

CKCS throws up legal roadblock

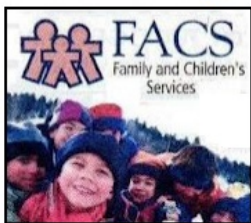


Fixcas Photo from Internet

The woman, who can't be identified because of a publication ban regarding details of her case, said she followed proper process and made an application to the Child and Family Service Review Board. The provincial organization deals with public complaints about children's aid societies across Ontario.

See Pg 2

Free Skating ?



Feb 20, 2012

Members from Canada Court Watch and CAS Ontario will be going out to this event at 3 different locations around Niagara Region to hand out information to the public on how to protect yourself when wronged by the Children's Aid Society's of Ontario. The team will also be collecting names for the Ombudsman Oversight Petition.

PC Party comes to Niagara Falls



Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario is holding its Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers at the Niagara Falls Scotiabank Convention Centre on February 10-12, 2012.

See Page 3



Chris Carter of Canada Court Watch Arrested

February 21, 2012

Source: Chatham Daily News



Photo by PAT NIAGARA

An uneventful protest against the Chatham-Kent Children's Services (CKCS) took an unexpected turn when an organizer was arrested Tuesday afternoon. Chris Carter, a member of Canada Court Watch, was arrested near where a group of protesters was gathered on Grand Avenue West at the roadway leading to the Chatham Courthouse. It's where the Chatham-Kent children's aid office is located.

Lee Bolton, a local member of Canada Court Watch, told The Chatham Daily News Carter was carrying someone's child back to a vehicle for a parent when he was arrested. Two uniform officers and a plainclothes officer took part in the arrest, she said. "They didn't want to say what they were arresting him for," Bolton explained, adding some protesters asked police why Carter was taken into custody. Carter, a vocal critic of the child protection system, arrived in Chatham last month with the intention of helping local residents navigate the legal maze of the children's aid society. Tuesday marked the third protest in Chatham-Kent organized by Carter through Court Watch. The grassroots organization is pressing the province to allow for the Ontario ombudsman to be allowed to investigate complaints against children's aid societies. Attendance at Tuesday's protest was less than the first protest in January. Organizers said a candlelight vigil held Monday night at the corner of Grand Avenue and St. Clair Street attracted about 50 people. Chatham-Kent police told The Daily News a male was arrested near the protest on an "unrelated criminal code matter." However, information about the specific charge laid against Carter wasn't available. Bolton believes the charge has been "trumped up" because of Carter's activities in the community. "He's doing a lot of damage to children's aid, he's exposing them," she said.

Dave Burgess was among the members of the Sarnia-based Canadians for Family Law Reform who attended Tuesday's protest. He said the group came to Chatham to support Canada Court Watch, as both groups have similar issues with children's aid societies. "I'm not surprised to see people start getting arrested because we're starting to get on their case," he said. "They know what we're saying is right and they don't like the attention." Burgess said the attention is "way overdue," noting there are thousands of people across the province using the power of social media to put their issues in the public eye. The Sarnia organization is fighting for anyone with family law issues to have the right to bring in a recording device into their court proceedings. This has been denied at the Sarnia courthouse. "It's an open court, it should be clear and transparent," Burgess said Tuesday. "Anybody should be able to use (a recorder) anytime they walk into a court."

