

Tragedy in Fort Erie Leads to Investigation

Fort Erie teen, Reilly Anzovino was involved in a terrible car accident in Fort Erie on December 27th, 2009. She was taken by ambulance to Welland because the closest emergency department in Fort Erie was recently closed due to budget cuts. She passed away prior to arriving at the hospital. This is the second death since the emergency department closures in Fort Erie and Port Colborne that has raised questions about whether the closures have contributed to avoidable fatality.

After writing to the Chief Coroner for Ontario in support of the family and the community's requests for an inquest into Ms. Anzovino's death, the Ontario Health Coalition received confirmation from the coroner's office that they are investigating and will make a decision about an inquest. Please visit our website for a copy of the OHC's letter to the coroner (www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca).

Long Term Care Homes: Transformation or Deregulation? Update

The OHC will be announcing a high-level briefing and strategy session in upcoming weeks to review the situation regarding the Ontario government's new regulations for Long Term Care Homes.

The government has designed a new compliance system (for inspections and enforcement in the homes) and is now undertaking a review of the funding system.

There is very significant danger of major deregulation of the homes – not in the public interest. We will keep you apprised.

Closure of Burk's Falls cont'd....

another an hour to the north and yet another an hour or more to the east on Georgian Bay.

Tell the 23% of our population over the age of 65 -- many without access to transportation – and young mothers with sick babies that it "will be easy". Convince our summer residents and the thousands of tourists who find themselves requiring medical intervention that they only have to travel an hour or so for care and medical intervention.

We, in this area, are devastated and rightfully feel that the Premier, the Minister of Health, the NELHIN, the NSMLHIN and the Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare Services have ignored and abandoned us. All this, in spite of the principle in the Canada Health Act stipulating that it will "protect, promote and restore the physical and mental well-being of Canadians and facilitate access to health services without financial or other barriers."

We fought the good fight with dignity and passion. For a brief moment this past summer, we thought our voices had been heard when a task force was struck to develop Guidelines for Rural and Northern Healthcare. We soon learned this that it was little more than a sham.

Optimistically, we continued to demonstrate our concerns in various ways, assisted by the Ontario Health Coalition (OHC). Twice we traveled to Queen's Park with our message. It would seem no one heard.

Heartfelt thanks go to the Ontario Health Coalition for assisting us in our efforts to save access to health care in our area. Your support was much appreciated and we wish you much success in all your good works.

(Editorial Note: Burk's Fall's hospital has been in existence

Request for Proposals for Ontario Health Coalition Website Development & Maintenance

We are looking for a proposal that includes at minimum:

1. a revamp of our website, using up-to-date and user-friendly software that will allow for updates by office staff who are not literate in java script or html.
2. a plan for a launch of the new website.
3. inclusion of website updating on a regular basis, including hours of availability to do this and speed of updating. (We estimate 4 hours per month for this and need to know how much notice is needed to get updates up.)

Our goals are:

1. to make the website reflect the social movement and social justice values of the coalition, while improving its professionalism and clarity
2. to make the website the most user-friendly and useful possible for the following key groups that access our site frequently:
 - a. our members, affiliates and partner groups and individuals
 - b. media
 - c. policy makers and politicians
 - d. academic researchers and students
3. increase use of our website by our members
4. to continue to include all of the major reports, media releases, briefing notes and other resources we currently have on the sight, including archive material, but improve their presentation, uniformity, clarity and organization
5. to re-organize how our members access campaign materials and somehow coordinate between the resource material and the campaign or action material
6. to include more images, video and interactive functions without increasing requirements for staff time to moderate chat rooms and the like
7. to maintain effective stats counter and search engine
8. to improve visibility of the sight on the web

Funding available for this project: \$5,000 for the redesign plus \$150 per month for updating.

Please send your proposals, including your experience and any sample web designs you have done to

