

## MAYOR'S TASK FORCE UPDATE

What has taken place since the last update and what **YOU CAN DO** to help keep the Douglas Memorial Hospital open



- December 16, 2008 - the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) directed the Niagara Health System (NHS) to make the following changes to Douglas Memorial Hospital:

- CLOSE** the emergency room and go to a 24/7 urgent care facility
- STOP** all day surgeries
- STOP** all ambulances going to DMH
- REMOVE** all active inpatient beds

- December 22, 2008 – Mayor Martin and former Mayor Wayne Redekop wrote to Premier Dalton McGuinty to intervene, based on his promises when he was opposition leader (letters can be found on the Town's web-site at [www.forterie.on.ca](http://www.forterie.on.ca)). The Mayor's Task Force also requested a meeting with Health Minister David Caplan through M.P.P. Kim Craitor. Responses have not been received from the Premier or the Health Minister.

**The LHIN will receive further appeal submissions until January 18, 2009 and will make their final decision on January 27, 2009.**

- The Mayor's Task force is engaging M.P.P. Tim Hudak and M.P.P. Peter Kormos to bring pressure on the government.
- The Mayor has requested that the LHIN Chair and Board members attend the January 19<sup>th</sup> Council meeting to detail to residents how "*the Hospital Improvement Plan has been designed with the intent to substantially maintain or improve the services available to residents of Fort Erie*" (Source: LHIN Draft Integration Decision December 16, 2008). This invitation has not yet been accepted by the LHIN.

### RESIDENTS OF FORT ERIE IT IS TIME TO ACT AGAIN!

- The **LHIN did not act** on any alternate proposals from the Fort Erie doctors.
- The **LHIN has not heard** the 5,000 residents that participated in the October public meeting or the 14,000 residents who signed the Save Our Hospital petition.
- The **LHIN did not act on any input** from the Mayor's Task Force.
- The **LHIN has rejected** the position of the Fort Erie Standing Committee, the Committee that was established to ensure accountability for decisions made regarding Douglas Memorial when the restructuring of hospitals first took place.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- E-mail the LHIN before January 17, 2009 to share your comments and concerns regarding their unacceptable and irresponsible decision at: [hamiltonniagarahaldimandbrant@lhins.on.ca](mailto:hamiltonniagarahaldimandbrant@lhins.on.ca). For those without e-mail, letters can be sent to: HNHB LHIN, 264 Main Street East, Grimsby, Ontario L3M 1P8
- E-mail the Premier at [dmcguinty.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:dmcguinty.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org), call the Premier at 416-325-1941 (no 1-800 is available for the Premier's office) and mail the above letter to Premier McGuinty so he is fully aware of the residents' concerns and the importance of our hospital to our community. **Let's not take no for an answer!**

Premier Dalton McGuinty  
Legislative Bldg, Room 281, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A1A1

Dear Premier McGuinty:

I am a resident of the Town of Fort Erie, an area that the Province has designated for growth. My community hospital (Douglas Memorial) is about to be stripped of essential services including Emergency Room, acute care beds and Operating Room procedures by the Niagara Health System and the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network.

In the NHS Hospital Improvement Plan, it states "Ninety per cent of the population of the entire region will be less than 30 minutes from the hospital care they require." Mr. Premier, the 10% of the population that is not within that 30 minute window are the residents of the Town of Fort Erie and I find that totally unacceptable. Why should we not have the same level of health care access as the rest of the residents of the Niagara Region?

Mr. Premier this is an attempt to balance the deficit ridden Niagara Health System budget on the backs of the residents of the Town of Fort Erie. In a letter to former Mayor Wayne Redekop dated April 14, 1999 you said " I and my party will make health care our top priority because it is Ontarians' top priority. Patient care, not the bottom line, will guide our health care policies."

Mr. Premier, will you stand by your 1999 commitment and intervene to ensure the continuation of our emergency department, day surgeries and acute care beds at Douglas Memorial Hospital in Fort Erie?

Yours truly,

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**OUR COMMUNITY**

**OUR FUTURE**

**OUR COMMITMENT**