southworth said, "you must learn to positively phrase questions."

She also referred to a book entitled "The 36-Hour day" published by John Hopkins University, which was highly recommended as the definitive book on dealing with the disease.

The book is available for loan from the public library and Alexandra Hospital.

Mrs. Southworth urged anyone interested or associated in any way with Alzheimer's Disease, especially the family, to attend the monthly meetings.

The meetings will help remind those affected, "that you can only do your best," she said.

For more information on the support group, contact Gloria Lee at Alexandra Hospital.

INGERSOLL TIMES
April 4, 1984

INGERSOLL TIMES
April 4, 1984

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

Efficient staffing at Alexandra

Grants help hospital to surplus

By GABE PERACCHIA
of The Sentinel-Review

With help for the provincial government and more efficient staffing, Alexandra Hospital has chalked up a surplus for the second year in a row.

At the hospital's annual meeting Tuesday, financial statements for the year ended March 31, 1984 showed Alexandra finished with a \$347,936 surplus, an increase of more than 50 per cent over last year's surplus of \$223,500.

Board treasurer Ernie Wilson pointed out three factors in the hospital's surplus:

- bigger grants from the provincial Ministry of Health because of the

reopening of the chronic care ward closed in 1976;

- the limit on staff wages because of the province's inflation restraint program to limit public sector wage increases to nine and five per cent in the past two years;

- more efficient use of staff to reduce personnel expenses.

In his address to the

meeting, 1983-84 board chairman Roger McCombe said the hospital has focused both on the past and future in the past year. It has been celebrating its 75th anniversary with a number of events, including the anniversary dinner and ball last Friday.

STUDY

Also, the hospital has

commissioned a study by the London consulting firm Ernst Whinney to plan Alexandra's future directions. "Perhaps the key phrase for that planning will be quality assurance; it is certainly a phrase that the bureaucrats in the Ministry of Health are bringing to our attention on a daily basis."

Last year was one of ex-

pansion for Alexandra in various types of services.

With the reopening of 12 long term care beds, the hospital now operates 72 beds, divided equally between acute and long term care.

The number of births slightly increased to 116 babies, a reversal of a

trend in which birth had been declining for the few previous years.

Surgical cases totalled 805 with a trend toward more day surgery, executive director Ross Bryant said. He attributed the slight increase in day surgery to last year's renovation of the post-surgical recovery room.

Sentinel Review

June 13, 1984

New faces on the board of Alexandra hospital

INGERSOLL — The Alexandra Hospital board will have three new faces among its 14 elected or appointed members for the upcoming year.

At its annual meeting Tuesday, the hospital elected five persons to two-year terms on the board.

Of the five elected, Dorothy Griffin, Gary Cochrane and George Cornfield will be newcomers. The other two, Tom Parker and Barney Bree, were re-elected to another two-year term.

Leaving the board will be Norm McLeod, who has

served the maximum allowable four consecutive terms, and John Van Dyke and Derek White who have been on the board for the past two years.

The other five elected members in the middle of their terms are Rev. Roger McCombe, who served as chairman the past year, Ernie Wilson, who served as treasurer, P.A. Bell, William Hawkins and Don Hillis.

The other four posts on the board go to persons appointed by various bodies: town councillor Bob Ball returns as council's representative; Diane Benoit replaces Jean MacDougall as the auxiliary's representative, South-West Oxford Mayor Walt Wilson again will represent the county; and Dr. David Simpson will again be the medical staff representative.

Sentinel Review

June 13, 1984

Town's first hospital opened in 1898

BY TOM DURALIA

For most of us, Alexandra Hospital may seem like it has existed since the dawn of time.

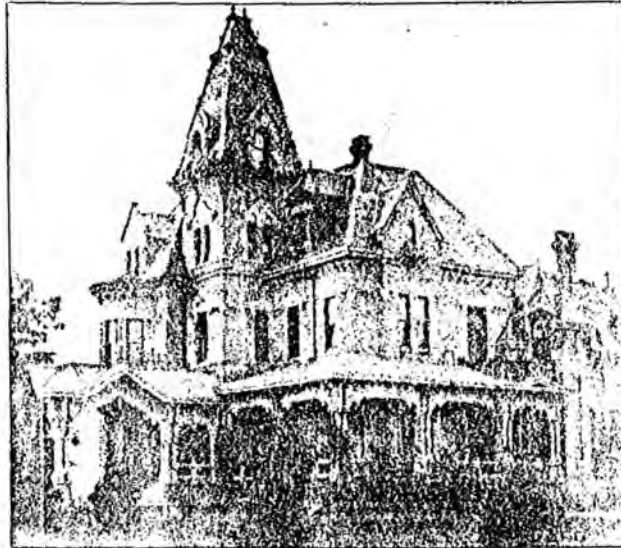
There are those who remember the palatial Noxon home, the precursor to the present institution, that was demolished in 1951 to make way for Alexandra. But what about before 1909? Where did the sick seek assistance before Alexandra Hospital?

According to historical records, travelling country doctors were what was available through most of the 1800s, and it wasn't until 1889 that a movement was initiated to establish a hospital facility in Ingersoll. However, a petition circulated for support of the idea attracted little interest from residents and as time wore hard and money tight, the project was dropped.

In 1898 Dr. J.M. Rogers opened a private hospital for his patients at 106 Francis Street in the front rooms. The hospital was staffed by the doctor and a lone nurse. There is no indication as to how well the hospital did, other than that it spurred a few others to crop up.

In the same year, Dr. Angus McKay set up a hospital in a house at the corner of Victoria and McKeand Streets, where he left a nurse in charge while he made his rounds.

Two years later, the William Waterworth house on the west side of Oxford Avenue, became the first public hospital and was a collective effort from the town's doctors.



The former James Noxon home was the first Alexandra Hospital. A parking lot, and a portion of the present hospital are located where the house once stood.

This hospital had sufficient space to accommodate the needs of the people at the time and with the latest in equipment installed, several more serious operations were performed. Also, for the first time in Ingersoll's history, babies were delivered in a hospital rather than a home.

1909 was a big year as Dr. Angus McKay's residence, the Noxon home, was purchased for use as a hospital, at a modest price of \$6,250, which included a fair-sized plot of surrounding land.

This hospital boasted 16 rooms with accommodations for 25 patients, and during the first year admitted 120 people with various afflictions.

As the years passed though, even the magnanimous Noxon home couldn't keep up with Ingersoll's growing population.

In 1949, the cornerstone was laid for a new hospital to be constructed at a cost of \$365,000 and in 1950, the building was officially opened.

The following year, the original building was sold to wreckers for \$1,500 and demolished to provide added parking facilities for the new building.

In 1960, a third storey was added to Alexandra and a new portion at the north end. Another addition in 1970 updated facilities even further.

Today, Alexandra Hospital operates with 72 beds, last year delivering 116 babies, receiving 10,277 emergency visits, and attending to 805 surgical cases.

Ingersoll was once home for Dr. Norman Bethune

One of the most famous and admired men in the world, Dr. Henry Norman Bethune, once lived and worked in the Town of Ingersoll.

Though little of his brief tenure in Ingersoll has been recorded, Bethune apparently filled in for a vacationing Dr. Ralph Williams between 1919 and 1920.

As written in Roderick Stewart's Bethune biography:

"To the quiet people of Ingersoll, Bethune was very unconventional. Always in a hurry, he drove Dr. Williams' Model T Ford around town at top speed. He gave parties for the neighborhood children. On one occasion he was called to attend a sick farmer and found the tearful wife more concerned about her husband's condition. 'Give me the pail,' said Bethune, and



Dr. Henry Norman Bethune

promptly milked the cows after examining the farmer."

Bethune, who won international fame as a thoracic surgeon, has also been described as being, in varying degrees, a painter, poet, soldier, critic, teacher, lecturer, inventor, medical writer and theorist.

Born in Gravenhurst, Ontario, Bethune is known as a legend to millions of Chinese as an amazing Canadian doctor who gave his life for their revolution.

After receiving his education largely in Canada, and through service in World War I and post-graduate work in Europe, Bethune established his own practice in Detroit. Shortly after this he contracted tuberculosis and entered the Trudeau Sanatorium in New York, but was given poor chances for recovery.

Bethune had always been a fighter though, and if the Sanatorium couldn't do anything for him, he would just have to treat himself.

He began to read everything he could get his hands on concerning thoracic medicine and thoroughly researched a new treatment he thought his case would respond to. His efforts were eventually successful.

From there, he made thoracic medicine his specialty and became world famous for his technique and modifications of surgical instruments. He set himself up in Montreal, holding several private and public consultative posts, and by 1936, was apparently one of the highest paid men in his profession.

Money meant little to Bethune, other than something to buy books with, and throughout the 1930s, he was also becoming increasingly interested in the cause of social justice. Through his involvement with medicine, he was particularly aware of the inadequacies of the state of medical care, and became an ardent supporter of socialized medicine.

In 1936, Bethune left Canada to offer his services in the Spanish Civil War, a fight against Fascism.

He arrived in Madrid late in the year, and organized the first mobile blood transfusion unit to be used anywhere.

In 1937 he became a member of the Community Party of Canada, and in 1938 went to China and assisted both medically and philosophically in the revolution.

Numerous monuments have been erected in Bethune's honor in China, as well as a 800 bed hospital named in his memory.

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Planning may be different

Use of hospital puzzles administrator

By RON PRESTON
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — A 19 per cent increase in the number of patients using the acute care facilities at Alexandra Hospital over the past five months has left administrator Ross Bryant searching for space and answers.

"I really don't understand the phenomenon. If it maintains itself, we'll have to look at future planning a little differently."

A Toronto consulting

firm has been studying the future needs of the facility for the past several months. A draft report will be released to the hospital board at Wednesday night's monthly meeting.

Alexandra splits its available bedspace in half, allotting both acute care (short-term) and chronic care (long-term) wards 36 beds. With the long-term beds normally filled to 94 per cent capacity, the hospital's overall use has now risen to 92 per cent.

Part of the increase in

short-term useage has come from emergency cases. Seven-hundred more people than normal have been admitted, many suffering from serious problems, he said.

FEEDER EFFECT

The increase in patients has "a little feeder effect right down the line" throughout the hospital. Surgical procedures are up 20 per cent, as are x-rays, lab tests, even physiotherapy. "We're just utilizing all services

more."

In his seven years at the health care unit, Bryant said he has never seen such high rates of occupancy before. Summers are traditionally slow, with an occasional ward being closed for a few dates "but not this year."

Area patients wishing to transfer from other hospitals have been placed on a list, waiting for bedspace. There is little hospital officials can do, with no real room for expansion.

The last expansion came in the mid-60s, and there is no room available, "not without looking at areas where we have offices at the moment."

"Space is becoming tight, even for our activities programs," he said. "It's part of our growing problems."

Bryant admits Alexandra's even split between chronic and acute care bed is different than many Ontario hospitals. He feels there is a definite need for another nursing home in Ingersoll.

BACKS UP

"We have people here who are capable of living

in nursing homes." Of the 36 chronic patients, about 10 are ambulatory, and capable of living in a nursing home environment, he said.

When those people are forced into Alexandra's care, "it backs up the hospital facility."

Patients using the acute care beds are averaging a seven and a half day stay, which Bryant said is "acceptable within health care standards."

The administrator is also a proponent of day hospitals, a new type of facility where people are not admitted but treated and sent home. "You come in for forms of rehabilitation, maybe on a Monday-Wednesday-Friday basis."

With Ingersoll's older population, "we're starting to experience people who need more health care," similar to the problems the province expects to face in 20 years time.

The increased patient load has not caused any supply shortages but has put a large bite on the budget. "I'm keeping my eye on it...it's affecting us a bit" but the hospital is still in the black financially.

"All in all, we've just been busier than we ever expected."

Sentinel Review

Sept. 19, 1984

SENTINEL REVIEW
September 19, 1984

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

Hospital has a busy summer

BY TOM DURALIA

Though the situation has abated a little, never has Alexandra Hospital Administrator Ross Bryant seen the facility so consistently busy for such a prolonged period of time.

Over the past five months, the hospital has been handling a steady stream of patients, much more than anticipated for the traditionally slower summer period.

Mr. Bryant said the hospital's usual overall occupancy hovers around the 80 per cent mark, but in the last five months, that percentage has shot up to 92 per cent, and remained there until just recently.

Compared with last year, emergency visits are up about 800 patients to 5,000, surgical cases are up 15 per cent and physiotherapy patients have numbered 5,500, about 700 more that were treated in the same five-month period last year.

Ninety-one per cent of the 36 acute care beds have been occupied, compared with last year's average of 72 per cent, and on average the patients have been staying one-half day longer.

The 36 chronic care beds, normally almost completely occupied at all times, have

remained in just as much demand.

Because of the unusual circumstances, Mr. Bryant said there was some scrambling to be done to re-organize staff vacations, with some voluntarily taking less time off to accommodate the situation. Additionally, part-time employees spent considerable more hours on the job to keep things running smoothly.

With smaller bed base hospitals such as Alexandra, Mr. Bryant said sudden changes in numbers of patients, either coming in or leaving can have drastic effects. Not only does proper staffing have to be dealt with, but overall costs as well.

With more patients, also come additional costs not always budgeted for. Within the past five-month period, Mr. Bryant said costs to the hospital have increased \$30,000 over last year's figure. These costs have come from the prolonged increase in use of all areas of the hospital, including tests, x-rays, meals, linen, etc.

Though the situation has leveled off to about 82 per cent overall occupancy, Mr. Bryant is concerned as to whether the recent activity at the hospital might be the beginning of a future trend.

Recently, the hospital had a future planning report completed by a Toronto consulting firm. The report was received

and approved by hospital trustees about two weeks ago, but in light of the recent circumstances, Mr. Bryant said some of the firm's recommendations might need "a little re-thinking."

The report had been based on the last seven years of activity at Alexandra, and was commissioned to point out where hospital expansion should be directed in the future.

The consultants will be returning to the hospital in mid October, but in the meantime Mr. Bryant is going to take an in-depth look at the recent statistics to check for possible patterns.

Though chronic care bed use has remained high as in past years, Mr. Bryant thinks that is one area that should definitely be looked at. Many of the patients should really be in a nursing home, not the hospital, said Mr. Bryant. If the situation isn't carefully monitored, long term care patients may start taking up medical beds.

According to Mr. Bryant, another nursing home for Ingersoll should be a top priority.

Though the sudden and consistent influx of patients at Alexandra appears quite out of the ordinary, Mr. Bryant said for some reason, the experience seems to be a common one throughout southwestern Ontario hospitals this year.

INGERSOLL TIMES
October 3, 1984

Ingersoll Times
Oct. 3, 1984

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

Say Alexandra Hospital administrators Out of town birth trend must change

BY RICK HUGHES

Alexandra Hospital administrators are concerned about statistics that show many Ingersoll women are going out of town to give birth. If the trend continues to grow, the obstetrics ward at Alexandra Hospital may eventually have to be closed, suggests the hospital's executive director, Ross Bryant.

A six-year study of childbirth in Oxford, Elgin and Middlesex counties by the District Health Council, show there has been a significant drop in the number of births at Alexandra, at a time when the overall number of births in the district are up.

In the last year of the study, which ended March 30 only 115 of a total of 709 babies born to women residing in Ingersoll were delivered at Alexandra.

Of those that were born out of town, 51 were delivered at London's Victoria Hospital, 16 at St. Joseph's, 24 in Woodstock, General and two in Tillsonburg.

Mr. Bryant is not sure why the women prefer to go out of town, but he suspects a big part of it is that many prospective parents assume that because Alexandra is a small hospital, the quality care is not available.

"I don't know. It could be their (the London hospitals) specialty care levels, for some, maybe they had another child born there and so they returned; it's hard to say. Maybe it's just been the family physicians. There could be a whole bunch of little things like that that have contributed," said Mr. Bryant.

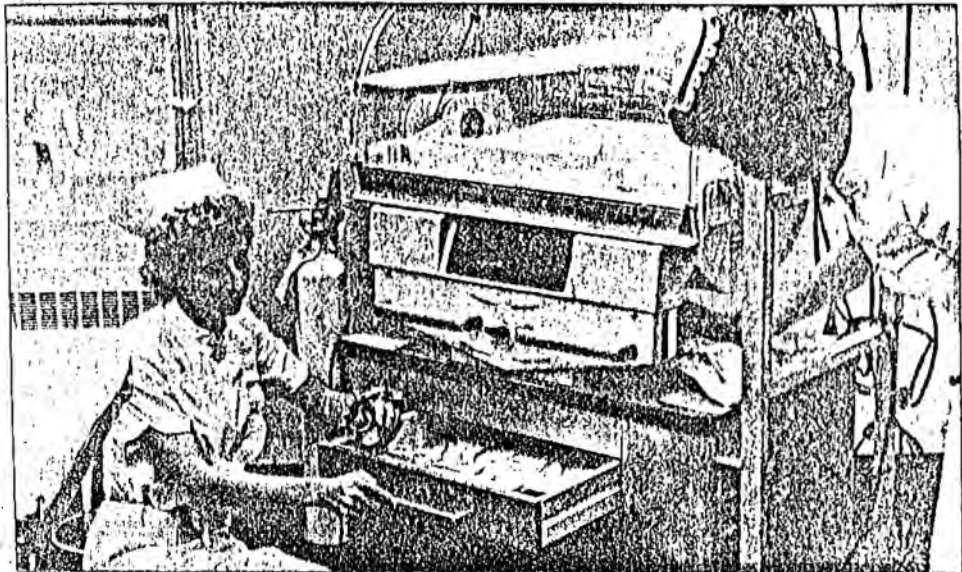
Mr. Bryant said there is probably a lack of awareness in the community about what levels of care and services are available at Alexandra Hospital.

In the long run, if that awareness does not change, and the utilization of Alexandra's obstetrics ward does not improve, there is a chance the ward will have to be closed.

"If we were in business, we would have to look at what is called our market share. Our obstetrics ward is not as busy as it should be, and sometimes it is not staffed unless there is a mother and a baby present. The question is how to maintain an essential service, and our concern is that in a few years, it may not be an essential service," he said.

Last year was the first year of the study in which figures comparing the number of births at Alexandra Hospital to the total for Ingersoll women, were available, however, Mr. Bryant's fears that this is a trend are borne out by some of the other statistics in the study.

The study shows the number of births at Alexandra stayed fairly steady for the first three years of the study. In 1978, 1979 and 1980, there was 148, 137 and 156 births at Alexandra respectively.



Ruth Hill, left, and Karen Matson, Alexandra Hospital's two nursing team leaders, prepare an Isolette, an incubator-like bed for administering oxygen, in case it is needed during delivery.

There was a significant drop in 1981, when the number dipped to 128, and it has stayed at those lower totals since, dropping further to 107 in 1982, and, as mentioned 118 for 1983.

Mr. Bryant has no way of knowing how many more women went out of town those years, but he feels it is higher than it should be.

Alexandra Hospital's obstetrics ward is equipped to handle all normal deliveries. In the case of major complications, patients are transferred to London hospitals. The normal percentage for births with such complications is 10 to 15 per cent.

"There are always some referrals for those that have high risks. Some deserve more specialized care that likely will continue, it's a reality," he said.

However, it is those women who don't need to go out of town that concerns Mr. Bryant.

Except in cases with major complications, Alexandra has as much to offer as the larger London hospitals said Mr. Bryant. He feels that the quality of care here is just as good, and being a smaller hospital, it can offer things the others cannot, he feels.

"The quality care is available here, we have good back-up and the family physicians are here. It's important to remember that it is easier for members of the family to visit here, and here, you have more of a personal touch. The staff is friendly and caring, you're not just another

patient, you're not the 50th baby of the day," he said.

There are not many options open to Mr. Bryant and the rest of the hospital administration to change the trend, but they are trying to do what they can.

Mr. Bryant said he had brought the matter up with the London hospitals. Although they have been cooperative, Mr. Bryant said they aren't really in a position to change it much either.

The process begins with the mother's family doctor, and the referrals doctors give their patients.

"I've talked to the doctors. The use of the patient's hospital starts with them," he said.

He is trying to make sure they are aware of what kinds of care are available at the hospital.

In the past 18 months, the hospital has made some changes to the ward, increasing the types and availability of care.

The ward has added some new Isolettes (incubator like beds) acquired some ultrasound equipment; and perhaps most importantly, with the addition of Dr. Marc Pariser to the staff, they are now able to administer epidurals.

Epidurals are a local anaesthetic that freeze the lower half of a woman's body. It is popular with many women who prefer to avoid the pain of labour and childbirth, and is often used when there are complications. Because of the small size of Alexandra's

staff, epidurals are only available when they have been pre-arranged with the family doctor.

Although only available on that limited basis, Mr. Bryant is hoping that Dr. Pariser's ability to perform epidurals on women who want them will attract some who might have gone elsewhere, back to Alexandra.

"That (epidurals) wasn't available before, patients had to go elsewhere. But now we can provide them. But is the public aware of that?" said Mr. Bryant.

Dr. Pariser has been at Alexandra for just over a year, so any impact he has had on the percentage of women staying in town to give birth will only show up on the 1984 results, which Mr. Bryant said will only be available next summer.

Ernst and Whinney, the consultants that have been studying the long range needs and trends affecting Alexandra, have recommended that the obstetrics ward should remain open if any further drain can be stopped, or if the trend is reversed. The board agrees with the recommendation, said Mr. Bryant.

So for the foreseeable future, the obstetrics ward will continue to operate.

"Our concern is that we are not sure why some of these births have to go out of town," said Mr. Bryant. "We want to bring to people's attention that if they are concerned about our unit (the obstetrics ward) then they should be concerned that we use it."

Ingersoll Times

Dec. 24, 1984

Women who use local hospital are pleased with the special care

BY RICK HUGHES

There is no reason women who expect to have normal deliveries should not go to Alexandra Hospital to give birth, say the hospital's nursing team leaders. Ruth Hill and Karen Matson also feel that Alexandra's maternity ward has a lot to offer.

"Anyone that does come here seems to be pleased. We've heard no complaints," said Mrs. Matson.

The ward is equipped to handle all normal deliveries and offers expectant parents a full package of pre and post natal services.

In cases where there are complications, mothers are transferred to London hospitals.

"I wouldn't want a small hospital to do that (handle births with major complications)," said Mrs. Matson. "It's a specialty with special doctors. We have all we want to here."

In the past 18 months the ward has broadened the range of services available with the acquisition of some new equipment and the addition of two doctors to the medical staff. The hospital has recently purchased ultrasound equipment, and a transport isolette (an incubator-like bed for taking neo-natal cases to other hospitals); and Dr. Marc Pariser, an anesthetologist, and Dr. Milly Mervart, an obstetrician-gynecologist, have joined the hospital staff.

Although the additions have definitely improved the ward, the unique thing that Alexandra Hospital has to offer is the personal care, something that is a benefit of its small size.

"Here we don't have a lot of babies. In a London hospital, you may have 20 to 45 babies in a day. The most babies we'll have

on the ward at a time is four or five. So we're able to spend the time, and we can pick up problems, if they're in feeding, or if they're personal or whatever," said Mrs. Matson.

"A lot of people in town know nurses, that happens quite often, and that helps."

Grace Zomer recently gave birth to her daughter, Sarah, at Alexandra Hospital in September.

"I like the freedom. It's so easy going," she said. "If I wanted the baby all day, that was okay. There are so few patients you get so much attention. I like that."

She said another reason she liked giving birth in Ingersoll, was that she was close to home and as a result, had more visitors than she would have had she gone to London.

Another woman, who asked not to be identified, who was scheduled to deliver her baby in Ingersoll but had to be transferred to a London hospital due to complications, came back to Ingersoll for post-partum care. She said she found a big change in the care when she returned to Alexandra after delivery in London.

"They were very busy in London that week. It never seemed like they had enough nurses. The care when I got back was quite a bit better," she said.

The obstetrics services offered by the hospital begin well before the expecting mother is admitted. Free pre-natal classes for both the mother and father are available.

"We went through the class as well," said Mrs. Matson, "so we know what our patients know when they get here."

In the last year, ultrasound tests have become available one day a week.

"That is an added convenience," said Mrs. Hill.

The arrival of a new obstetrician, Dr.

Mervart, should also add convenience. Hospital Executive Director Ross Bryant said that Dr. Mervart, who is replacing Dr. Tasker, will have more time available to act as a consulting obstetrician at Alexandra.

The hospital has fetal monitoring equipment, used when the woman goes into labour, and it has delivery rooms that are fully equipped with all the standard monitoring equipment.

The hospital surgeon, Dr. Sushil Warma, can do cesarean sections if necessary. Since the arrival of Dr. Pariser, epidurals are available.

An epidural is a local anaesthetic that freezes the lower half of a woman's body.

The unavailability of epidurals at Alexandra in the past may be one of the key reasons why many women chose to go to large hospitals to give birth. It is a popular procedure among women who have difficult deliveries and is often used in cases where there are complications.

Its availability at Alexandra now means that many women who wish to have one will no longer have to go elsewhere.

One example is Darlene Phillips, who was scheduled to deliver at Alexandra but had to be transferred to London. Because of complications, she needed an epidural. She said she would like to have an epidural if she has another child.

"If a drug is out that works, then why go through the pain," she reasoned.

In London hospitals, epidurals are routinely available but at Alexandra, their use is more restricted.

"They are only done if Dr. Pariser is spoken to by the family physician in advance, or if problems arise," said Mrs. Matson.

The reason for the limited use is that once a woman is given the anaesthetic she requires constant supervision, and unless prearranged, there may not be enough staff on duty for that. In addition, Dr. Pariser would also have to stay in the building and unless prearranged, he may not be available.

Alexandra also allows a lot of family contact during the birthing process. The father is allowed in the delivery room and after, the mother's other children are allowed to visit her and the new baby.

A much-liked option offered by the hospital is "rooming-in", where the mother is allowed to take care of her new-born infant in her own hospital room. It allows for maximum contact between mother and child during the hospital stay.

The baby is checked and tested and they are able to take care of all but severe neo-natal babies.

Post-natal classes covering a wide range of topics, from breast feeding to car seats, are also offered.

Ingersoll Times

Dec. 24, 1984

Meet Alexandra Hospital's incoming slate of officers

By RICK HUGHES
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Alexandra Hospital's new board of trustees held its first meeting Tuesday night, and at the top of the agenda was the election of the board's officers.

Tom Parker, last year's vice-chairman, was chosen to succeed Rev. Roger McCombe as the board's new chairman. Vice-chairman for 1985-86 is Bill Hawkins.

Ernie Wilson is treasurer, a position he has held for a number of years.

Alexandra's executive director, Ross Bryant, will serve as the board's secretary.

The board also selected the chairmen of its committees for the coming year.

Some of those selections are automatic: Hawkins as chairman of the management committee, Wilson as chairman of the finance committee and Parker as chairman of the joint conference committee.

For the other two committees, Pat Bell was re-elected as chairwoman of the public relations committee, and John Van Dyke, who returned to the board this year after a two-year absence, gets his old job back as chairman of the property committee.

Parker, the new chairman is heading into the last of eight consecutive years; he is allowed to serve on the board.

Wilson has also served seven consecutive years, and will have to step down for at least one year after the 1985-86 term.

Sentinel Review

June 20, 1985

Hospital surplus two years in a row

BY TOM DURALIA

At the annual public meeting of Alexandra Hospital held last Tuesday, chairman of the finance committee Ernie Wilson proudly announced that the hospital had again managed to take in more money than it spent for the year ending March 31, 1984.

A total of \$347,936 was left over after expenses this year, making it the second year in a row the hospital has shown a surplus. Last year the hospital boasted a profit of \$223,500.

This money will be used for future equipment or renovations on the hospital.

The surplus comes as a result of an increased grant from the Ministry of Health, close to 19 per cent higher, allocated to the hospital to reopen its chronic care ward.

Mr. Wilson added that other factors contributing to the surplus included more efficient staffing patterns throughout the hospital and the provincial nine and five per cent restraint program in operation over the past two years, as wages account for 70 per cent of all hospital costs.

In presenting the report from the chairman of the board, the Rev. Roger McCombe added some color to the proceedings by quoting the erudite words of Cicero, a Roman orator, in connection with both the hospital's celebration of its 75th anniversary and to do with a planning study currently underway.

Concerning the importance of history, Cicero commented "Not to know what happened before you were born, is to remain always a child."

"It is good to celebrate the past," said Mr. McCombe, but it is also good to plan for the future. Referring to the study by the Toronto consulting firm of Ernst and Whinney on the role of Alexandra Hospital

in the community, Mr. McCombe drew from Cicero again, reciting "Let us not go over the old ground, let us rather prepare for what is to come."

While those at the meeting were still reeling from the weight of those words, preparations for the election of five new offices took place.

Elected to two-year terms on the board were Dorothy Griffin, Tom Parker, Gary Cochrane, Barney Bree and George Cornfield.

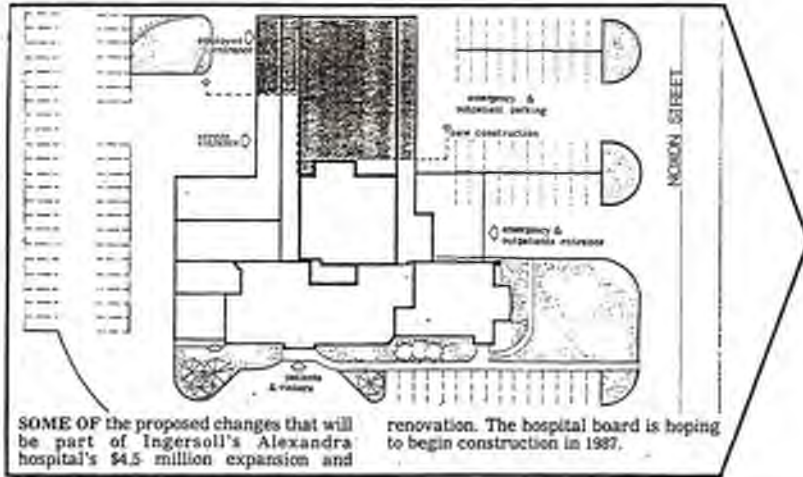
Other board members presently in the middle of their terms are Mr. McCombe, Mr. Wilson, P.A. Bell, William Hawkins and Don Hillis.

Those holding appointed positions are Bob Ball, representing the Town of Ingersoll, Walt Wilson representing the county, Dr. David Simpson, medical staff representative, and Diane Benoit, replacing Jean MacDougall as the hospital auxiliary representative.

