

# Letter - Hospital money not wasted

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The Viewpoint from Don Gainor published in last week's Driftwood makes a valuable contribution to the ongoing debate on this subject.

As he points out, we are now in the year 2011 and it seems to me that the current and foreseen health care priorities of islanders must be our primary concern. The fact that 15 island physicians and psychiatrists do not see general surgery as part of the plan carries considerable weight.

Don has pointed out that a great deal of additional and highly necessary work was done along with the operating room construction. I'm sure that had a full-blown operating facility not been included, a good deal of money could have been saved, but that is behind us. The fact that the operating room, as it exists, is being used regularly and effectively for performance of a range of diagnostic tests proves that all was not wasted. I understand these tests made up the bulk of the case load when the surgery was in full operation.

The many people behind SOS are sincere and dedicated to better health care for Salt Spring, but I'm far from convinced that resurrection of general surgery will further the cause.

Tom Toynbee Sr.,

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