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On behalf of the Board of Directors and Members,

the Police Association of Nova Scotia

wishes to thank all the citizens and business in Nova Scotia for the support provided to PANS.

PANS appreciates your interest in our magazine and has been proud to have had the opportunity for over 30 years to make this project so successful year after year.

Once again, a sincere "thank you" for assisting our organization with your continued support.

Special thanks also goes to Fenety Marketing Services (Atlantic) for their extreme excellence in professionalism and their hard work in helping to make this guide possible.

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PANS Office Staff & Email Addresses

David Fisher, CEO dfisher@accesscable.net

Linda Redden, Administrator Iredden@accesscable.net

Dorothy Marshall, Controller dmarshall@accesscable.net

Donna Gallant, Legal Secretary donnagallant@accesswave.ca



Police
Association
of
Nova Scotia
PANS OFFICE ADDRESS:
1000 Windmill Rd., Suite 22
Dartmouth, N.S., B3B 1L7

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Front Cover Photo:

On November 30, 2007, PANS Board of Directors presented a cheque to the "Cops for Cancer" Program. Julian Marentette accepted the donation on behalf of the Canadian Cancer Society.

Left to right, the Board of Directors for PANS are: Wilfred Andrews (Director - Annapolis Valley, PANS), Derrah Reid (1st Vice-President, PANS), Wade Keddy (Secretary-Treasurer, PANS), Julian Marentette of the Canadian Cancer Society, Phil Claybourne (President, PANS), Kelly Oickle (2nd Vice-President, PANS), Dale Johnson (Director - Charlottetown, PANS), and Rick Hickox (Director - Colchester County, PANS).

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Thanks to Police Officers throughout Nova Scotia for protecting our communities!







37th Annual Crime Prevention Guide

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J. W. "Joe" Ross



Retired after more than 50 years in Law Enforcement

The story of a lifetime of dedication, achievements and commitment

When Joe Ross stepped down as Executive Director of the Police Association of Nova Scotia over a year ago, we indeed witnessed the end of an era. It seems only fair that we should take a few moments here to recount and summarize a bit of his legacy, keeping in mind it is highly unlikely that we will ever again see his like.

Joseph W. "Joe" Ross was born in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, on March 19th, 1931, the third child in a family of six. In 1939, the family relocated to Halifax, where Joe finished his formal education, at least for that time, at St. Patrick's School.

At the age of 14, Joe signed on as a crewman on the Lady Rodney, a merchant ship engaged in returning war brides from Europe to Halifax. Shortly afterward, he signed on as a mess boy with Imperial Oil and sailed on various tankers in roles of increasing responsibility from 1945 to 1954.

It was during this period that Joe first became involved in labour relations. At 17 years of age, he was selected to represent his ship's crew at consultation sessions during which Imperial strove to find out how its employees felt about their work and what should be done to improve working conditions. This selection was no small honour considering that some of Joe's shipmates had been at sea longer than he had been in the world.

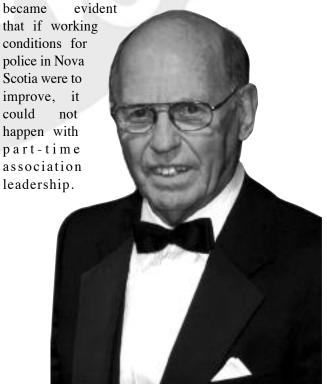
After nearly ten years at sea, and after careful consideration, Joe came ashore and commenced his police career on April 6th, 1955.

It is fair to say that in Halifax in 1955, working conditions in the police world were far from exemplary. The starting salary was in the range of \$1,800 per year and there were no benefits of any consequence. In fact, the police pension plan had recently gone bankrupt, leaving police officers with virtually no security during their working years and even less after retirement.

In 1961, Joe was elected President of the Halifax Police Recreation and Social Club, with dues set at 25 cents per month. This organization grew, in large part due to Joe's efforts, to the point where it became the Halifax Police Association and was finally accepted as the bargaining agent for police officers. Despite this progress, in actual fact, Constables had relatively little influence within the association. Consequently, conditions seemed to improve at a faster rate for senior NCO's and Commissioned Officers than for the rank and file. However, this situation was about to change.

In 1966, there were 32 recognized municipal police departments in Nova Scotia. Acting upon his own initiative, Joe contacted every police force in the province and invited representatives to a meeting to discuss possible solutions to what were seen as very significant problems related to salary, benefits, training, equipment and other common issues across the province. The turnout from throughout the province was overwhelming and at this very first meeting the Police Association of Nova Scotia was formed with Joe Ross as its first President.

Joe was, and is, dedicated to police officers in a way that few people know or understand. Very shortly after the Police Association of Nova Scotia came into existence, it



(continued...)



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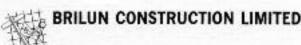


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Therefore, on January 1, 1969, Joe resigned from the Halifax Police Department to dedicate his full attention to the association and its members. Very few of his fellow officers in Nova Scotia were ever aware that for the first few years of its existence, the Police Association of Nova Scotia was able to function only because of Joe's dedication and his willingness to wait for pay cheques that were often a few months late in arriving and his "forgetfulness" when it came to submitting expense claims.

Almost from the time Joe became involved in the policing profession, he campaigned to have legislative changes made which would extend to police officers the same rights enjoyed by other trades and professions. When these changes finally occurred, largely through Joe's efforts, it was he who led the charge to bring Nova Scotia police officers into a new era of respectability and professionalization.