Leaving the board will be Derek White and John Van Dyke, who have served as trustees the past two years, and Norm McLeod, who has served the maximum allowable term of eight consecutive years.

Ingersoll Times

June 20, 1985



Expansion coming for Ingersoll's Alexandra

By RICK HUGHES
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Alexandra Hospital has announced plans to undertake a \$4.5 million renovation and expansion of its present facilities to meet the anticipated demands of the community over the next 10 years.

The proposed changes — prepared by London architects Lamb and Jordan — will add 17,000 square feet to the hospital's present 65,000 square feet, most of it in an extension to the four floors of the hospital's east wing. Most of that space will be used to centralize the chronic-care and acute-care beds in two main wards.

The rest of the additional space and the majority of the renovations will allow the hospital to add some needed facilities and to relocate existing ones in more efficient and strategic places.

The hospital's Board of Trustees approved the plans at its last meeting.

"We are operating under cramped conditions in a number of our operations," said board chairman Tom Parker at a press conference Monday. "our medical records area, physiotherapy, nursing stations, are not adequate. We're at 92-per-cent capacity with our chronic-care beds. That pressure, we understand from our needs study, will continue."

AWAITING APPROVAL

Parker said the board and hospital administration are now waiting for approval of the plans from the district health council and the Ministry of Health.

"I can't speak for the ministry of health, but if all proceeds along, then we are looking at construction beginning in 1987," said Parker.

"If the ministry of health gives approval, we are still looking at planning and tendering. This is a general plan, there would have to be more detailed plans."

He said the trustees will be asking the ministry to pay at least 50 per cent of the cost. The rest of the money will have to be found in either the hospital's reserves or the community.

"I don't think there's any doubt we're going to have to go to the community in a fund-raising project," said Parker.

While the changes will not increase the number of beds, they will allow the hospital to handle more patients through expanded outpatient and day-hospital services.

(see RENOVATIONS, page 5)

SEWING L
Reviews
April 8, 1986

Alexandra expansion gets board approval

BY MICKEY LEBLANC

A \$4.5 million expansion and renovation program at Alexandra Hospital has been approved by local trustees and now awaits the go-ahead of the Ministry of Health.

Not only could the hospital be in the midst of a building program in 1987, but it could soon be immersed in a fund raising campaign, since the provincial government is expected to provide 50 to 60 per cent funding for the expansion and renovations, leaving the hospital to pick up the rest of the bill.

Included in the plans is a \$350,000 expenditure to upgrade the x-ray department which is now using 18-year-old equipment, Board Chairman Tom Parker said Monday.

Plans are to add 17,000 square feet to the existing building which

already has 65,000 square feet of space.

But Mr. Parker was careful to point out that the plans do not include additional beds, but provides for more patient services and flexibility in all areas of the hospital.

Alexandra has 72 beds in total, just short of the 80 bed capacity. Parker said there were no plans now to expand to full capacity but there will be room to expand if needed.

Parker said the next step is to have the plans approved by the District Health Council and then the Ministry of Health. If everything goes right that approval could come within six months.

The timetable trustees would like to see followed would have a construction start in 1987, with the rest of this year being used to clear up the details of the project and making any changes to the plans.

MAJOR CHANGES

The proposed plans call for a major redesigning of the hospital's interior and would leave very few portions of the building untouched.

Hospital Director Ross Bryant said each of the floors will undergo major renovations.

Starting at the ground floor a health education area would be developed, which would also be used as a meeting room and for staff development.

The morgue would be relocated to a new area as would the space used for employee facilities.

The problem of handling soiled materials would also be solved by moving it, and opening an exit which would eliminate the need for personnel to walk through other parts of the building before reaching an exit.

On the first floor, Bryant said the 12 chronic care beds would be moved to the second floor creating space for offices, library, computer, medical records and charting functions.

What is now the main and emergency entrance would be changed to emergency and out-patient entrance, Bryant said.

Physiotherapy would be moved into a new section of the building and a day hospital, which Bryant described as a fairly new concept, would be created. An out-patient area would also be added to the first floor.

A new lobby area would be built and another elevator would be built where a flight of stairs now exist.

On the second floor 36 chronic care beds (including 12 moved from the first floor) would move into a new section of the building while obstetrics would shift into the old area.

That move would eliminate the present situation where chronic care beds and obstetrics are intermingled.

Fourth floor plans include moving all the medical beds together, creating a lounge and day surgery facilities.

Outside, the plans call for increased parking facilities and moving the main visitors' entrance. Both entrances to the hospital will remain from Noxon Street, and with the creation of a new visitors' entrance, more parking will be provided in that area.

INGERSOLL

TIMES

April 9, 1986

Hospital seeks OK to expand

INGERSOLL (Bureau) — Alexandra Hospital board is seeking Ontario health ministry approval for a \$4.5-million expansion that is expected to involve a public money-raising campaign.

Board chairman Tom Parker of Ingersoll will make a pitch for early local support today when he gives Oxford County council a briefing on the plan.

Parker said Tuesday a 1,530-square-metre (17,000-square-foot) addition will be made to the east wing.

If approvals are speedily forthcoming from the Thames Valley district health council and the ministry, work could begin next year at the 72-bed hospital.

Parker said that while the project will not increase the number of beds, the extra space will allow Alexandra to better serve its patients and the public.

It should spark a reorganization of hospital services and permit centralization of patients on the second and third floors.

Parker said he expects the project will eventually require public contributions under an agreement with the ministry, which might cover 50 per cent of the costs.

WOODSTOCK
FREE
PRESS

April 9, 1986

Oxford approached to aid Ingersoll hospital expansion

WOODSTOCK (Bureau) — An official from Ingersoll's Alexandra Hospital asked Oxford County council Wednesday to consider a financial contribution to a proposed \$4.5-million expansion and renovation project.

Council reviewed the preliminary plans for Alexandra with hospital board chairman Tom Parker of Ingersoll, who stopped short of requesting a specific amount.

Council asked its administration and finance committee to recommend a contribution.

Parker said the plan involves an addition and reorganization of hospital services to better serve patients, the public and employees.

While there wasn't anything specific in terms of a request, Parker referred to a previous council's promise to provide \$600,000 over three years to a building campaign at Stratford General Hospital in neighboring Perth County.

Oxford made the first of three planned \$200,000 payments to the

Stratford hospital last year.

Pressed by Councillor Ken Bullen of Woodstock to give council some idea of how much the hospital wants, Parker said he hoped it would be similar to Stratford's allotment.

He described Ingersoll as a "key community" in Oxford and the Ontario ministry of health as a prospective "big contributor" of about half of the needed money.

The hospital is seeking health ministry approval of the plan, Parker said.

The 72-bed hospital needs to make the planned changes if it is to continue to provide a good level of service, said Parker, adding part of the job will involve centralizing patients who are now in various parts of the building.

In a letter to council, hospital executive director R. F. Bryant said plans also call for easing "congested conditions" in the emergency department area and a larger physiotherapy centre.

WOODSTOCK

FREE
PRESS

April 10, 1986

AT ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

Finances still a concern

By RICK HUGHES
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Despite the third straight year with an operating surplus, a gloomy picture of Alexandra Hospital's finances was presented at its annual meeting Tuesday.

The financial statement for the 1985-86 fiscal year showed an operating surplus of \$114,745, which is down slightly from the \$483,231 operating surplus recorded the year before.

"We had a good, successful financial year," said Alexandra's executive director Ross Bryant after the meeting. "We were able to put some more money aside for our (planned expansion) project, but our concern is that we will be able to do so in the future. We have an

erosion of our funding base — our revenues are not guaranteed."

About 50 people attended the annual meeting, held to review the hospital's audited financial statement, pass the year-end board and committee reports, and elect a new slate of board members for 1986-87.

GOOD SHAPE NOW

The financial statement showed the hospital finished 1985-86 in a good financial position.

Bryant said keeping a close eye on operating expenses helped create the surplus, but there were a number of other factors that contributed: he said its pension fund did well, adding approximately \$30,000 to the revenues; labor contract settlements were in line with budgeted forecasts; and the hospital was able to get good prices on some major equipment purchases during the year. The hospital also generated \$191,629 income from its surplus fund investments.

Its accumulated surplus now stands

at \$1.7 million.

But despite the good news now, treasurer Ernie Wilson cautioned that financial cushion could quickly evaporate.

GOVERNMENT ALLOCATION

He pointed out the hospital's government allocation went up by five per cent and its total revenue went up by just over seven per cent.

"The alarming thing is that expenses increased by 10 per cent," said Wilson. "One of these days, those paths will cross. If you look ahead to 1986-87, then those paths are much closer to crossing."

In 1986-87, the board is anticipating another 5 per cent increase in the allocation, he said, but it is also projecting another 10 per cent increase in expenditures.

Contributing to the increase last year were a 350-per-cent jump in insurance costs, up to \$17,000, and a doubling of Workers Compensation Board contributions.

The hospital's board also looks ahead to the planned \$3.8 million expansion of the hospital with apprehension. It will gobble up much of that \$1.7 million surplus, and the board will also lose the investment income.

"If you delete that investment of \$1.7 million, and the interest it will generate, our budget for 1986-87 would be in a deficit," said Wilson. "It is critical we address this structuring of the financial picture."

DEMAND FOR BEDS

In his report, Bryant noted demand for all of the hospital's services increased during the year and for the first time, occupancy levels in the 72 acute-care beds was over 91 per cent.

There were a number of significant medical equipment purchases during the year, totaling close to \$150,000. They included an arthroscope for \$20,000, a chemistry analyzer for the hospital labs for \$50,000 and a new computerized electrocardiograph machine, at \$15,000. The ECG machine was paid for by the hospital auxiliary.



ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL'S out-going chairman Tom Parker delivers his report at the hospital's annual meeting Tuesday.

(Staff photo by Rick Hughes)

New faces on board

I**NGERSOLL** — There will be two new faces on Alexandra Hospital's board of trustees for 1986-87.

Elections for six vacant seats were held at Tuesday's annual meeting, but four of those were filled by incumbents.

John McBride and former town councillor Jack Warden are the two new members, both of whom were elected for two-year terms. They will fill the vacancies created by the departure from the board of two of its long-standing members, Tom Parker and Ernie Wilson.

Both Parker and Wilson are leaving after serving the maximum of eight consecutive years (hospital bylaws state that a member can only sit for eight years).

Re-elected to the board for two-year terms were Dorothy Griffin, Gary Cochrane and George Cornfield. Re-elected for a one-year term was John Van Dyke.

The only unsuccessful candidate was Honi Calhoun of Thamesford.

Board members who have a year to go on two-year terms are Pat

Bell, Roger McCombe and Bill Hawkins.

There are also four appointed members of the board: Mayor Doug Harris represents council, Wayne Smith, a Zorra township and county councillor represents the county, Gloria McKibbin will replace Diana Benoit as the hospital auxiliary representative, and Dr. Tom Mayberry represents the medical staff.

The board is losing two of its most experienced members in Parker and Wilson. Parker was chairman of the board during the last year, while Wilson has served as treasurer for the past four years. In that time, the hospital has gone from a deficit to a surplus position. Both have also been involved in Alexandra's two-year, long-range planning process that recently saw the announcement of plans for a major \$3.5 million expansion of the hospital. They can return to the board after a one-year absence.

The board will meet next week to elect a new chairman and its other officers.

SENTINEL

REVIEW

June 11, 1986

Alexandra elects new executive

INGERSOLL — The Alexandra Hospital Board of Trust has elected its new executive. William Hawkins is chairman. Gary Cochrane is vice-chairman, George Cornfield is treasurer, and Ross Bryant is secretary.

Committee chairmen were also elected this week. Gary Cochrane is chairman of the management committee; John Van Dyke is chairman of property and planning; and Pat Bell is chairman of the publicity committee.

SENT OVER REVIEW
June 20, 1986

Money is coming for expansion

Alexandra gets a nice surprise

By RICK HUGHES
of The Sentinel-Review

Ingersoll's Alexandra Hospital will be getting some of the \$104.6 the Ontario government plans to spend on hospital beds and building expansions in southwestern Ontario.

Health Minister Murray Elston announced the spending plans at a number of stops made in a whirlwind tour of the area Friday.

The spending will create an additional 365 chronic and acute-care beds in southwestern Ontario hospitals. Elston announced funding for 328 chronic and 37 acute care-beds in separate visits to London, St. Thomas and Sarnia.

Included in the funding is support for Alexandra Hospital's plans for a 17,000 square foot, \$4.5-million expansion.

SURPRISED

"We were somewhat taken aback. We were not aware that there was going to be an announcement," George Cornfield, head of the finance committee of Alexandra's board of trustees, said this morning.

"It caught us by surprise. Mind you it's a nice surprise."

Hospital officials were unsure this morning exactly how much funding the ministry had agreed to provide. When plans for the expansion were announced in April, Alexandra's then-board chairman Tom Parker said he hoped the ministry would provide 50 per cent of the needed funds.

Elston's announcements are part of a total \$850-million expansion of the health system in Ontario announced by Treasurer Bob Nixon in his May budget.

Earlier in the week, Elston announced in Hamilton and Guelph that more than \$200 million will be spent to create 939 chronic and acute care hospital beds in west central Ontario and the Niagara region.

Hospital officials have long pressed the health ministry for new chronic-care facilities because many chronic patients are taking up space designed for acute-care patients. This has meant acute care patients are spending less time in hospitals than they should.

The funding announced Friday will create an additional 168 chronic-care beds in London, and Middlesex, Oxford and Elgin counties. Of those, 120 are earmarked for St. Mary's and London, leaving 48 to be distributed evenly among the three counties, including Oxford.

Oxford MPP Dick Treleaven could not be reached for comment on whether the additional beds satisfy his complaint of a shortage of chronic-care beds in the county — one of three complaints about county health services that led him to embark on a one-man filibuster at Queen's Park earlier this summer.

APPROVAL

Cornfield said the announcement amounts to ministry approval of Alexandra's expansion plans. He said executive director Ross Bryant now plans to move ahead and have design plans drawn up for the expansion.

Most of the expansion will be as an extension to the four floors of the hospital's east wing, to centralize its acute and chronic-care wards. The rest will enable the hospital to add and expand some needed facilities, such as its day-surgery area and physiotherapy clinic.

The balance of the money needed for the expansion will be raised through fund-raising and debenturing. The hospital is aiming for construction to begin in 1987.

SENTINEL

REVIEW

August 8, 1986

Hospital work should be complete by 1988, barring any complications

By PHYLLIS COULTER
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Barring

complications, construction will begin on a \$3.9 million redevelopment project for Alexandra Hospital, next year.

And the project will be complete in 1988.

At its September meeting, the hospital's board of trustees selected Wilfred Lamb of London as the architect. Lamb has been involved with the primary work for the project which was approved by the Ontario Ministry of Health in August.

Hospital executive director Ross Bryant is pleased Ingersoll made it to the top of the heap. There are piles of proposals for hospital expansions sent to the ministry on a regular basis.

The next step is to have detailed drawings made which must also be approved by the health ministry.

If things go according to his ambitious time schedule, Bryant expects tenders can be let early in the spring next year. He wants tenders out early enough that most potential bidders haven't committed themselves.

The expansion and redevelopment plan, passed by the ministry was designed before Ingersoll became the home of GM/Suzuki. Thus it is meant to accommodate the needs to the current population. Bryant says that growth will be monitored to see if further expansion will be needed down the road.

Another elevator is one of the features of the proposal. Currently the hospital has only one elevator which the public, patients, and staff all must share.

The public entrance to the hospital will also be changed. Currently the visitors entrance and emergency entrance are combined. This leads to congestion and lack of privacy when there is an emergency, Bryant notes. Out patients are being treated in the same area as well.

The hospital's last major renovation took place in 1970. Prior to that, an x-ray room was built. The same procedure will be happening this time too.

The x-ray room developed in 1968 needs updating, and this will take place before the major renovations start. New equipment will be purchased for this room in consultation with the radiologist, Bryant says.

Work on this separate project will begin in four to six months and will cost about \$400,000.

In addition, about \$100,000 must be spent on the hospital in the near future to bring it up to fire standards.

That combined with the upcoming \$3.9 million expansion and redevelopment means that there is a need for fund-raising.

Several alternative plans to fund-raising are being considered. The group is looking for the best way to raise funds in this community.

Fund-raising will begin soon, Bryant predicts.

*Sentinel Review
October 1, 1986*

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

Hospital standards are the highest

Alexandra Hospital for the second time in a row has been granted a three year certificate from the Canada Council of Hospital Accreditation.

The three year certificate is the maximum award given by the council, Alexandra hospital's executive director Ross Bryant explained, and is only given to hospitals showing evidence of exceptionally high standards of patient care.

"It doesn't get us any more money, but I think it tells the folks in the community that we certainly measure up with hospitals across Canada that have the maximum award that the council can give you," Bryant said.

The Canada Council of Hospital Accreditation is an independent body of hospital examiners who work to produce Canada wide stan-

dards of patient care.

Accreditation from the group is important, Bryant said, because funding bodies use it as a yardstick to measure a hospital's operating efficiency and standards of patient care.

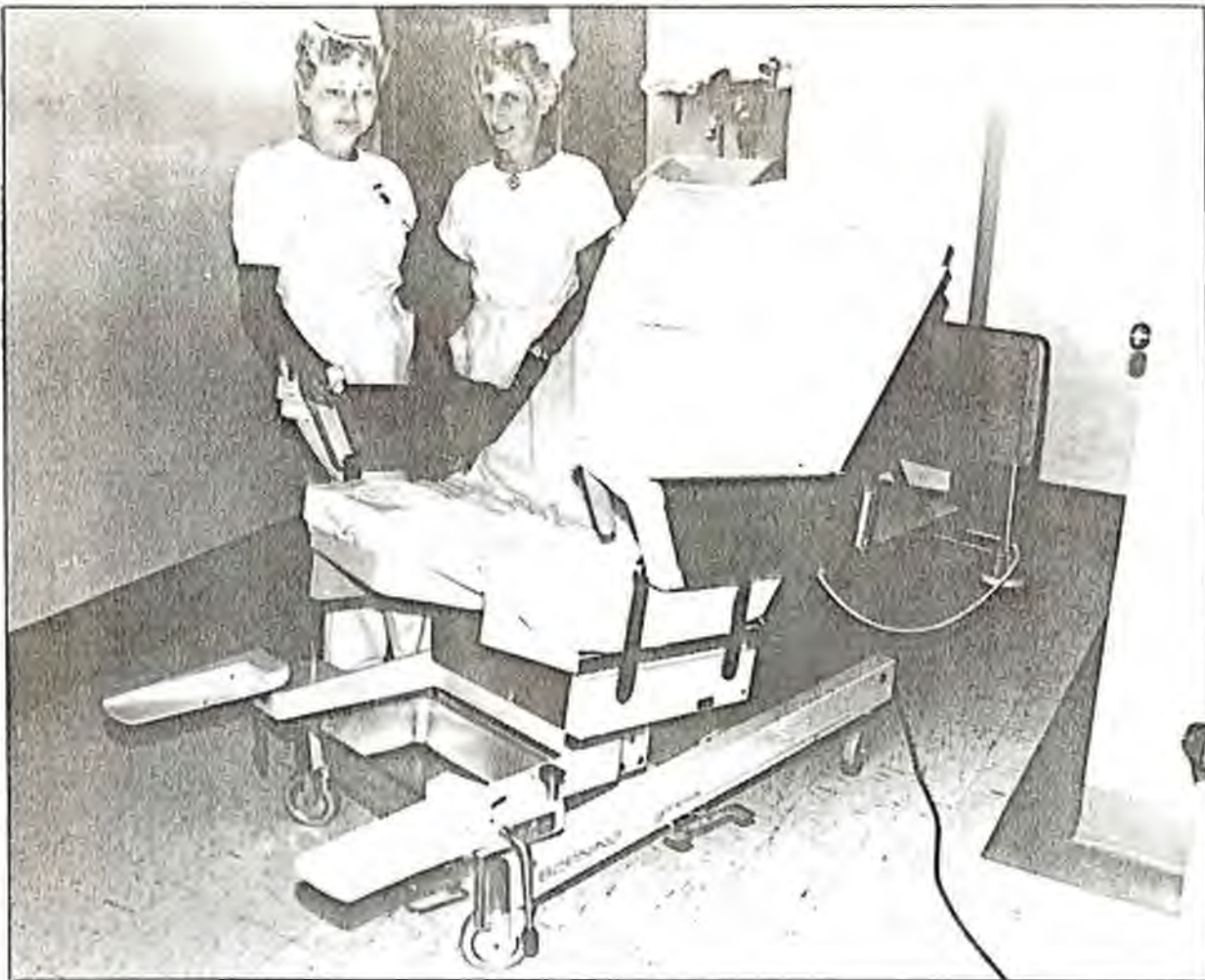
Loss of accreditation or a serious drop in standings won't put a hospital out of business, Bryant said, but would cause the provincial Ministry of Health to take a long, serious look at the way such an institution is run.

Loss of accreditation is exceedingly rare, Bryant pointed out. Most commonly hospitals will receive a two or one year award.

"Two year certificates are the most common. Less than one third of the hospitals across Canada get a three year certificate. It is a mark of high professionalism," he said.

INGERSOLL TIMES

October 1, 1986



Head nurses Karen Mattson and Ruth Hill stand behind Alexandra Hospital's newest acquisition, a birthing bed. Completely adjustable and very comfortable, the bed

has become a popular alternative to the standard delivery room model.

New birthing bed at hospital

By JOHN MENTEK

It lifts up and down, folds to a sitting position, and is fully adjustable by the user or someone sitting next to her.

The user will always be a her, barring a medical miracle, because the item in question is a state-of-the-art birthing bed, or "borning unit" as they are called by the Trudell Medical Warehouse of London, which recently supplied one to Alexandra Hospital.

"It's new for around this area," said Karen Mattson, a head nurse at Alexandra hospital. "We've had it since the first of August, although London had them before that."

A simple push button control box

attached to a stalk at the left side of the bed allows the user to easily adjust positions while lying flat. It operates much like an electric hospital bed, although the birthing bed is far more adjustable.

Mothers like the comfort most of all, Mattson said. The bed allows them to settle themselves comfortably and relax, which in most cases helps make delivery a little easier.

"From experience, mothers, when they're ready for delivery, don't like to be transferred from a bed to a stretcher to a table," Mattson claimed.

"You want to be left where you are and left to push and get the baby out, and this is the bed to do it in."

A far cry from the "ironing boards" used in the delivery room,

women are now admitted to an ordinary room containing the birthing bed and, barring complications, deliver the baby there.

Because the bed allows a mother to deliver the baby in her own room, a woman may never have to see the inside of a delivery room, Mattson said. The unit is also fitted with wheels and can be moved if necessary.

At least 19 women have tried the birthing bed to date, claimed head nurse Ruth Hill, and so far it has come away with rave reviews.

A spokesman for Trudeau Medical Warehouse said the American-made birthing bed has been available to hospitals since the early 1980's, and dozens have been sold across the province.

INGERSOLL TIMES
October 8, 1986

New executive is elected by hospital auxiliary

A new executive was installed at the annual meeting of the Alexandra Hospital Auxiliary, last Monday.

Anthea Warma is president and first vice-president is Marion Kosmal. Second vice-president is Edith Phillips. Irene Exley has the job of treasurer and secretary is Joy Foster.

Corresponding secretary is Louise Roberts and in charge of public relations is Barbara Newell.

Alexandra Hospital Administrator Ross Bryant thanked the auxiliary

for the donation of three electric beds.

Clifford Smith reported that 10 six inch colored television had been purchased for the use of hospital patients.

Anthea Warma and Anne Lyddiatt reported on the spring conference in Leamington.

The Florence Nightingale Tea will be held in the hospital cafeteria Thursday, May 14 from 2 to 4 p.m. There will be a draw for an afghan.

Ingersoll will host the fall conference October 7.

INGERSOLL TIMES

May 6, 1987

Hospital board

INGERSOLL — Cliff Martin only missed the opportunity to be a member of the Alexandra Hospital board by a number of days.

The hospital's regulations state that a spouse of an employee of the hospital cannot sit on the board.

His wife Marg, a member of hospital staff has resigned as of June 30. But since the new board's first meeting is June 16, Martin did not qualify to be nominated because his wife is still officially a hospital employee at the time of the election.

Greg Stewart of Thamesford is the only brand new member to the board.

Ernie Wilson, selected as a board member a few years ago, was re-elected.

Pat Bell, John Van Dyke, and Bill Hawkins (current trustees) were also re-elected to the new board.

SENTINEL REVIEW

June 11, 1987

Baby boomlet

INGERSOLL — Alexandra Hospital experienced a mini-baby boom of late. The birth rate here increased 13 per cent over last year.

In 1985-86, the hospital welcomed 116 children to the world, and in 1986-87 that number increased to 131.

"A busy year" is how the chairman of the board to Alexandra Hospital, Bill Hawkins, described the last 12 months at the hospital.

Admissions increased but the length of stay decreased.

Admissions increased 16.5 per cent and the length of stay declined to about seven days.

Occupancy declined for long term care patients throughout the year. Hawkins attributed it to the availability of retirement homes and the transfer of patients to nursing homes facilities, and said this has undoubtedly assisted the hospital's efforts to place patients in suitable accommodations.

Acute care occupancy was 90.7 per cent. This significant increase affects several departments including nursing, medical records, radiology, laboratory and maintenance, Hawkins reported.

It is fair to say that the growth experienced this year virtually affects every functioning department throughout the hospital including administration, he added.

He said tenders for the building project, estimated to cost \$5.8 million, should begin later this summer. The project was originally expected to cost about \$3.2 million.

"A cost analysis report based on the functional program (a detailed report about the project submitted to the Ontario Ministry of Health) clearly indicates the need to undertake a fundraising campaign," he said.

The campaign target may be \$2 million, people were told at the same meeting.

SENTINEL REVIEW

June 11, 1987

INGERSOLL'S FINE LADY IS 78

And they celebrated in fine fashion

Story and photo
by PAULINE KERR
for The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — From its beginnings in the old Noxon home to the present modern medical facility, Alexandra Hospital has been through some dramatic changes. Tuesday marked the 78th anniversary of the hospital.

A luncheon in the cafeteria was attended by staff and members of the auxiliary both past and present.

Special guests included Isobel Baxter, Mary Haley and Ethel Sherlock.

In her many years of service to the hospital, 23 years as a trustee and three terms as president of the auxiliary, Baxter has seen the hospital through one major building campaign and is about to see Alexandra through another.

Baxter was on the 1950 building committee and noted the 78th anniversary celebration was held in a part of that project, the cafeteria.

JOINED AUXILIARY IN 1929

When Baxter joined the auxiliary in 1929, fund raising was, as it is now, an important function of the group. Teas and penny sales were held. One such sale held in 1949 or 50 at the Ingersoll Old Town Hall lasted three days and raised \$4,000. "Merchants were most generous," said Baxter. "We sold tickets on a washing machine one year. A local business also donated a stove and a fridge"

Haley remembers an incident which happened when she was in charge of collecting funds before one penny sale. She was so worried about the money she slept with it between her feet. The next day she asked a friend to have her husband guard it. When she returned a few days later to collect the money, she said: "I've come for my \$800." The



INGERSOLL'S ALEXANDRA Hospital marked its 78th birthday Tuesday. Participating in the celebration were Isobel Baxter, long-time member of the hospital auxiliary; Ross Bryant, executive director of the hospital, and

Ann Stewart, director of nursing. In honor of the occasion, Bryant and Stewart dressed in costumes reminiscent of Alexandra's beginnings in the old Noxon house.

shocked friend removed the envelope from a cupboard shelf where she had casually placed it.

Baxter said today's auxiliary may not have as many members but they raise more money and "work

harder at it. They have marvelous ideas and great workers to carry them out. They have \$45,000 to raise (for the building campaign) and they'll do it."

When asked about the plans for

the addition and renovations, Baxter was pleased to see a separate room for the auxiliary. The group prepares Easter trays and does many other jobs besides raising funds.

September 23, 1987
Sentinel Review

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

Groundwork set for Alexandra fundraiser

By IAN TIMBERLAKE
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Alexandra Hospital is laying the groundwork for a campaign that by next March hopes to raise \$1.3 million for its redevelopment program.

Since the beginning of the month, a fund-raising steering committee has been meeting with community members to outline the hospital's needs, said Judith Walker, director of the fund-raising campaign.

She said a 14-member steering committee of hospital trustees, staff and community members has been meeting several times a week in the homes of their friends and business associates.

Each meeting gets more people interested in the program and they, in turn, tell others about it, she said.

"It is important when you launch a fund-raising program that people understand the program and why you're doing it," she said.

Alexandra's executive director, Ross Bryant, said the hospital expansion and equipment update will cost \$6.9 million. Government funding and a portion of the hospital's financial reserves — which now total about \$2 million — will provide \$5.6 million of that.

"So we're short \$1.3 million," he said.

Bryant wants that money available through a pledge system by next March. That is about the same time construction could get underway if tenders are called by January.

Bryant said tenders cannot be called until the Ontario Ministry of Health approves the architects' final drawings.

The ministry is currently examining working drawings, he said.

Walker, a professional fundraiser, said the public awareness sessions stress that Alexandra's facilities are stretched to the limit.

"Since 1984, emergency and outpatient visits have increased more than 70 percent," to 14,300 last year, she said.

The increase is partly caused because patients who have surgery spend less continuous time in hospital. Instead, they make more frequent visits for post-operative care.

Another cause, she said, is the increased use of out-of-town specialists who visit the hospital for consultations with patients.

Bryant said the hospital renovations, the first in 20 years, will increase Alexandra's floor space by about one-third.

Plans call for construction of separate emergency, outpatient and visitors' entrances and a second elevator as well as other changes.

Walker said the public awareness phase of the campaign should last until mid-November, when a campaign chairman and cabinet will be chosen. That group will establish campaign goals and gather a group of canvassers.

"They essentially run the campaign," she said.

Walker, who began planning for the campaign in July, is in charge of its administration.

Meanwhile, Bryant said the hospital may be facing its first deficit in five years.

He said Alexandra is on target to attain its budgeted \$117,000 surplus and be in the black by the fiscal year ending March 31.

"But I don't know how much longer we're going to stay there," he said.

Any deficit would have to be paid for with the hospital's financial reserves — the same ones that are supposed to pay for the redevelopment.

Bryant said it has been five years since Alexandra dipped into its reserves to cover a deficit.

