

TAB 9



**CITY OF PORT COLBORNE
TOWNSHIP OF WAINFLEET
HEALTHCARE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

MEDIA

Media

December 15, 2005	Article in Welland Tribune – Port Hospital is safe: Shragge
December 12, 2007	News Release - Ministry of Health and Long Term Care – McGuinty government supports Modern emergency Care in Port Colborne
	Letter to the Editor – Dr. Christian Proulx, Port Colborne
July 26, 2008	Letter to the Editor – Dr. Christopher Offierski
2006	Article by David Levine – Emergency room Waiting: Not Really necessary (from Longwoods Review, Vol 4 No. 1, 2006)
August 23, 2008	Article in Fort Erie Times Doctors at DMH release statement about “Improvement” Plan – Dr. R. Colorado, Dr. R.J. Kamatovic, Dr. B. Dageleish, Dr. N. Jayawardene, Dr. M. Kim.
	Letter to the Editor – Niagara Falls Review – Patricia K. Teal M.D.
	Letter to the Editor – Niagara Falls Review – Dr. David Henry
	Letter to the Editor – Welland Tribune – Dr. Kim Scher, Fort Erie
	Letter to the Editor – St. Catharines Standard – Andrew Watts, Wainfleet
	Letter to the Editor – Niagara this Week – Sandy Annunziata

Welland Tribune (ON)
Final
News, Thursday, December 15, 2005, p. A1 / FRONT

Port hospital is safe: Shragge

Allan Benner
Tribune

WELLAND - There's no dark conspiracy.

There's no secret agenda regarding the future of the Niagara Health System's smaller hospitals in Port Colborne, or Fort Erie for that matter.

There is, however, a "non-negotiable commitment" to maintaining "viable and robust" hospitals in those communities, said Dr. Bill Shragge, NHS chief of staff.

And concerns raised to the contrary are "absolutely inaccurate."

"I can't say strongly enough and emphatically enough that the future of the hospital is absolutely not in jeopardy, nor has it ever been in jeopardy," he said. "And let me blunt, there is no nefarious plot."

He was referring to concerns raised by Port Colborne family physician Dr. Christian Proulx, who questioned the health system's commitment to the city's hospital.

"We are committed to staffing a 24/7 ER (emergency department), we are committed to maintaining it and indeed the volumes have steadily been increasing," Shragge said in an interview, Wednesday.

"In terms of the constant care beds (CCU), we have said repeatedly that the actions we are taking, which are temporary - and I emphasize temporary closure of that unit - are being done for patient safety reasons, as a result of the fact that we don't currently have enough nursing staff to maintain that unit in a stable configuration."

He said the health system has been "aggressively" working towards recruiting nurses with the required training for the department.

"The sense that the Niagara Health System has been asleep at the switch is nonsensical," Shragge said.

The health system is well aware of the stress the "amazing staff" have been under in light of the shortage of nurses.

"We have dedicated nurses beyond belief who are working double time, triple time," he said. "And the fact of the matter is we have to recruit into the system to support those people."

Recruitment efforts are already showing signs of success. "We're working with some nurses now and we're very optimistic," he said.

In fact, he said the health system is currently in negotiations with one nurse for Port Colborne "and the hope is that we can begin to get these units back up and running. We are pulling out every stop and we're getting the support."