

assault against an acquaintance. The charges were laid.

# VICTORIA COUNCIL

By Roderick Beyer

James Bay residents strongly opposed to John Hanrahan's nursing home development proposal can put their protest signs back into the closet.

Hanrahan has sold his house at 648 Battery after more than three months of doing battle with Victoria City Council and James Bay residents who were livid at the developer for wanting to tear down the house.

Council had threatened to block Hanrahan's development with a heritage designation, which would make it impossible for Hanrahan to make any structural changes to the house.

An irate Hanrahan then told council he would not hesitate to take the City to court in order to obtain a demolition permit.

Council responded by saying they would not bend under the pressure of possible court action.

"We have never had any of our designations challenged in court. I don't

think we should be intimidated by threats of legal action," Ald. Martin Levin said at a recent council meeting.

Hanrahan then told the *Star* in an interview, "they think I'm going to sit back. It's them who are looking for a fight, and I will challenge them in court.

The house has been sold to a family for \$102,000. Hanrahan said he paid \$100,000 for the house, and the selling price was just enough to cover legal fees incurred.

Hanrahan said he wasn't bitter at council or local residents.

"If they were that strongly opposed, then I guess it came out the right way. You win some, you lose some," he said.

But he said council should review its heritage designation policies.

"They've gone completely overboard, and it's ultimately the taxpayer who will pay for it. It's very foolish, and they're going to have to come to grips with this thing."

"If you've got a house, and it's designated, you might want to paint it or fix the roof. No problem, council told me they've got \$70,000 just waiting to be used," Hanrahan said.

"They won't even hire an extra fireman. People just aren't aware."

# COMMENT



By Gwen Barnes

Ontario doctors went on strike recently to get public support for their cause. They don't feel they are being paid enough by medicare, and they want the right to continue charging their patients the difference between what OHIP pays and what they think their services are worth.

The Ontario government is, according to the doctors, violating their right as professionals to set their own fees. The doctors expect the public will come around to their way of thinking once they've had to do without the kindly benevolence of all the Kildares and Welbys and Hawkeyes for a few days.

I'll go along with doctors extra-billing as a right, but only if everyone else gets to extra-bill too.

I'd love the right to go to my boss on payday and say, "The salary I receive does not fully cover the cost of my services to you, so here's my bill for the difference."

Some doctors are prepared to exempt patients from extra-billing if they can prove poverty and destitution. I'd be prepared to do the same — I'm not, at

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