

Annual Report

South Shore Safe Communities

2010-2011



<http://www.southshore.safecommunities.ca/>

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Annual General Meeting 2010-2011

South Shore Safe Communities

The National Safe Communities Foundation was launched in 1996, spearheaded by Paul Kells, a gentleman who lost his son Sean in 1994 when the highly flammable chemical Sean was working with exploded. It was Sean's third day on the job. He had not received any health and safety training and was not told that what he was doing was dangerous. He was 19 years old. Since then over 50 communities across Canada have become a "designated" Safe Community by the foundation, working towards making Canada the safest country in the world to live, learn, work, or play.

The South Shore of Nova Scotia was designated a Safe Community in 2003 from the National Safe Communities Foundation. We are very proud to be a part of this national organization. Together we share the same vision: To make Canada the safest country in the world to live, learn, work and play- one community at a time. Collectively, the South Shore Safe Communities consist of a very diverse group of individuals and organizations committed to improving the health and safety of our community. This is reflected in our mission, which is: **"To continuously improve the safety of individuals and communities on the South Shore by enhancing a culture of safety and wellness."**

The South Shore Safe Communities Initiative has five main areas of focus. They are: **Healthy Minds** (combination of the former Suicide and Bullying Prevention working groups), **0-4 Falls Prevention**, **Workplace Safety**, **Age Friendly**, and our new **Road Safety** working group. Many positive things have been accomplished in each of these working groups addressing each area of focus over this past year. In this report you will find information pertaining to each working group, such as their goals, membership, highlights of their work over the past year, in addition to their future plans. Information will also be provided on the Leadership Table for the South Shore Safe Communities initiative.

A financial report of South Shore Safe Communities is also included which was gratefully prepared for us by Ken Smith, the treasurer for South Shore Safe Communities.

Leadership Table

Committee Members:

Paul Fynes, chair South Shore Safe Communities
Wendy McVeigh, Director Access and Flow, South Shore Health
Dale Saulnier, Bridgewater Police Department
Beth George, Senior Safety Coordinator, Bridgewater Police Department
John Collyer, Deputy Chief Bridgewater Police Department
Ken Smith, Treasurer Town of Bridgewater
Suzanne Baker, South Shore Health Falls Prevention Coordinator
Brenda Peters, South Shore Health Public Health Services- Community Home Visitor Coordinator
Paula Saile, South Shore Health Public Health Services- Public Health Nurse

Our Goal:

The South Shore Safe Communities Leadership Committee will lead the overall initiative from a broad community perspective and support and guide the work of the South Shore Safe Communities Working Groups.

Our Objectives:

We have recently received the strategic directions for Safe Communities Canada. As a result of this we are now developing a logic model for our Leadership Table in which we will reflect upon this information as well as the evaluation report completed by Beth Bruce. This work is almost complete.

Update for Leadership Table 2010-2011:

This year has been a very good year for the Leadership Table. We have had new members join that possess a passion for injury prevention and are committed to moving it forward in our communities.

- We have solidified key resources, such as a communication strategy, terms of reference, and orientation packages.
- We have amalgamated two working groups (Suicide and Bullying) with similar root causes into one, Healthy Minds. This will help to address issues such as membership.
- We have increased our membership on the Leadership Table
- As a LT we share the work on the group in such a way as to reflect the talents and skills of the members and increase ownership in the initiative
- We have provided support in the creation of a new Road Safety working group. This importance of this topic is reflected in the findings from last years Annual General Meeting.
- We continue to be connected with Safe Communities Canada as well as the other Safe Community Initiatives in Nova Scotia.

Future Plans:

- Continue to review and update key documents

- Provide support to the working groups as required
- Continue to implement communication strategy
- Possibly becoming involved in the topic of Farm Safety
- Make moves towards financial sustainability. There are educational programs through Safe Communities Canada that can be sold to local businesses. A portion of the sale is provided to local Safe Community coalitions.

Workplace Safety Working Group

This working group is currently inactive and is seeking a champion.

0-4 Falls Prevention Working Group

Committee Members:

Suzanne Baker, South Shore Health
 Traci Hatt, Queens Family Resource Centre
 Sarah Blades, IWK Child Safety Link
 Brenda Peters, South Shore Health, Public Health Services
 Carolyn Powers, South Shore Health, Public Health Services
 Debbie Smith, Director, South Shore Family Resource Association
 Lisa Linscott, Red Cross

Our Goal:

To reduce the number of falls in children from 0-4 years, in the Lunenburg/Queens County, that occurs in the home and at play.

