



Hon. R.H. McClelland, Minister of Health
and Hospital Administrator C. Wilson



Women's Auxiliary Members present
gift to Minister of Health, Hon.
R.H. McClelland



Trustee Douglas Allen AT microphone



THE OFFICAL OPENING OF THE FORT ST. GENERAL & PSYCH. HOSPITAL
SATURDAY 3:30 P.M. 1976

Official Opening by the
 Hon. Robert H. McClelland, Minister of Health

Tour of Facilities 4 - 6 p.m.
 The Public is Invited



Hon. R.H. McClelland, Minister of Health
and D. Ed Smith, M.L.A. (North Peace River)



Hugh DeKraker, Project Manager; George Broadhurst,
Board Chairman; D. Ed Smith, M.L.A. (North Peace
River)

SEPT 10, 1976



HEALTH MINISTER BOB McClelland's pleased expression was typical of everyone's on Saturday afternoon when he officially opened the new hospital Diagnostic Extension Service by unveiling this commemorative plaque.

Hospital extension officially opened

Provincial Health Minister made it to town to open the new hospital Diagnostic Extension Services, though he had to leave earlier than planned for Victoria and missed out on the local party annual general meeting.

During the 45 minute ceremony, he made a brief speech in which he promised that the local Intermediate Care Home project, now going to tender, would encounter no more snags or delays.

McClelland then performed the actual opening act, which was the unveiling of a commemorative plaque.

About one hundred people watched the ceremonies in broad sunlight. Among the crowd were many veteran members of the original hospital association as well as representatives of the Sister of Providence, the nursing order that had staffed the original Providence Hospital.

Later, the crowd was invited to tour the new facilities. They were escorted in groups of a dozen by members of the Hospital Board to inspect the

modifications and new equipment which had been installed over the last two years. All tours ended up in the cafe where visitors were served with light refreshments.

McClelland likes Audiological room

Provincial Health Minister Bob McClelland promised a three pronged attack on health problems in the province and singled out a Fort St John community project for special praise in an exclusive Alaska Highway News interview Saturday.

He had just opened the new Diagnostic Extension Services at the hospital on Saturday. The local program was the Audiological Room at the hospital. He stated that it was a good example of expansion from a pilot project, the first that had occurred in fact from five set up in the province. He praised the people behind it for their forward looking approach to problems of health care in the community.

Earlier, during his speech to open the new facilities, he promised a substantial program across the province to improve health care on an intermediate to long term basis. He criticized current ideas as being too compartmentalized, "Health care is health care, no matter whether it be short term, intermediate or long term. If somebody is ill, you have to look after them and these

distinctions don't mean much."

Later he added, "This might not necessitate a lot of new rebuilding, though it could mean some. Basically, we have enough beds, but they're not all in the right places." The government is currently conducting a survey of hospital utilization to determine the amount of space needed. It is also trying to persuade Ottawa to pick up some of the expenses involved. "This will be one of the main concerns at the meeting of provincial health ministers in Fredericton later this week, explained the minister.

The other two planks of the government health platform are a campaign to reduce alcohol and drug abuse in the province and an active campaign of preventive health care.

"The emphasis on this idea will be a lifestyle change. This must be emphasized over the next few years. Our main thrust here will be at the schools, though we shall be trying to reach adults too with meaningful advertising," said McClelland.



WITH AN EXPRESSION THAT suggests either pain or determination, Health Minister McClelland tries out a pedal cycle used in cardiac diagnosis. He was in the middle of a tour of the new hospital facilities.



HEALTH MINISTER BOB McClelland was the recipient of a locally painted picture at the Women's Auxiliary gift shop before he opened the hospital extension on Saturday.



A REAL ALBUM SHOT, this one, as George Broadhurst, President of the Hospital Board, the Sisters of Providence and Health Minister Bob MCLelelland posed for the record.



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DUPLICATE

Come to Fort St. John if you want twins

SEPT 14, 1976

Double happy events getting very common

The medical profession in this city is slightly puzzled and also divided over the abnormally high incidence of multiple births in the city this year. Out of 293 babies delivered in the city hospital between January 1 and

September 11 there have been ten sets of twins. Further prenatal examinations suggest that at least three more sets are on the way.

"We are frankly mystified," said one doctor. "There has never been anything like it here before."

For the last four years, the number of births in the city has been steady around the 430 mark annually. In 1972 there were 434, in 1973 414, in 1974 429 in 1975 432. The number of twins has also been fairly consistent; three in 1972, two the following year and four in each of 1974 and 1975. But this year the rapid arrival of twins has become almost routine.

According to William's Obstetrics, a reputable

textbook of gynecology, the average expectancy of twins is one in 89. In Fort St John this year, the ratio is one in 29.

On theory, upon which the medical profession is divided is that side effects of the pill are finally taking effect. "When you come off the pill, you really get pregnant," as one medical expert put it. This is not universally accepted by local doctors though. "It's just a coincidence," said one skeptic.

Whatever Fort St John has, if indeed it has anything, it is not shared by other northern communities. Dawson Creek has reported no unusual figures, though Fort Nelson

did have three sets of twins out of 194 births in their hospital this year which is a considerably higher ration than the accepted norm.

The science of assigning ratios between the birth of single children and twins is at best a tenuous undertaking, though. For one thing, the probability of twins varies among races and for another the average of one set of twins to 89 ordinary births is taken over a very large population and it could be argued that the high occurrence of twins in Fort St John is just a deviation that doesn't prove anything.

All the same, it does make you wonder . . . Could it be something in the water of Charlie Lake?