Even if the hospital achieves the \$117,000 surplus, that figure would be

much lower than last year's surplus, which exceeded \$400,000.

"It's just costing us more and more to operate the hospital every day."

The biggest expenses come in the last six months of the year when the hospital is busier and heating and lighting costs go up, he said.

In other news, Bryant said the hospital is almost ready to name a new personnel and payroll director to replace Olive Cooke. She retires next month after 43 years' service.

Bryant said a high employee turnover last summer means that some position remain unfilled. The resulting increased workload strains staff morale, he said.

The hospital is still looking for a new occupational therapist.

At least two part-time nurses are expected to join the staff soon, easing the shortage in that area, he said.

With a province-wide shortage of nurses, pharmacists and physiotherapists, Bryant said it is hard for a 72-bed hospital like Alexandra to compete with larger teaching hospitals for employees.

Alexandra has, however, hired somebody to lead it into the computer age.

Bryant said John Molnar joined the staff a couple of weeks ago in the new position of administrative services coordinator.

The hospital has budgeted for an IBM compatible desktop system, and Molnar is talking with other hospitals to decide exactly what system will be best.

Bryant said other similar-sized hospitals are also adopting computers.

Woodstock General Hospital, with about four times as many beds, made the move about five years ago, he said.

"There almost isn't an area in the hospital where computers won't give us a hand," he said.

SENTINEL

REVIEW

October 28 1987

In honor of Alexandra

Story and photo
by IAN TIMBERLAKE
of the Sentinel Review

INGERSOLL — In a year when Alexandra Hospital is looking to the future, artist Jessie Robins has turned to the hospital's past.

This year, in which Alexandra should see the start of its \$6.9 million expansion program, is also the hospital's 100th Anniversary.

Robins decided to honor the occasion by painting a watercolor of the original hospital as it looked in 1888.

On the site of the present Noxon Street building, the first hospital had been the home of James Noxon, a farm equipment builder. It was demolished in the early 1950s.

Robins based her watercolor on early black-and-white photographs and colored it according to her memory of the building.

She said it looked like "a great big wedding cake." Ornate cast concrete surrounded windows set in yellow brick. A portico extended from the front entrance and over the driveway.

"My mother died in that room," Robins said, pointing to a second-story window shown in her painting.

Two of her children were born at the hospital, where staff members were friends.

"We had the older doctors then. I think they went more on instinct than anything else," she said.

Robins wants to do another painting of the old hospital from a different perspective.

Her current work is on display at the Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre (CAC) as part of the loan collection, a group of about 30 paintings available for rent.

Betty Crawford, another member of the CAC, said the works are available on a monthly basis for up to three months, after which they must be returned or purchased. The rental fee is 3 percent of the purchase price, which she said usually ranges from about \$60 to \$200.

Robins's painting is more expensive.

It costs \$300 and rents for \$9 a month.

Crawford said that twice a year, CAC members select some of their recent works for the loan collection, a feature of the CAC since its founding in 1972.

Alexandra Hospital - 1888 and other members of the loan collection are on display at the Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre, 164 Oxford St.

Also showing are works by deceased members of the CAC, such as Gordon Payne, a professional artist who lived and taught in Ingersoll in the 1920s.

The exhibit opens tomorrow and runs Fridays and Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. through Jan. 24.



INGERSOLL ARTIST Jessie Robins painted this watercolor of the first Alexandra Hospital, in honor of Alexandra's 100th Anniversary this year.

SENTINEL
REVIEW

January 9, 1988

Hospital launches capital campaign

Alexandra Hospital will launch a public appeal for funds to enlarge, renovate and obtain new equipment for the 72-bed facility on Friday. The community campaign goal of \$1.3 million will be supplemented by grants from local and provincial governments to finance the \$6.9 million, modernization of the hospital.

Campaign Chairman Gord Henry announced that more than \$400,000 has already been committed to the campaign. A large portion of this came from the hospital's professional staff and employees who participated in an advance campaign

over the past few months.

"The need to upgrade Alexandra is pretty clear when hospital staff are the first to contribute," said Henry. "What's more, their level of giving exceeded our expectations."

Henry will mark the launch of AHEAD (Alexandra Hospital Expansion and Renovation) campaign by unveiling a large sign on the hospital grounds Friday, announcing the community drive for funds. He will be assisted by the Hon. Joan Smith, and Board of Trust Chairman Bill Hawkins.

"Alexandra can be proud of its 78-year history as a community hospital," said Smith earlier this week. "The AHEAD campaign will strengthen the hospital's ability to serve the continuing health needs of people in Ingersoll and Oxford County."

In addition to new x-ray and other equipment, a total of 20,000 square feet will be added to four floors and renovations will be made to improve the hospital environment for patients, staff and visitors.

Our Hospital Why we need a new hospital?

To meet patient needs and the ever-increasing use of the hospital, particularly in the emergency and out-patient departments, Alexandra will add 20,000 square feet of space, covering four floors. This is a 30 per cent increase in space. Of that total, 17,500 square feet will be devoted to adding or enhancing primary patient care through new facilities or equipment.

This will allow Alexandra to offer:

- a separate visitors' entrance and additional parking spaces
- new x-ray equipment and upgraded facilities
- new physiotherapy and occupational therapy departments with expanded services
- separate emergency department
- private stress testing facility with enhanced equipment
- enlarged, private obstetrical patient rooms to allow the rooming-in of baby with mother
- new nursery
- centralized nursing station on each floor, providing optimum efficiency, care and observation of patients
- amalgamation of chronic care patients and facilities on one floor
- for chronic care patients, a new lounge and outside deck, new dining room, recreation area and activity centre
- amalgamation of medicine and surgical beds on third floor
- new patient-visitor lounges and outside deck
- multi-purpose rooms on each floor for use by patients and their families for counselling or meeting purposes
- larger day surgery with patient changing facilities and washrooms
- larger observation-monitoring room for care of critically ill patients
- new air conditioning system for patient and visitor comfort
- new admitting - switchboard facility

These new and expanded services are needed to respond to the changes in health care and its delivery since the last expansion to the hospital some 20 years ago.

Ingersoll Times
February 17, 1988

Alexandra asks Ingersoll for \$1 million

By MICHELLE MUYLEAERT

It was like a scene from the past. Lead by the Ingersoll Pipe Band, as they were almost 30 years ago for the official opening of Alexandra Hospital, a new procession of dignitaries launched the official fundraising drive for the facility last Friday.

Solicitor General Joan Smith was on hand to unveil a sign which displayed the community campaign target of \$1.3 million for expansion and development of the 72-bed hospital.

Campaign Chairman, Gord Henry, announced that more than \$400,000 has already been committed to the campaign, a large portion from the hospital's professional staff and employees who participated in an advanced campaign over the past few months. The hospital family is more than \$66,000 over its target.

"The hospital family saw the need," Smith said. "They felt it in their hearts. It's up to you to go out in the community with the same message."

The community campaign goal of \$1.3 million will be supplemented by grants from local and provincial governments to finance the \$6.9 million modernization of the hospital.

Alexandra's Executive Director Ross Bryant said the hospital's redevelopment project will primarily enhance patient care services: the emergency department will be physically separate from outpatients; physiotherapy will gain extra space; a new occupational therapy area will exist; patient activity and lounge rooms will be made available; a larger visitor parking area will be constructed and a second elevator for visitor use will be installed.

"Facilities will be upgraded to address not only today's health care services but the foreseeable future as well," Bryant said.

Bryant said the hospital's establishment in 1909 was made possible by the "generous response of citizens" who were heartily in accord with the project.

"This same spirit I know exists today and will undoubtedly make our campaign effort a resounding success," Bryant said.

Ingersoll Mayor Doug Harris call-

ed the hospital expansion another indication of what is needed during this time of excitement in Ingersoll. He urged the public to get behind the campaign.

"We need it very much," Harris said.

Oxford MP Bruce Halliday, spoke of the importance of community support in such a campaign due to lack of federal government funding. He said the government has embarked on a study of the delivery of health care funding in the country.

"Funding has become an increasing problem for a community hospital in competition with other larger hospitals," Halliday said emphasizing the importance for the community to provide health care for local people.

Oxford MPP Charlie Tatham also voiced his support for the project.

More than 200 campaign workers will be divided into teams to solicit money from between 600 and 800 industries, businesses and individuals in Ingersoll, South-west Oxford, Zorra and Beachville areas.

Alexandra has established honorary designations for donors ranging from "friends" who donate from \$1,000 to \$4,999 to "builders" who donate \$100,000 and over.

Those who sponsor specific areas and facilities in the hospital will be recognized with plaques which will be permanently mounted. Donations can be made in cash or pledged over a three to five-year period.

"This is our hospital," Henry said. "It belongs to the people. It serves the people of Ingersoll and those are the people we expect to support the campaign."

The campaign hopes to reach its goal by the end of April and construction is expected to begin in the fall of this year.

The first phase will incorporate the priority areas including emergency, rehabilitative medicine, (physiotherapy), patient rooms, intensive care unit and air conditioning.

The final phase, which includes relocation of administrative areas dislocated by the new admitting and emergency services, will be scheduled when all other areas are functional.

"Now the work begins," Henry said. "Volunteers are necessary, donors are essential."



Alexandra fundraising chairman Gord Henry, passes a \$100,000 cheque to Board of Trust Chairman Bill Hawkins at a community campaign kickoff Friday. Most of the \$400,000 was donated by the "hospital

family". Organizers will canvas the community for the remainder of the \$1.3 million. In top photo Solicitor General Joan Smith poses with the hospital's promotional sign.

Alexandra Times
February 29, 1988

Hospital elects rural chairmen

Gord Henry, Chairman of the A.H.E.A.D. Campaign is pleased to announce the appointment of Everett Wilson, Wallis Hammond, and William Moggach as Division Chairmen canvassing the rural area for the Alexandra Hospital Expansion and Development Campaign. These divisions begin their canvass the week of April 4, 1988.

Everett Wilson, a resident of Salford, will be responsible for canvassers in the South West Oxford area. Wallis Hammond, who lives in Thamesford will be organizing calls, on behalf of the campaign, to the residents of the Zorra area, and William Moggach will be concentrating his time and effort in and around the areas of Beachville and Centreville.

The Alexandra Hospital A.H.E.A.D. Campaign has a goal of \$1,370,000 to enlarge and renovate it facilities, as well as to update its equipment. Pledges to date total \$640,000.

For more information please call Judith Walker, Campaign Director, at 485-4980.



Wallis Hammond and Everett Wilson were recently appointed division chairmen canvassing for the rural area for the Alexandra Hospital Expansion and Development Campaign. William Moggach will join them in their duties beginning April 4.

Opportunities to give

Six contributions to the Alexandra Hospital Expansion and Development Campaign have been dedicated to individual spaces and will have special designations. Each room will be marked by a different name-plate as set out by their donors.

The campaign office at Alexandra Hospital and each of the campaign canvassers has a schedule of space available for dedication either in honor or in memory of particular people.

Alexandra Campaign Chairman, Gord Henry, said there are plenty of opportunities for donors to be publicly linked with Alexandra Hospital.

"And if the price tag seems a little high, he suggested, payments can be made over a period of years. After careful thinking and planning my wife,

Aleda, and I have decided to sponsor the Sunroom on the third floor," Henry said.

"We thought it would be a nice way to say thanks to the hospital staff for the good care we have received over the years."

The Alexandra Hospital A.H.E.A.D. Campaign has a goal of \$1,370,000 to enlarge and renovate its facilities, as well as to update its equipment. Pledges to date total \$640,000.

For more information on how to designate part of the building, furnishings or equipment to bear the name of someone special, please call Judith Walker, Campaign Director, 485-4980.

Interview
March 30, 1988

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL



Alexandra Hospital Expansion And Development



Alexandra Hospital

APSCO
2084



Alexandra Hospital

Alexandra Hospital Expansion And Development

Opportunities to Give

Donors to the Alexandra Hospital building, renovation and equipment campaign are endorsing the services and future work of the hospital.

Alexandra Hospital has established honorary designations for donors to reflect the gratitude and esteem in which contributors are held. These designations are:

Builders	for gifts of \$100,000 and over
Patrons	for gifts of \$25,000 to \$99,999
Benefactors	for gifts of \$10,000 to \$24,999
Supporters	for gifts of \$5,000 to \$9,999
Friends	for gifts of \$1,000 to \$4,999

There are additional opportunities for donors to be publicly linked with the Alexandra Hospital. Recognition, in perpetuity, will be given to those who sponsor specific areas and facilities in the Hospital.

Appropriate recognition will take the form of plaques or other signage that permanently and publicly acknowledge the donor's generosity in sponsoring the space or equipment so designated.

EARLY BIRD DONATIONS-JUNE 13 - 18, 1988

Donations can be made at Carr's Book and China Shop and Ingersoll Department Store.

miss you, please call 483-4307/3700.
A volunteer will happily pick up your gift.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?

For further information, contact:
Judith Walker
Alexandra Hospital Campaign Office
29 Noxon Street
Ingersoll, Ontario N5C 3V6
Phone: (519) 485-4980

Registered Charitable donation no. D304048-10-17

Anthea Warma

INGERSOLL — Anthea Warma's last duty as president of the Alexandra Hospital Auxiliary was to present a \$5,000 cheque toward the purchase of new equipment to hospital executive director Ross Bryant.

After a busy and successful two years, Warma has stepped down as president. The new executive for 1988-89, elected at the auxiliary's annual meeting held April 18, are: Jean MacDougall, president; Marion Kosmal, first vice-president; Edith Phillips, second vice-president; Lee Watkins, secretary; Anna Hardie, corresponding secretary; Barbara Newell, public relations, and Diana Benoit, treasurer.

MacDougall and her executive are already involved in plans for the *Florence Nightingale Tea* being held in May and the *Halloween Luncheon* in October.

SENTINEL REVIEW

April 26, 1988

Hospital ordered to eliminate \$700,000 deficit in ten months

The Alexandra Hospital has been ordered by the provincial government to eliminate its \$700,000 debt before next March. That figure represents nearly 12 per cent of the hospital's \$6 million operating budget.

This budget slashing comes in the wake of provincial Health Minister Elinor Caplan's ultimatum to Ontario hospitals to submit balanced budgets, or else lose valuable funding.

Alexandra Hospital executive director Ross Bryant says that much of the deficit is due to the hospital providing a "better level of patient care." As more and more residents went to the hospital for X-rays, ultrasound treatment and electrocardiograms (ECG's) in 1987, an attendant rise in spending was felt.

Twice as much ECG use took place in 1987 as in 1986, as more area residents went to the local hospital to have heart conditions monitored.

The area of "acute care service" — short-term patients using hospital beds — also rose dramatically. Bed occupancy in the acute care realm jumped from 84 to 99 per cent from 1986 to 1987.

The purchase of new X-ray equipment, and the subsequent hiring of better-trained radiologists also had an effect on the hospital's debt situation.

Overall, the hospital was "just generally busier," stated Bryant. More emergency work was done this year, as the hospital seemed to handle a greater number of 401 accidents and other immediate

response care than ever before.

Only the number of chronic-care patients dropped off from last year, a decidedly mixed blessing. While the decrease freed up more beds for the increased number of acute care patients, it also cut into the hospital's fundraising capability.

With fewer chronic-care patients, the hospital's revenue from those patients — equivalent, individually, to nursing home care — has thus dropped off to the tune of approximately \$100,000.

The jump in business also caused the hospital to spend nearly \$1 million out of its reserve accounts to pay for the increased services. That spending also creates "lost revenue," Bryant said, as about \$200,000 in interest money disappears with those spent funds.

With revenue down and expenses up, the reasons for the hospital's

deficit aren't hard to see.

In creating a balanced budget, Bryant says that the hospital wants to avoid lay-offs, but admits that doing so may be very difficult. Due to the great growth of the hospital in the last year, scaling down again is extremely hard to do.

"It's the problem of reality," Bryant stated. The hospital is being forced to become smaller at a time when industrial expansion and increased community awareness of its facilities are working to make it bigger.

The "significant growth" of the last 12 months may be cut off by the province's new hard-line attitude.

Alexandra Hospital's revised budget must be submitted before May 31 to the provincial ministry, a time line which, while short, shouldn't stop the hospital from getting its proposals done.

INGERSOLL TIMES

May 25, 1988

Griffin heads board

For the second time in its 79 year history, the Board of Trust at Alexandra Hospital is being led by a woman. Dorothy Griffin, a four year veteran with the trust, was elected chairman at the inaugural board meeting last week.

Griffin's professional background is in the human services and business area. She has worked with London Goodwill Industries for 19 years, the last 16 as director of business administration.

London Goodwill is an accredited non-profit organization providing vocational training as preparation for employment for physically, emotionally, mentally disabled and socially disadvantaged men and women. Her association with Goodwill has developed a deep awareness of the need to recognize the importance of staff and their contributions to the organization.

Alexandra Hospital is currently raising funds for expansion and redevelopment of space and purchasing of new equipment. The hospital is required to raise \$1,370,000 as its contribution towards

the total project of \$6,969,000. The AHEAD campaign, officially launched in February, has raised over



Dorothy Griffin,
Chairman of the Board,
Alexandra Hospital

\$1,000,000. Griffin has played an active role in the campaign, chairing the steering committee in 1987.

Griffin sees her role as chairman of the board as one of stewardship.

"A board of trust is aptly named. It is a trust. Citizens trust the board to make good decisions. Staff trust the board to understand their needs and recognize their contributions. Patients put their trust in us as well," she said. "As a group we carry a great responsibility. This year we have some new people on the board as well as some experienced members. I think it will make for a powerful team to carry us through the time ahead."

Griffin said, "My own personal goal is to lend strength to the people who work at Alexandra; to promote a team effort and to communicate the Alexandra message to the people of our community."

Locally, Griffin is a founding member of Ingersoll Theatre of Performing Arts. She has an extensive background in the performing arts, working as performer, director and writer for stage, film and television.

INGERSOLL TIMES

June 29, 1988

Hospital gets green light to expand

The Alexandra Hospital has received the news they've been waiting for. Permission to call tenders for their project to expand and redevelop space. The Ministry of Health has approved the working drawings and specifications and the hospital will now call tenders publicly through advertisements placed in commercial and local newspapers. The tendering process is handled by the hospital's architects, Lamb and Jorden of London. Closing date for submission of tenders will be October 5, 1988.

"It's an exciting day for the Board of Trust and our staff who have worked so hard on this project over the past two years," said Executive Director Ross Bryant. "In fact some of us have been thinking it and dreaming it for almost four years."

With bids in hand by early October it is estimated that work could begin as early as November. Official contracts cannot be signed until the Ministry of Health reviews the final estimate of cost. Estimates are based on the tender bid by the general contractor. The building project was last costed in May of this year and some change is expected. John Van Dyke, Chairman of the Property and Planning Committee feels the project has been well planned and "we expect the best results from that planning".

The Ministry of Health will finance the project for \$3.0m. Alexandra volunteers have been actively

fundraising during the past year to raise \$1.3m through the private sector. The Campaign Committee under the direction of Gordon Henry of Ingersoll expects to meet their objective by early October.

The community drive during the last two weeks in June provided over \$40,000 in contributions. Much of the community was not contacted during that drive and volunteers hope to make the remaining calls in October.

Henry passes the credit on the people of Ingersoll, well known for their community pride and spirit. Over 85 percent of the gifts have come from individuals in Ingersoll and the surrounding areas of Beachville, South West Oxford and Zorra.

The Campaign volunteers at Alexandra Hospital can finally sense that sweet smell of success. Through their efforts Alexandra has a private sector commitment of over \$1.2m

toward the project to expand and renovate space as well as purchase much needed new equipment. With a number of gifts anticipated over the next few weeks the campaign goal of \$1,370,000 moves closer to reality each day.

Chairman of the A.H.E.A.D. Campaign Gord Henry reports this is the first time an organization in Ingersoll has raised over a million dollars through the efforts of volunteers and without government supplements.

INGERSOLL TIMES

September 14, 1988

Plans for Alexandra have provincial OK

INGERSOLL — Alexandra Hospital has got the go ahead it's long been waiting for.

The Ontario Ministry of Health has approved the working drawings and specifications to expand and redevelop space at the hospital. The tendering process is now under way.

"It's an exciting day for the board of trust and our staff who have worked so hard on this project over the past two years," said Ross Bryant, the hospital's executive director. "In fact some of us have been thinking it and dreaming it for almost four years."

With bids due by Oct. 5, it's possible that construction could begin in late November or December. Official contracts cannot be signed until the provincial health ministry reviews the final estimate of cost.

Approval for the project was expected in the spring. The delay, possibly caused by the work load at the ministry and staff changes, may have resulted in upping the cost estimate for the project.

In February, expansion was

estimated at \$6.9 million. The government is set to cover \$3 million, the county \$750,000 and hospital reserves \$1.69 million. The community itself, under the AHEAD campaign and former mayor Gordon Henry's leadership, has raised \$1.2 million of its \$1.37 million goal.

It won't be known until tenders come in if the original estimate is accurate, said Bryant.

One of the major improvements planned for the hospital will be a new westerly entrance for visitors and general admission patients, who now enter off Noxon Street with emergency and outpatients.

As well, the emergency treatment area will be separated from the outpatient facility. There will be an enlarged physiotherapy area and a new occupational therapy facility.

Just over \$1 million will pay for new equipment. Some of it, such as the X-ray equipment, has already been installed.

The hospital's floor space will increase by about one third. Its last expansion occurred more than 20 years ago.

The community's response to the changes expected for the hospital is very much appreciated, said Bryant. He also acknowledges the support of volunteers in helping the campaign get off the ground.

The chairman of the campaign, Gord Henry, notes it's the first time an organization in Ingersoll has raised over a million dollars through the efforts of volunteers and without government supplements.

The fundraising drive continues into the fall. Those in the community not contacted during June can expect a visit soon.

Health ministry approves Ingersoll hospital growth

By Stephen Northfield
Woodstock Bureau

INGERSOLL — The provincial health ministry has approved a \$7-million renovation and expansion program at Alexandra Hospital.

The hospital has been authorized to call for bids on the project and the closing date for tenders is Oct. 5. Work is expected to begin by November, said Judith Walker, the hospital's director of development.

Plans involve renovations on the hospital's two main buildings and the addition of 1,800 square metres (20,000 square feet). The new space will be used to expand occupational and physiotherapy services, Walker said. Renovation plans include housing all long-term care patients on one floor instead of two to provide better service.

The project won't add extra beds in the hospital, licensed by the province to operate 72 beds.

The ministry has committed slightly more than \$3 million to the project. The hospital will contribute nearly \$1.7 million from its reserves and Oxford County will give \$750,000. About \$1.4 million is being sought in a campaign that started in November. It has raised more than \$1.2 million and Walker said the target should be reached by early October.

Cost of the project, estimated in May at just less than \$7 million, is expected to change when final bids are received. Contracts can't be signed until the bids are reviewed by the ministry. If the bids are substantially higher than the estimated cost, the hospital will review its plans, Walker said.

SENTINEL REVIEW

September 13, 1988

LONDON FREE PRESS

September 15, 1988



Nurse Kathleen Barlow has lots of time to dote on the only baby in the nursery, three-day-old Amber.

institution, bursting at the seams as the town heads for certain expansion with the coming of the CAMI automotive plant. Alexandra is community-owned and, in fact, is the heart of the town of some 8,500 people.

It is so community orientated that last year, the hospital had to refuse almost half its volunteer applicants because it just couldn't handle all of them. One of the special volunteer groups is called Volunteens. "We had to come up with a name change," explains Bryant, "because the male volunteers just don't like being called candy-stripers." Bryant says two of the hospital's programs aimed directly at the community are its meals-on-wheels program and a program for the retired.

Ingersoll resident Sally Petznick, who sustained injuries in a summer car accident, says the small hospital is her preferred place for recuperation.

The 23-year-old says: "Neighbors and friends drop in and the nurses are super, really friendly. I am not a number here."

But like life itself, things at Alex-

andra are not perfect. As a matter of fact, far from perfect. It has no air conditioning, although this will soon be cured. Another problem is the fact the hospital has only one elevator, one of the reasons staff stay off the contraption and walk or run the stairs when they are on the move between floors. That problem also soon will be remedied. And the emergency room is too small. Local doctor Shelley Rechner says the room is so small, doctors often have trouble finding space to put on a cast, or stitch a cut on a regular weekday morning. But all these irksome little items will soon be a thing of the past. The cure isn't new. It's called money.

By the end of this month, the hospital will have "overtargeted" its \$6,969,000 building fund drive, according to Judith Walker, the hospital's director of development. "It was a total community effort, everyone was involved," she says.

The original building expansion was estimated at \$4 million in 1985, but the costs rose dramatically. The hospital received a \$3 million grant from the Ontario government, plus

LONDON FREE PRESS

September 24, 1988

Moving Ahead campaign has moved, surpassing \$1.3 million goal



Alexandra Hospital Expansion And Development

The volunteers of Alexandra Hospital have surpassed their campaign goal of \$1.3 million, but will continue to work on the hospital's behalf in the community.

About \$1.4 million had been donated as of Tuesday morning, according to hospital director of development Judith Walker.

Recently, the hospital celebrated its 79th anniversary, where fundraising committee chairman Gordon Henry announced that the hospital had met its goal.

Hospital staff are "very pleased" to have met their goal "so quickly," executive director Ross Bryant said.

Masayuki Ikuma, president of CAMI, pledged \$150,000 to the campaign, starting with the first \$50,000 donation in 1990.

The funds will be used to expand the physiotherapy department.

Walker said that over 85 per cent of the funds were donated by the general community. A special 'hospital family' campaign was also



successful.

Construction to expand the hospital's facilities should begin in November, Bryant said.

Gordon Henry announced he was "honorably discharging" the original fund-raising committee as of Sept. 30, but said there will be "a

continuing committee appointed by the hospital's board of trustees."

A cheque for over \$2,800 was presented to Henry by Carl Palmer on behalf of the Ingersoll Lion's Club during the program and a celebration commemorating the hospital's 79 years of service to the community

followed.

Bryant said he was confident about the future of the hospital.

"Ingersoll continues to grow and keep pace with the services available," he said. "We've tried to keep within the role of a community hospital."



Gordon Henry, fundraising chairman of Alexandra Hospital's Moving Ahead campaign, and Dorothy Griffin, hospital board chairperson, happily accepted

a pledge of \$150,000 from Masayuki Ikuma, president of Cami. The presentation was made during the hospital's 79th anniversary celebration.

Financial institutes donate to hospital

Fresh from reaching their original target of \$1,370,000 the Alexandra Hospital Campaign Committee has announced a combined gift of \$47,250 from the Ingersoll financial community.

George Cornfield, treasurer of the hospital board of trust and manager of the local Toronto-Dominion Bank announced the news first thing Monday morning.

"It was a great way to start off the week," said Cornfield. The combined gift is a result of months of work by the local managers and their corporate head offices.

Philanthropic gifts are designed according to corporate policy, size and prescribed formula.

The Royal Bank led the way last spring with a gift of \$10,275 which was matched by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

Canada Trust followed closely at \$10,000 and the Bank of Montreal at \$9,000.

The remainder came from the Toronto-Dominion Bank and Rochdale Credit Union. Each gift was counted as the information arrived at the hospital. The final contribution, this week, came from the Bank of Montreal.

The campaign total is now \$1,394,379.

"We couldn't be more pleased with the results," said Cornfield. "The hospital is an important community resource and it was an exciting opportunity for us to work together with our head offices to develop the corporate commitment."

INGERSOLL TIMES
september 28, 1988

Hospital lab technician retires after 29 year career at Alexandra

By MARK SKEFFINGTON

When Alan Roberts came to Alexandra Hospital 29 years ago to work as a lab technician, there wasn't much to come to.

At that time, 1960, the lab was a 20 by 20 foot room located in the basement of the old wing of the hospital. The room is now part of a women's changing room.

Roberts, 61, also began as the hospital's only lab technician, working with only one helper.

The lab had little equipment and most of it was basic, just a microscope and a lot of glassware. The lab had to buy a spectrometer, a blood bank refrigerator and a number of other needed pieces of equipment. The lab even picked up old wooden cabinets and furniture that Victoria Hospital in London didn't want anymore.

Today, Alexandra Hospital's lab is still small but it isn't so insignificant anymore. Eight people work there now, under Roberts who is its director, and its equipment is more modern and up-to-date.

The advancement in equipment is actually one of the biggest changes that Roberts has noticed over his 29 years.

"There have been many changes over the years in medical technology generally," Roberts says.

For the most part this has meant that tests done manually years ago are now done by machines. A specimen or test sample is fed into a machine which reads it, records the result then prints it out.

"The result of this is that we can produce a much more accurate result in a much shorter time than before automation."

This helps doctors make quicker assessments and treatments once they know the results of a medical test. Despite the help that machines provide, people are still needed to run them and to see that quality controls are maintained. And some things, such as the taking of blood, are still done manually:

Another big change is in the amount of training lab technicians receive these days as compared to when he started his career. Lab technicians are now better educated and receive more extensive training, he says.

"We used to learn sort of on the job," Roberts recalls. "When I went into the job at Mile End Hospital (in London, England) I didn't have any training."

Roberts began working as a lab technician at Mile End Hospital in



Alan Roberts is retiring from his position of Director of Laboratory Services at Alexandra Hospital after 29 years. He started in 1960 as the hospital's only lab technician.

1943, fresh out of high school. For two years beginning in 1945, he did his national service in the Royal Navy, working in Navy hospitals, before returning to Mile End where he continued to work until 1951.

From there he went to Africa, working as part of a medical survey team in what is now Tanzania.

The team was trying to determine to what extent the local African population was infested with parasites and diseases, and how it affected their lives. At the time schistosomiasis and filariasis were major diseases along with malaria.

Roberts stayed in Africa for six or

seven years, until 1957. He met his wife Margaret there. She had been working there as a dietician.

He and his wife returned to England where he worked at the Regional Blood Transfusion Centre in Cambridge, which is similar to the Red Cross blood service here. He also continued his studies and received his fellowship in 1959.

Afterwards, he found himself looking around for a job. He looked towards Canada after a meeting a couple who had lived and worked here. He started at a hospital in Kamloops, British Columbia but only stayed for less than a year.

He was considering

moving back to England when he was told about the job here in Ingersoll.

He remembers thinking at the time, "This is a stepping stone on the way back to England." However, he and his wife ended up staying, and the couple have lived in Ingersoll ever since, raising three children.