It is fair to say that police labour movements throughout Canada were pretty much in their infancy in the early 1960's with the Canadian Police Association just beginning to grow from a foundation in Western Canada. By this time, Joe had been elected as President of the Halifax Police Association and he lost no time in bringing Halifax into the national association. In 1967, Joe was elected President of the CPA and served in that office in 1967 and 1968. It is interesting to note that even in 2008, 40 years later, there has still never been another President of CPA from east of Ontario. Joe continued to sit as a board member of the CPA for 40 years, many of which were spent in executive positions responsible for sound fiscal management of the organization. His interest and dedication were also major factors in the erection and dedication of the Canadian Police Memorial Pavilion on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

Being thoroughly convinced that the future of policing demanded that officers of all ranks become more professional, Joe made a significant contribution to the professionalization of Atlantic Canadian police officers, serving on the Advisory Council to the Atlantic Police Academy, where his common-sense approach and foresightedness were greatly appreciated and his contributions well received.

As one reads through the foregoing, it would indeed be easy to imagine Joe Ross as a rather one-dimensional person, dedicated solely to professionalization of police officers, but nothing could be further from the truth. Joe has also become a major figure in Nova Scotia as a business and property owner. Of all that he has

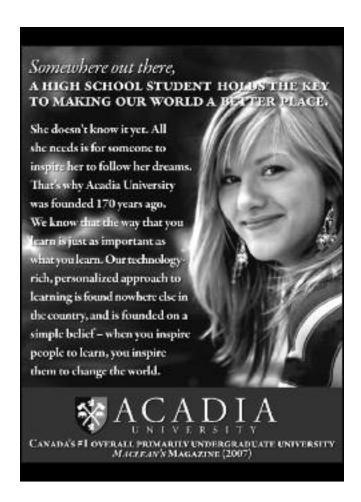
achieved, Joe is most proud of what may be his greatest accomplishment - along with his late wife, he raised eight children, including two sets of twins. All of these young people are successful business operators, thanks to the guidance and support, both moral and financial, provided by their parents.



Mr. Ross and his partner, Aline Young, at the Canadian Police Association's Hall of Honour Ceremony, displaying his award upon being inducted into the Canadian Police Association Hall of Honour.

There is very little in Joe's community which does not bear at least a bit of his stamp as he has left his mark on almost everything he ever became involved in, from property owners associations to minor and junior hockey teams, and everything in between. If Joe saw anything that needed fixing or changed, he quickly took up the challenge but did so while ensuring that all of his obligations to family, friends, co-workers and community continued to be met.

If one were to sum up Joe Ross' life, it could be done in very few words. He has always been an honest man with an amazing capacity for work and getting things done without hurting anyone. If Joe Ross shakes your hand, you have a deal, and it will always be a deal that works for both parties. It was, and continues to be, on this basis that Joe applies his efforts in the business world and in the police labour movement. In 2007, as he reached the end (continued...)









of a police career that has spanned well over 50 years, there was still no deviation from the course.

How many of us truly realize the contributions that Joe has made to policing in Nova Scotia and even in Canada? Were it not for his efforts, many of our police officers would not enjoy the security of a decent pension plan, and a better-than-average medical, dental and life insurance plan. As well, those of us who have experienced the support of the Employee Assistance Plan may have been hard pressed to find such support elsewhere. Even the Annual Crime Prevention Guide that you are reading would most likely not have come into existence but for Joe's vision and leadership. Perhaps, all his other achievements notwithstanding, it may well be argued that police officers in Nova Scotia, after years and years of lobbying, finally were able to replace the "right to strike" with binding arbitration. No longer will police officers in this province be forced onto a picket line to obtain fair compensation and decent benefits, and for this fact alone, we all owe Joe a major vote of thanks.

Most of us realize that Joe's efforts were not limited to Nova Scotia, however, you may not all be aware of the degree to which Joe's financial acumen served the CPA in its business partnerships with CBU Publications and the CI Labour Sponsored Venture Capital Fund; two organizations that have played major roles in providing the CPA with financial strength and stability. Whatever honours may have been bestowed upon Joe throughout his career, perhaps his greatest reward has been his induction into the Canadian Police Association Hall of Honour. This achievement is truly an honour and represents a sincere "thank you" from the legions of police officers, past and present, who have achieved a standard of living and a



Left to right: Cst. Derrah Reid (1st Vice-President of PANS), Mr. Joe Ross, and Cst. Wade Keddy (Secretary-Treasurer of PANS) attended the Canadian Police Association's Hall of Honour Ceremony for Mr. Ross.



Mr. Joe Ross (left) displaying his Award of Honour, and Mr. Dave Camp, a lifelong friend, at the Canadian Police Association Hall of Honour Award Ceremony.

standard of professionalism that would have been all but impossible to imagine had it not been for Joe Ross.

For all that he has accomplished personally, Joe never lost sight of the fact that no one person can accomplish meaningful goals without the support of his or her comrades. In his thank-you remarks after being inducted into the Canadian Police Association Hall of Honour, Joe admonished the delegates in attendance to keep in mind that "You can do nothing alone. Your family, your friends and your colleagues make you what you are. Don't ever forget that."