NOV 4, 1976

CARS needs \$700 to reach objective

The BC Public Information Director for CARS Mildred Jeffery paid a visit to Fort St John yesterday to promote still further the organization's fund-raising campaign which is currently under way in the community.

During the three weeks canvassers have been out and the local campaign has collected \$2,400 of its \$3,100 objective.

The sponsoring body Beta Sigma Phi hope that this figure will go over the top

within the next 10 days. Assisting the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society with its fund-raising campaign is one of Beta Sigma Phi's annual community projects all across Canada.

Mrs Susan Davis and Mrs Gail Wagner are co-chairmen of the local campaign.

Jeffery pointed out during her visit that the money raised in the community invariably finds its way back here in some form or another.

Each year the provincial headquarters of CARS sends out three different arthritic and rheumatic specialists to see to the needs of those in outlying areas.

"One example of this service," said Jeffery, "was the visit by a physiotherapist from Vancouver for two days earlier this week. Sharing facilities at the Fort St John Hospital the physiotherapist was able to treat a number of people who had been referred by a local doctor because of arthritic problems."

An occupation therapy van travels all over the province and visits most communities twice during the year. As well the provincial office hires the services of a rheumatologist who comes into the community to see patients who are referred to him.

The other major expense is research. Because there is no

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known cause of either arthritis or rheumatism it is very difficult to develop any kind of an effective cure.

"People afflicted with arthritis should be very wary about the so-called cures that come out each year," added Jeffery, "medical experts don't discredit such techniques as drinking vinegar and honey, wearing copper bracelets or keeping potatoes wrapped against the skin but they warn that there's no evidence they effect any kind of cure. If the patient feels relief then by all means continue."

During her stay in the city Jeffery gave a luncheon address to the local branch of CARS in the Hospital Board room.

NOV 4, 1976

Respiratory. . .

(Continued from Page One)

manifestations of acute and chronic respiratory failure, acid base balance, arterial blood gas analysis and oxygen and ventilatory therapy were discussed during the course of the day.

There were several pieces of respiratory equipment including oxygen tanks, a resuscitator model for practicing artificial resuscitation and a breathalyzer.

Those attending the course paid a \$35 fee to pay Mrs Taylor's expenses and to cover the administrative costs incurred by the local chapter in arranging the course.

Respiratory course here well attended

A one-day course on current concepts in Respiratory Disease Nursing held yesterday at the Fort St John Hospital drew nurses and ambulance personnel from both the North and South

Peace.

Alison Taylor, a clinical instructor from UBC conducted the course for more than 50 people.

The purpose of the course is to give nursing practitioners an opportunity to improve their knowledge and management of patients who encounter potential or actual respiratory difficulties.

Mrs Taylor, a BSc nurse with more than 15 years experience in a variety of nursing fields is currently part of the UBC School of Nursing and is responsible for designing learning materials and supervising students.

As a service to the field of nursing around the province Taylor spends time each year conducting short term courses at a variety of centres.

The North Peace Chapter of the Registered Nurses' Association of BC was the sponsor for yesterday's course. Yolande Harrison and Sylvia Cranston were responsible for making the necessary arrangements.

Through a format of lectures, films and small discussion groups on case histories those in attendance received instruction on many aspects of respiratory disease.

Such things as assessment of the patient at risk,
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SUZANNE PERKINS (left) attempted to bring "Resuscianne" back to life during a demonstration of the practice model for

artificial resuscitation. Ella Fraser assisted Perkins by applying pressure in the lungs.

Counsellors cap Candy stripers

DEC 10, 1976

In the presence of relatives and friends, Sunday evening November 28, the Fort St John General Hospital's Candystriper Groups met in the Assembly Hall for their impressive "capping" and receiving of the Candy Cane pins and other awards.

Cheryl Miller, who has now left the group after three years, having graduated into the business world, was awarded the Women's Auxiliary Junior Volunteer pin for 200 hours of service, and also had a 250 hour pin with chain, given by Mrs Fay Boyd as representative of the Auxiliary and her Certificate of Achievement denoting some 270 hours of service. Counsellor Vi Woodward also congratulated Cheryl and wished her success in the future when she plans on enrolling in the University School of Nursing in Alberta, to obtain her RN.

Two of the present group have already passed the 150 hours of service and were awarded a Charm in recognition by the Counsellor, Sandra Howe and Teresa Plemel received this award.

One hundred hour Candy

Cane pins were received by Wendy DeRuiter, Sharon Fedun, Gwen Gilmour, Sandra Howe, Linda Johnson and Teresa Plemel.

The first aim that the Candystripers have is to earn the right to their cap, and this requires 20 hours. It is followed by a velvet band being attached to their cap after 50 hours. Due to the fact that our ceremonies had been delayed this year we did not have as many girls remaining with us. Two of the number who had earned these awards and who are continuing on with us, Judy Clarke and Penny Richards, were unable to be present to have their caps placed upon their heads by Mrs Boyd. Those receiving them, and the congratulations of the WA were Bernice Andres, Kim Brekkas, Bonnie Dietz, Elaine Friesen, JoAnn Gordon, Shirley Leslie and Sandra Robbins.

Following the ceremonies the girls served refreshments to their guests, and a number of them entertained with a couple of very clever self-composed skits which might be based upon their experience as Candystripers.

VGW



THE CHRISTMAS present with a difference, Fort St John Hospital's twelfth set of live birth twins, girls, arrived on December 22, Mother Sharon Lucas comes from Cecil Lake. The city has enjoyed a remarkably high rate of twin

births this year. The normal average is one in 89 pregnancies, but one new mother in 28 in Fort St John has had twins this year.