Since he is only 61, Roberts doesn't have to retire now. But he's decided it's time for a change. He plans to move to Nova Scotia to be close to the sea and their Ingersoll home is up for sale.

As to whether he has enjoyed his job over the years, he replies "most of the time."

INGERSOLL TIMES

November 23, 1988

Alexandra's new directors

Three new faces will soon be seen around the halls of Alexandra Hospital.

The hospital has announced the appointment of three new directors who will take over as head of different departments.

The three are Suzanne Blair, Michael Hardy and Andrea Weiner.

Blair will be taking over as Director of Patient Care at the hospital, beginning in January. She is a registered nurse (Victoria 1965), and also has a Bachelor of Science degree (nursing) and a Master of Science degree (nursing), both from

the University of Western Ontario.

In the past she has worked as Headnurse, Supervisor and Senior Administrator at Victoria and Parkwood hospitals in London.

Alexandra Hospital expects her experience of working in hospitals that have undergone major expansions will be invaluable as it proceeds with its own expansion and development project.

Hardy has been appointed as the Director of Laboratory Technical services. He is replacing the retiring Alan Roberts, who served with the hospital for 29 years.

Hardy graduated from Ryerson Polytechnical Institute (1966) as a medicine laboratory technologist. He worked at Tillsonburg Memorial hospital for 14 years where he became supervisor of laboratory services. He then left Tillsonburg to assume the position of assistant chief technologist at the Norfolk General Hospital in Simcoe.

Andrea Weiner has been named Alexandra Hospital's new Director of Development. She assumes the post that Judith Walker recently resigned from.

Continued on Page 4



Suzanne Blair



Michael Hardy



Andrea Weiner

Hospital directors

Continued from Page 1

At the hospital, she will direct the public relations program and be in charge of continuing public fund raising.

Weiner has an extensive background in public relations, communications and journalism. She has an honors diploma in journalism from Humber College. She also has an educational background in fundraising and fundraising management from Humber and from the Canadian Centre of Philanthropy.

Before coming to Alexandra, Weiner was Associate Director of the Foundation at Northwestern Hospital in Toronto.

INGERSOLL TIMES

November 30, 1988

Alexandra Hospital expansion to break ground in new year

By MARILYN SMULDERS
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Alexandra Hospital enters 1989 with an ambitious expansion project ready to roll.

Work on the \$5.7-million project begins in January with the creation of new parking spaces on Noxon Street. Later in the month, foundations for the hospital's addition will be laid. The entire renovations are expected to wrap up by January of 1990.

The contractor for the project is Ellis-Don Construction of London. The firm submitted the lowest bid with a price that fell within the hospital's original estimates, said Andrea Weiner, Alexandra's director of development.

"We're going to be really busy and really noisy around here for quite awhile," she said.

Neighbors in the immediate vicinity of the hospital were sent letters asking for their co-operation as Alexandra goes through its growing pains. They can expect "loud and large equipment here as well as extra noise and traffic," said Weiner.

A formal sod turning ceremony, complete with visiting dignitaries, has also been planned for January. A date has yet to be set.

The provincial government came through last week with its share of funds for the expansion. The \$3.5-million grant was announced by Charlie Tatham, MPP for Oxford, on behalf of Health Minister Elinor Caplan.

The County of Oxford decided earlier to bestow a grant of \$750,000. And the community itself raised more than \$1.3 million, surpassing both the fundraising goal and the expectations of organizers of the AHEAD campaign.

One of the major improvements planned for the hospital will be a new westerly entrance for visitors and general admission patients. As well, the emergency treatment area will be separated from the outpatient facility. There will be an enlarged physiotherapy area and a new occupational therapy facility.

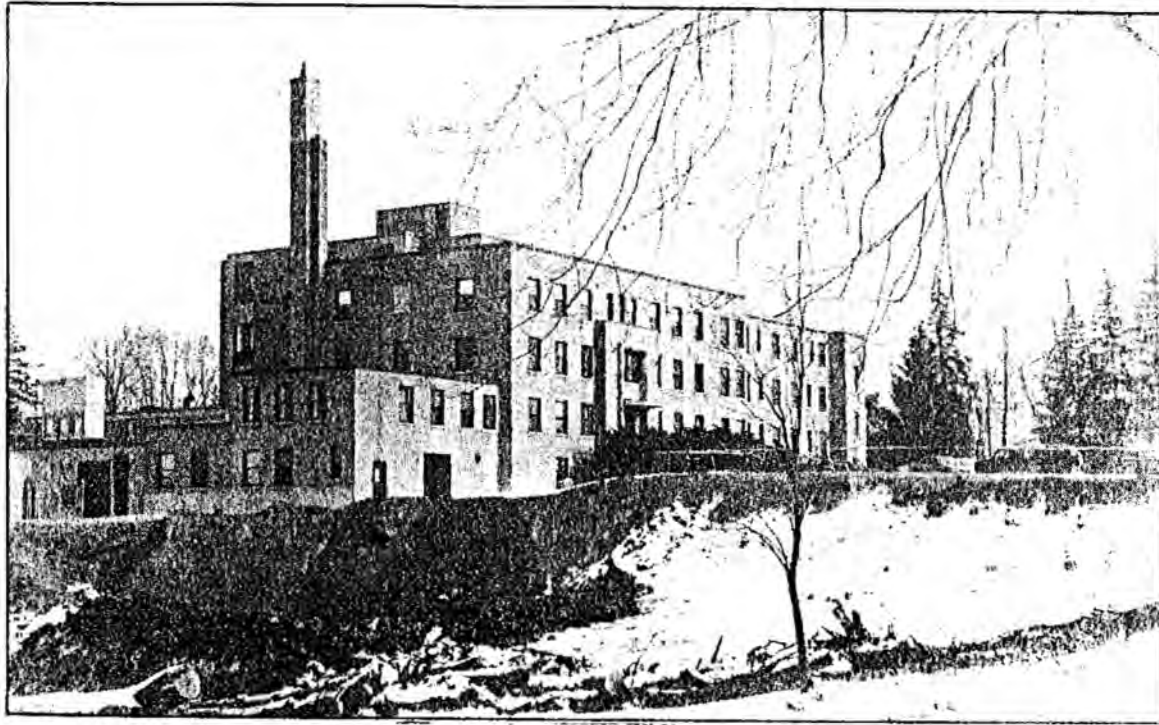
The hospital's total floor space will increase by one third. The last expansion at Alexandra occurred more than 20 years ago.

New equipment is also part of the project. Some of it, such as new X-ray machines, has already been installed.

But because obtaining new equipment and upgrading the old remains

a constant problem, the hospital will be engaging on an annual fundraising campaign to fulfill this need.

Reduced government spending means the hospital will require ongoing community support, said Weiner.

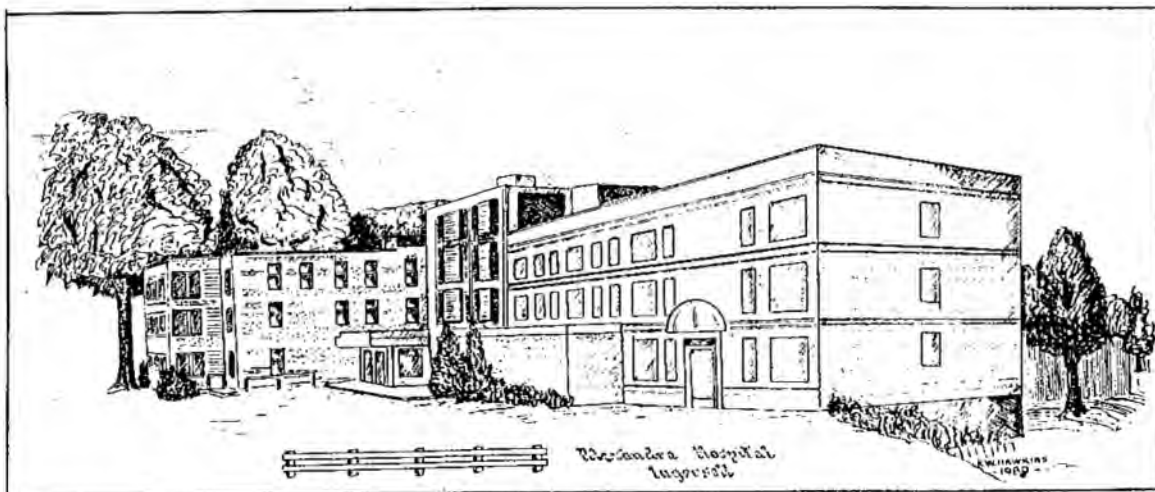


ALEXANDRA'S TOBOGGAN RUNS INTACT, BUT ...

Alexandra's famous tobogganing hills remain intact but the front of the site has changed considerably in the past few weeks. A parking lot is almost complete.

(Staff photo)

SENTINEL REVIEW
February 13, 1989



Alexandra Hospital will look like this once the \$3.5 million expansion project is completed.

INGERSOLL TIMES
February 15, 1989

PREMIER GETS SCOOP
Despite the frozen ground, a shiny spade easily scooped up dirt. Ontario Premier David Peterson does the honors while hospital officials and other politicians look on.
(Staff photo by Marilyn Smuders)



Less than thought — but Alexandra's into the red ink

By MARILYN SMULDERS
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Belt tightening efforts at Alexandra Hospital have kept down the hospital's projected deficit.

The board of trust expected facing more than a \$302,000 deficit at this time. But a review of a 10-month operating statement ending Jan. 31, 1989 revealed the accumulated deficit to be approximately \$125,000.

"Although we will have a deficit, it's not nearly as bad as it could be," said board member Greg Stewart at the first meeting where press representatives were allowed to attend.

Cost saving measures have been taken in most hospital departments but substantial savings were realized in the hospital laboratory, said Andrea Weiner, director of development. New technology like the fax machine has also aided in trimming courier bills. In the development office, staff arranged sponsorships and encouraged donations to help keep expenses for special events, like Friday's sod-turning ceremony, down.

And while hospital expenses were down by \$93,000 over the 10-month period, revenue actually increased by \$83,000.

In an announcement issued last May, provincial health minister Elinor Caplan warned Ontario hospitals that the government is no longer prepared to bail out debt-ridden hospitals.

In the fiscal year 1987-88, Alexandra's administrators encountered their first deficit in years — a deficit of \$166,000.

The hospital works with an operating budget totalling near the \$6 million mark. About \$5 million goes towards salaries and benefits.

In other hospital news:

- In other hospital news, the date has been set for the Kiwanis Barbeque, last year known as the Hawkins Family Barbeque. Organizer Bill Hawkins also hopes to hold an auction sale of "high class memorabilia," including a hand written invitation to Aimee Semple McPherson's first wedding. The fun will occur on June 27 with proceeds going towards the hospital.

- Alexandra Hospital has cut its natural gas bills through its involvement in a bulk purchasing agreement.

Hospitals throughout Ontario have banded together through the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) to buy natural gas directly from suppliers in Alberta.

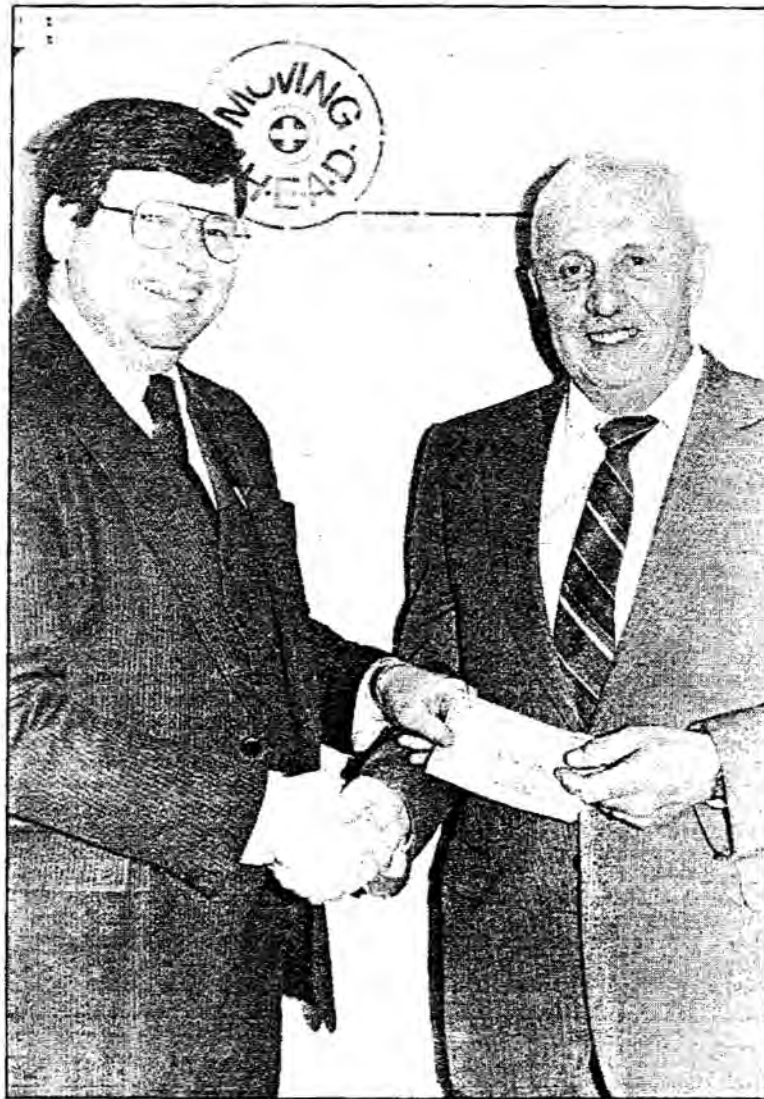
Natural gas costs are expected to be trimmed by \$10,000 this fiscal year. That figure represents approximately 20 per cent of the hospital's total bill.

- A \$20,000 grant from the Ministry of Health has been received at Alexandra. The funds will be used to offset costs of an operational planning report and to purchase computers and a haematology analyser.

Hospital administrators applied for the grant in early 1988.

- Occupancy levels in the hospital remain high. Board of Trust members learned.

Eighty-nine per cent of acute care beds were filled while 98 per cent of long term care beds were occupied.



A MOVE AHEAD

Efforts by the staff at the Royal Bank in Ingersoll were behind a \$10,000 donation to Alexandra Hospital's AHEAD campaign. Manager John Shepley was on hand to pass over the cheque to Ken Dobbie, finance director of the hospital. The Royal Bank set the trend with its fundraising efforts for other financial institutions; in total, the financial community in Ingersoll contributed \$47,250 to the hospital's expansion project. (Staff photo)

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

SENTINEL REVIEW
February 23, 1989

Major changes underway at town's hospital

By MARILYN SMULDERS
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Nurses at Alexandria Hospital now working "cheek by jowl" in space constructed in the 1950s are looking forward to the changes ahead.

"We're holding our breath in anticipation," remarked Suzanne Blair, Director of Patient Care. "We know it's going to be chaotic and noisy but it'll be worth it in the end."

Construction on the renovation and expansion project began in January and is scheduled to be completed by year's end.

The plans, which will expand the hospital by over one third, are billed at just under \$7 million. More than \$3.9 million came from the Ministry of Health and Oxford County while \$1.69 million was pulled out of hospital reserves. The remaining funds were raised during an ambitious community campaign, dubbed the AHEAD campaign.

Some of the plans include:

- separate emergency entrance facing Noxon Street
- a new main visitors' entrance facing Thames Street, allowing the separation of visitors and general admissions

- expanded physio and occupational therapy centres

- new nursing and birthing rooms, including improved maternity facilities and new ultra sound equipment

- centralized nursing stations
- merged medical and surgical facilities with improved observation and monitoring capabilities

- expanded day surgery
- new public health offices

- creation of conference rooms
- increased hospital security

- new patient-visitor elevator to relieve congestion of existing elevator

- larger patient rooms with bathrooms big enough to accommodate wheel chairs, thus conforming with revised Ministry of Health standards.

Through all the changes, the nursing staff is braced for inconvenience. It got a preview of what to expect when the parking lot at the front of the building was constructed. But dust, noise and physical disruption are the price for progress.

Expanded space in general is what nurses are eagerly anticipating. Health care needs have altered dramatically over the four decades since much of the hospital was built. The level of expertise required by nurses has increased as have the needs of patients. When hospitalized, patients today tend to be more debilitated, suffering from a variety of ailments.

"In times past, folks would die. We didn't have the ways to keep them, literally, nourished," explained Blair. "With the solutions we have to keep people alive longer — drugs and diagnostic machinery — we're better able to ward off major catastrophes. However, we can't ward off the process of getting older."

More space will help to ease the pressures associated with working in cramped quarters not only for nurses but for patients and their visitors, added Blair.

Gloria Lee works with many of those debilitated people, otherwise known as continuing care patients.

As Director of Leisure and Recreation, she plans and directs activities for their days.

But like the nurses, Lee waits for greater space. Some of her programming is done in a room on the second floor barely large enough to turn around a wheelchair when all the patients are in attendance. On other occasions, she and her crew of volunteers transport patients to a basement meeting room. The moves are a source of disruption and stress, for the elderly people.

Expansion plans call for an enlarged patient lounge, complete with a

sink, stove and fridge. The room will also have access to the outdoors. Plus, there would be no need to shuffle patients from floor to floor.

The changes to the hospital will also affect Seniors for Health, a group Lee helps coordinate. More meeting rooms will free up the seniors room for the purpose it was meant for — accommodating seniors. Forty members are currently taking part in Seniors for Health activities, with another 43 on a waiting list.

Over in the physiotherapy department, Joanne Schoenmaker said

space wasn't designed for the current workload.

"At times we are very cramped. It's not a really efficient use of space but we cope with it," remarked the physiotherapist.

As well as getting more space to manoeuvre with the hospital expansion, the department will also have room for new equipment, such as a machine geared to help strengthen muscles and an ice maker.

Schoenmaker said staff members have been supplying their input to get the changes they need.



INGERSOLL ARTIST Bill Hawkin has drawn what the hospital will look like in a year's time.

SENTINEL REVIEW

March 28 1984

Auxillary life member still actively involved

Even at the age of 92, Isobel Baxter, continues to be an active member of the Alexandra Hospital Auxiliary. The petite white haired woman has served twice as president over the past 50 years.

While there has been considerable changes in the auxillary over the years, Mrs. Baxter said, the main objective of raising money for the benefit of the hospital has remained the same. The recent drive by the

volunteer organization to meet their building fund goal of \$45,000 reminded her of a similar occasion in 1939 when money was being raised to construct the new hospital.

She said before fundraising could be completed the Second World War broke out and everything was put on hold for a decade. Mrs. Baxter said it took hardwork on the part of the auxillary to keep providing essentials for the hospital under the "give to the war" edict which existed.

To help combat the shortage of bed linen she had to purchase bolts of linen in Toronto. The task of sewing the sheets fell to the volunteers, she said, adding a little room in the hospital was set aside with a sewing machine for that very purpose.

"They were hardworking ladies in the auxillary," said the life member. The auxillary celebrated its 80th anniversary recently.

She admitted while the auxillary is still very active it is harder to get members because of the demands placed on women by their jobs. She pointed out during the late 20's and early 30's there was more time to put on the teas and special events which were held in the large older homes situated on Oxford Street.

Continued on Page 12

Auxillary life member still actively involved

Continued from Page 9

Jean MacDougall, auxillary president, agreed about the need for new members. She said new blood was important to the continued success

of the organization.

"You can only be recycled so many times," said MacDougall, who has been president of the auxillary three times.

The push is stronger for a strong vibrant auxillary, she pointed out. Because the capital needs of maintaining the hospital fall are going to fall heavily on the fundraising capabilities of the organization, she explained.

She was confident the auxillary would continue to rise to rise to the needs set for it by the hospital.



Jean MacDougall, president of the Alexandra Hospital Auxiliary, accepts a plaque of appreciation from Pat Bell (centre left), a member of the board of trust for the hospital. The board was recognizing the 80th anniversary of the volunteer organization. MacDougall also presented Board of Trust President Dorothy Griffin, right, with a \$10,000 donation towards the hospital building fund. Also pictured is Ross Bryant, executive director. (Staff photo)

AT ALEXANDRA

Hospital workloads taxing a busy staff

Hospital beat coverage
by MARILYN SMULDERS
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Nurses at Alexandra Hospital are eagerly waiting the arrival of new recruits to come on staff.

With occupancy levels continually climbing and "some very ill patients," nursing resources have been pushed to the limit at the 60-bed hospital, said Ross Bryant, executive director.

To alleviate the nursing shortage and to help plan vacation time during a summer that's anticipated to be busy, 10 registered nurses and five registered nursing assistants have been hired, coming on board within the next six weeks. Also contributing to the shortage are nurses who have retired, those who have moved on to other hospitals and those on extended sick leave.

Sue Blair, director of patient care, said the hospital is restrained in how quickly new staff are brought on since only limited numbers of people can be trained at any one time.

Relief is also on the way for nurses in the form of volunteers. More than 20 people volunteered for the feeding program and attended an orientation session on Monday. The program aims to free up nurses for other responsibilities while giving patients a more sociable, less rushed dinner.

Patients and TV

Alexandra's hospital auxiliary needs help in supplying televisions to patients.

Currently there are only two volunteers, Don Wilson and Art Presswell, who provide the television service. Their role is to install televisions at patient bedsides to those who request the service and to collect the television rental. Jean MacDougall, president of the auxiliary, said five more volunteers are needed.

"It would only take about an hour a week but we just can't find the people to do it," she said. As well as having the time, volunteers should be able to perform heavy lifting.

To recruit help for the program, Alexandra's board of trust suggested approaching service clubs. But MacDougall said that approach was tried in the past with little success.

More information on the program and on volunteering is available from Don Wilson. He can be contacted by leaving a message at Alexandra Hospital.

Auction and barbecue

Plans are well under way for the Alexandra Hospital Auction and Barbecue. Proceeds for the social outing, organized by the Kiwanis Club in Ingersoll, will go towards new equipment acquisitions.

The auction promises to be an interesting event. Two unique items for the auction block include a wedding invitation to Almee Sempie McPherson's wedding (her first) and an authentic, certified hockey stick used by Wayne Gretzky in his last game as an Edmonton Oiler. The stick, a true collector's item, has been signed by Gretzky and the team.

The event starts at 7 p.m. on June 27. It will be held on the hospital grounds.

Teddy a hit

An adorable little guy turned out for the board of trust meeting Tuesday.

Board member Bill Hawkins brought a cinnamon-colored, button-eyed teddy bear to show fellow members. The bear and seven others were made by Hawkins' daughter. They will be used at Alexandra to make children more comfortable during hospitalization.

Alexandra balances budget after some belt-tightening

INGERSOLL — After wrestling with the purse strings, administrators at Alexandra Hospital have been able to present the board of trust with a balanced budget for the past fiscal year after all.

Board treasurer George Cornfield reports the hospital has actually come out ahead by \$25,000. The total budget for the fiscal year ending March 31 teetered around \$6.4 million.

At the board's April meeting, Cornfield had predicted a budget deficit of \$220,000. When total figures were in, however, the budget deficit stood at \$180,272, Cornfield told a board meeting Tuesday.

The \$25,000 surplus came as a result of a grant by the Ontario Ministry of Health, which allocated the hospital approximately \$206,000 in "recognition of non-recurring expenses."

But back in the spring of 1988, the board had been faced with a predicament that would see the hospital end up more than \$700,000 in the hole. During two operational reviews last year, staff looked carefully at areas where they could trim expenses, says Ross Bryant, Alexandra's executive director.

"It was a difficult year all round," Bryant said after the meeting. "We survived only with a lot of effort by staff to make due. I think in the end the ministry realized that we did

everything we possibly could."

The pressures for a larger budget than the one presented for 1987/88 were the result of a busier hospital. Occupancy rates have been climbing steadily, even while the hospital is entering its disruptive construction phase.

As for the budget for the current fiscal year, which began April 1, the board chose to discuss the details during a closed session.

However, Bryant revealed that the board is again facing a deficit position "which is not unlike last year's."

Actually the hospital is preparing two budgets: a construction budget to get the hospital through the \$6.9 million expansion and renovation project and an operating budget which covers day-to-day expenses. Preliminary figures will be sent to provincial health ministry officials this week.

SENTINEL REVIEW

May 18, 1989

Tender loving care



Dorothy Griffins, hospital board of trust chairperson, and George Cornfield, treasurer, share a hug with the latest additions to the staff at Alexandra Hospital. The two cuddly teddy bears, Alexander and Alexandra, will be given to children who have to spend extended time in hospital. (Staff photo)

Alexander and Alexandra, two rather unusual additions to the staff at Alexandra hospital, will be helping children cope with the trauma of an extended hospital stay.

The two cute and cuddly teddy bears will hopefully become buddies to the children, said Andrea Weiner, Alexandra's development officer. The bears in a way will be therapeutic for young children forced to be away from home and family. The stuffed animals were the brainwave of the development office, and follows on the heels of similar programs.

"It is something for the child to hug and hold onto," said Weiner.

The stuffed animal may help lessen children's emotional stress at being separated from their parents, Weiner said, adding it also made the nurse's job a little easier if the

children are not as upset.

Given as a gift to the children, hopefully the bear will act as a pleasant reminder of their hospital stay, said Weiner.

Each floor of the hospital will be stocked with two bears. And along with the bears, which were designed by Board of Trust Bill Hawkin's daughter, Margery Towers of Mississauga, there will also be "Pound Puppies" available to younger children.

Consideration is also being given to giving the stuffed animals to children involved in abuse cases as well as long-term hospital stays. Before the child receives a stuffed animal, a waiver and consent form will have to be signed by the parents.

Weiner said anyone wanting to donate a new stuffed animal to the hospital should contact the development office located in the hospital.

INGERSOLL TIMES

June 21, 1989

Dr. Henry Janssen gains priviledges at our Alexandra

By MARILYN SMULDERS
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — The Ingersoll medical community is welcoming a new doctor to the area.

At a meeting of the Alexandra Hospital Board of Trust Tuesday, Dr. Henry Janssen was given approval for associate priviledges at the hospital.

Janssen, a graduate from the University of Western Ontario's medical program in 1978, was found to be in good standing with the College of Physicians and Surgeons, reported Dr. Marc Pariser of the medical advisory committee.

Originally from Woodstock, Janssen has had a practice in Ontario and most recently in rural North Dakota. He has since moved to Ingersoll and will be joining Ingersoll Family Doctors.

"We've (Simpson's group of doctors) been looking for a new doctor for more than two years," said Dr. David Simpson, chief of Alexandra's medical staff.

Other hospital news:

- The expansion project is progressing slower than had been expected, said board member John Van Dyke.

The slowdown has been blamed on a shortage of manpower in the mechanical and electrical fields. To date, the \$6.9 million addition and renovation project is 31 per cent complete.

- Funds from the community to support the project continue to roll in. Between the months of April and July, \$47,000 AHEAD (the name of the campaign) pledges were received at the development office.

Approximately \$20,000 more is in the kitty of CARES (Community and Regional Equipment Support) even before the campaign has been officially launched. Director of Development Andrea Weiner said CARES will be an annual campaign to raise funds in order to update and acquire equipment. Tom Moran will lead the campaign as chairman.

- The past four months at the hospital have been characterized by increased occupancy levels and patients staying an increased length of time, said Ross Bryant, Alexandra's executive director. The hospital is operating at 99 per cent capacity.

With the construction phase, the hospital has reduced available beds to 60, 36 short term and 24 long term. As of July 31, acute care beds have been occupied to 86 per cent and chronic care beds at 110 per cent.

SENTINEL REVIEW

August 24, 1989

Board good news

view

— "Give and ye shall receive" has proved to have held true for the Alexandria Hospital Auxiliary.

Members fulfilled their \$45,000 fundraising commitment for the new addition in two-thirds of the promised time and learned the auxiliary received a \$20,000 last will and testament bequest.

Auxiliary members Anthea Warma and Barb Newell attended the hospital board's regular meeting earlier this week to present the final installment, \$12,844.94, to the group's fundraising activities.

"This auxiliary has just knocked us out," board chairman Dorothy Griffin said upon accepting the cheque at the beginning of the meeting.

"When they said three years ago they would do this, we knew it would be a lot of work," she said, adding "What a way to start a meeting."

Warma told the board the auxiliary raised \$22,000 in pledges and \$23,000 through its Super Nevada lottery, offering special commendation to Zehr's grocery store for assistance in selling the tickets.

Later on in the meeting, auxiliary representative Jean MacDougall told the board she had received a letter informing her the late Ella Irene Izzard, a former, active auxiliary member, had left \$20,000 in her will for the group to use in any way it wished.

"We were rather surprised, stunned in fact," MacDougall told the board, "but we certainly appreciate it."

Money also caused some concern when the \$15,000 to \$27,000 potential price tag of a donor wall in the new addition was discussed.

Three possibilities depend on inclusion of a scrolling device and public information bulletin board, but no decision was made on the options.

Cliff Martin, reporting for the public relations committee, explained that a formal presentation, costing between \$200 and \$400 was ordered so a potential sponsor for the wall could be approached.

Members were questioned on the necessity of acknowledging donors to the hospital building fund and if donors from previous building campaigns could be included on it as well.

Records of previous donors should be complete, the board was told and Ingersoll Mayor Doug Harris explained the previous hospital board had made agreements with some major donors to recognize their gifts.

But he pointed out the formal presentation is needed since the board has a potential sponsor who'll pay for the donor wall in return for acknowledgment of that contribution.

Alexandra marks 80th year

Happy 80th, Alexandra Hospital!

On Sep. 22, 1909, Alexandra Hospital opened its doors. The first patient, Tom Pettit, was admitted a day later. "We were in business," Ross Bryant, today's executive director, said during the institution's birthday celebration last week.

That first building had 16 rooms and could handle 25 patients. Now, several building projects later, the hospital is rated for 72 patients, Bryant said. Once current renovations are recompleted, the building

will be 86,000 sq. ft.

"But mortar and bricks do not a hospital make - it's the staff who bring vitality and life to that 80-year-old lady," said Dorothy Griffin, chairman of the hospital's board of trust.

During the celebration, held outdoors well within sight and hearing of construction in progress, Griffin described a number of milestones reached during the past year.

High points in the building project include the sod turning in February, the completion of the brickwork in

August and the "Topping Off" ceremony.

Seventy per cent of the drywall is now completed, said Griffin. Final touches are being done to the pharmacy, while the medical records department has already moved to its new quarters.

The new building will be ready in November or December, with many more milestones to follow. After all, there are three phases to the reconstruction, Griffin reminded staff and construction workers.