Joe lives his life dedicated to this belief, and we would all be well advised to keep this advice uppermost in our minds and hearts as we progress through our careers and our personal lives. Joe may be gone from our ranks, but we will never be gone from his heart. We can best express our appreciation for all that he has done by carrying on the great works that he played such a major role in starting and nurturing, and by doing so in concert with our fellow officers and friends.

This may be the end of an era, but the torch has been thrown to us to carry on. We have come light years over Joe's fifty-two years in the police profession, but the struggle never ends. It is up to all of us to see that we continue into the future with the same degree of dedication and honour that we have been taught by Joe Ross, a man among men and a police officer with few, if any, peers.

Joe Ross - a man of passion, ideals, dedication, and achievements.



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From the Publisher





Over the past thirty-six years, the **Police Association of Nova Scotia** has presented a wide range of topics in their Annual Crime Prevention Guide. This **37th Annual PANS Guide** contains important information on many topics already discussed in previous editions, allowing us to revisit these seemingly perpetual societal problems. Our community leaders and our law enforcement agencies are keeping a watchful eye on these ongoing issues in our communities, and are diligent in their goal of keeping our homes and communities safe.

On behalf of the **Police Association of Nova Scotia**, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the businesses who have supported our project by advertising in our publication, and the residential supporters we've contacted through our 2007 Telephone Campaign. **Thank you!**

As always, we welcome your comments or suggestions concerning our annual publication. This unique publication is distributed free-of-charge each year to schools, libraries and public facilities, and it is also available online at the Police Association of Nova Scotia's Community Guide website: http://www.pansguide.com, making it easily accessible to everyone.

Sincerely,

Mark T. Fenety

Mark forly

President

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The Official Opening of the New Bridgewater Police Service



The new facility for the Bridgewater Police Service was officially opened on June 15, 2007 with a gracious ceremony. The ceremony included the unveiling of the name of the structure which will be called the "Shirlen L. Seamone Building," in honor of the former police chief who passed away in 2002 after more than 30 years with the department.



The Bridgewater Police Service displays a new crest and a modern look. This facility was years in the making and is now finally complete. The Community can be truly proud of this



Left to Right:

Aline Young, Cst. Wade Keddy and **Mr. Joe Ross** at the official Ceremony of the opening of the new Bridgewater Police Facility.

Mr. Ross, after more than 50 years in policing, retired as Executive-Director of the Police Association of Nova Scotia in December 2006

major accomplishment in their town. This new building is situated at 45 Exhibition Drive in Bridgewater, Nova Scotia.



Members of the Bridgewater Police Service at the official opening of the new Bridgewater Police Station.

Left to Right:

Sgt. Richard Milbury, Sgt. Alfie O'Quinn, Sgt. Allan Cunningham, Cst. Wade Keddy.



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Annual Law Enforcement Memorial Service



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Representing PANS at the Annual Law Enforcement Memorial Service held in Halifax were members from the Amherst, Charlottetown & Truro Police Associations.



Members from the Kentville and Bridgewater Police Services participated in the Annual Law Enforcement Memorial Service held each year in Halifax at St. Mary's Bascillica Cathedral.



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Canadian Police Association Annual Memorial Service

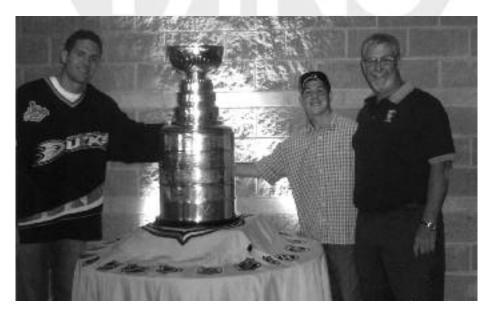


Held in Ottawa, ON



Left to Right: Wilfred Andrews (Director, PANS) & wife Linda Andrews, Cst. Rick Hickox (Director, PANS), Aline Young and J.W. "Joe" Ross, attended the Canadian Police Association Annual Memorial Service on Paliament Hill in Ottawa

"Stanley Cup" Ceremony



Left to Right: **Joe Dipenta** (Mighty Ducks), along with **Bradley Reid** and his father **Derrah Reid**, attented the "Stanley Cup" Ceremony held recently in Halifax. Derrah Reid is a police officer with the Amherst Police Service and is the 1st Vice-President of the Police Association of Nova Scotia.



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20th Annual Scott Zinck Golf Tournament





Derrah Reid (far right) 1st Vice-President of PANS, and **Sgt. Bill Blakeney** (middle) represented the Police Association of Nova Scotia at the 20th Annual Scott Zinck Golf Tournament held in July 2007. Scott Zinck was a police officer who passed away due to cancer at the young age of 27.

New Glasgow Police Youth Program



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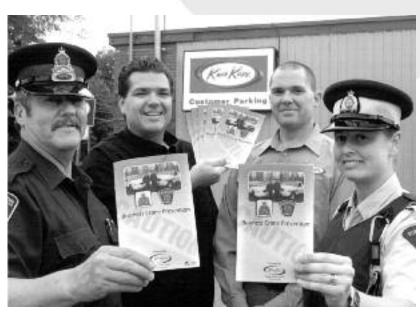
Members of the New Glasgow Police Service, along with **Cyril Lunney from Breakfast Television**, during Operation Christmas in December 2007.