Handcuffed defendant goes into lawyer mode

LAW: Chris Carter held in custody for second night

February 22, 2012

By Ellwood Shreve of Chatham Daily News

It's not uncommon for someone to represent themselves in court, but it's typically not done while standing, handcuffed, in the prisoner's box. Chris Carter, a member of Canada Court Watch, went into lawyer mode in a Chatham courtroom Wednesday. Carter was arguing against the conditions of his release, after being charged Tuesday with personation with intent by the Chatham-Kent Police Service. The Crown agreed to release Carter, who was held in custody overnight after being arrested at a protest rally against Chatham-Kent Children's Services (CKCS). But only if he agreed to certain conditions. The conditions included abstaining from communicating directly or indirectly with CKCS employees - except through the agency's legal counsel - not to attend or be within 100 metres of the CKCS office, and to live at his current residence. "I'm not going to agree to any terms or conditions for bail," the 45-year-old man told the court. "That's my final offer." Carter argued he shouldn't have to agree to any conditions because "you're violating my charter rights. I did not commit any Criminal Code of Canada violation." The statement of facts read into court by assistant Crown attorney Heather McIntyre, outlined how Carter had contacted the CKCS on a number of occasions in January "hassling" staff for information. When Carter went to the CKCS office earlier this month to assist a local resident, the court heard that Carter was asked his name by a CKCS staffer. Carter gave a different name than his legal name, but couldn't produce identification when asked by the CKCS worker. Court heard the worker identified Carter from a photo on the Internet and police were called. Carter demanded that the section of the criminal code for the charge of personation be read in court. "That's really pathetic," he retorted, after the section was read. There was a lengthy discussion between McIntyre and duty counsel lawyer David Sandor, who was representing Carter, about the parameters of a publication ban to be imposed. McIntyre expressed concerns the facts of the case could identify people involved in a children's aid society matter. Sandor could appreciate that concern, but noted Carter believes there is public interest in the matter and wanted details of the allegations reported in the media. Court was recessed for more than an hour Wednesday, to give both sides time to further research the matter. It appeared there was an agreement reached to not include the names of some witnesses, but Carter insisted the publication ban not include the identities of CKCS staff. Before being remanded into custody, Carter demanded a free copy of the transcripts from Wednesday's proceedings and he would prefer to go to the local jail instead of the cells at police headquarters. *More on Pg5*



Chris Carter



Photo by PAT NIAGARA

CKCS throws up legal roadblock

LAW: Judicial review sought by local agency

By Ellwood Shreve,

The Chatham Daily News

A Chatham woman wants some answers from Chatham-Kent Children's Services, but she's facing a legal roadblock to her questions.

The woman, who can't be identified because of a publication ban regarding details of her case, said she followed proper process and made an application to the Child and Family Service Review Board. The provincial organization deals with public complaints about children's aid societies across Ontario.

The review board granted the woman a two-day hearing.

However, the CKCS hired a London-based law firm to seek a judicial review of the decision by the CFSRB, regarding the woman's hearing.

Mike Stephens, CKCS executive director, said he couldn't discuss the matter because of a publication ban, when recently contacted by The Chatham Daily News.

When asked if seeking a judicial review is something the CKCS has done in the past, he said: "It's the first and only time we've done it."

The only other comment he would make is the CFSRB is eligible to receive certain complaints, but "they're not eligible to receive them all."

Now, the matter is set to go to a divisional court where it will be heard by a panel of three judges.

The CFSRB will have a lawyer arguing on its behalf.

The woman said she will likely have to represent herself as she can't afford a lawyer.

And, she readily admits she doesn't have the capability to represent herself.

"I have never been in divisional court before," she said. "I have no idea what they're even talking about."

She is also upset that she will now have to go out of town to deal with the issue.

The Daily News asked CFSRB officials if it is common for a children's aid society to seek a judicial review after the agency has granted someone the right to have a hearing.

An e-mail response was received from Jim Cowan, the designated media spokesperson for Social Justice Tribunals Ontario, of which the CFSRB is a constituent tribunal.

"Judicial reviews happen from time to time as part of the process of administrative law," he said.

He noted all SJTO tribunals receive legal services from the legal unit. Responding to judicial reviews is part of that work and is covered in the budget for legal services, he said.

Neal Haskett has tips when talking your MPP



Internet Photo

Neil Haskett says when taking to your local MPP, dont, make it all about the Children's Aid, make it about every part of the mush sector and why it is we need the Oversight of a Ombudsman.

