

# More help needed for addiction services

*Anna Moscardelli - August 2022*

Oh man, another deadline to meet. Do you ever sit there and say, "there's just never enough time in a day to do everything!" Lately it seems that's all I've been saying. Not sure whether it's me taking on much more or whether I'm lacking in time management? No worries. In the end, it all gets done.

So here we are in August. The sun is shining, the grass is looking a little dry from a lack of rain. The plus side of that, I don't have to cut my grass as much.

So, Sarnia has had a spike in suspected drug-related deaths that has prompted an alert from the Ontario's chief coroner's office.

Over the years since writing for First Monday, I have touched on stories surrounding the issue of drug overdose. In essence, about eight years ago I wrote a series of articles that was called "Sarnia Lambton's innocent drug prescription addiction." It involved reaching out to Mark Dew and Ivan Skinn of the Sarnia Police Department who shed so much light on the issues that were ongoing back then on the amount of overdoses, Terry Brandon Criminal Lawyer who portrayed the many stories of so many good lives that were shattered with something that may have started as prescribing a simple prescription for pain meds required due to an injury or recovery from surgery, the methadone clinic and speaking to individuals who had their family life turned upside down.

Drug addiction or any addiction for that matter is not a simple thing to deal with. Unless one goes through it, people cannot comprehend what it is like to deal with addictions. And that would be with any addiction. Addictions come in all forms. Sometimes it is not the obvious.

It's a wonder how when the media posts a story especially on Facebook how the comments tend to fly. At times I cannot believe some of the remarks. Some are literally disgusting. Do some people not have any sense of realizing that some of their words are damaging? I understand that we are all entitled to freedom of speech however there is a word called KINDNESS. It's ok to speak out, but it can be done with respect. It isn't until it happens to you or someone close to you that one will comprehend what addiction is all about and how hard it is to deal with.

This community has been calling out for assistance that has fallen on deaf ears for so many years. For something to take years on end to come forth is unacceptable. Yet at any given moment, government can make a change or implement things in a heartbeat. Prime examples, the Emergencies Act and even just recently with the outage from Rogers. Those matters were dealt with immediately. So, for government to say, "things take time," you are right yet at the same time prioritizing things is set by the government. When there is public backlash against them, then they move, otherwise they sit quietly and do little.

Let's just hope that this cry does not fall on deaf ears for many more years to come. Sarnia Lambton has had a drug problem for years. Many say, "throw them in jail", however that does not get to the root of the problem.

We need to look at the whole picture. From there, we may bring some calm to the problem.

Anyways time to fly. Have a great month all and enjoy the beautiful weather.