Const. Jason MacKinnon, New Glasgow Police Services, staged a checkpoint along Park Street. Law enforcement agencies cracked down on impaired drivers as part of the kickoff to Operation Christmas.

Sarah Regan - The News

Business Crime

Prevention Brochure



Const. Gary Clow, Charlottetown Police Service; Shawn MacKenzie and Troy MacKenzie, Kwik Kopy; and Const. Denise Weddle. Stratford RCMP, show the new Business Crime Prevention brochure which was donated by Kwik Kopy. The Stratford RCMP and the Charlottetown City Police partnered in the implementation of brochure which was the distributed to all businesses in the Charlottetown and Stratford areas.

> Guardian Photo August 14, 2007

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City Police Donate Car Seats





The Charlottetown City Police Association was proud to donate car seats to Public Health in an effort to promote child safety on Island highways. In the photo are **Const. Gary Clow**, right, and **Const. Tim Keizer** of the Charlottetown City Police. **Michelle Vloet-Miller** of Public Health Nursing accepted the donation. Guardian Photo, October 6, 2007

Teddy Bear Toss



Const. Gary Clow. left, of Police. Charlottetown Citv Pierre-Luc Lessard of the P.E.I. Rocket, Chris Doyle of the Rocket, and Cpt. Reg Campbell of Queens RCMP, were on hand for the annual Teddy Bear Toss on Sunday, Dec. 9, at 4 p.m. at the Charlottetown Civic Centre. All fans were encouraged to bring a stuffed animal to throw on the ice after the Rockets scored their first goal. All teddy bears collected were used by the City Police and the RCMP in their work with sick children in need during the holidav season.

Guardian Photo, December 7, 2007



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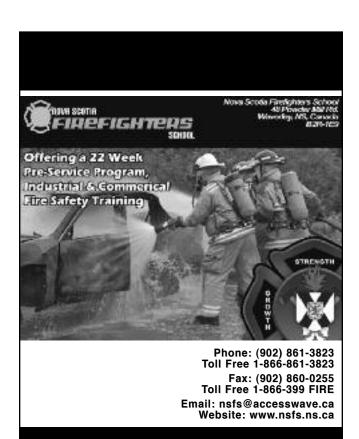
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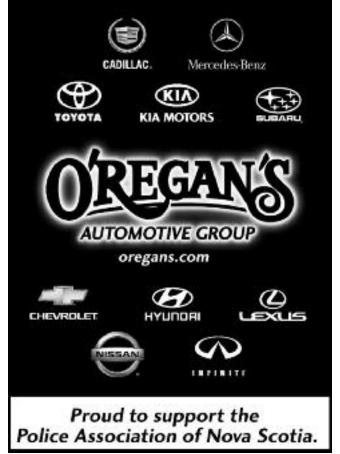


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Our **9**th **Annual Benefit Hockey Game in New Glasgow** held January 23, 2008, raised over \$6,000 in proceeds to support PANS' many activities in the area, including generous contributions made to

Sutherland Harris Memorial Hospital - Veteran's Wing, the Aberdeen Hospital Palliative Care Society and the Tim Horton Children's Foundation.



PANS presented the Tim Horton Children's Foundation with a donation of \$1,000.00 to help send children in the area from economically challenged homes to a Tim Horton Summer Camp.

LAZ-BOY

LAZ

PANS presented the Sutherland Harris Memorial Hospital - Veteran's Wing and the Aberdeen Hospital Palliative Care Society each with a cheque for \$1,000.00.



Left to right: Robert White, Trenton Chief of Police; Delaney Chisholm, New Glasgow Chief of Police; Amby Heighton, Stellarton Chief of Police. The Chiefs of Police attended the opening ceremonies of the 9th Annual Benefit Hockey Game in New Glasgow.



Stellarton Chief of Police, Amby Heighton, drops the puck at the 9th Annual Benefit Hockey Game. Also present, were New Glasgow Chief of Police, Delaney Chisholm (left) and Trenton Chief of Police, Robert White (right).

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Benefit Hockey 2007-2008

PANS All Stars vs Tim Hortons All Stars



With the help of the Tim Hortons All Stars, PANS' 10th Annual Benefit Hockey Game in Wolfville was hosted on February 7, 2008, and raised over \$8,000.00 in proceeds to support many of PANS' activities in the area. PANS was able to make generous contributions to the Valley Regional Hospital Cardiac Rehabilitation Program, the Brain Injury Association and the Tim Horton Children's Foundation.



PANS presented the Valley Regional Hospital Cardiac Rehabilitation Program and the Brain Injury Association each with a cheque for \$1,000.00.



The Tim Hortons All Stars and the PANS All Stars faced off at center ice at the Acadia University Arena at the 10th Annual Benefit Hockey Game in Wolfville.



Finest standing at attention beside his cruiser on the crowd after each Tim Hortons' goal. ice.