- 1) Try to keep it as short as possible.
- 2) DO NOT TALK ABOUT YOUR PERSONAL CASE.. It's about what you and your MPP can do to make Ontario a better place for everyone.
- 3) Be very, very respectful even about CAS to your MPP, what you do or say in private. It's up to us to be effective IN PUBLIC to be taken seriously with government, we must remain 100% professional. We know things are bad at CAS but the general opinion for people who have not seen things first hand can often have a hard time understanding or digesting some peoples hatred.
- 4) Talk about CAS, Hospitals and Long-Term Care. Bring up how nothing seems to happen with complaints unless the media gets involved and that's not right. The PC really want to abolish the Local Health Integration Networks (LIHN's) they are just like Child and Family Services Review Board and just as useless..
- 5) If you can't answer a question, remember they understand if you say your not sure or can't remeber and will allow you to get back to them with the information via email or whatever they prefer.
- 6) Say you are happy that the party has supported bringing in the Ombudsman in the past and ask your MPP if they would support and vote to expand the Ombudsman mandate the next time it comes up or even better, if the MPP could bring this bill forward again.

Group Wants CAS Changes

February 21, 2012 - Blackburn News



A group calling for the Ontario Ombudsman to have the power to investigate Children's Aid Societies held a demonstration in on Grand Avenue this afternoon. Chris Carter of Canada Court Watch says the group believes the agency unfairly takes away children from parents, and says information used should be subject to public disclosure.

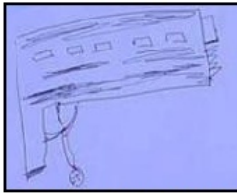
"Ontario spends more on child protection than any other province in the country by far," he says. "Yet the government refuses to make the necessary changes to allow the Ombudsman to investigate Children's Aid Societies." Police made an arrest during while the demonstration was going on and released a statement saying they arrested a 46 year old man near the demonstration on an unrelated criminal code matter.



Canada Court Watch held a fundraiser to help build a Database to track CAS and lawyers breaking the Law in Ontario.

See Page 4

DRAW YOUR GUN



Attila Vinczer asks, Draw a picture of a gun and send it to CAS Kitchener Waterloo. Very simple campaign. Take any piece of paper and draw a picture of a gun using crayons or anything else you can draw with. Draw it as a 4 year old child might draw a gun and send it by snail mail or fax to the Executive director at;

200 Ardelet Ave., Kitchener, ON, N2C and 2L9168
Hespeler Rd., Cambridge, ON, N1R 6V7
or phone: (519) 576-0540 fax: (519) 576-4709 email: inquiries@facswaterloo.org

Be respectful and even call them to let them know how ridiculous their actions were

Open until Saturday, March 31, 2012 at 1:30am



Family Day Free Skate

Another effort to usurp family day is taking place in the Niagara Region, where FACS Niagara has organized a Free Skate Day. The CAS Ontario group, allied with Canada Court Watch, will be gathering petition signatures outside

See Pg. 5

Canada Court Watch members greet the members of the PC Party in Niagara Falls



Members and Supports of a group called CANADA COURT WATCH come together on February 11th and 12th to let the Progressive Conservative Party know Ontario need a Ombudsman. Large Photo: Jessica Pelissero holding a sign that says HOSPITALS NEED OMBUDSMAN OVERSIGHT, Kim Shook in the center whos sign reads ONTARIO NEED OMBUDSMAN OVERSIGHT and Bobbie Gellner Canada Court Watches Spokesperson for Niagara holds LET THE OMBUDSMAN IN. Upper Right Photo: Pat Niagara sends a message form the Ontario people that Ontario Need Oversight by the Ombudsman. Lower Right: Supports and Members of Canada Court Watch outside the Scotiabank Convention Centre.



