

Hospital WA donates dispenser

DUP

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A new drug dispensing system was put into operation at the Peace Lutheran Care Home this week, courtesy of the Fort St John General Hospital and the Hospital WA.

The Women's Auxiliary made a donation of \$1500 to the Hospital Board for the provision of the system. It is being put into action by the hospital to ensure effective use of drugs in the Home.

The new drug dose distribution system assures greater safety to the residents. The hospital pharmacist pre-packages each resident's drugs individually in cards and then the pills are given to the residents by the nurses.

The system cuts down on the time spent dispensing drugs, allowing nurses to spend more time in direct care with the patients. It also assures that all drugs are taken as prescribed, reducing many of the adverse effects of drugs in the elderly who very often take their medications incorrectly.

The hospital pharmacist is now a member of the Health Care Team at the Home, and can provide some expertise

regarding drugs and is required to periodically review the drug therapy of each resident, and, if necessary, communicate with the doctor if difficulties or problems develop.

The hospital board believes this is another indication of the co-operation that exists within the community and between the people concerned with health care in the Fort St John area.

Business

DUP

Hospital Board

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GOOD HOSPITAL

Dr A Lomax, head surgeon at Fort St John General Hospital, had some kind words to say about the hospital at Wednesday's Hospital Board meeting. Lomax said that he was surprised at the calibre of hospital he has found since he began practicing here. He commented that it was on par or better than most of the

English hospitals he'd worked in.



TWENTY FIVE YEARS as Chairman of the Hospital Board drew to a close last night for George Broadhurst, (centre seated) He has been with the hospital through its development from a one storey wood building staffed by Nuns to the present multi-million dollar complex. Wayne Gretzinger, (extreme left,

seated) takes over as board chairman. Also seated are Regina Schaerer, and Joanne Mucci. Back row, Ric Wilson, Hospital Administrator and trustees Joe Schafer, John Manly, Bob Bruce, Helgar Pedersen and Doug Allan. Missing is Bob Churchill.

All pulling together well at the hospital

Hospital in black

The annual hospital audit was presented at last night's hospital society annual meeting.

Figures presented show expenses at \$2.5 million and income at \$2.3 million, leaving an excess of expenses over income of \$262,411.

Hospital administrator Ric Wilson points out however that the examination of the books did not include an annual year end settlement from the province.

This settlement, based on complex formulae which account for changes in expenses which cannot be foreseen, has left the hospital in the position of a \$332 surplus.

Wilson says he believes the hospital was treated fairly. Most hospitals in BC are this year in deficit positions by up to \$25,000 even after the settlement.

Clam up and help the hospital

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By Nigel E Hannoford.

Castigating the hospital seems to be a popular parlour game in Fort St John. A lot of people play it, including some who ought to know better. It is played by listening to a rumor, telling it to all your friends and waiting to see what comes back. And of course, what comes back is the rumor plus some embellishments.

Since I've been in Fort St John, I've heard every kind of allegation about the hospital. The food was terrible; there wasn't enough of it. The nurses weren't friendly, there weren't enough of them either. They were wasting money on the hospital expansion, there was supposed to be a quarter of a million dollar's worth of obsolete equipment closeted away in the basement which represented somebody's purchasing error. The X-Ray machines were dangerous Doctor so-and-so said so and so was a maligner and wouldn't sign his medical certificate. Another Doctor said that somebody's little Johnny was quite well when he had a broken leg. . . .

So it goes on. We've looked into nearly all these allegations. Sometimes we've found out something that's wrong and we've said so. But nine times out of 10 we have found that this hospital is not at fault. This doesn't mean it never was, or that it never will be. But at the moment, they're running a good operation.

And many enquiries turn up something quite simple; you find

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that somebody who says she wouldn't take her pet canary to the Fort St John hospital was once treated rather abruptly by a doctor who had been up all night with a car accident and didn't want to spend too much time on her snuffles.

Frequently we've found that the persons giving us the complaint is not the suffering party, she's passing something on. Sometimes when we do get it first hand, the person isn't prepared to put their name to their allegations which makes us wonder how much truth there is in it.

On a few occasions we have referred people to the hospital administration and have heard later that everything was OK.

So we have the following suggestion, which we make because there are some controversial changes taking place at the hospital at the moment.

If something bothers you at the hospital, by all means tell us, but tell the hospital administration or a hospital board member first. They are there to help, to sort out problems and to smooth the way for everybody. They are not unapproachable mandarins, they are city residents like everybody else, who just happen to work in the hospital. You may be surprised how easily things can be sorted out.

And please, don't start another gossip chain. It helps absolutely nobody.