SENTINEL REVIEW - INGERSOLL

THIS WEEK

September 26, 1989

PROGRESS EDITION, October 18, 1989

Alexandra Hospital celebrates 80th birthday



*Hospital Board chairman Dorothy Griffin and
executive director Ross Bryant cut the cake.*

INGERSOLL TIMES -

PROGRESS EDITION

October 18 1989

ingersoll

HOSPITAL BOARD

Work should be complete in March

By ERIC SCHMIEDL
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Renovations to Alexandra Hospital should be completely finished in March.

Ross Bryant, hospital executive director, said at Tuesday night's hospital board meeting that the facility's new building should be

completed around the end of December, while patients are slated to start moving in to the building in January.

Responding to a question from mayor Doug Harris, Bryant said 30 to 40 workers are currently still busy completing Alexandra construction work.

Getting agitated

Ross Bryant has let Queen's Park know Alexandra Hospital is getting impatient.

Bryant, the hospital's executive director, sent a letter to the Ontario government saying "we (Alexandra Hospital) are getting agitated in the extreme" by the time it is taking budgets to get passed, hospital board chairman Dorothy Griffin said at Tuesday night's hospital board meeting.

Bryant's letter basically said "get on with it, guys, we need an answer," Griffin added.

Thus far, the hospital has not received a response to the letter.

CARES campaign

About \$60,000 has been raised for Alexandra Hospital's Community and Region Equipment Supplies (CARES) campaign so far this year.

Tom Moran, CARES campaign treasurer, told Tuesday night's hospital board meeting the \$60,000 is comprised of money that is to be received after an estate has been cleared, as well as funds that are already "in our hot little hands."

The campaign target for the 1989/90 fiscal year is \$150,000. That goal will increase to \$200,000 a year for the 1990/91 and 1991/92 fiscal years, Moran said.

Money raised by the campaign is to be used for operational equipment, he added.

So far, the campaign has been fairly low key — over 200 people who had donated funds to the hospital previously and had indicated a desire to continue their support have been asked to give again.

A campaign of this nature was needed "because of changes in government funding," Moran told board members.

October 22, 1989

SENTINEL REVIEW

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

HEALTH

Hospital in Ingersoll considering abortions

A committee will recommend whether to grant a doctor's request to be allowed to perform the procedure.

By Stephen Northfield
Woodstock Bureau

INGERSOLL — A committee of doctors at Alexandra Hospital here is reviewing a request by a physician to perform abortions at the hospital.

The doctor, a staff member at Alexandra, made a request in September for additional privileges needed for abortions, executive director Ross Bryant said Thursday. Bryant wouldn't release the doctor's name. He said it wouldn't be fair because the doctor is on vacation out of the country.

NOV. 21 MEETING: The request is being reviewed by the credentials committee, composed of 10 staff doctors. The committee is expected to make its recommendation to the hospital board at a Nov. 21 meeting.

The board will make the final decision whether to grant the request, Bryant said. If approved, Alexandra would be the only hospital in Oxford County to

perform abortions.

Regardless of the committee's recommendation, "it is not going to be an automatic, quick decision," Bryant said. "I'm sure that the trustees are not in a position to accept any recommendation that night." The board will likely refer the matter to a standing committee for further study.

REACTION: Wilma DeBruyn, past president of the Ingersoll chapter of the Oxford County Right-To-Life organization, said the membership is dismayed at the possibility of abortions being performed at the hospital.

Local members have been asked to send letters to the hospital board in opposition to the doctor's request, she said. The group has about 500 members across the county.

A local pro-choice supporter welcomed the news. "I didn't know that somebody has applied," said Dr. Patricia Brown, a Woodstock psychiatrist. "I think that's good. I'm pleased with anything that is making it easier for women in Oxford County."

Women here now have to go to London or other centres for therapeutic abortions, said Brown, a member of the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League, which has 13 active members in Oxford.

Abortions are available at 78 hospitals in Ontario, according to a June report from health ministry. In this region, abortions are performed at two hospitals in London and in St. Thomas, Chatham and Sarnia.

LONDON FREE PRESS

November 10, 1989

Alexandra Hospital board defers decision on performing abortions

BY LIZ DADSON

Ingersoll's Alexandra Hospital

board has deterred a decision on allowing abortions at the hospital.

It has referred the issue on granting the privilege to perform abor-

tions at the hospital, to its management committee.

At the board meeting Tuesday night a committee of 10 doctors tabled its report with the board, regarding therapeutic abortions in the first trimester of pregnancy.

The report "wasn't a clear recommendation from the doctors," said Ross Bryant, executive director of the hospital. "There was direction given and opinions brought forward."

Chairperson Dorothy Griffin said the committee, made up of four board trustees, the chairperson and one medical doctor, will research the legal aspects, government directions, community and staff concerns, and the general impact on the community of this request for abortion procedures at the hospital.

"We have received input from the community through phone calls and letters," Bryant said, adding these will be forwarded to the management committee.

Griffin said the committee will likely have a report prepared before the next board meeting.

Bryant said it is difficult to say how the board will proceed on this issue until it sees what direction the management committee has taken.

Meanwhile, he noted that it has been "business as usual" at the hospital with all communication, regarding this issue, being very courteous. "Many have respected our privacy," he said.

Update on Hospital expansion

Electrical connections between the old hospital building and the new extension have slowed down construction at Ingersoll's Alexandra Hospital, said development director Andrea Weiner.

But the completion date is still slated for March or April, 1990, she added.

"There have been some slow downs," Weiner said. "There is a shortage of electrical tradesmen and a lot of electrical work (in the hospital construction). We're a bit behind now but they (the contractors) plan to have caught up by then."

She added that the workers are finding it "tough" to renovate an existing hospital, with as few interruptions as possible to patients and staff.

C.A.R.E.S. campaign

Benefits of Alexandra Hospital's Community And Regional Equipment Support (C.A.R.E.S.) campaign have been felt even before the flyers have been mailed out.

Andrea Weiner, development director at the Ingersoll hospital, said the pamphlets, outlining the

new campaign, have gone out in the public utilities commission's December mailing.

The project is designed to promote donations to purchase new technological equipment and replace worn out equipment.

The first benefit came last Thursday when the hospital auxiliary presented an ice machine, which was on the C.A.R.E.S. list, worth \$2,000, to the hospital for use in the newly-relocated physiotherapy department.

The second came when the local chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star donated \$2,500 for the purchase of a patient lift, and a further benefit saw the Embro Legion donating approximately \$500 to the campaign.

The ice machine is a definite asset for the physiotherapy department, said Linda Fishleigh, a physiotherapist with the local hospital for 20 years. The 25-year-old department was the first to move into the new extension last week.

Fishleigh and physiotherapy director Joanne Schoenmaker, along with a part-time physiotherapist and a physio-aide, now work in more spacious surroundings.

The department's expansion to 2,040 square feet from 1,280 square feet was funded by CAMI Automotive Inc. to the tune of \$150,000. It provides a new private assessment area, more privacy for all patients, more space for teaching patients how to do their exercises, curtained space for treatment and exercise, larger mat areas, and quiet space for patient relaxation.

The physiotherapy department "is a lot cheerier," Weiner said. "Before, everything was very crowded."

Fishleigh said the major difference for the department's employees has been the increase in space.

She said the ice machine, which manufactures shaved, crushed ice, is a huge benefit because the ice is available in the physiotherapy lab all the time.

"Before, we carried ice in a bucket from the kitchen," she said. "It's a long way from the kitchen."

Fishleigh said the ice is applied to patients' joints to bring down swelling and reduce pain. Approximately half the 40 patients seen per day by

the hospital's physiotherapists receive this application, she added.

The patient lift, sponsored by the Order of the Eastern Star, will enable one person to lift a patient up to 400 pounds without injuring himself or herself, Weiner said.

She said staff tours of the hospital's new extension will begin in about two weeks, with public tours scheduled once the facility is completed. A grand opening is planned for March or April, 1990.

Hospital equipment needs, as laid out in the campaign pamphlet, include: an esophascope, \$3,000; glucometer, \$250; oximeter \$7,200; three patient beds, \$3,150 each; lab incubator, \$843; three stretchers, \$3,500 each; physio treatment mat, \$2,400; three stethoscopes, \$150 each; transport monitor, \$14,500; cast cart, \$650; birthing bed, \$14,000; thune tub, \$14,130.

Many other items are also available for sponsorship, Weiner said.



Physiotherapist Linda Fishleigh scoops ice from the new ice machine, donated by the hospital auxiliary to the physiotherapy department which moved into its larger quarters in the hospital's new extension last week. Shown representing the auxiliary are Louise Roberts (left) and Edith Phillips, vice-president. (Liz Dadson photo)



Linda Fishleigh, a physiotherapist at Ingersoll's Alexandra Hospital, applies manual therapy to James White's knee. The Ingersoll man had a partial knee replacement two weeks ago and must do exercises, some quite painful, in order to strengthen the knee muscles and get it moving again. The physiotherapy department moved into its more spacious surroundings in the hospital's new extension last week. (Liz Dadson photo)

INGERSOLL TIMES

December 6, 1989

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

Town gets ambulance depot at long last

Ingersoll has finally found a home for its first ambulance station.

Located just south of Carnegie Street and west of Pemberton Street, the 108-square metre building will house two vehicles. Joe Pember, owner-operator of Woodstock Ambulance Ltd., hopes construction will begin in January, as soon as submitted price quotes are reviewed and a builder selected.

The architecture of the building is attractive and up-to-date, said Pember. "I think the neighbors will be pleased."

Town council stipulated the depot had to be built within a year. Pember estimated it would take approximately 8 weeks.

The search for an appropriate location began in July, after the Ontario Ministry of Health approved the proposed building. Potential sites had to meet several requirements, including accessibility to good roads and Highway 401, where many accidents occur, and a minimum number of traffic delays such as railway tracks and traffic lights.

Pember only discovered the Carnegie Street site a couple of months ago. Town council approved the location at its regular meeting last Wednesday, after allowing a minor variance on the property. Instead of a standard front setback of 98.4 feet from the road edge, the building will be located 60 feet back.

The station will replace the Alexandra Hospital garage, which is too small for the newer, bigger ambulances and poorly ventilated, said Pember. It was, however, better than nothing. "The hospital has just been tremendously good to us."

The new ambulance depot was announced amid continued controversy over the new central dispatch system initiated early this year. The

system "priorizes" coverage areas. Both London and Woodstock are considered "priority" areas. If a Woodstock ambulance is called more than 10 kilometres away, the Ingersoll vehicle is called to Woodstock and placed on standby.

Since the controversy first surfaced in the local media a month ago, Oxford MPP Charlie Tatham has sent a copy of a letter of complaint to Elinor Caplan, the provincial health minister. The letter is from Shirley Stewart, an Ingersoll resident who had to wait more than 30 minutes for an ambulance after she collapsed on the street.

Although Pember concedes there are naturally some "growing pains with central dispatch," he feels in the end it will only be "organized mass confusion."

Only a review after the system has been in place for a few years will convince the government central dispatch is not feasible, either financially or in terms of safety.

The Ingersoll ambulance probably receives as many calls in a week as the fire department does all year, said Pember. Keeping that in mind, he thinks the staff is doing the best job it can.

"I don't think people realize ambulances are as busy as they are."

INGERSOLL TIMES

December 16, 1987

The Ingersoll Times, January 3, 1990

Alexandra gets provincial grant

BY LIZ DADSON

Ingersoll's Alexandra Hospital has received a provincial grant to fund operating expenses in its new extension.

Oxford MPP Charlie Tatham announced the operating funding of up to \$1,751,300 over three years to expand and enhance outpatient and

chronic care services.

The hospital obtained ministry approval last year to provide modern facilities for chronic care, outpatient and support services.

A new hospital wing has been built and renovations are being made to the existing chronic care unit.

"The expansion of these areas will provide state-of-the-art health care services and an enhanced work en-

vironment," Tatham said in a news release.

The ministry will provide two-thirds of the project's costs, with renovations expected to be completed in March of this year.

Expansions and enhancements will be made to day surgery, patient rooms, operatins and recovery rooms, special care units, emergency rooms and other departments.

Cliff Martin, chairman of the public relations committee, said the project is in its final stages of construction and, as a result, patients will be moved into the new extension this month so renovation can begin on the existing building.

A grand opening ceremony is expected to be held in late March or April, Martin said.

January 3, 1990

INGERSOLL TIMES

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

News of funds meets guarded optimism

INGERSOLL — News of funds to be allocated to Alexandra Hospital was met with guarded optimism from the hospital board chairman.

Dorothy Griffin said the hospital is still waiting for the final word on the funds from Ron Sapsford, director of the Ontario Ministry of Health's community hospital board.

"Hopefully, it (the full amount) will go through.

"It looks very positive, and we are pleased," Griffin said.

Charlie Tatham, Oxford MPP, had earlier announced the hospital is slated to receive up to \$1.75 million over three years to expand and enhance outpatient care and services.

The expansion of the hospital "will provide state-of-the-art health care services and an enhanced work environment," Tatham said in a press release on behalf of Health Minister Elinor Caplan.

Griffin said money the hospital would get under the funding will go towards operating costs of the facility's new wing, which includes the hiring of extra staff.

"You're obviously going to hire additional staff" to make sure the wing stays "spick-and-span," she said.

SENTINEL REVIEW

January 5, 1990

The Ingersoll Times, January 10, 1990

Hospital pleased with grant

But funding could be less than requested

BY LIZ DADSON

The chairperson of Ingersoll's Alexandra Hospital board said she is pleased with the recent announcement of a provincial grant to fund the operating expenses in the hospital's new extension.

However, Dorothy Griffin cautioned that the hospital may not receive the entire \$1,751,300, scheduled to be provided by the health ministry over three years to expand and enhance outpatient and chronic care services.

"The letter (from health minister Elinor Caplan) says 'up to' so the grant could be less than that," Griffin said. "We hope to get the full amount."

The board requires the maximum 1.7 million amount to hire staff and

operate the new wing, Griffin said. This includes extra people for maintenance as well.

While the grant application was made in October, 1989, Griffin said the entire process was begun a few years ago. A master plan for the hospital was developed in 1982, she added.

She emphasized if the operating funding had not come through, the hospital would have had to cut back on staff.

"It (grant) is an important help," she said. "You can't go on indefinitely without the ministry's support."

Executive director Ross Bryant is currently studying the administrative details supplied by the ministry to discover what the grant means to the hospital and to the board.

"It says 'up to' \$1.7 million," he said. "That could mean anything."

He expects these details to be available at the next board meeting Jan. 23.

Griffin expressed delight at seeing the new extension turn out so beautifully.

"When seen through diagrams and architectural drawings, it was very abstract," she said. "But the reality is just wonderful."

A new hospital wing has been built and renovations are being made to the existing chronic care unit.

The ministry will provide two-thirds of the project's costs, with renovations expected to be completed in March of this year.

A grant opening ceremony is expected in late March or April.

INGERSOLL TIMES

January 10, 1990

More to VON work than just happy feet

The aim of the Victorian Order of Nurses is to make sure nobody falls through the cracks, says Kathy Bamford, who has headed this important organization in Oxford County for about a year.

Oxford County has a wealth of health and social services, she's pleased to say. But there are gaps in even the best system. And that's where the VON comes in.

A young woman is confined to a wheelchair; despite a number of health problems which require careful medical monitoring, she remains an active participant in family and community activities and really doesn't belong in hospital. The Visiting Nurse program means she can stay at home and still get needed medical care; problems are caught before they become life-threatening.

A man has Alzheimer's; although he can't be left alone, he's still functioning fairly well and enjoys an outing away from his family. There are Day Centre programs for seniors with Alzheimer's and memory loss, as well as programs for seniors who simply have problems getting about.

There's the diabetic with impaired circulation in his legs — even a simple ingrown toenail is serious business for him. The VON Foot Clinic is the answer — regular care prevents problems.

And then there's the senior citizen who can't see well enough to read her newspaper but who retains a passionate interest in world and community news. The Volunteer Visitor program matches her with a young student who enjoys reading aloud.

And to cover all bases, the VON recruits key members of the community as volunteers for Seniors Information Services.

Each year in Oxford, VON nurses make 27,000 home visits. Combined with other VON programs, the organization fills a very important need in the community.

In celebration of VON week, *Ingersoll This Week* takes a look at three Ingersoll people who benefit from various VON programs.

Enjoying a visit to the Day Centre Della McConnell is one person who knows what the VON Day Centre program is about.

The Ingersoll woman spends each Wednesday at the Day Centre, enjoying the variety of activities provided for seniors like herself — intelligent and reasonably healthy, but unable to cope with more active programs.

The Tunis Street resident spent several months in hospital following a stroke. Upon her return home in June, her Visiting Nurse recommended Day Centre and McConnell

has been attending each Wednesday.

"I like people," says McConnell. "At home there's just the four walls." In summer a scooter helps her get out to visit but winter conditions mean she's fairly isolated.

The program at the Day Centre in Woodstock begins with coffee and muffins, followed by a word game and exercises. After that, McConnell says there's a game of Uno and lunch provided by Meals on Wheels. Then there's crafts, something which interests McConnell, a member of the Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre. When interviewed, she was working on an attractive multi-colored place mat.

Dianne Hodges, Day Centre coordinator, says the program is very successful. In Woodstock, Mondays and Fridays are for people with Alzheimer's and memory loss; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday programs are attended by seniors who are no longer able to participate in other programs but who aren't ready for nursing homes.

The Day Centre room is ideal — bright, open and completely wheelchair accessible. The only problem, she says, is transportation.

Woodstock has paratransit but Ingersoll clients must depend on other means. Until recently, Hodges drove to Ingersoll to pick up McConnell. Now she and another Ingersoll client travel by cab. And that's expensive. (Like all VON programs, users pay a small fee while the Ministry of Community and Social Services picks up much of the rest of the tab. The United Way and donations make up the difference.)

Volunteers are already important to the program and she hopes to get

some volunteer drivers through the Red Cross.

Day Centre for Ingersoll Bamford is exploring the possibility of starting a Day Centre program in Ingersoll if there is sufficient demand.

Finding out who would be interested is the main problem; the VON does not go after clients but works on referrals from doctors, visiting nurses and people such as Alexandra Hospital's Gloria Lee. "We see our Day Centre program as something for people who are no longer able to participate in Seniors for Health," says Bamford.

She would appreciate hearing from seniors who would like to see a Day Centre in Ingersoll.

As for McConnell, she likes things the way they are. But a Day Centre program in Ingersoll might be good, she said, "as long as the people are friendly."

Staying out of hospital For Raymond Moore of Princes Park, the VON means medical conditions can be monitored at home.

A congestive heart condition and lung problems mean he's on oxygen 24 hours per day. And he's diabetic. He says without the VON, he'd be in hospital.

But VON nurses including Darlene Parsons ("she's special") keep in close touch with his doctors and catch any problems before they become serious. And they help him get needed items faster.

The VON is on call 24 hours per day, he says. That's a tremendous comfort to his wife Marcella.

Healthy Feet are Happy Feet The Victorian Order of Nurses Foot Clinics have been in operation for more than 20 years.

Many local people — senior citizens, diabetics, disabled persons, arthritics and those who "just can't reach anymore" take advantage of the regular VON foot clinic at Alexandra Hospital held twice each month, the first and third Thursday afternoons. 12 clinics are held throughout the County.

The nurses who conduct the clinics are RNs with extra skills in providing foot care. These nurses do routine nail care, trim toe nails, assess and manage ingrown nails, pad corns, file callouses and give a gentle massage.

There is a charge to clients \$6, a small portion of what the visit actually costs (\$14). The remainder is covered by the United Way.

Jan Perrin, the VON nurse in charge of the clinics, provides more than care for people with foot problems; she teaches how to keep feet healthy.

"That feels much better," commented Edith Vale with a smile as Perrin finished regular foot care at a recent clinic.

For "happy feet" Perrin recommends the following:

—Wash your feet each day using warm water.

—Soak for 10 — 15 minutes at a

time.

—Pat your feet dry.

—When you cut your toenails, have good lighting so you can see clearly and follow the toe line. Never cut shorter than the toe and don't cut into the corners.

—Wear clean socks every day.

Cotton socks are best. If socks have a thick seam at the toe, wear them inside out.

Other tips for avoiding foot problems include:

—Apply talcum sparingly between toes.

—File callouses with a pumice.

—Pad corns with moleskin. Avoid corn plasters that contain Aspirin.

—Shoes should have a deep toe box. Buy shoes late in the day.

—Eat a well-balanced diet.

—Exercise is important. Walk every day. Rotate your ankles in both directions six times. Wiggle your toes.

—Avoid tight garters or stockings.

—Avoid heating pads or hot water bottles if you have diabetes or decreased circulation.

Perrin and her nurses are the first line of care when it comes to feet — for additional information, call 539-1231.



DELLA MCCONNELL gets a helping hand from VON volunteer Edith Sheppard in the Day Centre's crafts program.

(Pauline Kerr Photo)

SENTINEL REVIEW -

INGERSOLL THIS WEEK

January 23, 1990

New facilities taking shape at Alexandra

By PAULINE KEAR
of The Sentinel-Review

February isn't the best time for a sod turning ceremony. First of all, the sod doesn't turn easily. And helium-filled balloons tend not to rise in the cold air.

But Alexandra Hospital held its official sod turning on an icy Feb. 17 a little over a year ago and everything went off without a snag, a promising start to a three-year project which will see the hospital increase in size by 33 per cent. The extension and renovations are designed to take Alexandra Hospital well into the next century.

Staff members recall a bit of humor in the feverish preparations for the big event.

Premier David Peterson was expecting the ground to be frozen solid and didn't quite believe hospital board chairman Dorothy Griffin's claims that it would be soft. But when his shovel hit the soil with appropriate force, he almost fell over.

Yes, the ground was soft. Hospital maintenance had dug it up and warmed it, replacing it just before the ceremony.

The ceremony was a resounding success, with balloons sailing off into the icy wind, helped along with a kick or two from Griffin. Since then, the addition and renovation work has been a matter of achieving one milestone after another, said director of development Andrea Weiner.

The roof for the addition was completed June 2 with a topping-off ceremony, attended by staff and construction workers. Festivities included a barbecue featuring hot dogs with all the trimmings. Some workers enjoyed five or six, a real nutritional statement during Fitness Week.

Until this point there was little disruption in normal operation of the hospital. In fact, staff still credit the construction people with causing the absolute minimum of noise and mess.

But dealing with the dust has been a continuing battle for the housekeeping staff.

As construction progressed, normal operation became more difficult. Staff washroom facilities suddenly disappeared; entire stairwells disappeared; hall ways became waiting rooms. And one never knew what would appear when the elevator finally arrived.

Hospital executive director Ross Bryant recalls, "Some days I thought I should be wearing a hard hat in my office in anticipation of things coming down around my ears." His office is located directly over one construction entrance/exil.

During the construction, patient and staff safety came above everything else. A sudden call from surgery during the parking lot construction got immediate results. An asbestos complaint by a worker had to be looked at before work could progress.

As far as staff was concerned, it was business as usual despite the difficult conditions. Bryant is proud to say an inspection by the Public Institutions Panel in the midst of construction resulted in a letter commending Alexandra for cleanliness.

The outside brickwork was completed in August, which also

marked the time of one of the more remarkable fundraising efforts for the hospital. *A Sip of Fields* starring John Wood and including members of the Alexandra Hospital community and Ingersoll's theatrical community brought new life - and plenty of fun - to the campaign.

By September, the new and improved medical records department and pharmacy were done.

Less than a year after the first preheated clump of sod was turned, physiotherapy was firmly ensconced in its new quarters. The first department to move to the new section, physiotherapy now occupies a spacious area which is completely wheelchair accessible and contains updated equipment including an ice machine. In the old physiotherapy, a staff member had to carry ice in a cooler from the cafeteria.

Just before Christmas, the hospital board had a preview of the addition. A reception for trustees in the new activities room featured a spectacular view, truly festive decorations and trays of tasty Christmas goodies (Brenda and her staff work wonders, Griffin commented). The board chairman said, "It was so beautiful!" and admits to having had a tear in her eye when she entered the room.

Jan. 3 was moving day for second floor continuing care patients. That was the major milestone for Griffin. "Before that, everything was happening behind a wall. But it became reality when patients were being cared for in nice, bright rooms."

Moving day was also the key milestone for hospital board member Cliff Martin, chairman of the public relations committee. "It marked the point at which the building became useful, what it was intended to be." (The next milestone comes when the last construction worker leaves the site, he said.)

The new nursing stations on the second floor are already in use; staff members comment on the spacious, well-designed facilities.

Griffin said there was a fear among staff that upgraded facilities might result in some loss of the personal warmth which has long characterized Alexandra Hospital. "The staff realized the hospital was cramped for space and needed an upgrade. But there was a fear some of the warmth would be lost by going hi-tech.

"I sensed some were worried they would lose the essence of what Alexandra has always been. But I knew the essence of what Alexandra is those people who love and care for their neighbors."

People still matter in the upgraded Alexandra; staff still cheer when an elderly stroke patient walks for the first time after suffering a stroke. Board members still offer little gestures such as passing out roses to all the patients at Christmas. Little children receive teddy bears to make their stay less frightening. Nurses make sure no patient's Christmas stocking goes unfilled.

Emergency is in its new quarters, located in the former waiting room and physiotherapy area. With five main rooms, the department is well-equipped to handle ev-

erything from serious trauma cases to sore toes. Again, carefully-designed work space and ample lighting are evident, as are adequate open space and wheelchair accessibility.

Bryant said medical staff have played an important role in the renovations every step of the way, from basic design to last minute modifications. Staff who will use new equipment are involved in its selection.

Staff input has led to some revised priorities. For example, operating room lights have become a priority item. Lower ceilings in temporary operating room facilities have resulted in some doctors bumping their heads on the lights. The new lights will eliminate that problem and will be an upgrade.

Admitting and switchboard moved to their expanded area Feb. 10, the same date as the telephones switched over to the new system. Admitting is another area being looked at with an eye to possible changes, Bryant said, although he would like to see the work completed before decisions are made. "It's difficult to judge until you see the finished product."

As it stands, staff wants more open space in the admitting area. Fire code regulations limit possibilities, but Bryant suggested one answer might be an auxiliary-manned information desk near admitting.

For Bryant, the construction milestones were minor compared to the dramatic one which came long before the official sod turning. The big milestone came in 1986, when the hospital received permission to go ahead with the work.

Now, as the construction enters its final phases, Bryant is looking down the road to the Alexandra's role in tomorrow's medical system. The renovations and addition are versatile. "I like to say we built a little vision into the future."

Griffin said, "People are so used to measuring the effectiveness of a hospital by the number of beds. We're trying to make the best use of the hospital resources in new ways."

The trend is toward outpatient programs, Bryant said. Included will be an occupational therapy department which does not exist at present. Physiotherapy, until now a department manned by a part time physiotherapist, goes full time in May.

In addition, Bryant said the hospital may look at additional clinics. "Perhaps there is the need for a chiropractor or additional visits by a pediatrician." The freestanding emergency and outpatient departments are where that sort of work is done at present; as outreach programs gain importance,

Hospital

these areas will be used more extensively. In the research stages is a day hospital.

"We're looking at some of the rural hospitals in the United States, to see what we need to provide as a community hospital," he said.

Griffin feels community-oriented health care is vital. Ingersoll is surrounded by sophisticated facilities - University Hospital, St. Joseph's and Victoria in London, McMaster University Medical Centre in Hamilton. What is needed is a place where a person can receive care while maintaining contact with family and friends.

She knows how important that is, being a member of a family which maintains close ties with Alexandra on many levels. Griffin has

served on the board of directors for six years, her daughter is co-ordinator of volunteers, granddaughter is an active volunteer. Rev. Tom Griffin has stepped forward to volunteer for the newly-formed Speaker's Bureau. Even Griffin's mother was wondering recently if she might do something, perhaps crocheting, to help out Alexandra. And the Griffin family is not the exception. Many staff members have family acting as volunteers. "That says something about how they feel about the hospital."

Martin is looking to the community for continuing support. To date, assistance has come from many directions. "We received financial support from just about anyone we asked."

Premier to participate in Alexandra special day

ALEXANDRA
HOSPITAL

INGERSOLL — The long-awaited announcement on the official opening of the new section of the hospital came during at the Tuesday meeting of the Alexandra Hospital board of directors.

Premier David Peterson will participate in the opening ceremonies for the new wing on June 15, 1 p.m., said public relations chair Cliffe Martin.

In the meantime, work continues on the project.

Mayor Doug Harris voiced a common concern when he asked if the project is close to completion.

"The end of May should see Ellis Don out of here," replied hospital executive director Ross Bryant. When asked the reason for continued delays, Bryant said there were deficiencies with the sub-trades, especially on the electrical side.

Harris noted the construction must be very stressful to staff at this point and Bryant agreed.

One area which remains only partly finished is the first floor reception area. While the glass-walled information desk is not popular, there is little which can be done to make the area less impersonal. "It's a fire wall," said Bryant.

SENTINEL REVIEW

April 25, 1990

Hospital volunteers ready to go

Story and companion photo
by PAULINE KERR
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — They're all signed up and ready to go.

Pat Bell, Alexandra Hospital CARES campaign chair, proudly reported 42 canvassers have signed up for the June 3 through June 9 door-to-door hospital fundraising campaign.

Paul Burroughs has done a superb job of training the canvassers on how to approach people, said Bell. She also noted Gloria Lee has taken canvassers for tours of the hospital on several occasions. "That's above and beyond the call

of duty."

Continues to meet monthly

Bell also reported the auction committee continues to meet monthly. Plans for the tour of homes are on hold for the time being but *Box Lunch* in November appears to be a go, she said.

Other volunteer activities were covered in the hospital auxiliary's report by Jean MacDougall.

The annual Florence Nightingale Tea, held recently at the Masonic Temple, didn't attract the hoped-for crowds, but was good public relations. The bake sale held in conjunction with the tea was a financial success.

Unable to supply sets

MacDougall said the volunteers who look after television rentals report they are unable to supply sets to many clients because television service is not available in many of the rooms. Auxiliary members hope the problem will be overcome when renovations are completed.

The executive and gift shop committee are looking forward to the reopening of the shop in the near future. At present various shops are being viewed and professional ad-

vice is being sought for the project.

Receiving considerable discussion by board members was the auxiliary's decision to hold an awards presentation for junior volunteers (volunteens) in the hospital cafeteria on June 6, 7 p.m. Punch and cake will be served and pins will be presented.