Photos by CAS Ontario



On February 10th and 11th The Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario was holding it's Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers at the Niagara Falls Scotiabank Convention Centre. Bobbie Gellner of Canada Court Watch says the Progressive Conservatives have supported us in the past and like the Liberal convention before it, this was another opportunity for our members to get the message out to another political party and it's supporters about the need to amend the Ombudsman Act to allow investigations of Hospitals, Long-Term Care Homes, School Boards, Children Aid Societies, Police, Retirement Homes and Universities. This Event is to raise awareness about Ontario being the only Province in Canada NOT allowing oversight of Children's Aid Societies. We demand Ontario's Ombudsman Act be amended to allow investigations of complaints against this public bodies. Then on Saturday, February 10, 2012 members and supporters braved the bitter cold temperatures and snow to rally together again at the Scotiabank Convention Centre and despite the cold temperatures a warm reception was received by many members of the Progressive Conservative party and it's supporters, as many stopped to comment that they indeed were in favour of Ombudsman Oversight.



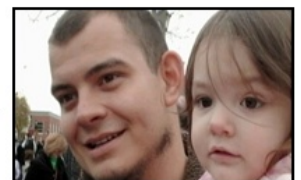
Photo by Youtube

Neil Haskett of Sudbury created a petition for the Ontario People to collect names and hand them into their local MPP. Haskett says Ontario is the only Province in Canada not allowing the Ombudsman to investigate any of these areas and people wronged by these institutions are left feeling helpless and most have nowhere else to turn for help to correct systemic issues. The Ontario Ombudsman who is an officer of the legislature is not allowed to provide trusted, independent, investigations of complaints in to the areas of Hospitals, Long-Term Care Homes, School Boards, Children Aid Societies, Police, Retirement Homes and our Universities. All of these agencies are spinning out of control and costing the Ontario citizens large amounts of money each year and rising. It's time for the Ontario Government to get these services under control and make them accountable.

Crayon Kid Gun Crime - Father arrested for Crayon Kids Crayon Gun Picture

On Wednesday police in Waterloo, Ont., Jessie Sansone, 26, a resident of nearby Kitchener was arrested, when a teacher at his daughter's school voiced concern over the drawing, Insp. Kevin Thaler of Waterloo Regional Police told Postmedia News.

The school contacted Family and Children's Services, which then called police, said Thaler. During questioning, Thaler said the child, along with her siblings, provided police with a "detailed description" of a gun that was stored in the home and was accessed by the children. "The kids were scared," said Thaler. "It is a four-year-old that we're taking the information from, but the fact is that this disclosure was very descriptive and very alarming to the officers investigating this." It was a typical day for Sansone, who had no idea when he arrived at Forest Hills school to pick up his children, including four-year-old daughter Neaveh, that three police officers were waiting to arrest him. Informed he was under arrest for possession of a firearm, Sansone said he never was told the details of why he was being arrested. While he sat in a police cell, Sansone said officers took his wife, Stephanie, who is pregnant, and his four children to the station for more questioning. At some point during the investigation, police became aware that the gun was a toy pistol. "It's a toy pistol," he said. "It's completely transparent. It doesn't even resemble a real gun, at all."



Vander Doelen: Watchdog has bark and bite



By Chris Vander Doelen, The Windsor Star February 2, 2012 Photo by: Jason Kryk, The Windsor Star February 2, 2012

Ontario ombudsman Andre Marin revealed himself as a man of contrasts when he met this week with The Windsor Star's editorial board.

Marin's media clippings paint a picture of a sometimes polarizing, publicity seeking media missile. In his six years as ombudsman to Ontario's 11 million citizens, he's been adept at whipping up headlines as his staff dig up dirt on Ontario's often incompetent and sometimes heartless bureaucracy.

If you've heard of him, you know his office of 90 investigators has exposed the lottery scams that saw convenience store owners ripping off legitimate winners, and the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation's casual cruelty to homeowners overtaxed by its bad computer programs.

Marin says he was expecting to field about 75 complaints about MPAC's flawed property assessments when that problem first cropped up; instead his staff were swamped with 4,000.

Recently Marin made headlines again with his criticism of police chiefs who fail to notify or co-operate with Ontario's Special Investigations Unit when they mess up. In Windsor, that turns out to be quite often.

