



October 31, 2016

Tragedy in Woodstock

Everyone is reeling from the shocking discovery of the deaths that occurred in Woodstock and London. Elder Abuse Ontario (EAO) would like to extend our deepest sympathies to all the families and friends who have been affected. It will be several months before all the details are unravelled and likely years before we understand the factors and motivation behind these deaths.

Elder Abuse Ontario has been asked to comment on this case and has been responding to extensive interviews by the media, a number of which are listed below:

- CBC Television News (cbcnews51), live interview October 26 ,at noon with Maureen Etkin
- 570 News Radio, Kitchener, recorded interview October 27 at 12:30 with Maureen Etkin
- Eric Droze Show on AM570 October 27, live interview at 10:00 am with Rochella Vassell
- CTV Television News, live interview October 26 at 4:30 with Rochella Vassell
- CBC Television News, live interview October 26 at 3:00 pm with Sheila Schuehlien
- Arlene Bynon Show for SiriusXM, live interview with Maureen Etkin, Oct 27 at 5:00 pm
- Woodstock Sentinel-Review, interview with Maureen Etkin, November 3 at 11:00 am

These events have focused a spotlight on LTC, the quality of care provided to residents, and what can be done to improve the safety of all residents. There is no quick fix to these issues. We need to examine the attitudes and values our society holds towards aging, the work environment for staff working in LTC, the quality and atmosphere that residents experience in LTC, the systemic abuses built into institutions, and the types of abuse experienced by residents in LTC.

Our challenge will be to continue these conversations and advocate for meaningful discussions and change, before the spotlight dims and moves away. All employees of long-term care homes should be receiving training in recognizing and preventing abuse and neglect. They must be provided with the appropriate training tools, encouragement and guidance with which to conduct themselves in the course of daily practice. Care homes need to enforce better screening procedures and methods to determine a potential employee's attitude towards the elderly and to monitor employees' performance and demeanor regularly.

EAO remains committed to making Ontario safe for all older adults and we will continue to raise awareness about abuse that affects older adults wherever they reside. To join the conversation or get more information please connect with us at: www.elderabuseontario.com or call 416 916-6728.

ABOUT EAO

Elder Abuse Ontario is dedicated to raising awareness of elder abuse and neglect, through public education, professional training, advocacy, and service coordination. In addition to implementing Ontario's Strategy to Combat Elder Abuse, EAO supports a growing number of vital projects and research in elder abuse and neglect prevention.