CODE RED

Healthcare in Grey Bruce

Newsletter of the the Grey Bruce Health Coalition
Edition 5
October 2, 2026

Join the Caravan to Ottawa!

Save These Dates....

Nov 27 and 28th

With the support of our membership, we have joined the fight to protect public healthcare in Canada and to stand up to those who would work to destroy it. More than ever, we must recognize that the forces who support privatization and who would destroy Medicare are gaining strength. The time is now to stand tall and protect our Canadian system of healthcare.

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To contribute a letter, a picture or an article for this newsletter, send an email to greybrucehc@gmail.com

Save These Dates...

(continued from pg 1)

The Ontario Health Coalition is joining with coalitions from other provinces and hundreds of other organizations to develop a plan for a massive **On-to-Ottawa** trek to encourage the federal government to defend and enforce the Canada Health Act.

Bill 11 which became effective in Alberta last month is a direct challenge to the concept of the federal act. Other than a brief letter expressing some concern in July, the federal government has not really stood up to the privateers. We need to see a strong response from the Carney government to this direct assault on public healthcare.

On November 27th, we will be holding a high level gathering of up to 1,000 organizations as we join forces. On Saturday, November 28th, the plan is to hold a huge and peaceful protest on Parliament Hill with thousands of supporters. We need to be there!

The plans are in the works and over the next number of weeks they will be clarified. There will be more information about buses, trains, caravans and events to come. Remember that strong numbers send strong messages and we are hoping that Grey Bruce will be well represented. Let’s have an adventure together!

If you would like to help us organize locally for this, contact 519 375 5812 or send an email to greybrucehc@gmail.com.

GBHC is Changing Website Servers

Another small step for Canadian sovereignty is happening this month. The health coalition website will be moving to a Canadian server.

For the past few years we have dealt with an American server but we felt this is the time, if ever, to make this change and support a Canadian company. There are some other advantages: it will cost less, we won't have to deal with the exchange rate with every billing, and there will be a slight increase in server speed. So we are comfortable with this decision and will be proceeding with the change this week. We will be moving to WHC (WEB Hosting Canada).

The change will take place on Friday, October 9th. During the switchover, our site will be down for about 3 to 4 hours. Emails and site address will remain the same so there won't be any big changes to accommodate.

Check out these jazzy T-shirts!

Only $30

Proceeds from shirt sales help to finance our activities

greybrucehc@gmail.com

(Sizes S to 2XL, crew or V-neck)

Grey Bruce Labour Council Celebrates 70 Years of Good Work

On September 28th, the Grey Bruce Labour Council celebrated their 70th anniversary. After sharing a wonderful meal at the Inn on the Bay in Owen Sound, guests were pleased to share memories of many years of community service. The Council has longstanding relationships with the local community, representing Labour rights as expected but also supporting other valued groups, such as the United Way and the GBHC among others.

Greetings and best wishes were shared on video by Merit Stiles from the NDP, and by Marc-Edouard Joubert, Executive VP of the Canadian Labour Congress and in person from OFL President Laura Spencer Walton who gave a rousing and energizing speech about the issues currently facing Labour and others in the province.

The GBHC is an affiliate of the Labour Council. We are represented at the monthly meetings by chair Brenda Scott and Board member Hazel Pratt who also happens to be past President of the Labour Council itself.

On behalf of the GBLC, President Kevin Smith and Vice President (Bruce County) Dave Trumble accept an Anniversary gift from Bruce Power

GBLC Vice President (Grey County) Chris Stephens enjoyed the Anniversary dinner before leaving for a conference on Injured Workers. Health and Safety is near and dear to Chris' heart and he has been actively involved in this issue for years.

The Anniversary Dinner was presented as a fund raiser for the local United Way. Here Francesca Dobbyn, ED of the local United Way, offers thanks and encouragement to the GBLC for the donation. Her Linked-In profile describes her as "A professional community catalyst and disruptive leader with expertise in business and community relations, problem solving and planning, proficient in creating community networks and partnerships across sectors." Couldn't say it better than that.

Laura Spencer Walton is the President of the Ontario Federation of Labour, the largest provincial labour federation in Canada. She attended this dinner and spoke passionately about current issues facing Ontario workers and communities. It is impossible to listen to her message without feeling an urge to get involved and stay involved in the movement to save Ontario.

Hazel Pratt is one of the busiest people I know. She is past President of the GBLC and remains active on the board. She is also on the board of the GBHC and is deeply involved in her community in Elmwood. Here she is at the dinner presenting one of the Community Activist awards for the year.

The two winners of the Community Activist awards this year were Anna Morrison and Deb Powell.

GBHC This Month...

September was an very busy month for the Coalition. Here is a brief sample....

Sept 1st: Rally to Support Canada Health Act at Alex Ruff's Office

Sept 7th: Labour Day Parade in Port Elgin

Sept 7th: Presentation of OHC Private Clinics Report in Walkerton

Lucknow Fall Fair

Tiverton Fall Fair

Kincardine Fall Fair

In Other News....

The Strike is Over!

OPSEU Local 276 has announced that they have ratified a new contract with the Owen Sound Family Health Team after 19 weeks on the picket line. While the provincial government stonewalled these workers for 14 weeks, the union then focused on the local relationship with the employer. And an agreement was reached in a matter of weeks.

These healthcare workers are vital to this community. Strike Captain Rebecca Lambe shared with us last week that although the long strike has been difficult for all members, and for their families, they received broad support from the community and that helped them to continue on the line until the deal was done.

The settlement is good news for the community members who depend on these healthcare workers, for the employer who can return to full business, and especially for the union members who stood in solidarity and conducted themselves so well on the picket line.

Wouldn't it have been better though, if the provincial government treated all workers in female dominated occupations like this with the same respect they show to corporations and donors? There is, after all, only one boat and we are all in it.

Abacus is a private company that conducts market research and public opinion polling from their offices in Ottawa, Toronto, Halifax, and Winnipeg. They recently released a survey that, among other things, asked Canadians what they think are the most important issues facing our country at the present time.

First, people mentioned the rising cost of living (63%) followed by the Trump administration (44%). The economy was in third place (37%) and Healthcare was fourth at 31%. While all of these issues are critical at present, they are inter-related. And for many it must be difficult to sort these concerns into distinct criteria. For example, as we are threatened with a move to private healthcare, that will become a factor in calculating the cost of living. Unless the government protects and enforces the Canada Health Act, healthcare will become part of each household budget. As patients exhaust the coverage they have purchased, in the private system, they will be required to pay for the cost of procedures and treatments with cold hard cash. Medical bankruptcies will become more common, similar to the American system. For those concerned about the cost of living, healthcare will necessarily become part of that calculation.

You can check out their report at https://abacusdata.ca/latest-findings/.

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Dear Editor...

There was a line in a song, “You don’t know what you’ve got till it’s gone”. I thought of that today when I heard the words, “I don’t get involved in politics” from a middle aged woman who has taught her kids to not be involved. Another was a young person who said, “That is politics. I don’t do politics.”
They seem to think their idyllic lives will go on without protection. They honesly don’t understand that their health care is being taken away, their education is being reduced to dumbing down their kids, and their water will be owned by foreign countries. They glide through life without noticing the destruction, just like Orwell said would happen in ‘1984’. Only the media can get them to get informed on why they need to vote or fight to keep what their grandparents gave them. They take for granted what they have and it will soon be gone.

Sincerely
Roberta Docherty