On the other hand ... well, Marin isn't that much of an outsider, being a career bureaucrat himself. He even looks the part in his mandarin's uniform: finely tailored blue suit, with French cuffs on an expensive shirt which appears to be filled out by gym-buffed trunk.

If it isn't a put-on for the media, I have to admire the tough talk Marin dishes out when he talks about the widespread performance problems he finds in provincial government. They don't get the attention they deserve from an Ottawa-obsessed media.

Marin speaks of our underachieving provincial government in the scathing tones average taxpayers often use when complaining about public services. He slams politicians and senior bureaucrats for being "mealy-mouthed" when he drops a damning report in their laps, rather than looking for solutions.

Government liaison officers, he scoffs at one point, are really just "cheerleaders" for the institutions they work for, not really public liaison officers at all.

Ontario so-called tough rules on open municipal council meetings "are a farce," Marin says - any of the province's 444 towns and cities can simply opt out of them when they please. Naturally, 253 of them have done so. But the rest can't be punished for breaking the rules anyway.

SIU, which he acknowledges has its hands full investigating a mushrooming culture of police errors and coverups, shouldn't be treating its reports "like a state secret," he says. Amen.

And when it comes to problem incidents involving police, current cop culture seems dominated by time-wasting (or is that job-creating?) procedural dances. "Cut all the bureaucracy!"

he says of police reporting procedures.

It is the job of the government of the day to deal with these problems. That would be the Liberal government of Premier Dalton McGuinty.

Except, Marin hints, "there appears to be on the part of government fear of dealing with the police."

Now why would the government fear police forces they are supposed to be in charge of? Are Liberal MPPs afraid of being tagged for traffic violations or for something worse? This is where the other Marin reappears. Despite the gunslinger pose, Marin's tough talk tends to melt away when politically sensitive questions are put to him.

For instance, Marin thinks it's absurd that Ontario is virtually the last province in Canada to bar its ombudsman from investigating the vast MUSH sector of public services: Municipalities, Universities, Schools and Hospitals.

Marin would also like to be able to probe into the operations of longterm care facilities, and possibly child services. Can you imagine the tidal wave of complaints he'd get on health care alone, even without the problems in Ontario's 53 Children's Aid Societies? He would pine for the days of a mere 4,000 complaints.

But Marin doesn't seem ready to pounce on a rare opportunity to have his powers expanded the way he thinks they should be, now that Ontario has a minority government.

A succession of Liberal, Conservative and one NDP government since 1975 have refused to give the ombudsman expanded authority in Ontario.

The NDP and the Tories tried to correct that oversight last year when both parties supported Bill 183, a private members bill to expand the reach of the ombudsman's office. But the Liberals outvoted them.

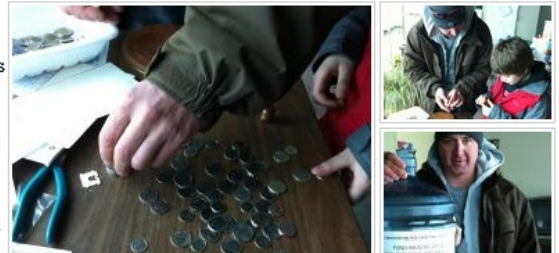
It's the ombudsman's job to get under the skin of government, and by that measure alone the publicity-seeking Marin has been a success.

Now that the NDP and the Tories outnumber McGuinty's minority Liberals, this is the time to ask for those powers again.

Canada Court Watch Fundraising

February 25

Mr. Attila Vinczer and Mr. Chad Wells of Canada Court Watch take up a fundraiser to help Canada Court Watch to help cover the costs of a new Database that



is currently being made to track a number of topics from Childrens Aid Workers and Lawyers. Vernon Beck of Canada Court Watch says this will be the most detailed and comprehensive system to track Children's Aid Workers who break the law, misuse their powers and abuse their clients. Bobbie Gellner of Canada Court Watch got a sneak peek of first draft of the survey that is to be used for this system and has to agree that is going to be a fantastic tool in the fight against the corrupt system.

