

The following is the "Letter to the Editor" submitted via email on April 18, 2010 to the Globe and Mail.

This response is to Christie Blatchford's April 16th article.

Ms Blatchford does not clearly convey what message she is trying to communicate. My confusion gave way to disappointment since Ms Blatchford obviously took time to research the OPFFA's website for information concerning our Association's political leanings; however she neglected to contact me about our position regarding sprinklers in retirement homes.

The OPFFA does support the installation of sprinklers and this documented position dates back to April 30, 2008. We have clearly communicated and advocated the advantages of sprinklers to this government; however we also caution putting all faith in technology and ignoring the other facets that make up fire safety and protection.

Ms Blatchford referenced a fire in a retirement home in Orillia where four people tragically died. She narrowly focuses on the lack of sprinklers at this property; however she failed to mention the fact that the first arriving fire truck had only two fire fighters on it. I believe many would find this information equally alarming.

The Fire Marshal's Office has yet to release their findings regarding the Orillia fire. The report will identify any Ontario Fire Code compliance issues, whether the approved Fire Safety Plan was implemented, the level of staff training at the retirement home, and finally if the fire service was properly staffed to meet the community's risk.

Unfortunately, Ms Blatchford chose to mislead the public with respect to the OPFFA's position rather than taking a few minutes to contact me and learn the truth.

Respectfully,
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