Last year a dinner was held for the young volunteers and some board members questioned MacDougall on why this is not being done this year.

MacDougall explained the problem is mostly manpower. Last year's dinner proved both expensive and exhausting to the volunteers who worked all day to put it on.

Bell suggested if it is a matter of recognition, perhaps it is the auxiliary volunteers who are not receiving proper recognition.

The board agreed to support the Auxiliary in its decision.

In other discussion, Dick Bowman, finance committee chair, reported the total AHEAD pledges and CARES campaign related monies for April was \$65,925.53. This includes the \$50,000 CAMI Automotive Inc. donation.

SENTINEL REVIEW

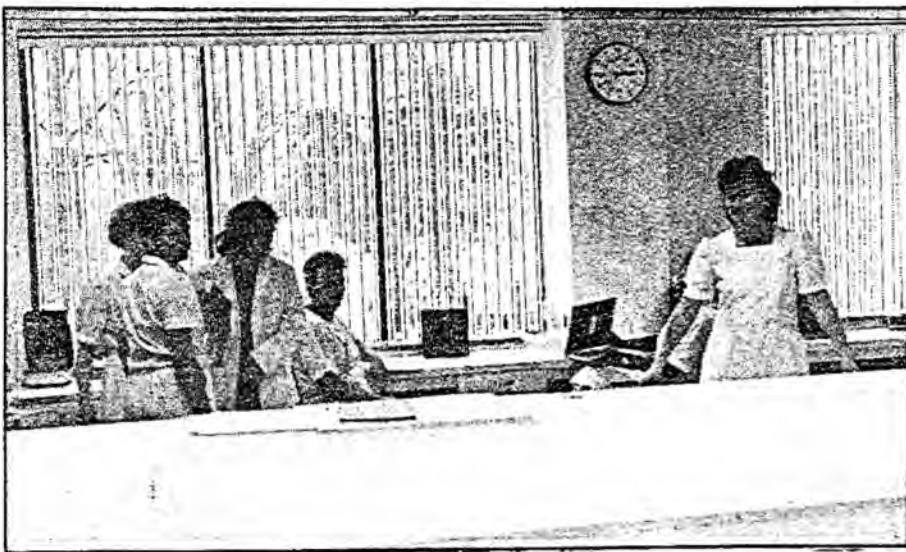
May 29, 1990



Sue Blair kicked off the new no-smoking program at Alexandra Hospital last Friday. The program will take effect September 4, when all hospital employees, physicians, volunteers and visitors will be prohibited from smoking in the hospital. Patients will be allowed to smoke in two designated areas. (Bill Fledderus photo)

INGERSOLL TIMES

June 6, 1990



C.A.R.E.S. raised \$156,000

By BILL FLEDDERUS

At the end of 1988, Ingersoll's Alexandra Hospital board of trust established an annual fund known as Community and Regional Equipment Support (C.A.R.E.S.) to raise money for necessary equipment.

Chairperson Pat Bell said because of the cost of new equipment and the necessity of repeated upgrading, the hospital is looking to raise \$600,000 in donations over the next three years.

New monitoring systems are especially needed, including a fetal monitor, an acute care monitor system and a portable heart monitor (known as a transport monitor), according to a pamphlet on the campaign.

A Cybex exercise machine for the expanding physiotherapy department, a new birthing bed, and a new x-ray filing system are also needed, as well as sundry smaller articles.

Alexandra continues to strive to

be up-to-date with its diagnostic services and treatments, and to provide the most comfortable, accurate, and efficient services possible for the community, the pamphlet states.

The government provides only limited funding for new and replacement equipment. As the trend continues away from government spending and toward greater community support, private donations become even more crucial.

Some of the more interesting fund-raising events was the performance of "A Sip of Fields," which included an impersonation of W.C. Fields, and the Kiwanis barbeque.

Donations may be allocated towards a certain piece of equipment or certain departments, if desired. Plaques will be affixed to donated items, noting the donors who made their purchase possible.

The campaign began in 1988, and by the end of May, 1990, C.A.R.E.S. has raised \$156,000.

Any crowding at new Alexandra nursing stations will be on purpose. The spacious new construction allows for better organization and more efficient work.

Facilities upgraded to modern standards

Continued from Page 2

a kind of personal attention big-city hospitals can't match."

In the end, the change is concerned with the quality of service and meeting the needs for outpa-

tient care. The increase is not in the number of available beds, but in the amount of space in various departments, hallways, and patient rooms. All facilities have been upgraded to modern standards of safety and organization.

INGERSOLL TIMES
Time 12 1990

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL



Ross Bryant, executive director at Alexandra, and John Shepley, manager of the Royal Bank, cavort with a wheelbarrow of 10,000 loonies, the bank's March 1990 donation to the A.H.E.A.D. campaign.

Community fundraising a key element in latest developments

By BILL FLEDDERUS

Community fund raising was a key element in the latest developments at Ingersoll's Alexandra Hospital.

Gord Henry, chairperson of the Alexandra Hospital Expansion And Development (A.H.E.A.D.) campaign, cares about the community's hospital service.

A former Ingersoll mayor, he led the hospital beyond its \$1.37 million goal for community pledges and donations by September 1989.

This was the first public fund-raising campaign in the town's history to pass the \$1 million mark.

"From the way the people of Ingersoll donated you have to conclude that they really wanted to bring the facilities at Alexandra

up to date," he said. "I never doubted that Ingersoll would come through for a necessity like the community hospital."

Henry and his loved ones have received life-saving care at Alexandra, and when he was offered the opportunity to head the A.H.E.A.D. campaign in 1987, he accepted - gladly.

At the time, the hospital was looking at an eight or nine million dollar expansion project, which meant a great deal of community fund-raising. But by January 1988, the board of trustees had whittled down the total bill to \$6,969,000 and they had Henry on board.

A.H.E.A.D. CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF

At the February 18 kickoff, Henry announced that the hospital's professional staff and

Continued on Page 10

INGERSOLL TIMES
June 13, 1990

Final pledges and donations through fund-raising totalled \$1.4 million

Continued from Page 10
especially dear to him. There are many families outside of town whose parents were born in the Noxon House and whose children were born in the new Alexandra. They know the value of the hospital.

To run a fund-raising campaign, you have to know your community, he said. Toronto area consultants, for example, often do not realize that farmers have no use for pledges.

"Catch them in a good year, and they will be glad to help you out. But how can a farmer pledge money when he doesn't know what is going to happen next year," Henry said, adding "I think we caught them in a good year."

Henry's work was interrupted by a bout of the measles. He had to be in quarantine for three mon-

ths, and relied totally on care from the Alexandra Hospital. Griffin, the development committee, and area leaders took up the slack, and the campaign still succeeded.

Henry explained that A.H.E.A.D. received good cooperation all around. The public utilities commission and Ontario Hydro even distributed pamphlets in local billing.

He "honorably discharged" the original fund-raising committee September 30, 1989. Final pledges and donations to the campaign totalled \$1.4 million.

After the community reached its goal, the Ontario Ministry of Health came through with its part of the funding. In December, Oxford MPP Charlie Tatham presented a \$3.5 million cheque on behalf of provincial health minister Elinor Caplan.



The newest wing. Tours of the renovated hospital will be held on June 15 for out-of-town supporters and in the fall for Ingersoll residents.

INGERSOLL
TIMES
JUNE 12 1990

ALEXANDRA
HOSPITAL

Alexandra facts . . .

Where the money went, and where it came from

(Estimated costs as of May 31, 1990)

Construction, architect, design fees: \$6,121,539
 Equipment: 1,144,000
 Other Costs: 261,712
 Budgeted cost: 6,969,000
 Actual cost (still partially estimated): 7,527,251

(Funding, as of May 31, 1990)

Community Donations and Pledges (to be collected over three years): \$1,370,000
 Hospital Reserves: 1,696,070
 Oxford County: 750,000
 Ontario Government (including grants for building-alterations - windows, electrical transformer and fire code retrofit): \$3,711,181
 Total: \$7,527,251

Construction milestones

- 1988 - December: first dig for new parking lot
- 1989 - January: first dig for new extension
- February: first concrete footings, sod-turning ceremonies with Premier David Peterson
- June: topping-off ceremony (roof completed)
- August: completion of outside brickwork and new power supply (transformer and back-up diesel generator)
- 1990- by April: completion of windows, parking lot, drywall, pharmacy, medical records, elevator, operating room, emergency

Typical year at Alexandra

- 15,000 patients -14,300 visits to outpatient departments (including emergency) -1,722 patients admitted
- 840 surgical operations (41 per cent of which are day surgeries)
- 131 live births
- 38 medical staff workers
- 154 other employees, including 90 RNs and RNAs
- 190 volunteers (including 110-member auxiliary)

Physiotherapy

Continued from Page 9

departments at other hospitals run much further behind. (Woodstock has about a 10-week waiting list, and one London hospital, eight, according to Schoemaker).

Physiotherapy works on 40-50 outpatients a day, and only 10-15 people who have actually been admitted to a bed elsewhere in the hospital. However, at present all patients still have to be referred to physiotherapy by doctors.

Alexandra history at a glance

Old Alexandra Hospital (Noxon House)

Opened: September 22, 1909
 Housed: maximum 25 patients Cost: \$8,000

New Alexandra Hospital

Opened: 1970 Cost: \$565,000

Addition of third floor and emergency facilities

Opened: 1950 Cost: \$1,817,307

Recent renovations and expansion

Opened: 1990 Houses: 72 patients (down to 51 during heaviest construction) Cost: \$6,969,000

Hospital services

- day surgery, dietetic counselling, ear, nose and throat, emergency medicine, family medicine, general surgery, gynecology, internal medicine, laboratory, long-term care, obstetrics, occupational therapy, orthopaedics, pediatrics, physiotherapy, public health, radiology, social work, ultrasound

INGERSOLL TIMES 12 1990

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

Construction began with February 1989 sod-turning

Continued from Page 4

was especially tricky. Whenever we would go into a wall, we were never quite sure what we were going to find." Renovations were tough on the staff. People traffic and noise were disruptive, and moving facilities from one area to another, again and again, could be discouraging.

Even vital services like electricity had to be cut off at times, noted hospital director Ross Bryant, but never without more than ample warning. "The safety and comfort of the patient always came first.

"Whenever work was done in a room, we always made sure there was a buffer zone of empty rooms around the construction, including an empty room on the floor above and below the work."

Bryant called it "a difficult year" and noted that anticipation was essential at all stages of planning.

"But I give the staff credit," said Dorothy Griffin, chairperson of the board of trustees. "They not only stuck it out but found ways of keeping the positive result in mind."

Matching the 1990 wing to the older sections (from 1970 and 1950) required coping with pipes and materials fabricated to past quality standards and designed in imperial measurements.

Ellis-Don project manager Bert Van Berlo explained that construction went fairly smoothly, although it was often "quite a challenge. Maintaining the beds required flexibility on the part of the general and sub-contractors. Working around existing facilities may be par for the course with hospitals, but it remains an organizational juggling act." The work began with an expansion of present parking facilities, which proved "more important than expected," said John Van Dyke, chairperson of the property and planning committee.

"Since the tenders were slightly lower than what we expected, we had money for the new parking lot. And with all the garbage bins and equipment and the construction people working on the site, it turns out we needed the new space to keep the regular hospital work going."

The construction of better



The 1970 addition included the ground floor emergency area and a third storey. For two years, the hospital ran its own ambulance service from this area.

emergency and physiotherapy facilities was perhaps the most important development in the project.

Other major milestones include the sod turning in February (attended by Premier David Peterson), the completion of the brickwork in August, and the topping off ceremony to celebrate the completion of the roof.

Redesigned nursing stations and telephone reception now make things easier for the nurses as well. Van Dyke pointed out that a recommendation from staff members led to a change in plans

during construction - the stations were shifted away from the elevators to more central locations in the middle of the new wing.

"Nursing stations by the elevators would be more useful in terms of policing people who come and go in the hospital, but the nurses felt that a central location, which would allow them to give the most attentive care to patients, was more important."

Patient rooms - both renovated and brand new - have many comfortable features, including large

Continued on Page 6

INGERSOLL TIMES

June 13, 1990

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

Public support was the key in raising expansion funds

The decision to go after \$1.4 million from the private sector for Alexandra Hospital's redevelopment was not made easily.

There were some people who said it couldn't be done. Never before had a sum that large been raised in Ingersoll through a public campaign.

Gord Henry, an active and well known former mayor of Ingersoll was asked to serve as campaign chairman and proved to be the right person for a difficult job.

Henry was born in Nepean, Ont. (near Ottawa). He graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College, now part of the University of Guelph, in 1934 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture, specializing in dairy sciences.

Henry moved to Ingersoll in 1939 after accepting a position with the Ingersoll Cheese Company Ltd. He was appointed manager in 1946, a position he held until his retirement in 1977.

His involvement in public life began with the Ingersoll Public School Board on which he served until 1967. He was elected chairman for eight years.

In 1967 Henry successfully ran for mayor of Ingersoll and served until 1976.

Since his retirement, Henry has been an active participant in a number of civic and charitable organizations including the chamber of commerce, the Canadian Cancer Society, The Salvation Army, YMCA Men's Club, University of Guelph Campaign and the Adam Oliver Housing Co-operative.



Gord Henry

Henry and his wife Aleda live in a heritage home which predates Confederation.

"The thing which impressed me about the hospital (AHEAD) campaign was the extent of public support — it proved one thing, that the people of Ingersoll will support a facility that is definitely required. They want a community hospital, brought up to modern standards."

He insists on sharing the credit for the campaign's success, pointing out the hard work done

by professional fundraiser Judith Walker. And he congratulates the team leaders and canvassers, especially those from the rural areas, for an excellent job.

Some of the help was of a less than positive nature and Henry credits that, too, with the campaign's success. There were people who wished him luck but said he'd never do it. "I just told that to the canvassers and said we'll show them."

Show them they did. The total was achieved in record time.

During the original canvass, individuals were contacted but not the general public. The annual door-to-door campaign will give everyone the chance to contribute to their community hospital, Henry said.

Community hospitals form a vital part of our health care system, he added.

Industrial accidents account for an average of one accident per day. If the accident is minor, the person is treated at Alexandra. But if the accident is serious, the person is treated first at Alexandra and transported to a larger centre. Without that initial treatment, the person might not survive.



WHEN ROSS BRYANT, Alexandra Hospital executive director, welcomed Board of Trust chairman Dorothy Griffin to "an exciting year," neither realized how exciting, and rewarding, the year would be. Both are proud of the roles they played in seeing the reconstruction project to its successful completion. The official opening is scheduled for 1 p.m. this Friday

SENTINEL
REVIEW
June 13,
1990

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

A new chapter in hospital history

Ingersoll was well provided with qualified representatives of the medical profession, according to historical documents.

Among them were Drs. D. W. Carroll, F. D. Canfield, I. R. Walker, McKay, Neff, Williams, Coleridge and Rogers.

J. T. W. Kearns, MD, had an office and residence opposite the Daly House (Ingersoll Inn). Thomas Bowers, MD, MRSC, had an office at 18 Charles Street.

The late Dr. Norman Bethune, famous for his work in China, once practiced her under Dr. Williams.

In June, 1889, a movement was started to establish a general hospital in Ingersoll. But the timing was wrong and money was scarce. A petition was circulated but few signatures were secured. The project was dropped.

The town's first hospital opened less than 10 years later. In 1898, Dr. D. M. Rogers opened a private hospital in the front room of the O'Neill house on the north side of Francis Street.

Also in 1898 Dr. Angus McKay established a hospital in a house at the corner of Victoria and McKeand.

In 1900, the doctors in town joined in establishing a Public Hospital in the William Waterworth house, a two story white brick structure, located on the west side of Oxford Ave close to North Town Line. One new innovation included babies being born at the hospital instead of the home. Several serious operations were performed here.

Again, the need outgrew the space and in 1909 the residence of Dr. Angus McKay was purchased for a hospital for \$6,520. Alexandra Hospital came into being and served the community for several decades.

The beautiful building was constructed by James Noxon of Noxon Bros. Farm Implement Mfg. Co. Built in 1874 at a cost of \$10,000, it was said to be the most beautiful

house between Hamilton and Windsor at the time, featuring a winding staircase.

"It was decided that every lady of any consequence should become a member of the Women's Auxiliary to Alexandra Hospital Trust," reads an old document.

The auxiliary was actually formed before the hospital opened.

80 years later, "people of consequence" continue to do important tasks for the hospital. At first, auxiliary members mended hosp gowns, sewed bed sheets, made preserves and jams for patients, and did fundraising. The group was also responsible for running a nurses training school in Ingersoll for 28 years. The school closed in 1937.

The "Women's" part of the name was dropped in 1969 when four men joined the ranks.

Today, auxiliary members, both men and women, deliver mail and flowers to patients, help in x-ray, provide televisions, staff the gift shop and supervise volunteers. Fundraising remains a high priority. Back in 1950, \$32,000 pledged, enough to furnish entire hospital except operating room and kitchen.

The auxiliary has donated \$45,000 in the new campaign.

As a hospital in 1909, the "Noxon House" hospital had 16 beds and averaged 120 patients per year.

By 1945 the hospital trust considered the hospital too small and decided to build a modern one.

Town council provided a \$150,000 grant. Much of the funding came from the business community and private individuals. Among the canvassers was one Gordon Henry.

Serving on the advisory committee to the council were L. A. Westcott representing service clubs, Robert Carr, president, representing merchants, R. Henley of the Chamber of Commerce, S. E. Izzard, industry, Byron Jenvey, Board of Health, Herbert

Fuller, labor, Allen Horton and James Spavin, council.

The new hospital was constructed by the Schwenger C. Construction Co. at a cost of \$565,000. The cornerstone was laid on March 16, 1949, with R. W. Green, secretary of the trust, officiating. The official opening was June 4, 1950.

In 1951, the old hospital was demolished to make room for parking for the new one.

By 1970, the hospital had again outgrown its facilities and a new wing was added.

This hospital served the community well but as Alexandra Hospital entered the 90's, change was in the wind.

The hospital's ability to respond to the community's health care needs was often seriously limited by outdated and inadequate equipment and lack of space.

When the redevelopment project began, statistics indicated since 1984, emergency and outpatient visits to Alexandra jumped 35 and 36 per cent respectively.

Day surgery accounted for 41 per cent of all surgery performed at the hospital. The physiotherapy department averaged 11,500 visits per year over the previous four years.

There was only one solution to the growing demand for health services in our community — updated equipment, more space and a realignment of services.

The original hospital opened in 1950. An addition was completed in 1970.

But the facilities had reached their limits.

Since the last expansion, the nature of the health care system in Ontario changed dramatically, with increasing pressures on such services as emergency, physiotherapy and day surgery.

The redevelopment would not increase the number of beds but rather would add 20,000 square feet of space, an increase of 33 per cent, for improvements aimed at increasing the quality of the environment for patients, especially those in long-term care.

SENTINEL REVIEW

June 13, 1990

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

Hospital's Dorothy Griffin says things stay exciting

Hospital beat reportage
by PAULINE KEAR
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — "Some people tell you there is a let down after a big project like this one is complete — don't you believe it," said Dorothy Griffin, who chairs Alexandra Hospital board of trust.

Griffin made the statement during the board's annual meeting on Tuesday. She went on to describe the many exciting things happening at the hospital now that the rebuilding project is finished.

The focus will be on health promotion, community outreach programs and stretching health care dollars even further.

Government can no longer be relied upon to provide all funding, she said. "We have to take responsibility for ourselves and make sure every dollar is wisely used."

She gave special recognition to the hospital team — employees, doctors, nurses, volunteers and trustees — who pulled together to maintain the high quality of care for which the hospital is noted during a difficult year of construction. And she thanked the community for continued support.

Ross Bryant, executive director, echoed Griffin's sentiments when he described the past year as one of "challenges, frustrations and constant change."

'Put to the test'

He described how coping skills were "put to the test on more than one occasion" and commended everyone for getting through the project.

Among the tests was the public institutions panel inspection in November. The findings were positive despite the construction.



Bryant

The Ingersoll building inspector and fire department kept a close eye on the project to ensure patient and staff safety.

Other matters receiving attention were pay equity procedures, implementation of a no smoking plan, accreditation requirements and innumerable important administrative functions.

Bryant said, "The last year has been a very difficult year, however, to complete a community hospital project such as ours is a remarkable achievement."

And the excitement is not over, for the next year will see a return to normal operating conditions as everyone utilizes the new and renovated facilities.

Striving for excellence

Dr. Marc Pariser, medical staff president, noted in his report the medical staff has continued to strive for excellence in the delivery of health care throughout the construction period.

They delivered a full range of medical services in acute and chronic care.

Welcomed to the staff were Dr. Henry Janssen, an active general practitioner, Dr. Philip McCabe,

plant physician at CAMI, Dr. Joseph McGillen, internal medicine specialist and cardiologist at Woodstock General Hospital, dietician Anne Hepple Flock, and physiotherapist Nicole Vann.

Dr. Michael Nissenbaum, radiologist, will be leaving soon to pursue his academic career.

Pariser said he, like every other member of the medical staff, has stories about the experience of practicing medicine during the various phases of construction. But the results include a "beautiful" special care unit. In addition, there have been improvements in the facilities for the care of cardiac pa-

tients, a remodelled and refashioned obstetrical department with birthing room and birthing bed, and an expanded emergency department.

Among the changes he listed was the "welcome addition" of the development office. He commended Andrea Weiner, director of development, for her hard work and dedication.

Pariser acknowledged the contributions of the hospital's employees over the past year, saying, "It is the compassion and caring of our staff, not the physical plant and technology that have given this hospital its excellent reputation."

SENTINEL REVIEW

June 14, 1990

Revamped hospital officially opened

By PAULINE KERR
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Ontario premier David Peterson received a chilly welcome on his last visit to Alexandra Hospital — Friday's welcome was very warm indeed.

The chill February winds were braved by only a hardy few as Peterson took part in the official sod turning for the hospital's multi-million dollar redevelopment project. But the sun shone on the ceremony to mark the completion of the project.

Less than two years after that first shovel full of soil, Peterson stood before crowds of well-wishers in the hot summer sun to cut the ribbon for the modernized and expanded facility.

Among those participating in the ceremony were Charlie Tatham, MPP Oxford, Dr. Bruce Halliday, MP Oxford, Ingersoll Mayor Doug Harris, AHEAD campaign chairman Gord Henry, hospital board chairman Dorothy Griffin, who acted as master of ceremonies for the event, Ross Bryant, hospital executive director, and John Dyke, property and planning chairman.

Present were members of Zorra Township Council, South-west Oxford, the Alexandra Hospital Auxiliary, Hospital Board of Trust, doctors, nurses, volunteers, Royal Canadian Legion members in uniform, canvassers and hospital patients.



ONTARIO PREMIER David Peterson received a warm welcome at newly-renovated and expanded Alexandra Hospital. He was present for the ribbon-cutting ceremony which included representatives from all levels of government.

Ingersoll Pipe Band member Wilson McBeath piped in the officials and the ceremony proceeded the way much of the project had — without a snag.

Father Paul Crunican gave the invocation. Then, after brief speeches from the political rep-

resentatives, during which Henry gave the premier his trademark O'Henry chocolate bar, Peterson was presented with the special gold-plated scissors to cut the ribbon.

He chose to share that pleasant task with Dr. Sushil Warma, Alexandra Hospital surgeon.

SENTINEL - REVIEW
June 18, 1990

HOSPITAL BOARD***Griffin goes
another term***

By PAULINE KERR
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Topping the agenda at Tuesday's meeting of the Alexandra Hospital board of trust was welcoming new trustees Audrey Stares, Jan Vicars and Pat Newman.

"You are coming on at quite an exciting time," said Dorothy Griffin. "The renovations are close to completion. Also, the focus (in health care) is changing from out of hospital care as opposed to in hospital care."

The first order of business was electing officers and selecting committee members for the 90/91 year.

Dorothy Griffin will chair the board for another term of office.

Hospital executive director Ross Bryant said he wanted to be the first to congratulate Griffin and commented he was looking forward to working as closely with her as he had over the past year.

Vice-chair is Tom Moran and treasurer is Dick Bowman.

Serving on the management committee are Moran, Bowman, Ernie Wilson, Pat Bell, Dr. David Simpson and Griffin.

Finance committee members are Bowman, Moran, Wilson, Newman and Griffin. George Cornfield has agreed to act as financial advisor.

On the property and planning committee are John Van Dyke, Robert Kordyban, Vicars, James Mutterer, Jean MacDougall, Dr. Shelley Rechner and Griffin.

The public relations committee will consist of Bell, Doug Harris, Kordyban, MacDougall and Griffin.

Joint conference committee members are Griffin, Stares, Moran, Dr. Marc Pariser, Dr. Kelly Shaughnessy, Dr. Simpson and Bryant.

The nominating committee consists of Bowman, James Carr, Griffin and Bryant.

Serving on quality assurance are Van Dyke, Stares, Dr. Sushil Warma, Bryant, Carr and Mary Ellen Borndahl. Bell will act as committee advisor.

INGERSOLL MIDWEEK

June 26, 1990

New trustees welcomed at hospital board meeting

By MARY ANNE STEPHENSON

New trustees P. Newman and J. Vicars were welcomed to Ingersoll's Alexandra Hospital board at its inaugural meeting last Tuesday evening.

Dick Bowman noted they are coming on the board at an exciting time.

A total of \$18,000 has been raised by the C.A.R.E.S. campaign. Donations ranged from a penny from a child to \$500 individual donations. The campaign is still receiving mail-in donations.

J. MacDougall reported a good turnout at the junior volunteers presentations. A number of teens were awarded recognition for 50 and 100 hours of service.

Those receiving 100-hour awards were Sharaden Franklin, Anne Nancekivell, Shana Marsh, Connie Thompson, Janet Scheele, Tara Pirie, Tanya Pirie, Ben Daniel, John Roberts, Sandy Roberts and Karyn Hammond. Receiving 50-hour awards were Anita Naisbitt, Deb

Clark, Annette Ross, Tommy Swance, Kate Benedict, Jason Moore, Heather Roberts and Kerie Kipp.

Dorothy Griffin, chairperson of the board, commented that several of the volunteers are from the same family and cited the teens coming home with enthusiasm is partially the reason for other family members volunteering.

An application for a grant for Seniors for Health, made through the Thames Valley Health Centre, was rejected for this year. It was stated in a letter to the board that although they had a worthy cause, it was only second on a list of priorities and they could respond to only the first on the list.

"We will just have to resubmit it next year," said executive director Ross Bryant.

Griffin expressed gratitude to all who made the hospital opening such a "happy day." She added it was great to see so many nursing and medical staff and their families out to support the festivities.

INGERSOLL TIMES

June 27, 1990

Ingersoll cares to the tune of \$27 grand

Alexandra Hospital's one week door-to-door blitz in June raised a total of \$27,705.96 for the purchase of needed hospital equipment.

MAJOR ITEMS

Two major items were purchased through the Community and Regional Equipment Support campaign — a transport monitor and an operating room recovery monitor.

In addition, individual donors sponsored a new hospital bed, an oxygen regulator, a blood pressure unit and various other pieces of essential equipment.

THANKS FROM THE CARES PEOPLE

And small donations are still trickling in.

Pat Bell, CARES campaign chairman, and committee members Tom Moran, Wallis Hammond, Everett and Shirley Wilson, Gloria Lee and Paul Burroughs have unveiled a sign thanking Ingersoll for its generosity in supporting Alexandra Hospital.



thanks Ingersoll for supporting the CARES campaign with the unveiling of a sign by committee members Tom Moran, Wallis Hammond, Gloria Lee, Everett Wilson and Pat Bell, campaign chairman.

The campaign was successful beyond expectations, said Andrea Weiner, director of development.

It was the first time the hospital has canvassed door-to-door and the response was overwhelmingly positive.

Residents who made contributions to the building fund were not

canvassed again but many donated anyway.

Donations varied in amount from one cent given by a small child to \$1,000.

With reduced government funding for hospitals, up to date equipment must be purchased through public support.

The door-to-door campaign served to not only raise funds but also to raise community awareness of the need.

In the fall, those who supported the hospital will have the opportunity to tour the recently-expanded facility.

DAILY SENTINEL REVIEW
INGERSOLL THIS WEEK
June 28 1990

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

NO CIGARETTES**Kiss your butt goodbye — hospital goes 'mean route'**

INGERSOLL — Alexandra Hospital here has implemented a butts-out policy. And at least one of its workers thinks it amounts to a pain in the butt.

John Wood, a hospital housekeeping aide, said the policy is "the hardest, meanest, cruelest thing an employer's ever done."

The non-smoking policy, implemented during the hospital's "pure air day," does not give smoking hospital workers a place to light up indoors. There are to be two ex-

haust-fan equipped indoor smoking areas for patients.

Wood said he does not enjoy being told when to quit smoking.

"I'll quit when I'm ready, not when I'm told to quit."

Andrea Weiner, hospital development director, said the policy — which was brought into effect through a hospital board decision — is being implemented "as fairly and kindly as possible."

"We're a health facility, we have to go for healthy promotion."

Workers have an advantage over patients because they can go home to smoke, she said.

Some ideas are being looked at for working smokers, including an outdoor shelter around the hospital's emergency area, she added.



CATHY WISSON, an Alexandra Hospital housekeeping aide and no-smoking committee member, crushes a butt during the hospital's "pure air day" Tuesday. Not everyone is happy about the hospital's new smoking policy.

DAILY SENTINEL REVIEW

Sept. 8, 1990

Concern for weekend staffing

Alexandra Hospital returns to 72 bed status

By PAULINE KERR
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Alexandra Hospital has returned to its 72 bed status.

During the construction project, the hospital operated on a 60 bed basis. The reduced number of beds affected statistics for most departments.

As discussed during Tuesday's meeting of the hospital board meeting, most departments came in under budget. But energy management figures were consistently over budget, a reflection of energy use in the new building. Dick Bowman, finance committee chairman, explained the budget was based on energy use in the old building combined with estimates of energy use in the new building. The first year in the new structure will be a

period of testing. While the figures may represent a need to revise the estimates, they also reflect energy use during construction.

Positive news

Among the more positive items on the board's agenda was the report on the CARES (Community and Regional Equipment Support) campaign. Pat Bell, who chairs the campaign, said the one week door-to-door blitz in June raised \$27,705.96 in cash and cheques. Among the donations were sponsorships of and allocations to specific pieces of equipment:

□ Viola Vandervoort, former director of nursing, donated a patient bed (\$3,150);

□ Lorne and Marie Moon donated an oxygen regulator (\$250);

□ Ernest and Mavis Underwood donated a surgical day care blood pressure wall unit (\$275). These items have been purchased and are now in use within the hospital.

