

# Advocacy Update



Nancy Murray and The Maples WI are pleased that they continued to pursue their resolution to clear the name of Steven Truscott. He recently received compensation after all these years of suffering. It is hoped that the support of FWIO was helpful in reaching this happy ending for Steven and his entire family.

A new crime bill, that sees tougher mandatory prison terms for serious gun crimes, stiffer penalties for impaired driving, tougher bail laws, tougher rules for repeat offenders and more was recently passed by the government. Mae Craig and Castleford WI report they are delighted to hear the news since they have been supporting the bill for two years.

Peggy Rogers of Chatham-Kent Area is still seeking action from the Patient Safety Review Committee of the Chief Coroner's Office regarding Adverse Drug Reactions - a follow up of a resolution in August 2005.

Tec We Gwill WI drafted a resolution asking the Province of Ontario to reinstate the Retail Sales Tax rebate program for vehicles purchased or modified for persons with physical disabilities.

Blackstock WI's concerns for residents in long-term care homes in Ontario are now receiving some attention from the Ontario Ombudsman, André Marin. He announced in July that he will conduct a full systemic investigation into the province's monitoring of long-term care facilities - and its effectiveness in ensuring nursing homes meet government standards.

FWIO has recently put their support behind a resolution from CARP to lobby the Government for the purchase and use of PET scans in public hospitals. This is the most up-to-date equipment for diagnosing cancerous cells and other diseases such as Alzheimer's. This is only available in private clinics and is very

costly. Penage Road WI initiated this campaign and encourage you to learn more about it.

I have lots of ideas forwarded to me, however, I encourage your Branches, Districts and Areas to formulate resolutions and send them to me to present to the Provincial Board. Advocacy Manuals are available at the Provincial Office to assist you in preparing your resolutions. I also encourage each and every one of you to take an active role in advocating for the issues that are important to you. Letters from many Members (or their friends and families) can make more of a difference than one letter from me.

Keep up the good work as our organization receives much respect for our facts and opinions!

Pat Salter,  
Advocacy Coordinator

## HOT NEWS

Don't miss the  
Annual General Meeting

### January 6, 2009 • Kempenfelt Centre in Barrie

**\$32 includes: an agenda, Annual Report, muffins upon arrival, unlimited use of beverage stations and a buffet lunch**

(additional pricing options are available for people who wish to join the provincial officers for dinner or for those who will not be eating on site - please review the registration form for full details)

**Officers' Workshops will be held in the same location on January 7**

**Please note: PAID registrations must be received in the Provincial Office by December 17, 2008 in order to meet Kempenfelt's due date for final numbers.**

For overnight accommodations, contact the Comfort Inn at 210 Essa Road, telephone number 705-721-1122, fax number 705-721-8547. Advise that you are with FWIO to obtain corporate rate.

The registration form can be downloaded from the Coming Events section at [www.fwio.on.ca](http://www.fwio.on.ca). It can also be obtained by contacting FWIO by telephone at 519-836-3078.

