Picton location chosen for the rally following ministry investigation of significant issues

By Solana Cain

A small group gathered to air big grievances over children’s aid and foster homes at a rally and candlelight vigil on Family Day in Picton.

A rally and candlelight vigil was organized by Members of Canada Court Watch and the Ontario Coalition for Accountability to protest Children’s Aid Society and to promote the need for government accountability in screening foster homes. The event was held on Thursday, Feb. 21 in Picton. Henrietta Bloomfield looks down at her sign. She says her whole life she has had foster brothers and sisters and oftentimes questioned the decisions made to put them there.

The city of Belleville now has a plan to lower the amount of unwanted batteries that are thrown into the garbage.

The city’s recycling coordinator, Sandra Kielback, says, “This is a long time coming and I believe this new plan will be saluted by people here. You know, it’s good to have a system that’s all ready burdened, “ says Kielback.

The rare cases when a child needs to be placed into a foster home, case workers must handle the situation very carefully. The Ombudsmen of Ontario has the authority to investigate complaints in the course of the administration of a governmental organization.

The Ombudsmen has not interpreted this authority to investigate children’s aid societies which are independent legal entities in Ontario, said Betts.

“CAS in screening foster homes, as reported by The Belleville Intelligencer.”

The rally continued into the night, with a march down Main Street followed by a candlelight vigil.

CAS under spotlight at protest

By Steve McCague

St. Paul’s Anglican Church on St. Paul Street in Belleville has been designated a historical site by the Belleville city council on Feb. 19. The decision is now in its 30-day waiting period.

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“The church dates back to 1874 when St. Thomas Church had its services held here. It is now the only remaining mission church in the Anglican diocese of Ontario,” said Tanya Delaney, chair of Heritage Belleville.

St. Paul’s belongs to the parish of St. John’s Rideau. When the decision was made to build a new St. Thomas Church in the spring of 1874, the committee decided to build St. Paul’s Church, which is still standing today.

“The Picton CAS and multiple CASs in the area kept saying that this was one occurrence, one issue, somebody fell through the cracks and so on,” said Kingston.

“It is our job as citizens to make sure that children can stay with their family always,” said Kartusch. “Clearly it’s time to make sure that children can stay with their family always."

The reality is that we do need child protection. Obviously there are kids that are left in unsafe, or violent, situations that need help. They are getting abused,” said Kingston. "They need help.

If you’re working in a foster home, case workers must make sure that the children are safe and that the situation is handled with great care.

"The situation is that we do need child protection. Obviously there are kids that are left in unsafe situations that need help. They are getting abused," said Kingston. "They need help.

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By Sandra Kielback

The city of Belleville now has a plan to lower the amount of unwanted batteries that are thrown into the garbage.

Sandra Kielback, operations supervisor at Quinte Waste Solutions and her team, have come up with a new program to help Belleville and Thurlow residents safely dispose of unwanted batteries.

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