NEWMARKET PUBLIC MEETING-MATTERS CONCERNING COURT, CAS, POLICE & SCHOOLS

On Saturday, March 3, 2012 at 707 Srigley St, Newmarket Ontario L3Y 1X4 - Phone: 905-895-5481, the Canadian Maltese Charitable Service Trust will be hosting the second annual public meeting aimed at promoting the well being of families. The keynote speaker will be Harry Kopyto who is one of the most well versed and learned men in the world of law and human rights issues. We will be providing various workshops from 12-4pm to help citizens understand various elements concerning law and our rights, especially as it relates to us by CAS (Children's Aid Society). This is a Public Event by Attila Vinczer (Canada Court Watch)

Chris Carter released from Chatham Jail

Thursday February 23 2012

By Greg Holden - Chatham Kent News



Chris Carter was released from custody on February 23, 2012 in Chatham. Photo: danage.com

Thursday at the courthouse in Chatham, Chris Carter held his ground the best he could. Which is to say he held his ground, while being threatened with new charges, while a prisoner and in handcuffs. Carter was armed with legal statutes only memorized, a fearless approach to the court, and a T-shirt that advertised Canada Court Watch. Court officials expected a confrontational bail hearing. On Wednesday Carter had made 4 appearances in bail court and no agreement had been found, but the body of the court had exploded with loud support of Carter as he refused the conditions of his release. No agreement was made and his matter was put over until Thursday. He was before the court on a Personation charge that was laid after his arrest on Tuesday during a protest against Chatham-Kent Children's Services.

Unusual steps were taken for the bail hearing. One court officer spoke with myself and a Canada Court Watch supporter, threatening us with removal from the court's property and said we could not return if we clapped or made noise in support of Carter. The previous day supporters had disrupted the court with cheers and applause. I was not there, nor have I ever considered disrupting a court. Nonetheless because I sat beside a CCW supporter I too had the warning. There was a partial publication ban in place, preventing the reporting of CKCS worker names, which again was not going to happen in the CKReview anyway. A few armed officers stood at the back of the court and in the adjoining hallway. Carter had to remain in the body of the court after his release, until his paperwork had been signed.

Randy Semeniuk, Assistant Crown attorney, seemed impatient as Carter argued from his place of extreme disadvantage. Carter was asked if he accepted the terms of his release, to which Carter relented and said "unfortunately I accept". Carter seemed more concerned about helping other people with their CKCS cases than his own freedom and expressed concerns he would be unable to do so on his release. Arguing with the crown on his conditions, Carter emphasized that he wished to have contact with CKCS workers indirectly, in emails that other families request he writes on their behalf. Carter assists people who have cases before CKCS and uses his legal experience to help them, people are often referred to him. Carter expressed concern that his writing style was unique, and although these cases did not involve Carter directly it would be obvious to Children's Services workers who wrote the document. Semeniuk relented to this condition and included a provision on the conditions that stipulated Carter could have no verbal contact with CKCS employees. While clarifying the conditions, a rattled Miskokomon mis-stated them as "having no contact or verbal contact", when the provision as proposed by the crown was that there be no verbal contact only.

When first brought before the court, Carter was quite defiant and interrupted the crown as he spoke. Sometimes rambling, Carter brought arguments that would normally be brought during the course of a trial and not at a bail hearing. The crown, and the Justice of the Peace Marsha Miskokomon, argued right back and demanded Carter either agree to the terms of his release or not. Carter wanted more clarification however and demanded a "judicial reading", which is a legal explanation of why the terms of his release had changed from the previous day. Miskokomon complied with Carter's request and explained that Carter had refused the previous offer (and it was off the table), and on this day a new Assistant Crown was on the case and was entitled to make a new offer. Previously Carter had the right to speak with CAS, but on this day Semeniuk included that his release include the provision he could not do so. Outside the court Carter remarked "those things can be changed", speaking about possibly having a hearing that could change the conditions of his release.