Other substantial donations were allocated to the laboratory and physiotherapy and toward the purchase of a gastroscope.

Money allocated for equipment has been used for the purchase of an operating room monitor (\$8,000). A transport monitor will be purchased. Other items purchased recently through CARES include:

- a gastroscope;
- three patient beds;

□ a nitrous oxide unit for labor and delivery.

□ The CAMI Automotive Inc. social committee donated the funds for an infant intubation unit.

Adequate weekend coverage?

Board member John Van Dyke brought up one topic which will be examined in depth by the joint conference committee. He said there is a serious problem with adequate weekend coverage by medical staff, many weekend surgical patients being forced to go to Woodstock. Van Dyke also noted some physicians from other communities who have privileges at Alexandra are not utilizing the up-to-date equipment and facilities at Ingersoll's hospital.

INGERSOLL, MIDWINTER
ADVERTISER
Sept. 25, 1990

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

AROUND THE HOSPITAL

Nobody happy with new admitting areaBy PAULINE KERR
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Neither hospital board members nor staff like Alexandra Hospital's newly renovated switchboard/admitting area.

Additional staffing is required because of design inefficiencies including vision and communications. But the deficiencies should soon be remedied.



VanDyke

John Van Dyke, property and planning committee chairman, described the problems with the area as "just one of those things."

There are problems with any construction project and the switchboard/admitting area is "the major screwup on this project," he said.

The committee is working on plans to make the area more functional which will likely include turning the whole thing 90

degrees, changing the orientation of the office, Van Dyke said.

Mayor Doug Harris asked about the cost and was told "\$20,000-\$30,000-\$40,000. He noted the design of the area had been questioned right from the beginning.

Van Dyke explained the area did not end up as planned partly because of problems with the fire office, plus the fact "we put too much faith in the architect."

Board of Trust chairman Dorothy Griffin said the committee had decided "to get Ellis Don off site and do the work later" with local contractors.

Visiting Alexandra

INGERSOLL — Statistics indicate an average of 46 people visit Alexandra Hospital's emergency room each day.

Hospital executive director Ross Bryant said, "We are providing a service to the community and the need seems to be growing."



Bryant

Donates painting

REPORT — The Christian Artwork Ministry chapter of the RODE has donated an original Elmo E. Parker watercolor entitled *Red Cross Tulips* to Alexandra Hospital.

The proper location for the attractive work of art has not yet been determined.

Dorothy Griffin votes for wallBy PAULINE KERR
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — For the first time in her term as chairman of Alexandra Hospital's board of trust, Dorothy Griffin had the tie-breaking vote.

The trustees voted six to six with one abstention on the matter of putting up a donor wall to honor the many people and organizations who contributed to the hospital during the building campaign.

Griffin explained her vote in favor of the public relations committee's proposal by saying she assisted in formulating it and was committed to thanking the people who made the new building possible.

Original plans for the \$25,900-wall had included corporate sponsorship but Ellis Don declined, citing economic reasons. After considerable discussion the committee came up with the alternative of the board sponsoring one third of the wall and finding two additional corporate sponsors.

Trustee James Muterer spoke against the plan, saying the wall is not necessary although he would have had no real objection if someone wanted to sponsor it. But he would prefer to see the board take its \$10,000 share of the wall "and buy something for the hospital that might save somebody's life."

The committee had previously decided that the wall should be erected during the term of the present board and within a year of the completion of the construction project. Time is beginning to become a factor, forcing the board's decision to sponsor a portion of the wall.

DAILY SENTINEL REVIEW

Nov. 23, 1990

At Alexandra

INGERSOLL — The swamp at the base of Alexandra Hospital's main parking lot has not gone unnoticed.

In his report to the board of directors, John Van Dyke, property and planning committee chairman, said plans were under way to construct drains at a cost of \$9,800.

The system will include a 12-inch drain, two catch-basins with eight-inch laterals, plus some grading. The water will drain into Harris Creek.

That was the direction the water always went until construction work changed the drainage patterns said Van Dyke.

At present trees are endangered by the amount of water collecting below the parking lot.

Ross Bryant, hospital executive director, said five or six trees lost in last summer's severe storm have been replaced.

DAILY SENTINEL-REVIEW

Oct 27, 1990

AFTER THE STORM**Alexandra Hospital
comes through well**

By PAULINE KERR
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — When the big storm hit earlier this week, Alexandra Hospital was ready.

For one thing, the new building was designed to earthquake and tornado standards with steel and concrete.

For another, emergencies are nothing new to the staff.

A good many serious accidents happen on Highway 401, "right on our doorstep," said Sue Blair, director of patient services at Alexandra.

Following last week's fatal accident at Culloden Road on the highway, the local hospital once again proved its ability to respond effectively to an emergency situation.

Blair said emergency room staff was initially told two casualties would be transported to Alexandra. Then the ambulance service notified Alexandra the others were so unstable, it would be risky to transport them.

Five casualties ended up in Alexandra's emergency area including three critical. Four were later transported to London.

Blair commended the emergency staff — Doug Corneya and Linda Keenan, plus the medical staff which included doctors Rechner, Rae and Simpson; Dr. Warma, surgeon; and doctors Singleton (Woodstock) and Van Hooeydonk (Tillsonburg).

As far as nursing staff was concerned, "We literally stripped the wards," Blair said. Nine nurses were in emergency leaving eight on the wards. Both those called to emergency and those left to run busy wards short-staffed "did marvelously. People missed lunch and breaks. They were fabulous, magnificent."

During the recent storm, Alexandra was fortunate. Although property damage was heavy, the toll was light in terms of injuries. But had it been worse, Alexandra could have coped well.

DAILY SENTINEL REVIEW
Sept 1, 1990

Final chapter

INGERSOLL — The story on Alexandra Hospital's renovation project is, "almost completed."

In his report from the property and planning committee of the hospital's board of directors, John Van Dyke said the architect and general contractor are eager to officially close off the project on Oct. 31.

But there are some outstanding problems — "a blend of architectural and mechanical things" — which need to be resolved before Van Dyke is willing to stamp the project "finished".

Gift shop renovations are well under way. Van Dyke said he hoped the shop would be "up and running" by the end of November.

Auxiliary president Jean MacDougall said much of the stock for the shop has been purchased and is being stored in the auxiliary room at the hospital.

The third point discussed by the committee chairman was the switchboard-admitting-waiting area, at present "very awkward." Drawings will be examined by the people who use the area "so we don't so it wrong twice."

DAILY SENTINEL REVIEW
Oct 30, 1990

C.A.R.E.S. donations fund purchase of new hospital equipment

BY LIZ DADSON

Thanks to donations through the C.A.R.E.S. door-to-door canvass, Ingersoll's Alexandra Hospital now has two new monitors.

Unveiled Wednesday afternoon, the LifePak 10 is a monitor, defibrillator and external pacemaker which is used within the hospital or when a patient is being transferred to another hospital, said head nurse Doug Courneya.

The \$14,000 piece of equipment can do a variety of things, Courneya said, such as monitor a patient as he or she is transferred from emergency to a different area of the hospital, or monitor a heart attack victim who needs external pacing until he or she is transferred to another hospital for an internal pacemaker.

The lightweight, compact unit weighs about 20 pounds, said Andrea Weiner, development officer. The hospital now has two such units with the three-year-old one being used as a back-up.

Courneya said he tried various brands of the units but the LifePak "suited our needs." The hospital is working to standardize its equipment and this brand is a physio-control unit which fits in with the equipment already being used.

The LifePak will have a plaque attached to it which reads, "Donated by Ingersoll residents, canvass 1990," Weiner said.

Also through C.A.R.E.S. donations, the hospital purchased an operating room recovery monitor-defibrillator which is kept in the operating room and taken to the recovery room when needed there.

Kathy Erhardt, an operating room nurse, said the new unit is better than the old one in that it incorporates an oximeter and an automatic blood pressure monitor. The benefit, she said, is that a nurse can care for a second patient while the first one is monitored by this new machine.



Kathy Erhardt, an operating room nurse at Alexandra Hospital, shows how the new recovery room monitor works, using colleague Marlene MacKay as a patient. (Liz Dadson photo)



Doug Courneya, head nurse at Alexandra Hospital's emergency department, demonstrates how the new LifePak 10 monitor, defibrillator and external pacemaker works. (Liz Dadson photo)

The recovery monitor cost \$9,000 and Weiner said another \$5,000 is slated for an electronic blood pressure monitor which is still being evaluated.

She added that the hospital will begin raising funds this year to purchase four monitors for the facility's special care unit. The total cost will

be \$108,000 and Weiner hopes the purchase can be made in April.

The C.A.R.E.S. campaign is an ongoing canvass.

AT ALEXANDRA New gift shop opens

Alexandra Hospital's gift shop is reopening soon at a new location, with a new design and an attitude as modern as the building it occupies.

Consultant Bill Clawson is overseeing the design of the new shop, which celebrated its grand opening Nov. 30 and is now open to the public.

Moreover, Clawson will also be involved in revising the traditional role of the shop to increase its usefulness and profit margin.

The location of the new shop is at the main entrance, the site of the original gift shop, said Jean MacDougall, head of the hospital auxiliary.

"In 1950, the auxiliary had a display case in the corner of the waiting room," she said. Then, the display case contained mostly baby clothes.

"When no one from the auxiliary was available, the office staff sold for us." Mrs. R.B. Hutt, an original founding member of the auxiliary in 1909, was convenor when the gift shop opened and later Blanche Hutt took over the shop.

When the 1969 building opened, the auxiliary was given space in what used to be the waiting room and Barb Swance set up the gift shop there.

In 1974 the shop moved to a

room by the elevator and subsequently into part of the admitting office.

MacDougall said the shop has always been a small one which featured top quality knitted items and other gifts. Although it was the backbone of the auxiliary's fundraising and was quite profitable, "the shop wasn't making the money it should."

When the auxiliary found out where it was going to be located upon completion of the renovations, the group decided to take a look at hospital gift shops and was drawn to consultant Bill Clawson who did the gift shops at several nearby hospitals including Victoria in London.

On the authorization of hospital executive director Ross Bryant, a meeting was set up with Clawson and the decision was made to take the matter to the board.

"He (Clawson) presented his proposal for a new concept. We were flabbergasted but he said he could do it," said MacDougall.

She was convinced and so were members of the board's management committee. The decision to back Clawson's ideas with a contract was made during an in camera session of the hospital board early in the fall.

Daily Sentinel Review
Ingersoll This Week
December 4 1990

Donor monument

Alexandra Hospital's share of a donor wall honoring those who contributed to the building campaign will be \$10,000.

Original plans for the \$25,900-wall had included corporate sponsorship but Ellis Don declined, citing economic reasons. After considerable discussion the committee came up with the alternative of the board sponsoring one third of the wall and finding two additional corporate sponsors.

Trustee James Muterer spoke against the plan, saying he would have had no real objection if someone wanted to sponsor it, but would rather the board take its share of the wall "and buy something for the hospital that might save somebody's life."

Ingersoll Midweek Advertiser
December 4 1990

Hospital smokers don't like the cold

INGERSOLL — The winter weather is bringing a few disgruntled remarks from staff at Alexandra Hospital who smoke.

The hospital's 'no smoking' policy is going well, said Tom Moran, chair of the management committee, except for complaints from staff who have to go outside in the cold to have a cigarette.

The committee is looking at recommendations to ease the complaints, he told board members.

The policy, implemented Sept. 4 during the hospital's *Pure Air Day*, still allows patients to smoke in two indoor areas equipped with exhaust fans. But it doesn't give workers a place to light up, other than outdoors.

Sales are steady at the gift shop

INGERSOLL — Sales at the new Alexandra Hospital gift shop are steady, the Alexandra Hospital Board of Trust was told Tuesday.

Lots of items have been purchased since the opening of the store, board member Jean MacDougall said. "I know shoppers are enjoying it."

In the executive director's report to the hospital board, Ross Bryant said: "From a staff perspective, we certainly appreciate the gift shop being back in business with all its new gifts, magazines and chocolates."

New features of the store include fresh cut flowers and current magazines.

Program success

INGERSOLL — The infant resuscitation program which began in September is proving a success, the Alexandra Hospital Board of Trust heard Tuesday.

So far 21 nurses have completed the program, Tom Moran, chair of the management committee, told the board at Tuesday's meeting.

The program, put together by the Heart and Stroke Foundation for training new guidelines on infant resuscitation, started when a doctor and nurse from the hospital took part in a training course.

Those representatives now are involved in training every member of the staff involved in the delivery room and obstetrics.

The CAMI Automotive Inc. social committee donated funds to the hospital at the onset of the program to purchase an infant incubation unit used in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation training.

Waste news

Alexandra Hospital wants to do its part in recycling the non-hazardous wastes at the hospital.

In a letter to the public works and planning committee, executive director Ross Bryant requested information on how the town's recycling program works so the hospital's committee for occupational health and safety could understand the service.

But Ingersoll's current blue box curbside pick up doesn't offer containers large enough for the volume of waste that the hospital creates, said town engineer Eric Booth at the committee meeting last night.

Presently some larger groups, like the high school, have access to blue boxes because they are along the pick up routes for the contractor, he said. At the high school, concerned students implemented the program and enlisted the help of the custodial staff.

Booth will look into the possibility of starting a program between the hospital and the town's blue box contractor.

Daily Sentinel Review

Ingersoll This Week

January 15 1991

Daily Sentinel Review
December 19 1990

Auction committee quits as hospital board proceeds with Donor Wall \$30,000 wall a "frivolous" expense

BY LIZ DADSON

A fund-raising auction committee set up to raise money for equipment at Ingersoll's Alexandra Hospital has quit as the hospital board decided to continue with its Donor Recognition Wall.

Dorothy Griffin, chairperson of the hospital board, said a letter was received from the committee. It was taken to the board, discussed behind closed doors and a reply was sent. The board has received no formal reply, she said.

The auction committee was set up almost a year ago to raise a minimum of \$10,000 toward the purchase of hospital equipment. Its members included chairperson Bill Hawkins, Roy Knott, Marj Garland, John Shepley, Ted Hunt, Jessie Robins, Ken Dobbie and Joyce Hunt.

An auction was planned for May 4 at the Victory Memorial School gymnasium but it has been postponed.

Hawkins said the committee did not think the time was right for the auction. "We decided times being what they are it was tough to go to people," he said. "It has nothing to do with the donor wall (proposed by the hospital board)."

However, a resolution by the committee, dated Dec. 13, said it recommended the proposed donor wall "be cancelled in view of other pressing needs of the hospital and that the board be so informed." It also stated that if the board refused to cancel the donor wall, the auction committee would withdraw.

Griffin maintained that the hospital's board of trust is a duly elected group that "argues things fiercely" and some members hold certain things dear while others have different priorities.

"We're a very professional group," she said, "with the majority ruling."

She said the auction committee disagreed with the proposed wall to recognize people who have donated to the hospital.

"The board of trust wants to recognize those wonderful groups and individuals in the community (who made donations). . . . We are actively working toward the Donor Recognition Wall."

In a press release earlier, Griffin said the donor wall was promised during the hospital's A.H.E.A.D. fund-raising campaign.

"This donor wall will link our supporters to the hospital in a tangible way," she said. "It will show our respect for many caring people."

She said Monday the wall will cost "a bit less than \$30,000," with the majority being spent on a single, clean, acrylic panel at the one side which will contain the names of every person who has donated to the hospital.

Calling it a scroll, Griffin said this device in the wall will allow future donor names to be added. In a couple of instances, she said, a business' employees have contributed to the hospital and the business matched that donation.

"They (the business management) said they feel very strongly that it not just be the business name that appears (on the wall)," she said. "We want to allow the flexibility to allow every donor's name."

She noted that donors of large amounts will have their names on the wall while those with donations even as low as a couple of dollars will included in the scroll.

Following a meeting of the auction committee at the end of last month, the hospital's executive director Ross Bryant requested a list of the committee's objections to the donor wall as expressed at the meeting.

Among these objections were the committee's view that it was working hard to raise a "hoped-for minimum of \$10,000, earmarked for much-needed hospital equipment," while the board "is planning to squander approximately \$30,000 on a donor wall."

The committee calls it "disgraceful" that the board would think of categorizing donations on that wall according to amounts donated. It also finds the expenditure on a \$23,000 computer for the donor wall "frivolous" in view of the hospital's equipment needs.

Bryant said letters are still out to prospective sponsors for the donor wall. "We're waiting for those replies to come back. We have a month or so to go yet before we expect those replies."

"We're still going ahead with the donor wall," Griffin said.

Ingersoll Times

February 20 1991

Hospital officials keep fingers crossed on transfer payments

INGERSOLL — It will be a while yet before Alexandra Hospital can bite into its share of the Ontario government's transfer payment pie.

The next couple of weeks should reveal the hospital's share of payments, said Alexandra executive director Ross Bryant.

The NDP government announced Monday it is increasing spending to Ontario's health, municipal and education services by \$1.2 billion. Hospitals are to get a 9.5 per cent increase collectively but not every hospital will see that jump.

"It would be nice if it was 9.5 per cent," he said. Alexandra's current budget is \$7.5 million.

Hospitals were looking for a jump of 13.2 per cent.

"We have a ways to go," Bryant said. Even so, he was pleased with the NDP announcement. "I think it's good news."

Municipalities wanted a jump of six per cent to keep up with inflation but instead got hikes of up to five per cent.

Ingersoll treasurer Earl Lantz said Tuesday the town has got no word on its payments yet.

Daily Sentinel Review
February 14 1991

NURSES WEEK

Patient contact missed most

By MARK REID
of Ingersoll This Week

Nurses at Alexandra Hospital got the royal treatment last week as Nurses Week across the province was marked.

Corsages, a tour of the Andre's wine plant and dinner, and a banquet sponsored by the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario was staged at Mount Elgin. In addition there was a daily draw for nurse of the day.

PROFESSION CHANGING

Connie Hart, a registered nurse with over 20 years experience in the field including nine in Ingersoll, says the profession continues to change with RNs taking on more management duties while nursing assistants are spending more time with patients.

Hart, a member of the 55,000-strong Ontario Nursing Association, says nurses have to be certified annually in the use of some pieces of ever changing equipment and in the administration of certain drugs.

Assessment skills have also increased since the emergency department nurse began her career at London's Vivtoria Hospital. Today nurses call doctors when they are needed.

She says she misses the contact with patients. That's her favorite part of the job and one reason many seniors nurses are having problems justifying staying employed. A new wage scale which sees seasoned nurses earn more is welcome, while changes in the working conditions are needed.

Hart says she enjoys working in a small community hospital because she gets to know the patients by name, not just a number as happens in some larger centres.

FRIENDSHIP

"I like the small hospitals because of the comradery with the nursing staff and you get to know the patients," she said last week during a break from the busy emergency room.

Dealing with chronically-ill patients and victims of Highway 401 crossovers are also part of the job at Alexandra.



ANGEL OF MERCY

Nellie May Morris and nurse Sheila Beacom share a bit of time at Alexandra Hospital during nurses week. Nurses wore carnations each day last week and they visited Andre's wine distillery in St. Catherine's.

May 14 1991

Teddy bears arrive at Alexandra Hospital

Dressed in nothing but blue Shaw Cable T-shirts an army of fluffy white teddy bears moved in to Alexandra Hospital last week to comfort children who must stay in the facility.

The bears, affectionally known as Shaw Bears, were donated to the hospital last week by the cable television company last week.

The hospital's teddy bear policy was launched in a bid to help young patients cope with their stay. Since the inception of the program the hospital has given out about 70 stuffed animals to children aged 18 months to 10 years.

The reason for giving bears is twofold: First the stress on children is reduced considerably when they have something to hug and hold when visiting hours are over and their parents have gone home; and it gives them the feeling the hospital is not "a scary place." Also, a child who is calmer and less upset, makes the difficult task of nursing far easier.

A patient's needs are assessed whether it be a trauma case, a long stay or other appropriate situations. Criteria must be met and a consent form signed by a parent before a stuffed animal is given out.

REQUIRING NO SURGERY just a loving companion these Shaw Bears were wheeled into Alexandra Hospital last week. Michael Watson, systems manager of Shaw Cable, and Sue Blair, patient services director at the hospital, were on hand to wheel in the bears.



ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

May 28 1991

Alexandra Hospital offers health promotion program for retirees

Alexandra Hospital is hoping to start a Wednesday Health Promotion program for retirees. The program will include the basic lessons of the popular health programs for seniors during the past two years.

"We're hoping for 30 people," Joanne McFarlane, program co-ordinator, said. "We hope to get a new group going."

Also offered will be a new Thursday program, which will feature personal interest speakers and will centre on four basic themes, nutrition, exercise, drug use and stress.

The cost for the Wednesday program is \$2.50 weekly, which includes a hot meal at lunch and the program from 10 a.m. to 3

p.m. There is no age limit for taking the program. Mrs. McFarlane says that everyone from housewives to a 98 year-old have gotten something out of the pro-

gram.

"The teaching is done by doctors, specialists such as dentists, lawyers, representatives from the lung and heart association and

from the Roberts School for the Deaf," Mrs. McFarlane said.

To register call 485-1700, extension 31.

INGERSOLL TIMES
October 29, 1980

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL
(Seniors for Health)

Help from federal government

Ingersoll Seniors for Health move into new hospital headquarters

By BARRY WARD

Sentinel-Review staff writer

INGERSOLL — The Ingersoll Seniors for Health group moved into their new headquarters Thursday with plans for expanding their program.

The group has taken over the former laundry room in the basement of Alexandra Hospital. A \$12,000 federal New Horizons grant brought new lighting, heating, carpeting and drapes along with a washroom to the room which has not been used since the hospital started having its laundry done outside.

Gloria Lee, the volunteer coordinator for the group, said it is still hoped to purchase such things as a hot food tray but that will depend on the availability of funds.

The group started two years ago as a way of filling an empty wing of the hospital. That wing is now being converted to chronic care so the seniors have moved to the new location.

ALL AREAS

Al Clark, a member of the group, said there have been other changes over the past two years. Originally, the focus was largely on physical health but that has now expanded to all areas of concern to people over the age of 60.

Speakers at the regular Thursday meetings have ranged from doctors to lawyers to accountants along with representatives of various governments departments.

Now that the group has a



SOME OF the New Horizons executive stand outside the new Seniors for Health facility at Alexandra Hospital. From the left, Ann Ham-

perman room, Clark said it is hoped to make the area a drop-in centre featuring such things as cards, crafts and quilting.

"We'll try to utilize the facility much more during the week,"

he said.

There is already a senior-citizens drop-in centre in the Lions Building on Thames Street but Clark said there was room for another in the town,

mond, Stan Whiteford, Cliff Smith, George Lockhart, Grant Swackhammer and Jean Spencer.

(staff photo)

especially if it features different programs. Because seniors often have trouble getting transportation, he said it was good to have two in different parts of the town.

Currently, there are about 30 people attending the weekly meetings but Clark said he could see up to 200 taking advantage of a drop-in centre. The group is open to anyone over 60 years old.

Sentinel - Review
October 16th 1982

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL
(Seniors for Health)

Federal grant enables new meeting places for seniors

BY CHERYL STEWART

As you walk into the room, an air of friendliness greets you. Seniors sit at tables scattered around the room, some chatting or playing cards, others enjoy different crafts.

The Seniors for Health Program, expanded this year thanks to a federal grant, began October 14. This happy picture is one any visitor will see when he enters the new area of the

hospital basement which was renovated for the program. An \$11,952 federal grant provided the funds to convert the former laundry room into a meeting and kitchen area for the seniors.

The area is open seven days a week for seniors to drop in for a chat, a game of cards, or to listen to music. The schedule of events is flexible right now, according to volunteer Coordinator Gloria Lee, so the seniors can find out what activities they want during the year.

They do most of the planning themselves, she said.

Reaction to the program has been favorable from the seniors and Mrs. Lee is pleased with the way the program is running. "When I came in, I wondered what their reaction would be because of the change," said Mrs. Lee, "but the reaction of most was favorable."

"I'm very pleased. It felt really good the first day back, when all the people came back," she said. Having the program in one room instead of the various rooms on first floor, has proved beneficial.

"They are interchanging more between each other," she said. "There are more people doing things together. They are not all spread out. It's not as institutionalized as it was upstairs. "Here, it's completely separate. They feel it's their own. And they don't have to worry about the noise or if they are disturbing anybody else."

Thursday is the big day for the program with lunch provided for 35 seniors. In the morning there is a health program with exercises, foot clinics, and other events. The afternoon portion of the program includes speakers.

Although the lunch quota is full, Mrs. Lee said anyone who wants to come out for the program is welcome to bring their own lunch.

Wednesdays have been set up for euchre and bridge, with small prizes being awarded to winners. Everyone is welcome and there is a 75 cent admission charge.

Monday is cards, Tuesday darts and quilting, and Friday is quilting. Saturdays and Sundays have been left open for anything, and Mrs. Lee said the room can be used for special events of those days.

"One lady I talked to said, 'You don't know what it means to me to be able to come out and be with people,'" said Mrs. Lee.

"For some of them, it gives them a reason to get up in the morning and have something to do that day."

"With the speakers, they get to ask a lot of questions that they might not feel they can take up their doctor's time with. They feel comfortable asking the speaker questions and they seem to ask quite a few," she said.

This year the hospital's chronic care patients are involved in the program, attending the films or to watch the other seniors do activities.

"It's terrific for the ones who can come down," said Mrs. Lee. "It's another place for them to go in the hospital, rather than the same areas all the time. It also gives our members a way of helping others." Mrs. Lee said.

"I think it's very good," said Stanley Whiteford.

"I'm very happy with it. There's a good variety of activities. We get interesting films and we have a good speaker every week. "The fellowship is what I like the best," he said. "I

like meeting the people and being with others." "I think it's wonderful," said Lily Fairbanks. "There is more togetherness in this room. We're in one room."

Frieda Messenger also expressed her pleasure with the program. "We can pick and choose what activities we want to do."

"I think it's just great. It's homey here in this room," said Jean Smith.

"I think it's lovely. I enjoy it," stated Thelma Telfer. "Everybody's so friendly and nice. I like the

sociability, the lectures and the company," she added.

Bessie Moore is also pleased with the program and the new room. "I think it's nice down here. I think we are going to be more together...a closer group. I like the company. I like the people that come. I enjoy the day out and I like the meal."

Although there are several programs already on the agenda, Mrs. Lee hopes to add more after Christmas. Some ideas include an over 50's exercise program, Canadian literature classes, and an art and craft program.

An open house will be held November 26 from 2 to 4 p.m.. Everyone is welcome to see the new facilities.



Members of the Seniors for Health program at Alexandra Hospital have been making a quilt with the help of the chronic care patients. Left to right, Bessie Moore, Thelma Telfer and Josie Henderson show some of the completed handiwork. The senior citizens involved in the Seniors for Health Program all seemed to be pleased with it. The program expanded this year thanks to a federal grant. An open house is being staged by those who attend the program, November 26.



Crokinole and cards are two of the favorite activities at the Seniors for Health program. The program was moved to a new location in the hospital this year, thanks to a federal grant. Playing a game of crokinole are left to

right Pearl Capstick, Mildred Daniel, Stanley Whiteford, and Nellie Morris.

(page 3 of 3)

Ingersoll Times
November 3rd
1982

PLEASE DON'T CUT THIS
(Seniors for Health)

Ingersoll Times
Dec. 28, 1983.



Gloria Lee was honored by the Alexandria Hospital board of trust for the work she has done in helping the Seniors for Health program. Board Chairman, the Rev. Roger McCombe, presented her with a silver tray. Jo-Ann McFarlane was also honored for her efforts with the group.

(Seniors for Health)

Seniors for Health start new programs

The Ingersoll Seniors for Health are planning their seventh year of providing information and guidance on health care and other related subjects to the seniors of Ingersoll and the surrounding areas.

Initially this program, led by Joanne McFarlane and with the approval of the board of Alexandra Hospital, met weekly in the then unused first floor wing of the hospital. Professionals in many health related fields and on subjects of particular interest to seniors, have spoken to members.

When the hospital reopened its first floor wing for patients, the board, with the active cooperation of the administrator, Ross Bryant, and his staff, and with the financial aid of a New Horizon Grant, converted the former laundry area into a meeting room for the group.

Currently, under the leadership of Gloria

Lee, activities director of the hospital, the room is used five days a week for crafts, euchre and other activities.

Each Thursday is set aside for the formal program, which usually takes the form of gathering together at 10 a.m., light exercises, announcements, and approximately one hour is devoted to lectures. Following this, a hot dinner is served with the afternoon being spent on social activities.

The Seniors for Health program has proven popular, with over 200 participants receiving benefits from it, said the group's president, George Lockhart.

Thursday, September 20 will be the first formal meeting and on Wednesday, September 26 at 1:30 p.m. the weekly euchres will begin. Any senior wishing to join the group or wanting more information should contact Mrs. Lee at 485-1700, extension 22. Also, information may be obtained from any of the newly elected officers, who include President George Lockhart, Vice-president Cliff Smith, Secretary Jean Spencer, and Treasurer Agnes McFarlane.

Ingersoll Times

Sept. 12, 1984

Seniors for Health season ends later this month

The Seniors for Health group congratulate Grant Swackhammer, a founding member of the group, who was recently selected to as an Outstanding Citizen by the Royal Canadian Legion in Ingersoll.

More winners have been announced in the seniors' games coming up in Woodstock on June 16.

Keith and Lois Stokes have won contact bridge, while Jack Cole and Win Cooper were winners in cribbage competition. Clarence Chambers and Peg Bourne won bowling with Leotta Freeman, Ross Moulton and Helen Hunt.

A new euchre season begins September 17 with quilting and crafts scheduled to begin September 16.

The new executive for the 1986-87 year are president Cliff Smith, vice-president Verda Whiteford, secretary Jean Spencer, treasurer Agnes McFarlane, signing officers are Agnes McFarlane, George Lockhart and Grant Swackhammer. Ross Bryant is hospital representative, while hospital activity director is Gloria Lee.

The Seniors for Health season ended on May 15 with the annual banquet at the Presbyterian Church. Dorothy Christie presented a token

of appreciation to co-ordinator Gloria Lee for her help to the club.

