

canoe.ca

ARE YOU **MOVING?**




Owen Sound | 19 °C | Partly cloudy

# THE SUN TIMES

Careers Classifieds Obituaries Wheels Digital Edition Shopping

News Sports Special Sections Business Arts/Life Multimedia Opinion Video Contact Us

SUBSCRIBE WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2008

SUBMIT JOIN | SIGN-IN  
Community Sports

## Local News

Home News Local News Physiotherapy change called a concern for all



Trailers Cost Less at **SPRINGMOUNT RVcenter**

Articles & Blogs

### Physiotherapy change called a concern for all

KINCARDINE

#### Companies pick up where public health system once served, group says

Posted By DENIS LANGLOIS SUN TIMES STAFF

Posted 1 hour ago

A decision to privatize the Kincardine hospital's physiotherapy department should be of concern to all Ontarians because similar moves are being made across the province, says a public health-care advocacy group spokesman.

Ross Sutherland of the Ontario Health Coalition said the South Bruce Grey Health Centre's move to contract out physiotherapy services provided by the hospital to a private, for-profit company is a reflection of a "very troubling" situation unfolding across Ontario.

"What's happening is sort of a death by a thousand cuts. They drop a physiotherapy service here, they drop a prosthetics program there, they take away a little bit of ophthalmology. They just keep taking bits and pieces out (of the public system)," Sutherland said in an interview Tuesday. "There is an increasing encroachment on the public system which affects access."

The Kincardine hospital, one of four under the South Bruce Grey corporation's umbrella, currently treats in-patients and out-patients in its physiotherapy department with the cost absorbed in its budget. Physiotherapy is covered by OHIP for

those under 20 or over 64 or for anyone requiring it after being released from hospital, but only if the person is treated at one of 80 OHIP-insured clinics in Ontario.

PT Health, the company taking over the Kincardine hospital's physio services, will not operate an OHIP-insured clinic, so all out-patient appointments will be billed to the patient. The South Bruce Grey Health Centre will still foot the bill for patients staying at the Kincardine hospital.

Opposition is mounting against the hospital corporation's decision, as the community rallies to stop it.

An information picket is scheduled for Thursday morning and an online petition has been launched, calling on the health centre to reverse the decision.

Doctors, union officials, health-care activists and residents are speaking out, saying the move creates a two-tier system that discriminates against people without medical benefits or the means to pay for the service.

"If you happen to be a physiotherapy patient in Kincardine, you don't really have equal access to health care now because you have to pay for something or drive to Chesley or Walkerton to receive it for free, which puts them in an unusual and discriminatory situation," said David Cox, an Ontario Public Service Employees Union spokesman.

Hospital corporation chief executive officer Paul Davies said the decision to contract PT Health was "made strictly on dollars and cents" to balance the budget.

While he is unsure exactly how much it will save the hospital, he said additional money will be made through rent fees. Savings will be created through a cut in staff and supply costs. The physio clinic employs a therapist, who will be moved to another South Bruce Grey hospital, and an assistant.

Davies has also said the move ensures a physiotherapist is always available at the hospital.

[Continued After Advertisement Below](#)

Advertisement

Past 7 days - FREE  
UR Grey Bruce  
Archive Information  
Search

**RON DOWNS**  
Sales Representative  
519-376-9210  
519-373-1455  
ROYAL LEPAGE

doug cameron's  
**OWEN SOUND mazda**  
2008 CX-7



CLICK HERE FOR CAREERS



**Jerry Downey's Quikube**  
1665 18th Ave, East  
901 10th St, West  
OWEN SOUND

CLICK HERE



**HOMELIFE**  
BAYSIDE REALTY LTD. Brokerage

CLICK HERE FOR CAREERS



**Ghosts? What ghosts??**  
"If there's something strange in your neighbourhood Who you gonna call? Ghostbusters! If there's something weird and it don't look good Who you gonna call?->br [...]"