Anna Crosby sang the National Anthem at the game. Referee Larry "Magic" Christian, and members of In the background of this photo is one of Wolfville's the Tim Hortons All Stars threw Tim Bits into the

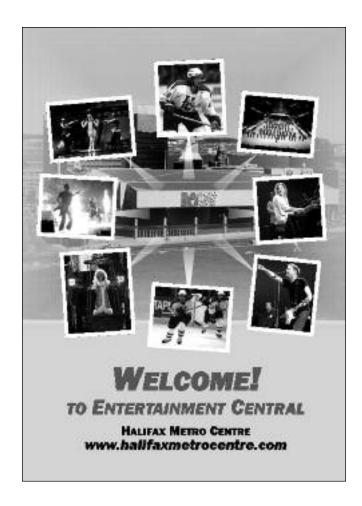
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Benefit Hockey 2007-2008

PANS All Stars vs Tim Hortons All Stars



PANS hosted the 12th Annual Benefit Hockey Game in Halifax on February 21, 2008 at the Halifax Forum. They raised over \$12,500 in proceeds to support their many activities in the area. As a result, PANS was able to make a \$4,000.00 donation to Feed Nova Scotia and a \$1.000.00 donation to the Tim Horton Children's Foundation.





PANS made a \$1,000.00 donation to the Tim Horton Children's Foundation at the 12th Annual Benefit Hockey Game.



PANS presented donation of \$4,000.00 to Feed Nova Scotia from proceeds of their 12th Annual Benefit Hockey Game.

Representatives Nova Scotia Feed dropped the puck at the





Kathy Gilbert and Kyra Fenety, of Fenety Marketing Services, helped to sell Tim Hortons All Stars souvenirs at the game. Proceeds from the souvenir sales went to the Tim Horton Children's Foundation, which sends children from economically challenged homes to Summer Camp.



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Running the Ship at Age 37

David MacNeil sets his sights on a safe Truro after becoming the province's youngest police chief

By CATHY VON KINTZEL

TRURO — An imposingly large, tidy desk and comfortable chair dominate the corner office of Truro's new police chief, David MacNeil.

But Nova Scotia's youngest chief, at 37, isn't sitting there. He's on a nearby couch — relaxed, approachable, and anxious to talk about the town's 36-member municipal police force, including where it's been and where it's going.

"I want to have a very transparent department and to be very open," said the veteran officer who became chief in October after Ken MacLean retired.

"I say, 'Give me a call.' I want to hear from people."

Chief MacNeil's learning curve hasn't been particularly steep. He's been on the force 15 years and became its deputy chief in August 2005.

He inherited the relatively young force — the bulk of members have five to 10 years of service — at a time when it appears to be experiencing strong public support. Several projects focusing on drugs, traffic issues and young people were implemented in the past year under the former chief and appear to have gone over well with residents.

As well, the force was part of a nine-month undercover drug sting that culminated in sweeping raids and nearly 20 arrests throughout Colchester County in September and also helped break up an alleged theft ring in recent weeks. It also appointed an officer this year to work with students at the Cobequid Educational Centre, the region's largest high school.

Chief MacNeil said he intends not only to maintain successful programs but to build on them.

"We need to keep that momentum going," he said. "We have a fairly young, energetic department" but with a "healthy mix" of veterans and newcomers.

"We live here, we volunteer here."

Residents attending a recent round of community meetings said mostly positive things about how things are going in the town but wanted the department to have a higher profile with more street patrols.

Chief MacNeil will launch a new patrol plan in 2008 to ensure that on-duty officers, who always have more than enough paperwork to do, aren't at the station doing it at the same time.



Truro's new police chief David MacNeil stands outside the downtown offices of the 36-member force.

(CATHY VON KINTZEL / Truro Bureau)

The chief's new office is another work in progress. A husband and father, he has family pictures.

"But I still need to get some art up, personalize it a bit," he said, looking around.

A bookshelf beside him holds half a dozen police hats he's collected from contacts in Hong Kong, London, the Philippines, Poland and elsewhere. It's a hobby for the graduate of J.L. llsley High School in Halifax, who got a double degree in sociology and criminology from Saint Mary's University and went on to graduate from the Atlantic Police Academy on Prince Edward Island. He did his on-the-job training in Halifax and got his first job in Truro.

Chief MacNeil also comes from a family of police officers — he has five cousins in the service in Nova Scotia and Alberta.

Nova Scotia has 12 police chiefs, two heading the larger regional police forces in Halifax and Sydney and others in small-to-mid-sized communities.

Truro also has a new chairman of its volunteer police board, Allen Bruce, and a new deputy chief, Jim Flemming.

"We're doing a good job," Chief MacNeil said. "But I also want to hear when we're not."

(cvonkintzel@herald.ca)

As originally published The Chronicle Herald





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New Chief for New Glasgow

By MONICA GRAHAM

NEW GLASGOW - A veteran officer has taken over as police chief in New Glasgow.

Delaney Chisholm, who became deputy chief in 2002 and was named acting chief after Lorne Smith retired in July, assumed his duties Wednesday.

Originally from Heatherton Antigonish County, and an Atlantic Police Academy graduate, Chief Chisholm began his career 34 years ago with the Pictou County Regional Police, which was formed to serve the towns of Trenton and New Glasgow but later Delaney Chisholm disbanded.

Promoted to corporal in 1975, he was appointed detective in 1983 to serve with the major crime unit. The job took him across Nova Scotia as an undercover investigator working on drug crimes and stolen property offences.



In 1989 he was promoted to sergeant in charge of a platoon and in 1999 he became a detective-sergeant, heading the major crime unit.

In 2002, the year he was appointed deputy chief, he was also made officer in charge of the police emergency response team.

