

Headwaters mulls Shelburne hospital cutbacks

By DAN PELTON
Staff Reporter

Faced with the news that it may receive no increase in provincial funds for the fiscal year 2009-10, Headwaters Health Care Centre is studying scaling back services at its Shelburne campus, the former Shelburne District Hospital, as one way of maintaining the same level of services elsewhere with less money.

One scenario under consideration would involve reducing chronic care and rehabilitation operations at Shelburne and moving them to Orangeville.

Meanwhile, Headwaters CEO Cholly Boland says rumours of a November 30 closure of the Shelburne facility are definitely not true.

In an interview Wednesday, Mr. Boland explained that, while provincial funding likely will not increase, expenses certainly will and the hospital will be looking at a possible \$2.2 million deficit for the fiscal year which begins April 1, 2010.

Emphasizing that while transferring patients from Shelburne's chronic care and rehab facility to Orangeville is under consideration at the moment, it was "certainly not a

done deal," Mr. Boland said 70 per cent of the patients in Shelburne come from the southern end of Dufferin County.

He pointed out that about 200 patients a year are first served in Orangeville before being sent to Shelburne, adding that it could be more beneficial if these patients could be "transferred down the hall rather than to another facility."

"It would prevent needless transportation and allows the staff to work together more effectively."

He said the staff at Headwaters is working on different possible scenarios where Headwaters could reduce the number

of beds without sacrificing the level of services.

For example, he says a hospital bed at Headwaters is in use an average of 83 per cent of the time.

Through more efficient use of time and resources, that could be increased to, perhaps, 90 per cent of the time.

While scaling back the Shelburne facility was a distinct possibility, Mr. Boland said removal of the outpatient X-ray facility on the premises is not under consideration.

"Our number one goal," he said, "is to balance, not cut, the budget and to maintain, or improve, the level of care."



Photo/DAN PELTON

AND THE WINNER IS ... High Point Awards and Ribbons, held its grand opening last week at its location on Fourth Line Amaranth at 20 Side Road. The location will provide trophies and ribbons for all events and attractions. On hand for the opening were (left to right): Miss International Canada Chanel Beckenlehner, as well as High Point proprietors Ross and Genevieve Trimble.

OPP driver initiative deemed a success

Operation Impact, an OPP enforcement-driven traffic initiative designed to increase public awareness and compliance with safe driving measures, appears to have made an impact, as motor vehicle accidents and infractions over the Thanksgiving weekend were down significantly from the year before.

Over the long weekend, there was increased vigilance, not only on patrolled roads, but also on water-

ways and trails. To assist front line officers in this initiative, the OPP took to the skies by utilizing two aircraft and targeted aggressive drivers and speeders.

During the weekend Dufferin OPP detachment members issued 90 provincial offence notices to those using the roadways within Dufferin County.

There was a decrease, however, in motor vehicle collisions investigated by the detachment — six

compared with 10 last year.

Dufferin OPP handed out 72 speeding tickets, for eight failing to wear seat belts, one for careless driving, one for racing and eight other for moving violations. Province-wide, there was only one fatality during the long weekend as compared with 11 last year. Across the province, OPP officers checked 145,071 vehicles, charged 7,155 people with speeding, 657 with non-seatbelt

or child restraint use, laid 187 drinking and driving charges and handed out 113 three-day suspensions.

In Grey County, two impaired drivers were apprehended and three 72-hour driver's licence suspensions were issued. In addition, 121 drivers were charged with speeding, 19 seat belt tickets were served and there were six charges laid for other Highway Traffic Act moving violations.

Thank you so much to all the businesses, and individuals that supported and made generous donations towards our Breast Cancer Fund Raisers this past year. Our Team of 8 walkers, completed the 60 km Weekend to End Breast Cancer walk, in Toronto with a few blisters, and sore knees, on Sept. 12th, and 13th. We raised a total of \$21,065.00 and all thanks to your generous support. This year there were over 4,000 walkers in Toronto raising a total of \$11,600,000.00



L to R: Dianne Armstrong, Lorraine Johnston, Angie Rolling, Annie Nicholson, Karen Jamieson, Heather Patten, Carey Widbur, Karen Webster
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Minor hockey wins \$3,200 grant from credit union

Today (Thursday) is International Credit Union Day, and to celebrate the occasion Peoples Credit Union in Shelburne is donating \$3,200 to the Shelburne Minor Hockey Association.

The association is one of three community groups in the areas served by Peoples that have been chosen to receive donations totalling \$5,000. As this year's big winner, Shelburne Minor Hockey will be able to purchase replacement team jerseys for some of their 275 players.

Since its inception the Credit Union has donated more than \$60,000 to community groups and organizations.

An old tradition of hiding coins in cakes as good luck tokens will continue at the Shelburne credit union, where visitors choosing a "money" cupcake will have a 50-50

chance of having a Loonie, Toonie or \$5 bill hidden.

Celebrated since 1948, International Credit Union Day brings people together to reflect upon their cooperative history

and their credit union achievements, and to promote the credit union philosophy.

Peoples Credit Union is inviting the community to celebrate the day with coffee, apple cider, and their

traditional "money" cupcakes at one of their local branches.

Everyone is welcome to join them for the all-day celebration, which will take place at 133 Owen Sound Street.

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