

Annual General Meeting 2007 **South Shore Safe Communities**

South Shore Safe Communities is an initiative which brings together a diverse group of individuals and organizations committed to improving the health and safety of our community. Our organization received its designation from the Safe Communities Foundation, a national organization dedicated to making Canada the safest country in the world to live, learn, work and play.

Our Mission 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: Bullying, 0-4 Falls Prevention, Off-Highway Vehicles, Workplace Safety, and Suicide Prevention.

Anti-Bullying Working Group

Our Goals are to:

1. To increase awareness about what bullying is and the incidence of bullying in our community.
2. To support existing effective community initiatives that prevent bullying
3. To partner with stakeholders to advance strategies and programs to prevent bullying.

Accomplishments for the 2006-2007 year:

- We are currently gathering information and resources to develop a resource DVD for parents, teachers, and students regarding bullying. This DVD includes:
 - Information on cyber bullying, workplace bullying, and youth bullying
 - The legal aspects of bullying which includes reporting
 - Resources available in the community including contacts, books, websites, videos, lesson plans, as well as programs available.
- The Respect Ed training happened with five schools in Lunenburg/Queens. There are teams of 4-6 students and a teacher advisor working to address bullying issues in their schools.
- The Bullying Group received a grant from the Lunenburg County Community Health Board to support the work of the Respect Ed teams.
- There was a poster developed and posted in computer labs in schools on internet bullying.
- There were some education sessions conducted on general bullying as well as internet bullying at the Program Support In-service last November.

Heather Foote has resigned as chair of this group. We would like to thank Heather for all of her time and dedication over the last year. Krishinda McBride, Coordinator Race Relations, Cross Cultural Understanding, Human Rights, of SSRSB, will be resuming the chair of the Anti-bullying working group.

The next meeting is scheduled for Oct 2nd at the SSRSB. We will be discussing where the group would like to go from here. Anyone interested in the topic is welcome.

0-4 Falls Prevention Working Group **Annual Report**

Our Goal:

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

Falls are a major concern among the 0-4 year age group because their motor abilities develop quicker than their cognitive abilities which results in their inability to determine the risks in their environment. Falls do not usually have a single cause but rather result from a number of reasons that are often associated with the surrounding or environment.

Committee Members; Amy Cross, Suzanne Baker, Crystal Campbell, Brenda Peters Norm Amirault, Traci Hatt.

Summary of Activities;

Curriculum: Utilizing the “Be a Home Detective” video as a template, the group is working with a local individual to develop a curriculum where children can work with their family and/or caregivers to identify hazards in their place of residence.

Home Safety Equipment: Several local Home Hardware stores have been contacted regarding supplying safety items for Family Resource Center referred clients as a corporate initiative. All dealers in Lunenburg/Queens will be discussing this request shortly with staff of Home Hardware’s corporate office.

Also, the Committee is suggesting the Department of Community Services financially support the provision of home safety equipment. Lobby efforts may be necessary to change policy.

Interactive Display: The Committee is working to develop an interactive display that would highlight potential dangers in the home, which could be used at safety days, fairs, and events attracting children and their families.

Workplace Safety Committee

Our goal is to: Improve the Safety of Youth in the workplace.

Our objectives are:

1. Increase the communities' awareness of the importance of improving workplace safety for youth.
2. Involve the youth in meaningful ways in making their workplaces safer.
3. Increase employer, youth, parent and community awareness of and use of existing resources that are effective in reducing youth workplace injury.

2006-2007 Accomplishments:

1. On June 14th, 2007 we presented at the Michelin Safety Fair. This presentation included presenting interesting facts on workplace injuries with a focus on youth workplace injuries. We also talked about local as well as provincial supports in regards to workplace safety.
2. Developed a brochure to distribute at the Michelin Safety Fair which included facts on workplace injury and safety as well as community and website resources.
3. Developed a poster which will be displayed on recycling bins throughout South Shore Health that promotes youth workplace safety. This poster features a picture of Candace Carnahan and the website notworthit.ca
4. Distributed Passport to Safety PIN numbers to the Women Unlimited group who are affiliated with the Nova Scotia Community College, Lunenburg Campus.