Our Objectives:

Presently under review

Update for 0-4 Falls working group 2010-2011:

This dynamic group of individuals continues to work on several projects. The projects include Eye Spy the Safety Fly (preschool safety curriculum), Baby Gate Project and First Aid for New Parents.

The highlights of the last year are as follows:

- Continue to engage in activities that will positively impact upon our long term goal.
- Development of relationships is an ongoing priority for us. We have strengthened our own relationships within our working group and continue to build strong community partnerships with Child Safety Link, Canadian Red Cross, and the South Shore Family Resource Association.
- In partnership with the South Shore Family Resource Association we received financial support from the United Way of Lunenburg County to purchase baby gates for distribution to local families. This supports phase two of the “Baby Gates” program.

- Our working group was one of the partners noted in the application for an IWK Community Grant for funding for safety initiatives in Lunenburg and Queens Counties. This funding supports the following initiatives:
 - A curriculum for “Eye Spy” the Safety Fly- focusing on home safety- was developed and piloted in two child care centers in Queens County. The results from this endeavor have been very positive and we are presently working with community members and organizations to revise and expand its utilization.
 - In collaboration with The Canadian Red Cross and South Shore Family Resource Association we are presently involved in the facilitation of an Emergency First Aid program for caregivers of young children
- Contributed to work on a case for submission to the Good Practice Guide for Children’s Injury Prevention, published in 2011 by Safe Kids Canada, detailing the work of the 0-4 Falls Prevention Working Group – this case will be included at a future date in an online section for further case examples.

<http://www.safekidscanada.ca/Professionals/Tools-and-Resources/Guide/Good-Practice-Guide.aspx>

Healthy Minds Working Group

Committee Members:

Membership during this past year included the following individuals:

Dale Saulnier- Domestic Violence/Community Resource Coordinator, Bridgewater Police
 Shannon Hartlen- Psychologists & ASIST Trainer, South Shore Regional School Board
 Janine Brennan- Psychologist, South Shore Regional School Board
 Sonya Cook- South Shore Regional School Board
 Will Creamer- School Safety Resource Office, Bridgewater Police
 Laura Cormier- RCMP Community Resource Office for Queens

Our Goal: to be determined

Our Objectives: to be determined

Update for Healthy Minds working group 2010-2011:

The highlights for this year are:

- The combination of the suicide and bullying prevention working groups to make one “Healthy Minds” working group. The root causes of both issues are similar.
- Bill Belsey was supported financially to come to the South Shore area and present on the topic of cyber-bullying at two local high schools.

Future Plans:

- Currently this working group is in need of a champion that will bring together individuals passionate in this area of focus.

- The work of this committee should be reflective of the direction government will take to address this topic, and to support or perhaps complement it.
- Stay tuned for upcoming information from this new working group!!

Age Friendly Working Group

Committee Members:

Aubrey Martell- Kiwanis / Senior Wheels
 Averil Crouse- Kiwanis
 Carla Malay- Aging Well Together
 Craig Collins- Chamber of Commerce/NSCC Lunenburg
 Gayle Ogilvie- Seniors Community Health Team
 Kay Davis- Kiwanis
 Leslie Taylor- VON Lunenburg
 Marisa Eisner- Hillside Pines
 Pat Cappello- Kiwanis
 Suzanne Baker- Falls Prevention
 Deputy Mayor, David Walker- Town of Bridgewater
 Deputy Chief John Collyer- Bridgewater Police Service
 Cathy Moore- Councilor, Municipality of the District of Lunenburg
 Beth George- Senior Safety Coordinator
 Albert Crouse- senior
 Shirley Walker- senior
 Warren Croft- senior

Our mission:

To improve the quality of life for seniors in Bridgewater and area

Update for Age Friendly working group 2010-2011:

Activities over the past year:

- Our major focus has been the Senior Friendly program – a business recognition program that teaches organizations how to become more age-friendly
- We have 10 seniors who volunteer to conduct check-ups of facilities to assess them for age-friendliness
- Over the past 2 years we have conducted 31 check-ups
- We have also trained more than 80 people teaching them how to be age-friendly, how to prevent falls, and address elder abuse
- Most recently, we are working with the Town of Bridgewater to work towards becoming an Age-Friendly Community, a provincial initiative led by the Department of Seniors

Road Safety Working Group

This is a newly formed working group under the leadership of Deputy Chief John Collyer. Recruitment of new members is currently the priority.

Appendix A