

# DAILY MINER / LIFESTYLE

## AND NEWS

### *A unique experience at the podiatrist*

#### **The Bee Line**

By RUTH BOWIEC  
Miner and News Staff

I'd like to thank my many readers who informed me they missed my column while I was away on holidays, although to be truthful it wasn't exactly all whoop-de-doo time in the big city of Toronto.

The main object of my vacation was to have my left foot operated on and I went through quite a unique and educating experience having the operation done in a podiatrist's office.

Thanks to a new, painless procedure done by Dr. Sheldon Nadel my bunion was removed, and a hammer toe straightened under local anesthesia in his own operatory within three hours and I walked out of his office with no pain.

Traditional surgery is a complex operation complete with cast, crutches, bone pins and a week's hospital stay and as I had already gone through that pain and torment in 1967 I certainly wasn't about to put myself through that trauma again.

The only painful part of the entire experience was the fact OHIP does not recognize a podiatrist doing this surgery and therefor will not pay one cent, so I 'footed' the bill myself. This fact is amazing as the traditional operation will cost OHIP well over \$3,000 yet OHIP will not agree to pay the under a thousand dollar bill a podiatrist charges. Had I opted to have surgery done by an orthopedic surgeon I would have been off my feet for at least six weeks. Having it done the way I chose, I could have been back at work without any time lost, as the operation was on a Friday and there was no reason I couldn't have been back at my desk on Monday had I not taken extra



**TOP TEAM** - Dr. Sheldon Nadel, podiatrist and his staff beam with pleasure over the success of recent foot surgery performed using a new and innovative technique. With Dr. Nadel are his nurse Lucy Scattoloni (standing) and secretary Cheryl Snider. (Staff photo)

time in Toronto to visit with my daughters.

Somehow I feel our Ministry of Health and our provincial government is looking at this situation with a blind eye. If our government was really sincere about saving taxpayers' and OHIP premium payers' money, it seems logical to me they would be happy to let the patient choose which form of surgery they require in this instance and be delighted to pay a podiatrist the greatly reduced cost of this procedure. Not only that, this type of foot surgery, if requested, would certainly eliminate the need for emergency hospital beds.

I have made the the Hon. Murray Elston aware of this situation and hopefully common sense will prevail and a review of medical

health benefits will be brought to the fore in the provincial legislature in this regard.

My wish is that legislation will be passed allowing patients to make their own choice when it comes to foot surgery and medical attention of my nature will soon be part of the OHIP coverage. If I was balancing the books I certainly would hail the least expensive procedure as a great way of saving money as well as saving a lot of needless pain for those going through it, medically as well as financially.

To me, Dr. Nadel performed a miracle and I can't wait to have him fix my right foot next year. Who knows, maybe by then, our new Liberal government in Ontario will realize 'a penny saved is a penny earned'.