Throughout his career, Chief Chisholm continued his professional development by studying administration, leadership management, executive development, major crime case management and emergency measures at the Atlantic Police Academy, Canadian Police College and Dalhousie University

(Contributed) The biggest challenge in rural areas is keeping police officers on staff in a competitive industry, said the new chief, adding that he plans to maintain existing connections with other police agencies and the community.

(m graham @herald.ca)

As originally published The Chronicle Herald, September 13, 2007

Share the Road

Motorists will be getting used to more cyclists sharing Pictou County roads with them, including East River Road in New Glasgow where a share the road sign has been posted. With her bicycle is Ruth Mitchell, who began a two-year term in July as an active communities co-ordinator on behalf of the Pictou Regional Development Commission. Part of her mandate is helping Pictou County Bikeways, a commuter and recreational cycling project. The initiative has designated 270 kilometres of bike routes in Pictou County and more than 60 kilometres of commuter routes that connect Pictou County's five towns. With her are Constable Ken MacDonald of the New Glasgow Police Service and Sherman Knight, New Glasgow's transportation supervisor.

> (Goodwin photo) The Advocate, November 21, 2007



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The SHC and CIC will be putting on an Anger Control Train-the-Facilitator fall 2007! Please contact the CIC for more information at (902) 404-7800.

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Technology Helps Save Life

Police revive senior thanks to portable defibrillator

By **BEVERLEY WARE**

BRIDGEWATER — Town police saved a 79-year-old woman's life here Thursday morning because the department bought defibrillators for its police cars.

"They did a good job," Sgt. Alfie O'Quinn said of the three officers who worked together to save a woman who had a heart attack and crashed her car into a retaining wall. "Their training kicked in and the officers recognized right away what they were dealing with."

The police department bought four automated external defibrillators — one for each of its cars — four years ago. Det. Const. Trevor Mitchell was the original proponent of the plan and was one of the three officers involved in saving the elderly woman's life.

Det. Const. Mitchell had been a paramedic before he joined the town's police force and did the research to determine which one the department should buy.

Bridgewater is the first municipal police department in Nova Scotia to buy portable defibrillators for its police cars and was able to do it because of a donation from the local legion.

Only one other department in the Maritimes — Miramachi — had them at the time. Bridgewater Police Chief Brent Crowhurst said he wanted the units because police officers are often the first on scene in an emergency.

And that's exactly what happened Thursday morning.

Sgt. O'Quinn said Const. Ward Beck was on foot patrol when he learned of the accident at the corner of Dufferin

and King streets at 9:24 a.m. The woman was driving her car down the Dufferin Street hill when she went across the oncoming lane and hit a wall.

A pedestrian on the sidewalk managed to get out of the way.

An officer in his patrol car rushed to the scene, picking up Const. Beck on the way.

"Const. Beck right away got her out of the car" and Const. Jennifer Russell got the defibrillator — called an AED — from her car and set it up, Sgt. O'Quinn said.

Det. Const. Mitchell arrived and put the two electrodes on the woman as Const. Russell performed CPR. The unit charged up and then Det. Const. Mitchell hit the orange button that sent a shock into the woman's body.

The unit analyzed information on the woman's condition, relayed it to the officer on the digital screen and the machine indicated whether she needed to be shocked again.

She did and the officers repeated the procedure.

Paramedics arrived moments later, the woman's heart began beating again and they rushed her to South Shore Regional Hospital, where she was listed in guarded condition Thursday afternoon.

(bware@herald.ca)

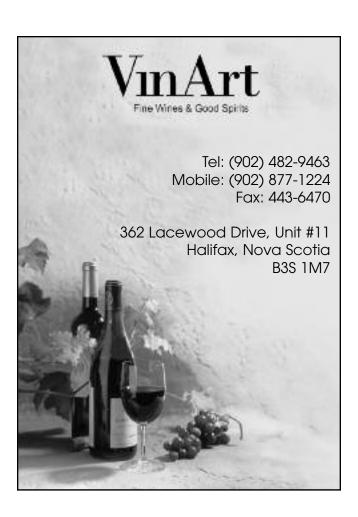
As originally published The Chronicle Herald March 23, 2007

Kids 'N' Kops

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pictou County and New Glasgow Police Service are gearing up for the fall recruitment of volunteers for the 11th annual Kids 'N' Kops program. From the left, front, are 'Littles' Jarred Crossman and Justin Guthro. Middle: 'Littles' Daniel Mason, Ryan Roach, Kimberley Daniels and Desiree O'Donnell. In back are: sponsor and Big Brother Lawrence Mason of Mainstay Security Services and Investigation, BBBS of Pictou County executive director Margie Grant-Walsh, sponsor Howie Anderson of ClBC/Wood Gundy, and Const. Ken MacDonald of New Glasgow Police Service.

Submitted photo, August 13, 2007







Rewards for Major Unsolved Crimes Program

The Department of Justice is offering cash rewards of up to \$50,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for specied major unsolved crimes. Individuals coming forward with information will be expected to provide their name and may also be called to testify in court.

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Cops Tracking Some Schools

FBI-developed system to help police stop crime, respond faster in New Glasgow

By MONICA GRAHAM

NEW GLASGOW — Students returning to school here this week are a bit safer thanks to an emergency response and crime prevention system introduced by town police.

The two-prong system involves a database of school activities and a detailed collection of information on each school in the town that will improve response time when there's a school emergency, as well as identify potential problems before they develop into undesirable activity, said community policing officer Const. Ken MacDonald.

