

Letter - Health care diminished

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Don Gainor's desire to see "better health care" for islanders while taking away our state-of-the-art operating room is ironic ("Operating room goal not feasible," Jan. 26 Driftwood).

I have had to undergo surgeries twice off island, and it's a lonely experience, compared to seeing how much support patients at Lady Minto get from the wonderful nursing staff and many visits from friends bearing love and fruit and nutritious goodies, all of which help in healing, even when there haven't been surgeries involved. Would that this were available for islanders having to go alone to Duncan or Victoria, but worse than being deprived of such support, they have to share rooms and see how many people who don't have to pay for ferries or hotels can benefit from it when friends and families visit. That's "better health care?"

We are told that no surgeon has chosen to come here. The mystery of Dr. Preshaw's discharge from Lady Minto has never been explained. He has been a highly regarded surgeon elsewhere and here, and we are due a full explanation.

We have already lost a beloved doctor to Duncan who is also an anaesthetist. Are we to lose more? It's scary.

Real estate values in all areas around here have gone up, according to the Victoria papers, but ours have gone down. That's probably partly because of the bad ferry situation, but possibly also because of our diminished medical care. Who wants to live here now if they think about it carefully?

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