



Herman Van de Ven, administrator of the West Haldimand General Hospital, predicts the possibility of a 300 bed hospital in the next five to 10 years if the predicted influx of people for Haldimand is correct. (Staff Photo)

## WHGH May Expand To 300 Beds

West Haldimand General Hospital may be expanded to 300 beds as the influx of people increases the service area because of industrial expansion along Lake Erie. Herman Van de Ven, administrator, told The Record Agnew Peckham of a hospital consultant firm will be giving a verbal report Oct. 29, to the medical staff and members of the hospital board.

The "role study" - if accepted by the hospital board, regional planning council of Haldimand and the Ontario Hospital

Services Commission - will be followed by a master plan outlining the different priorities of increased services as they are needed.

He said the existing hospital will be expanded during the next 10 years. It now has facilities to increase its size from 80 to 300 beds.

He wonders if there will be a question of whether enough doctors will come to serve the hospital as more people come into the area.

"I think there will be a natural influx of doctors as the population increases. However, there could be a shortage in emergency.

"We have an amazingly motivated medical staff. They take a keen interest in the hospital, its future and the community at large," he said.

The hospital also has a highly trained nursing staff. Mr. Van de Ven said the hospital is now in a most fortunate position because there have been more applications from nurses to the hospital than what is needed to fill staff vacancies.

"This puts us in a highly selective position and helps us to get the cream of the crop," he said.

The demand on the hospital has enough to serve the community even if the population doubles in the next years.

For example the hospital has 80 beds and it had 88 patients.

He emphasized municipal authorities provincial planning there will be a gain in population in the served by the hospital.

"This will mean services will be adjusted accordingly.

"Our main concern is finances. We are compelled to make reductions in cost where possible.

"Although we are extremely good with O.H.S.C., we are not hanging because of restrictions.

"We might be compelled to reduce staff because it represents 75 percent of the budget.

"Therefore details of the present patient care may be different. However, we are trying to do the best we can.

He contended that of directors and his doing their utmost to prevent this and the hospital's present state.

## Fire Department Adequate For Population Influx

Hagersville's Fire Department has enough men and equipment to serve the community even if the population doubles in the next years.

This was disclosed by Fire Chief Bill McClarty. He told The Record the department's biggest worry at the moment is a building to house the equipment.

He said there could be a possibility the department would need some permanent personnel if the population should double instead of having all volunteers.

He said that if three shifts were necessary this might mean 10 men on permanent staff.

The department has 18 volunteer members. Chief McClarty said the department and council are working on the one big problem which is housing. The council and members of the department have been meeting to discuss an addition to the old hall or the reconstruction of a new one.

He said after consulting with an architect and construction people it seems that to construct a new hall would cost about the same as adding to the old one.

"If a new hall is built it will be close to the site of the old one. It probably would be somewhere on the market square.

"The old hall would probably be left standing and taken over for other uses by the municipality," he said.

Joseph Seymour, J.P., was born in England, son of an army officer. When his father's regiment was transferred to York (Toronto), Mrs. Seymour, with their three sons, accompanied him to Canada. On the early death of both parents the boys

became wards of Bishop Strachan. In 1845, Joseph came to Hagersville. The men of pioneer days were exceptionally strong. Joseph Seymour and Henry Byers have walked from Hamilton to Hagersville each carrying a hundredweight of his back.

About 1860 Joseph Seymour married Emily Burns, a sister of Mrs. David Almas. He went into the business of carriage making, later the furniture and undertaking business; also founded the News, Hagersville's first paper.

Mrs. Muriel Buckley and Mrs. Erma Wilson (village employees) enter the modern municipal building in Hagersville. It is one of the many improvements made by the village in the last few years. (Staff Photo)

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## All Saints Church Hagersville

The history of the Church of England in Hagersville began in 1850, when the Rev. Cudmore Hill held services in an old schoolhouse on the Plank Road between Hagersville and Ball's Bluff. Mr. Hill was known as the Grand River Missionary and served almost the whole of Haldimand County. A picture appears on the wall of every vestry in the Deanery of Haldimand this day.

It was not until 1870 that the present structure was erected on land for the church donated by David Esq. J.P. During the tenure of the Rev. Spencer of Jarvis the church was wiped out, and church was consecrated in 1900.

The first rector to reside in Hagersville was the Rev. L. W. Brown who began his ministry in 1901. Later he received succession of honours and finally became the Lord Bishop of Niagara.

Over the years the Church has been recipient of a great many gifts and endowments. Among these a great many gifts were presented to the Church by the late Helen Ingles.

The rector in 1950 was the Rev. D. H. M. O.B.D., the People's War was Frank McKee, and the Rector's Warden, W. Held.

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