Carter is next in court on March 2, to set a date or for resolution. After yesterday's proceedings, expect a date to be set for trial.

FACS NIAGARA FREE SKATE DAY



Photo by PAT NIAGARA

On February 20, 2012 members of Canada Court Watch converged on Niagara area arenas at a FACS (CAS) Family Skate Day in order to educate the public and collect signatures for Ombudsman Oversight of the MUSH sector. All totalled over 150 signatures were obtained. Thank You to my members, Bobbie Gellner, Kim Shook, Jessica Pelissero, and Chris York who came out to help collect names for Ombudsman Oversight.

"Unregistered CAS/FACS workers unlawfully working in Ontario" Facebook Group turns 1 year old...



Happy 1st Birthday to the Facebook Group "Unregistered CAS/FACS workers unlawfully working in Ontario" who was opened back on February 27th 2011 by Pat Niagara. The group was started to help people deal with Children Aid problems. Since that point he started a 2nd group "Oversight for Family and Children's Services Niagara (FACS)" to help people in the Niagara Region. He also started a Information Blog CAS ONTARIO with links to all the sites most people need when dealing with the Children's Aid Society of Ontario...

Pat Niagara says he was glad to see it last past its first year and looks forward to moving into the future. Over the past year the group and it's Admins and key member's have helped a number of people, most in the Niagara Region get their Kids back home and have saved a few from falling into the hands of the Childrens Aid Society.

The Candlelit Vigil in Memory of Families Destroyed by CAS and Family Courts.

Family Day



Photo by Pat Niagara (CAS Ontario)

Family Day on Clifton Hill in Niagara Falls a scant few members showed up for a Candlelit Vigil in Memory of Families Destroyed by CAS and Family Courts. Thanks to those who made it out and for the camaraderie. Thank you to Kim Shook, Shannon Horner-Edsal and her son Austin, Jessica Pelissero, Kevin Harris, Bobbie Gellner and Beverly Putt Gilbert, our newest addition.



Photo by Age, danage.com

Monday evening local Chatham Kent residents gathered on the corner of St. Clair and Grand Avenue to hold a vigil in memory of the families ripped apart by Children's Aid Services. In Canada most provinces have a government run Children's Aid Service, in Ontario that's not the case. CAS is a private industry and Chris Carter of Canada Court Watch claims it's one shrouded in secrecy, backroom deals and executives raking in the cash. In a documentary soon to be released through Canada Court Watch a former CAS employee exposes startling issues withing the OACAS, and even claims that babies are being auctioned off to high profile bidders.

On Monday, February 20, is Family Day in Ontario. Events supporting families will take place in:

- Brantford, Ontario
- Chatham, Ontario
- London, Ontario
- Niagara Falls, Ontario
- Oshawa, Ontario
- Ottawa, Ontario
- Saint Johns, Newfoundland
- Sarnia, Ontario



Photo by Jane Scharf

On Family Day those children who are under the so called "care" of the Children's Aid Society will not be having a visit with their family because the CAS has chosen to close their doors on Family Day. So in protest of this disrespect for the families CAS are serving we are holding a public information picket. We will be advising the public that CAS apprehends children without any evidence of abuse or neglect on a regular basis and that the number of child apprehensions have risen 130% since 2002. Large numbers of families are also reporting unfair treatment by the Family Courts. This will be a family friendly protest that will take place beginning at 12:00 noon until 2:00 pm at the underpass corner of Rideau and Sussex.

A candlelight vigil was held for 2 hours in memory of all the lost, broken and destroyed families. Hoping other communities will come out in support of these families. People are asked to hold a green candle at the vigil. Lee Bolton of Chatham says Green represents fertility which is why we have chosen this color. Any and all people are welcome with any color candle. This event took place in a number of City's acrossed Ontario at the same time. Over in Niagara Falls Pat Niagara did a LIVE Video Feed of the event there.

For the most part the weather was nice for a February 20th night. Thank You to all who took part in the Family Day Event.