Ross Bryant spoke briefly on the progress of the plans for Alexandra Hospital.

Following dinner 26 grade six pupils from Princess Anne school gave a choral concert.

Grace Roberts reported on bus trips upcoming, July 10 Carousel at Huron Country Play House, June 17, Mystery Trip, August 16 Summer Festival at Port Dover. There will be a three day trip to Science North in Sudbury the last week in September. Members were asked to reserve promptly.

Plans for the May 24 flea market were also finalized at the meeting.

Gordon Haycock introduced Lt.

Fox, of the Ingersoll Salvation Army Corps. The Lieutenant's discourse was most interesting as he touched on many aspects of the expectations of the army of its members.

INGERSOLL TIMES
May 21, 1986

Senior's health meetings begin

The ninth season of the Ingersoll Seniors for Health regular meetings are about to commence.

The first meeting will be held September 24 in the seniors' room at Alexandra Hospital, starting at 10 a.m.

The 1987-88 executive includes President Clifton Smith, Past President George Lockhart and Vice-president is Gladys Harris and secretary is Jean Spencer. Treasurer is Agnes McFarlane and

signing officers are Agnes McFarlane, George Lockhart and Grant Swackhammer. The hospital representative is Ross Bryant and the hospital activity director is Gloria Lee.

The new program is full to capacity at present but if you wish to have your name placed on a waiting list, phone Gloria Lee at 485-1700.

Euchre will start September 23 at 1:30 p.m. in the seniors' room. There is plenty of space for all. The fee is \$1 and prizes will be awarded.

Ingersoll Times

September 16, 1987

Worker makes final years golden

By ANNE LONDON

Old people love Gloria Lee.

Not a senior herself, the Montreal native nevertheless finds herself fully involved in the lives of the elderly who attend Alexandra Hospital once a week to participate in a wide variety of activities.

Lee volunteered for the hospital for two years before being hired full time as hospital activity director, a position she has held for the past four years.

She enjoys working with the elderly, who attend the hospital to learn about preventative health care in addition to other activities.

"We want to help them to remain independent" in the community, she said in an interview from her cramped office quarters at the hospital.

Seniors meet at the hospital for a program which begins at 9:30 a.m. with coffee. A business meeting follows at 10 a.m.

But by 10:15 a.m., the group really gets moving with an exercise program lead by one of the group members.

Music for the session is taped by members of the group, the petite brunette said.

At 10:30 a.m. a guest speaker addresses the crowd, hitting on issues which directly effect seniors.

Some of the topics covered in the past include health care, legal matters-- such as the ins and outs of power of attorney--or even a pharmacist discussing specific aspects of drug care.

By 11:30 the seniors, who are officially known as Seniors for Health, are hard at work preparing for a hot meal.

The meals are prepared by the hospital's dietary staff, but are served by the seniors themselves.

Lee oversees all of these activities on a weekly basis, in addition to the committee meetings held each week. Each senior serves on two committees and the group handles its own finances.

In addition to regular activities there is euchre--which Lee laughingly admits she's not much good at--and a quilting group.

And there are the special events, such as the moonwalk which the group participated in during Canada Fitweek.

Along with other seniors across the country, Senior's for Health logged their total miles walked to see if Canada's over 65 group could reach the moon.

About 35 Ingersoll seniors walked a total of 349 miles.

Lee has 44 members in the program to meet with each week, but the group is growing increasingly popular.

In fact, there are currently 41 on the waiting list.

"So far this year we've been able to take two into the program (from the waiting list," Lee said, adding that the hospital was planning to resubmit a request for a grant from the Ministry of Health February 1.

The median age of the group is 75, and Lee oversees all of their

activities along with a team of 26 volunteers.

Lee is also a bit of a daughter type figure for some of the group.

She's the one who sees nobody's birthday gets forgotten and that everyone who wants to attend church services can do so.

Ministers take turns holding services at the hospital.

Lee also fondly mentioned, Mr. George Law and his daughter Dorothy Dona.

Law plays the mandolin for the elderly while his daughter leads the group in singing.

For the more active Lee has coordinated wheelchair bowling and there is bowling for everyone.

Volunteers help by reading to the patients, giving manicures, helping out with crafts, or simply by providing a friendly face and an attentive ear.

Some of the items which the seniors create include lap covers; calendars; finger puppets for the children that come into the hospital for lab work or xray, caryr bags for the walkers and tapes for playing during church services. But the most popular activity of all Lee said, with just a hint of a twinkle in her eye, is the 'make your own sundae' day held once a month and open to all.

"We just have one patient that can't have it," she said.

During the summer months, the activity director said she tries to schedule as many activities outside as possible, providing the heat is not too intense.

In an interview at the hospital,

the mother of two was obviously more comfortable discussing the seniors program than herself.

She's inherently modest, but a tour around the chronic care ward on the hospital's second floor was pretty telling about how her patients care for her.

One lady's face lit up as Lee entered the room and she couldn't wait to tell the activity director about the gold medal won bowling. She was wearing it over her nightgown.

An old man lays in an end room, bright with sunshine. He pats his bed, indicating that one of us should sit next to him on the bed. His little joke earns him one of Lee's contagious flashing smiles.

After being told we were both married he quickly shot back, "Well I'm a married man."

The interview ended. Lee takes the time to show off her workplace and the people who count on her for some lightness in a period of life that can be dreary going.

Over the six years she has been with Alexandra Hospital, Lee has collected more than her share of touching memories and funny anecdotes.

There was the elderly stroke victim who they heard speak for the first time when a Newfoundland dog was brought in during a pet visit, which is held regularly.

Another man had his wish to see horses granted, when two were brought to a rear window of the hospital where he could see them.

But like any job, there are lighter moments. Lee explained that

sometimes people will walk by and hear her and her volunteer staff laughing and perhaps not understand the humor.

But aging does not necessarily mean a loss of humor, and some of the seniors Lee works with have a keen sense of humor.

Some are pretty canny too.

Like the lady who insisted she couldn't see well enough to participate in the hospital's craft time.

Lee said she realized her leg was being pulled when the woman recognized her house number from the paratransit bus window as the bus drove by.

The hospital worker enjoys her work and admits she becomes close to the people she works with.

"The hardest part is when those who are in the seniors program, part of your group and have been part of the committees...move into the patient care program."

The patient care program is for seniors who remain in the hospital, while the Seniors for Health program is for those who continue to live in the community.

When Lee is not working she enjoys boating on Lake Muskoka with her husband, swimming, cross country skiing and walking.

When you meet her you have to wonder where she finds the time, since so much of her life is devoted to serving this community's seniors.

"I feel like a friend to all of them," she says.

INGERSOLL TIMES

September 28, 1988

FILE PHOTO: INGERSOLL TIMES

Ingersoll Seniors for Health

ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

Seniors For Health

Health

Due to the construction schedule at the hospital, the Ingersoll Seniors for Health held their final meeting of the 1988-89 season on May 4th. After opening exercises, the morning session was devoted to business.

Committee chairpersons reported on their activities throughout the year, followed by the election of officers for next season commencing in the fall when alterations are completed.

The following were elected to the executive: President - Gladys Harris; Vice President - Verda Whiteford; Past President - George Lockhart; Secretary - Josie Henderson; Treasurer - Cliff Ballou; Assistant Treasurer - Norman McLeod; Hospital Activity - Director - Gloria Lee; Hospital Representative - Ross Bryant.

The afternoon was spent packing equipment and supplies etc. for storage while hospital renovations are being made. A closing banquet was held on May 12 at the Presbyterian Church. Everyone agreed we have had a worthwhile and successful year and are looking forward to next season.

INGERSOLL TIMES
May 17, 1989

Waiting list for popular Seniors for Health club

By JONATHAN STOVER

Seniors for Health is so popular that it has reached an interesting impasse. Its waiting list is now as long as its membership roster.

With about 40 active members, the club would like to expand. The problem isn't one of lack of desire, but of lack of facilities. Alexandra Hospital, which currently houses the organization's meeting room and supplies lunch at the club's weekly meetings, can't provide lunches for more than about 35 people.

And so the waiting list now stands at about 30 itself.

Seniors for Health meets once a week from September to May at Alexandra Hospital. For those seniors lucky enough to be on the club's active roster, a wide range of activities and information services are available.

President Gladys Harris, now in her third year in that position, said that the group offers a good mix of social activities and education on topics important to seniors. Nutritional information is only one of the fields which weekly lecturers deal with. Speakers on personal finance and legal matters, visits from policemen and doctors, these are interspersed with slide shows, quilting, euchre and other more recreational fare.

Harris listed off a number of speakers who alerted group



Seniors for Health president Gladys Harris

members to senior oriented organizations and services which might otherwise have remained unheard of. The Card of Life program, in which seniors have their medical problems listed on an identification card to facilitate medical service in the event of an emergency, was one such service of which the seniors were told.

Others included the Lifeline program, in which seniors are kept track of by phone daily in the event of an emergency, and the Elderhostel senior education program, where senior citizens attend week long educational sessions at local universities.

"It's a good social time," Harris said of Seniors for Health. Community service is another

facet of the organization. Members worked as volunteers during Heritage Days. As well, members of the health group try to pay regular visits to hospital patients, and help out with other volunteer work around town. Visits to nursing home residents by club members help ease the loneliness which many shut-ins feel.

Seniors for Health has participation in decision-making built right into its organizational set up. A number of committees exist within the organization to handle fund-raising, quilting, recreation and other services. Group members must sit on at least two committees, and so everyone has a say in the group's activities throughout the year. The health part isn't neglected. Regular exercise and nutritious foods are stressed. An exercise video for seniors was put together by club members, while annual events such as the Moonwalk reiterate the idea of a healthful, happy old age.

Funds are raised through bazaars and penny auctions throughout the year. The biggest fundraiser, though, is the quilt draw held once a year. Tickets are sold on a quilt which Seniors for Health members create over the course of the year, to be raffled off.

Donations are made each year to worthy causes. This year's beneficiaries included the Thames Valley Children's Cen-

tre, the home care movement and a new charitable organization called Sleeping Children Around the World.

Once a year, the Seniors for Health group goes on a day-long bus trip. This year saw the club travel to the Oakville Ford plant, and from there on to a number of Toronto area spots of

interest before returning home. "It's a good way to meet friends, to talk, and to get a good well-balanced meal," Harris said of the program. The wait could be long, but for seniors who like to get involved socially, it should be worth it.

There is no membership fee to join Seniors for Health.

INGERSOLL TIMES
(SENIORS EDITION)

June 28, 1989

Seniors for Health returns to hospital

by NOLA GILL

The Seniors for Health group, which held their meetings at the Masonic Temple last year, have returned to the hospital for their regular weekly meetings. They met in the same room, which has been reduced in size because of the stairwell, but with a new coat of paint and a room next door to hold supplies, it appeared quite pleasant. The group went to the Staff Education Room for their business session and exercises. President, Gladys Harris welcomed the members back and read several thank you notes from those who had been sick or bereaved during the summer.

Mr. Ross Bryant spoke to the group and gave us a update on what has been going on during the past few months. He said the final cost should be around \$7.7 million, most of which has been already paid by government funding and community support. However, there are quite a number of equipment items needed which are very costly. He was congratulated on his recent marriage.

Glorie Lee stated that an executive meeting had been held on

September 6th, where a number of decisions had been reached and which she brought up for discussion. Members of the Social and Program committees will meet shortly to arrange future programs.

Gladys Smith reported that the first euchre of the season had been held at the Canadian Legion Hall with seven tables in play. These will continue each Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. and are open to the public.

Norman McLeod reported for the Property Committee and Jean Spencer stated that the quilting group had already started, meetings to be at Mattie Dickout's home. Verda Whiteford stated that we have 38 members on the roll at the present time.

The members met back in their regular room for a hot meal from the hospital kitchen and everyone enjoyed the sociability. Gloria Lee divided the members into two groups - one group was taken on a tour of the hospital while the others played cards and then they switched. They were quite impressed with the new look.

The group will meet again on September 20th at 10 a.m.

Sun shines on Seniors for Health

By NOLA GILL
for Ingersoll This Week

Betty White, a representative of the Sunshine Foundation, was the speaker at the Oct. 18 meeting of the Ingersoll Seniors for Health.

The group, meeting at Alexandra Hospital, had its usual opening the Verda Whiteford introduced a new member.

Gloria Lee made several announcements regarding the coming bazaar and Dorothy Christie said the penny sale would be held in March. Grant Swackhammer said the new tape recorders had been donated by the seniors to be kept in the recreation rooms on the second and third floors for the benefits of patients at the hospital. Tapes have been provided by the Royal Canadian Legion.

Introduced by Margaret Wilson, White said the foundation now has quite a number of branches across this country and is doing remarkable things for disabled and terminally ill children.

The foundation tries to make children's dreams come true and bring a little sunshine into their lives. Quite a number of children in wheelchairs have been flown to Disney World in Florida from this part of Ontario, and these flights require the help of a lot of volunteers and a lot of planning.

London is the Canadian headquarters of the foundation. Several of the high schools in Oxford County are raising money through various methods to help these children. Whiteford thanked the speaker.

After having a hot meal together, the group played a few games of cards.

INGERSOLL 110. WEEK

Oct. 23, 1990

The Ingersoll Times, December 5, 1990

NEWS

Organizational group hopes to form handy helper service for seniors and the disabled

A small group gathered at the seniors' room at Ingersoll's Alexandra Hospital Monday night with hopes of forming a handy helper service for seniors, disabled and the handicapped.

Spearheaded by Margaret Wilson and Jean Anderson, who conducted a survey of handy helper needs by seniors in the community, the handful of people, including representatives from three service clubs, discussed organizing a committee to operate the service.

Wilson belongs to the Oxford Senior Services Advisory Council which is funded by the Ontario Ministries of Health and Community and Social Services. Both she and Anderson have discovered the need themselves for a handy helper.

Among the services suggested in the needs survey were grass cutting, general yard work, snow removal, eaves cleaning, minor electrical repairs, small household repairs and maintenance and odd jobs.

"The response was 100 per cent from everyone we contacted," Wilson said. "Jean and I did the survey and presented it to the advisory council. I was asked to set up something in Ingersoll."

The discussion centred on how to combine paid handy helper services and volunteer services into one service and ways to get all the seniors groups together to organize and help coordinate the services.

Wilson outlined the multi-service centre in Tillsonburg and the handy helper service in Woodstock. "I think we're the poor country cousins," she said, comparing Ingersoll to the two larger centres.

The Woodstock service does cleaning, laundry, seasonal and heavy cleaning and maintenance, Wilson said. It charges \$7 per hour, with the handyman getting \$8.25 per hour. The extra is paid for by the community and social services ministry which also pays for a manager and part-time bookkeeper.

In Tillsonburg, the services offered include yard work, minor household tasks and repairs, and assistance with moving. The cost is \$7 per hour for those on assistance and \$8.20 per hour for others.

Bill Martin of the Kiwanis Club said writing reports and setting up a program could be done by high school students as part of the personal life maintenance course run by Alma Sharp at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute.

"It would be a heck of a project for them and there would be no pay for their work," Martin said.

Gloria Lee of the hospital pointed out the need for a group to take the project over, provide office space and a manager.

Doug Pettit of Trinity United Church said the volunteer group there would like to assist but could not actually run such an operation.

However, while the committee is being formed and an official service organized, seniors, disabled or handicapped people can contact the church's secretary at 485-0820 bet-

ween 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. The church's volunteer group will help out with snow removal, although it may take a day or two to get the volunteers together, Pettit said.

Colin Slimmons of the Lions Club said he would talk to the board of his service club and discuss allowing the proposed committee for the handy helper service to use the upstairs at the Lions Den.

He added it would be important to hold a public information meeting to let those who require the service know it is available and tell others - individuals and other service clubs - how they can become involved.

In addition, he suggested setting up a board of directors that may include seniors and representatives of service clubs and organizations, with one person serving as coordinator of the handy helper service. That board or committee could app-

ly for grants to fund students who would set up the program.

"You need a place of permanency," Slimmons said. "I have no qualms about letting you use our building. I'll bring it up with the club."

Pettit suggested planning a future meeting with representatives for this "umbrella group."

"I can guarantee two people on the committee from the Lions Club and possibly someone from the Golden Age Group," Slimmons said.

Martin offered similar support from the Kiwanis Club as did Toni McHugh from the Rotary and Pettit from the Trinity United Church.

All agreed they would contact other service clubs and seniors' groups and meet again Monday, Jan. 7, at 7 p.m. at the seniors' room in the hospital.

Lawyer speaks to seniors

By NOLA GILL for Ingersoll This Week

The regular weekly meeting of the Ingersoll Seniors for Health was held on Dec. 6 with a good turnout.

After the opening song Gloria Lee made some announcements regarding the Christmas party.

Games and cards will be played in the morning session and following the Christmas dinner a musical group will be providing entertainment. Members are reminded to bring their squares.

Gladys Harris took the chair for the business period. Jean Spencer reported that the quilting committee is working very hard to finish the quilt.

Gladys Smith stated that the euchres being held at the Royal Ca-

nadian Legion hall on Wednesday afternoons are still going well and those attending seem to be enjoying themselves.

The speaker, James Carr, a local lawyer, was introduced by Les Downham. He conducted a question and answer period which proved very interesting to the members as they kept up a steady round of questions on the subject of wills and power of attorney. He warned people who make out their own wills to have two witnesses when it is signed and to make sure an executor is appointed.

He said there is a great deal of confusion regarding power of attorney and explained the different types used. He made several helpful suggestions for seniors in dealing with their legal matters.

He was thanked by Norman McLeod.

A great deal of activity takes place in the seniors room, during the noon hour when the dinner is served but this is also the time for sociability; after the tables are cleared games are played.

New senior service on horizon

It appears the Oxford Seniors' Advisory Committee is one meeting away from establishing a handyman service in Ingersoll.

The committee will hold an open meeting next month at Alexandra Hospital where members of church and service clubs and the public will be invited to put the service into place, says Margaret Wilson.

"It sounds very much as if it is going to be a co-operative community effort," she says.

Currently other municipalities in Oxford have a handyman service for seniors. A volunteer group operating from Trinity United

Church is available to help seniors, says Wilson.

"Until things get going they will try and service the snow removal for the seniors."

In addition to snow removal, a handyman service will give seniors a list of names to call if they need some help with something in their homes.

Once the project gets off the ground the advisory committee, developed by the Thames Valley District Health Council and the Ministry of Community and Social Services, will focus its attention on other matters.

Daily Sentinel Review

Ingersoll This Week

December 11 1990

DURING FINAL MEETING**Seniors give big to CARES**

By NOLA GILL
for Ingersoll This Week

The Ingersoll Seniors for Health group held its final meeting of 1990 last Thursday.

During a brief ceremony, Gladys Harris presented a cheque totaling over \$1,100 to Ross Bryant, executive director of Alexandra Hos-

pital, and Sue Blair, director of patient care services.

The money will go to the hospital's Community and Regional Equipment Support Campaign.

Bryant thanked the members for their generosity and wished them well in future endeavours.

After the usual opening, Gloria Lee made some announcements regarding activities in the New Year.

George Lockhard said another euchre will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion this Wednesday then resume again Jan. 9.

Following a short period of exercise the members enjoyed games of euchre, crokinole and scrabble until noon when a hot turkey dinner was served.

Most of the members were able to attend and enjoy this time of fellowship together.

In the afternoon the seniors moved to the staff education room at the hospital where they were entertained by the Murray Band, five men playing violins, banjo and drums and a woman playing keyboard.

Some good old-fashioned, toe-tapping tunes were played by this talented group which donates its time and talents entertaining at Woodingford Lodge and various other nursing homes in the area.

The group was thanked by Dorothy Christie and the seniors went back to their room for fruit punch and square and a chance to visit with the musicians.

The Seniors for Health will resume meeting Jan. 10.

**SENIORS CARE**

Gladys Harris, head of the Ingersoll Seniors for Health, presented a \$1,120.91 cheque to Alexandra Hospital's Ross Bryant Thursday. The money is destined for the Community and Regional Equipment Support campaign to buy hospital equipment. Looking on is Suzanne Blair.

INGERSOLL MIDWEEK

ADVERTISER

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The Ingersoll Times, Wednesday, May 22, 1991 Page 12



Seniors for Health hold annual meeting

by NOLA GILL

The Seniors for Health met for their May 9th last regular meeting for the season. They began with the singing of the welcome song, led by Doris McArthur.

Gloria Lee presided for the reading of the annual reports by the various conveners and the report of the nominating committee was given. Margaret Wilson offered to take the position of vice president and Gladys Harris agreed to carry on as president for another year. There were very few changes in the list of conveners for the next term.

Gladys read a list of those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries during the summer months. Members were asked to contact either Josie Henderson, secretary or Gloria if they knew of a member who is ill.

Members were reminded that next week the group would be meeting at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church for their banquet, May 16th, and were asked to be there between 11:30 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. About 50 will be attending.

The group was also reminded of the Space Walk at 10:30 a.m. on May 30th with a picnic at noon in Centennial Park. The bus trip to Goderich will be on June 6th.

Hospital program for retirees a smashing success

By ARMITA JANES

Sentinel-Review staff writer

INGERSOLL — Ross Bryant, executive secretary of Alexandra Hospital, and Joanne McFarlane, were beaming Wednesday morning.

They had every right to be.

Bryant's brainchild — a program for retirees — co-ordinated by Ms. McFarlane, was a smashing success.

Despite stormy weather, 41 persons ranging in age from 60 to 87 showed up for the Open House which kicked off the weekly health program for retirees held in the closed wing at the hospital.

But these numbers so strained capacity of the former ward room where sessions are held officials made some quick revisions.

The group was divided for the afternoon session. Hospital dietitian Karen Cook then talked about nutrition to each of the smaller groups.

The co-ordinator said smaller groups work better anyway, are less formal, and one group could socialize, or take part in a recreation activity while the other group was in a session.

But even given the hot, crowded condition at the morning session, Hazel Powell, the hospital's in-service education co-ordinator, had a rapt audience.

She told retirees the program was going to be geared to "what you people would like to hear about."

"We want to encourage you people to stay active — physically and mentally," she said, adding that one is never too old to learn new skills, like learning about taking care of one's health.

There will be an emphasis on the changes that take place as one grows older, she said, and how it is possible to adjust to these changes and work to the fullest.

She pointed out that the number of persons over 60 would rise dramatically from one in 10 persons in 1975 to six in 10 persons by the year 2000.

So the program which began Wednesday at

Alexandra Hospital, she said, will focus on how to take care of yourself at home.

The speaker cautioned her listeners not to think that all the changes which occur as one grows older are physical changes.

As well as learning how to keep bodies physically fit, she said, people have to keep their minds active — keep the intellectual person stimulated.

There is a tendency, she said, to bracket people of middle age and attach the same label to all.

She disagreed with this.

"Don't let people label you," the speaker said. "All people in this age bracket are individuals. You are all different, so talk about your differences."

She cautioned her listeners not to be over-anxious about their health.

"We hope that through this program you will recognize some of the changes taking place in your bodies," she said. "Say they are normal — something that you can accept."

Some of the bodily changes members of the audience said they had noticed during the past five years were: Difficulty in remembering, dry skin, tiring more easily and difficulty in sleeping.

When Ms. Powell asked what was most enjoyable about retirement, one woman quickly answered:

"Being able to do what you want to do without anybody telling you what to do."

The speaker agreed that having time is a big factor in retirement living.

"After raising a family, working, you now have time to think about beginning a new hobby," she said. "I imagine this is the first time some of you have sat in on a talk session like this one."

The program for retirees will continue each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. and will end at 3:30 p.m. The minimal fee of \$2 includes a hot lunch served in the hospital cafeteria.

Retired persons of any age who would like to take part should call Greta Moore in the administration office at Alexandra Hospital.



— Staff photo

RETIREES TAKE in talks at opening session of senior citizen program Wednesday.

Seniors for Health program successful

The opening day of the Health Program for Retired Citizens at Alexandra Hospital was an outstanding success Wednesday. The organizers of the new program and the participants were equally enthusiastic about the day's program and optimistic about the future of the group.

Volunteer director Jo-Anne McFarlane described it as a 'very good day' and felt that perhaps the best indication of its success was in the fact of the 46 who came for the first day, 32 registered to come on a regular basis. Many of the remaining number were committee members as well who just hadn't taken the time to register she said.

They came in the morning with a terrific attitude towards the day and it remained with them. When the co-ordinator and her committee arrived at 9:15 to prepare for the 9:30 a.m. opening, they found many of the retirees were there ahead of them. "It was a great way to start the program; it made us feel so good to know they were that interested" stated Mrs. McFarlane. "Even the terrible weather didn't keep them away."

It was a busy day for the retirees and they loved it! An early morning film titled "Celebration" dealt with the price humans pay for easy, modern living and emphasized the effects of stress, diet and exercise in retirees lives. Following the film, Hazel Powell, R.N., the in-service education co-ordinator at Alexandra led the group in a discussion of it and of their own needs.

Mrs. McFarlane was pleased that the entire group decided to remain for the hot lunch which was offered in the cafeteria of the hospital. Because of the response, the group was divided into two sections. While one group heard an informal and interesting talk by dietitian Karen Cook, the others played cards, shuffleboard, other games or sat and chatted.

The steering committee has done wonders with transforming the unused portion of the hospital into cheerful quarters for the new group. Fresh wall-paper transforms one ward into what may become eventually a craft room but now is housing magazines, comfortable chairs and jig saw puzzles. Mrs. McFarlane sees it as a "quiet room" where folks

can gather and knit or crochet or just chat while they are deciding what they would like to do next. The volunteer director explained that the re-decorating was all done by committee members and other friends who spent every day for a week transforming the rooms.

A bright and cheery kitchen is for the use of the retirees. Coffee and tea are available for them to help themselves, along with bread, a toaster, and a bowl of fresh fruit. It is a delightful atmosphere and designed so anyone can feel free to help himself at any time of day.

The reading room is for people who want to escape the noise and it is well stocked with health care pamphlets. The games room offers all kinds of interesting diversions and the lounge, in the sun room, may some day become a music room and filled with plants.

The retirees will have the final say in what they do with the quarters that have been provided for them.

Today's program will be an extension of the one begun last week, with a light movie added to the entertainment.

(Seniors for Health)
 Seniors for Health



Shuffleboard in the hospital corridors! That's right and everybody enjoyed it during the recreation period. Henry Fairbanks and Mildred Batten proved some keen competition for each other, while friends cheered them on.



No one could ever accuse Prudence Ruckie of having a "poker face" in this game. In fact, one is inclined to think she has both bows in her hand!



Everybody talked about how good the hot meal was during the lunch session held in the cafeteria of Alexandra Hospital. Executive director Ross Bryant reorganized his staff and their meal times to accommodate the senior citizens, for their first get together. Two of the many who enjoyed their lunch were Joanne Garton and Florence Capstick.



One of the most cheerful kitchens anyone will ever see has been designed by the steering committee. Sampling the coffee that is made available so the seniors can help themselves whenever they feel like it are Al B. Clark, a

member of the New Horizons board of directors, Ross Bryant, Alexandra Hospital executive director and Jo-Ann McFarlane, volunteer co-ordinator of the entire project.



New Horizon Board of Directors.



The response was over-whelming when the new Ingersoll Seniors for Health group held its inaugural meeting at the hospital Wednesday. Euchre seemed to be the favourite game among the card

players. Obviously enjoying their foursome in the comfortable games room are Josie Henderson, Mabel Miller, Ruth Holmes and Stella Wilson.

Program for retirees gets \$9,919 grant

INGERSOLL — The Retirees' Program at Alexandra Hospital will receive a New Horizons Grant of \$9,919 from the health ministry, co-ordinator Joanne McFarlane said Wednesday.

She said the grant will assure continuance of the program and make it self-sufficient.

"It will supply us with the things we need," she said, adding that she has borrowed everything used in the program.

The grant money will be used to buy tables, chairs, projectors, screens, craft supplies, games, and exercise machines.

Some of the money will also be set aside for speakers' honorariums, the co-ordinator said.

The health program for retirees began Jan. 17 in the first floor wing at Alexandra

Hospital that was closed in March, 1976.

It was a smashing success from the start. Within weeks the program was expanded from one to two days weekly—Wednesday and Thursday—to accommodate everyone who wanted to attend.

And this month, because so many prominent speakers are discussing things of general interest—income tax, pensions, wills, Ontario Hospital Insurance, the new policy on chronic care beds—the program has been thrown open to the general public.

There is a minimal fee of \$2 for the daily program which includes a hot lunch. The program begins at 9:30 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. Speakers and instruction periods are interspersed with recreation and social interaction.

Seniors' program moves into second program soon

INGERSOLL — Thanks to a \$9,919 New Horizons Grant, the program for retirees launched so successfully at Alexandra Hospital last year moves into its second season with most of its own equipment.

Co-ordinator Joanne McFarlane says the new furnishings will add much to this year's program which gets under way Wednesday, Sept. 26 and Thursday, Sept. 27.

The group now has a Hammond organ, movie projector and screen, stereo sound system, typewriter, fans, chairs and tables, long clothes rack, coffee tables, and pamphlet display cabinet.

This fall the program will begin with sessions on sight and hearing conservation, followed by consumers' protection.

Ms. McFarlane said the biggest criticism last year was that daily sessions were "too packed with content."

This year there will be only one speaker. More time will be devoted to activities—particularly those that revolve around leisure.

By activities, the co-ordinator said, she didn't mean "just sitting playing cards."

Small discussion groups will be formed to give members a chance to discuss their feelings about retirement, she said, something they are "keen" to do.

Ms. McFarlane said plans "are running around" in her head at this point, but there will definitely be much greater emphasis on exercise this year.

After Christmas, the focus will be on nutrition.

The program for retirees, brainchild of Ross Bryant, the hospital's executive director, is designed to ultimately keep the aged out of hospitals by education.

The first floor wing at Alexandra Hospital, closed down in March 1976, was reopened last January to house the project. It offered enough space for health teaching and recreation as well as library and kitchen facilities.

Short teaching periods are interspersed with recreation and social interaction.

The program begins at 9:30 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. A fee of \$2 includes a hot lunch.



— Staff photo

Ross Bryant tries out new Hammond organ while Joanne McFarlane looks on.

Originally operating only on Wednesdays, overflow crowds soon necessitated offering it two days weekly—Wednesdays and

Thursdays.

Registration is limited to 60 persons—30 each day. Anyone who would like to take ad-

vantage of the program this year would be wise to pre-register by calling Edna Montgomery at 485-1700.