

Site Representative Interview (2004)

Interviewee: Ken Oke, Usborne Ontario

Threat: Local Hospital Closure

A couple of years ago there was a threat of closing the local hospital. People had initially fundraised to get the hospital in the first place. Over time the hospital was forced to make cuts (surgery and birthing facilities) however they improved the remaining services (emergency). The reason for the closure was because of the inability for people to access full services. People were very concerned about losing their emergency room so they had a public meeting. The meeting had a high attendance of not only local people but also hospital personal and government officials. Employees of the hospital were the ones who initiated the meeting and local governments supported them. It was a completely open forum and the board members of the hospital came with facts and figures showing that the hospital was profitable. Because of the meeting closure of the hospital was abolished. People in the area feel that the emergency room is essential due to the high number of tourists in the area. Because people came out strong at the start in support of the hospital people behind the closure of the hospital gave up relatively easily.