**Historic Apology**  
June 11, 2008 will forever be a historic day for Canada. While the Government's apology for the Residential school atrocities will go a long way

**Interest and student loans.**  
The letter to the Editor by Eric Ross on May 5th regarding his student loan, clearly shows the politics that he has been taught by

**Darfur Awareness**  
Not a lot of people are aware that there is a genocide taking place in Darfur as you read this blog. That is a real

**Local Septic Inspections.**  
For the past 10 years I have worked with owners of shore front residences on the south shore of Colpooy Bay, members of Georgian

**The Story of Stuff**  
Apropos to the unfolding Shoppers Drug Mart story and just apropos to the whole story of where we are, where we are going and where

Sign up for the latest, breaking news, weather, sports and more  
Subscribe  
sent right to your inbox!

What are these icons?  
Photo Gallery  
Click here for the icon legend

Calendar

- Today**
- Anishnabe Arts
  - Bluewater Summer Playhouse presents DISCOVERING ELVIS
  - Emancipation Festival Art Show
  - From Slavery to Freedom: African-Canadians in Grey County exhibit at Grey Roots
  - Grey Roots Family Fun



He has confirmed there is a chance a private company will be contracted to provide physio services at the corporation's Chesley and Walkerton hospitals in the future. The total physiotherapy budget across the four hospitals is about \$640,000, he said.

Jill McIlwraith, a local OPSEU representative and acting chairwoman of the union's health-care division, said contracting out physiotherapy puts the "essential service" out of the financial reach of some people.

"If Paul Davies is trying to save his budget then he is doing it on the backs of the community," she said.

Arla Dahmer, a Kincardine resident, is helping to organize Thursday's information picket, which is set to begin at 8:30 a. m. outside the hospital. She said she hopes hundreds of people will show up.

Dahmer said the community is outraged and fear more services will soon go into private hands.

"They're disappointed that they had no input into something as major as this," she said.

Petitions against the move are available at businesses throughout Kincardine and online at [www.ipetitions.com/petition/khkeepitpublic](http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/khkeepitpublic). A Facebook group has even been started. "Keep Kincardine Hospital Physiotherapy Private!" has attracted 42 people in the past few days.

Kincardine doctors Lisa Roth and Gary Gurbin plan to speak to the hospital corporation's board on Thursday, hoping to have the decision reversed.

Article ID# 1135897



Flicks - Daily at 2 p.m.  
Hardwood Cafe Hike



canoe.ca SHOPPING

**Local News Articles:**

- Binge drinking 'out of control'
- Schmidt faces contempt charges
- Physiotherapy change called a concern for all
- Poverty in spotlight at meeting
- Weather the challenge in sailing race
- Weather the challenge in sailing race
- News Briefs
- Binge drinking 'out of control'
- Wright still in Idol race
- Poverty in spotlight at meeting

[More Local News >](#)



Business Name

City

Find a Business

Find a Person

**Physiotherapy Oakville**

Be in Motion Physiotherapy Physio, Massage, ART and Laser  
[www.beinmotion.ca](http://www.beinmotion.ca)

**Physiotherapy Associates**

Get Info on Programs and Degs to become a Physical Therapist  
[GuideToHealthcareSchools.com](http://GuideToHealthcareSchools.com)

**Physiotherapy**

Free Home Visits! Physiotherapy, Occupational & Sports Therapy.  
[www.atherapyhouse.y.p.ca](http://www.atherapyhouse.y.p.ca)

**Physical Therapist School**

Complete college directory of US Physical Therapy training programs  
[AllAlliedHealthSchools.com](http://AllAlliedHealthSchools.com)

Ads by Google

[News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Special Sections](#) | [Business](#) | [Arts/Life](#) | [Multimedia](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Video](#) | [Contact Us](#)

© 2008 , [Osprey Media](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Website Advertising](#) | [RSS](#) | [Report a Bug](#)