Members: Larry Rosborough (Chair), Paul Fynes, Peter Silver, Kevin Morrison, Theresa Hawkesworth, Amy Cross, Karen Brazill

Suicide Prevention Working Group

The Suicide Prevention Working Group of South Shore Safe Communities works towards achieving the goal of: *To work within a best practices framework to address suicide in our community by increasing protective factors, building on existing resources and linking with national and provincial initiatives.* As a group, we spent time this year reviewing and revising the objectives for reaching our goal, and are in the process of finalizing an action plan to see us through the next three years. The objectives we will work towards are:

- Increase opportunities to influence the development of provincial media guidelines related to suicide.
- Build protective factors in persons of all ages.
- Link with mental health and addiction services.

- Identify existing community resources and develop a mechanism to share this with the community.
- Advocate and support provincial action around restricting the availability of lethal means.
- Connect with Mental Health around building supports after hospitalization and out patient support for individuals who are suicidal.
- Support ASIST and SAFEtalk training to help ensure rapid access to services. (Support messages and increase awareness of training).
- Identify what Primary Health Care Providers need to support them with their interventions with individuals who are suicidal.
- Investigate partnerships to share messages to youth.
- Investigate the provincial curriculum and support aspects that align with the committee's goal and objectives.

Highlights of the work in 2006-07 include:

- Participation in several provincial initiatives, including attendance of the release of the *Framework for Addressing Suicide in Nova Scotia*. Several of our committee participated in the Nova Scotia Suicide Prevention Coalition Conference held in Dartmouth in March 2007, and participated in a panel on the achievements of our Working group for the over 80 participants
- We continue to support community leaders and volunteers to take the ASIST training, as funding from the Working Group provides financial support to those who would be challenged to participate otherwise.
- We entered into a partnership with Mermaid Youth Theatre. Director Chris Heide approached the Working Group for financial support for a production called 'The Fit.' We have worked closely with Chris to ensure that the play is consistent with youth best practices for suicide prevention. There have been many significant learning's as a result of this work, and we appreciate Chris' willingness to modify some of the script to reflect the most appropriate approach to this work. To support the production, we have worked with the South Shore Regional School Board to enable some Grade 9 students to see the production in the fall of 2007. We have also developed a resource card to distribute to youth after 'The Fit' is performed, have put together a resource package for teachers and have worked on discussion questions to use after performances to engage youth to discuss any issues they may have. The first public performance of 'The Fit' will be at the South Shore Safe Communities Annual meeting.

Members:

Barb Anderson (Chair), Co-chair South Shore Safe Communities
 Sheila Benjamin, South Shore Health Addiction Services (until August 2007)
 Jean Covert, Canadian Mental Health Association (joined April 2007)
 Amy Cross, South Shore Safe Communities/Public Health Services
 Angela Davis, Suicide Prevention Capacity Development Initiative
 Clare Fancy, South Shore Regional School Board
 Sylvia Knox (until March 2007)

Paula Saile, Public Health Services
Linda Thompson, South Shore Health, Mental Health Services

Off-Highway Vehicle Working Group

Our Goal:

The goal of the Off-Highway Vehicle safety working group is to reduce the number of snowmobile/all terrain vehicle injuries in the counties of Lunenburg and Queens.

The members of the working group come from a wide variety of backgrounds and bring a diverse set of skills and capacities to this work.

Accomplishments this year:

For the most part, the direction that our group was taking was affected by the recent changes in provincial legislation, the establishment of provincial advisory committees/working groups and the increase in OHV management by provincial departments. This was all a very positive and necessary step in the proper governance of OHV use in Nova Scotia. However, since our working group was made up of members who were closely linked with these new initiatives, more opportunities arose to interact daily on OHV injury related issues – making the current work of the committee appear slightly redundant. Since our last meeting, our working group has decided to re-focus our energies on areas that we feel may still be lacking from the provincial initiatives (i.e. youth focused education) and develop new ways to integrate our working group efforts into our communities. For example:

- Our group has been brain-storming ways in which we can move forward with the provincial legislation in regards to OHV use. We have been discussing ways to develop a brochure in order to make the public more aware of this legislation, to translate it into plain language, and to dispel any myths around this piece of work.
- We have also been discussing ways in which to connect with youth around OHV safety – ATV's, off-road motorcycles and snowmobiles.
- Continue to acknowledge that this group is represented by many people that work in various positions around OHV use and this network helps us to share information and discuss multiple approaches to certain issues.

Members:

Laura Barkhouse (Chair), Brian Hatt, Jody Bond, Debby Smith, Kevin Benjamin, Lewis Conrad, Vern Whynot, Wayne Rock