Schools across Nova Scotia are in varying stages of introducing emergency response initiatives, he said. New Glasgow's FBI-developed database is called School COPS, an acronym for software named School Crime Operations Package that has proven successful in the United States, Const. McDonald said.

It took almost two years to key data into the program, so that the software keeps track of police visits to the schools, whether in response to problems, or for presentations and other proactive roles.

The programs record the location and times of problems like schoolyard fights, and collates the data so police and school personnel can take steps to prevent them, Const. MacDonald said. "It's a school crime reporting system strictly a resource so we can target problems effectively," he said.

If the data shows that most fights take place in the parking lot after school in early October, steps can be taken to prevent the circumstances leading to the incidents. But without the hard data, staff and police may end up paying extra attention to an issue that doesn't need it, while a problem goes unaddressed, he added.

"School criminal activity has not changed in terms of frequency over past years, it's just different," he said, adding that horrifying events like murders at Columbine, Colo., Tabor, Alta., and Montreal schools spurred the project forward.

The second part of the New Glasgow program is a comprehensive emergency response plan, similar to the School Action For Emergencies program developed nationally by the RCMP.



New Glasgow police Cpl. Joe Dipersio studies the force's new school emergency response system, now operational after months of preparing data and keying it into police computers.

(MONICA GRAHAM)

Police catalogued floor plans for each school, aerial photos of the school and surrounding properties, locations of heating ducts or fuel tanks, and a myriad of other information tidbits to provide a complete image of the building's exterior or interior in the event of an emergency.

Whether the emergency is a fire, chemical spill or intruder, police have plans ready — backed up with hard copies in case of a power outage — to evacuate students, handle the problems, inform parents, provide medical care and other responses.

"This is the police end. Chignecto-Central schools have the Zero to 30 program that tells staff what to do in an emergency until police arrive," Const. MacDonald said.

Police don't want to waste time during an emergency looking for a key to open a particular door, or trying to reach a particular official, so that kind of information should be available beforehand, he said.

"Planning is crucial to minimizing confusion and saving lives, and it allows us to deal with emergencies more effectively," he said. "The interesting thing about this is that every school is different, and we have a system that can deal with every specific or published

The Chronicle Herald September 2007

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Police put lifelines in vehicles

By **DEBBIE HARVIE**



Const. Ken MacDonald and Const. Nicole Martin holding the new 100-foot lifeline, a recent addition to every marked New Glasgow Police Services patrol car.

(Harvie Photo)

New Glasgow Police Services has invested in new safety lifelines for all marked patrol cars, five in total.

The lifelines cost roughly \$50 a piece but can "add precious seconds or minutes as a first responder to saving a victim," says Const. Ken MacDonald of New Glasgow Police Services.

Police are usually the first responders to a scene and since New Glasgow has the East River running through it, New Glasgow Police Services took the initiative to be proactive and purchase the lifelines in the event that someone falls into the river or through the ice, which can be very unstable due to the tides.

The lifelines are "well worth the money as an extra tool for patrol officers," said MacDonald.

The lifelines vary in size, from 80 feet to more than 100 feet long.

They can be deployed by a single officer (trained on how to use the device) who may have spotted someone in danger and is awaiting aid from fire and rescue, the ultimate team to respond to such a situation.

The rope is slipped around the wrist of the officer and then the orange bag is tossed to the victim in the water. The victim must be conscious in order to grab the bag, wrap the strap around their wrist, and be pulled into safety.

The bag also has a soft end on it so that it can act as a flotation device, but also not cause injury to the victim if they are struck with the bag.

The lifelines increase the chance of a successful rescue and New Glasgow Police Services are the first police service in Pictou County to obtain these life-saving devices. (debbi@pictouadvocate.com)

As originally published Pictou Advocate, January 9, 2008



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New Glasgow Police Favour Taser, Other Reviews Mixed

By **SEAN KELLY**

NEW GLASGOW — Police in this town say they are still confident that the use of a Taser is an effective, safe means of force. In other municipal departments, it's a mixed reaction.

New Glasgow Deputy Chief Eric MacNeil said it's considered a level-two force, in the same category as pepper spray or a police baton.

And, unlike the other two, he said the Taser doesn't have a lasting effect. He points out, however, that police will first use communication as a means of dealing with a subject.

"We view the Taser as an intermediate weapon. We see it as a very useful tool, for public safety first and foremost and for police officer safety."

"It's an alternative to using level-three force, which would be your firearm. Because, really, if someone approaches a police officer with a weapon in hand — and the officer has nothing to combat or to respond to that, if he didn't have a firearm," MacNeil said.

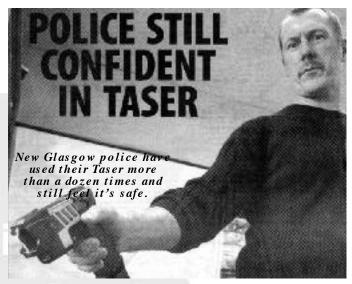
"We feel that it's a safe method of use of force. We think it's safer than getting into a physical struggle with a subject because of the possibility of the subject and the police officer being injured."

Police in New Glasgow have had a Taser since 2004. Sgt. Steve Chisholm, the department's use-of-force instructor, said it was first used in 2005. Since, he said police have unholstered the Taser 15 times. Of those times, it was discharged 13 times, "Either the probes were deployed or it was used in the touch method." Often, he said, the presentation alone is enough to gain complain compliance.

