

# MAD AS HELL!

*Society of Rural Physicians: "The Right Way"*

Issue One

*"It is not that there is a plan to destroy rural health care, but that there is no plan to save it," -*

*Dr. David Fletcher, president of the Society of Rural Physicians.*

David Fletcher is a second generation rural physician from northern Saskatchewan, with a 16-year practice in Mount Forest, Ontario.

## **The Society of Rural Physicians at six months has:**

- Established the National Library of Rural Medicine
- Presented papers on issues facing rural medicine at Provincial conferences
- Attracted members from coast to coast
- Provided knowledgeable speakers
- Incorporated
- Become a voice for rural health care providers, and a primary media contact for rural health issues
- Played a major role in creating the "Mount Forest Model"
- Published a national newsletter

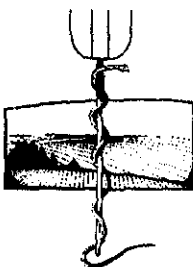
• ***small hospital closure***

• ***non-medical primary care***

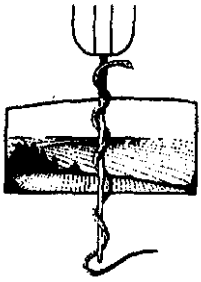
• ***billing numbers***

• ***doctor burnout***

• ***ineffective medical associations***



Society of Rural Physicians



Society of Rural Physicians,  
Box 148,  
Mount Forest, Ontario. NOG 2L0

Dear Colleague:

The goal of the Society of Rural Physicians is to educate and empower the rural community to deal with declining medical services. With this goal in mind, we hope to create sustainable working conditions for rural physicians. Medical services are an essential rural infrastructure and when lost result in depopulation.

When a medical crisis hits your community, don't take the hit alone. The Society can link rural doctors. Learn the significance of the Memorial U. and USC Rural Training Programs, the Alberta Rural Action Program. The Mount Forest Solution for low volume emergency department, and the Shawville-McGill Rural Remote Area Physicians Conference.

As individuals, we can barely sustain our current levels of practice. Together we can be a solid voice that cannot be ignored.

The first step is to educate ourselves on the issues we face. We need funding to publish our national newsletter, to organize our networks, and discover our common ground.

We can succeed, but it will be one doctor at a time, one community at a time, one hospital at a time ...

Yours truly,

SOCIETY OF RURAL PHYSICIANS.

**Attend the first annual meeting of the Society of Rural Physicians on April 16, 1994, following the annual course on Rural/Remote Area Medicine, in Montreal.**

Sign me up  Enclosed is my annual membership fee of \$200.  Send more info

Name.....

Address.....

Town.....

Prov./Code.....

Language E

preference F

Most important: What do YOU see as the main issues facing rural medicine?

1.....

2.....

3.....

**Better still, write us a letter outlining the issues as you see them. All such letters will be kept on permanent file in our National Library of Rural Medicine**