

Expansion of dental school on schedule

Excavation work is well under way on the Dalhousie University dental school expansion expected to ease the shortage of dentists in rural Nova Scotian communities.

Approved in 1977 by the Council of Maritime Premiers, the nearly \$20 million expansion on the corner of College and Robie Streets will approximately triple the school's enrolments for dental training and dental hygienists.

When completed in 1980 the enlarged facilities are expected to have room for 64 students in each field.

Specialty post-graduate training will also become possible with the expansion.

The move has been heralded by officials of Dalhousie University, the health profession, and the Nova Scotia Dental Association who say the expansion signals the end to the school's inability to meet the growing demand for health care.

While the number of dentists operating in Nova Scotia is below the national average, the shortage is particularly felt in rural areas such as Guysborough County and Cape Breton. And in all areas, dentists trained in research and specialty fields are required to keep abreast of new techniques and demands.

The need for a better dental school was first seen in 1964 when the Hall Report noted the inadequacy of dental facilities in the Atlantic region.

After working with Dalhousie on the issue for seven months, the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission recommended the expansion.

WORKERS at the excavation site for an expansion to Dalhousie University's dental school are having trouble keeping their feet dry in the frosty weather as they prepare the College and Robie streets site. Estimated cost close to \$20 million, the expansion is expected to curtail some of the high demand for dentists in rural areas of the province when it is completed in 1980.

THE CHRONICLE-HERALD Saturday, December 30, 1978