Six officers carry the device, MacNeil said, the shift supervisors, who are either corporal or sergeant rank. Every officer to carry one has had training.

Additionally, members of the Emergency Response Team have had training in how to use a Taser and MacNeil adds more officers are likely to be trained in their use in the future.

He wouldn't say whether or not the Oct. 14 incident, which led to the death of Polish immigrant Robert Dziekanski, will change their policy towards use of a Taser. The department's current use policy is very similar to that of Halifax, where a number of the New Glasgow police officers received their training.



Sgt. Steve Chisholm discharges a Taser at the New Glasgow Police Department. Police in New Glasgow say they feel confident the Taser is still an effective police tool. Stellarton police have Tasers, but haven't had to use them, while the baton, pepper spray or Taser, he'd ultimately have to use his other two municipal departments haven't purchased them.

Sean Kelly - The News

And Chisholm points out that it isn't policy that dictates use of force, it's the perception of the officer who is confronting a subject.

"All policy is, is a guideline for how it is to be used, but the decision is always based on perception."

In Stellarton, Police Chief Amby Heighton said Stellarton police acquired Tasers about a year ago. About five or six officers carry them. And, so far, they haven't been used.

In the wake of the incident in B.C., Heighton said he's debating the future use of the Taser in the department.

"I'm debating it right now," he said.

But, at the same time, he said the officers that use them are confident in their use.

In Westville, Chief Don Hussher said the department doesn't currently have a Taser. Although some the officers in the department are trained, he said "we were considering them, but basically, we haven't gone down that road yet."

In Trenton, Chief Bob White said the department doesn't have a Taser either. It was an option, he said, but for now White said he's going to watch how the public inquiry unfolds."

"Until some of this gets straightened out, I won't be purchasing one."

> As originally published The News



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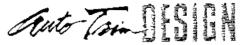








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Cop Wakes Boy as Flames Shoot out Roof

New Glasgow officer banged on door at 5:45 a.m. until sleeping teen answered by Monica Graham



A tarp-covered hole next to a blackened chimney and blistered paint along the eaves of this New Glasgow house are the only exterior signs of a Saturday-morning fire that made the home uninhabitable.

(MONICA GRAHAM)

NEW GLASGOW — The quick action of a local police officer is credited with getting a boy safely from his burning house early Saturday morning.

The unidentified officer was patrolling near the New Glasgow courthouse about 5:45 a.m. when he noticed smoke and flames coming from a house on the opposite side of the East River, said police spokesman Const. Ken MacDonald.

He called the town fire department and went directly to the Albion Street house, where flames were shooting from the attic.

The officer, who didn't know whether anyone was home, kept banging on the front door until a teenage boy answered.

The 16-year-old, who had been asleep downstairs, was home alone and unhurt.

The fire appears to have started in an old flue serving a wood and oil furnace, said Fire Chief Russ Mosher.

The liner cracked, and flames leaked through the bricks to ignite rafters in the attic.

Firefighters had to tear down an up-stairs ceiling to gain access to the flames.

Fire damage was contained to the upper portion of the house, but the lower floor sustained water damage. The flames left a gaping hole in the roof, and the home will need extensive repairs before it can be lived in again, Chief Mosher said.

The Red Cross responded to help the boy, whose mother was out of the province at the time of the fire.

He has gone to stay with neighbours temporarily.

The agency also supplied the boy with food and clothing vouchers, a service it offers through its volunteers and donations, said Bill Campbell, Nova Scotia regional director of the Red Cross.

(m graham @herald.ca)

As originally published The Chronicle Herald December 23, 2007



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Protecting Those on Thin Ice

New Glasgow police add ice rescue kits to their everyday equipment by Sarah regan

NEW GLASGOW - Police are taking extra precaution this winter by installing ice rescue kits in all of their patrol cars.

As of this week, each of the New Glasgow Police Services' five vehicles will be equipped with an 80-foot throw line contained in a floatable and reflective bag.

"A lot of the time we are the first emergency responders on scene," said Const. Ken MacDonald, New Glasgow Police Services. "This device gives us a couple of extra minutes until the fire department can get there, which could, in turn, help save a life."

MacDonald says the decision to purchase the kits was prompted by reports that there were people walking across the ice on the East River last year.

The rescue kit can also be used for open water rescue, and will remain in the patrol cars all year long.

"It's very simple to use," MacDonald said. "You just throw the rope to the person in distress, they hold on and the bag acts as buoy."

The Canadian Red Cross commends the New Glasgow Police Service for taking this extra precaution.

"With the recent fluctuation in weather, it is unlikely there is an ice surface in Nova Scotia that is currently safe enough for use," says Aileen Nauss, technical/program associate with the Canadian Red Cross.



Const. Chris Pitts, New Glasgow Police Services, uses one of the department's new Life Line Kits to demonstrate proper ice safety procedures.

Sarah Regan - The News

"It's such a good idea for police to have this, especially in Nova Scotia."

Nauss reminds the public that the colour of ice can indicate whether the surface is strong enough to walk on.

"Clear blue ice is strongest," she said. "White ice, which is formed by wet snow freezing on the ice, is half as strong as blue ice.

And grey ice is unsafe. The greyness indicates the presence of water."

As originally published

The News, January 2, 2008



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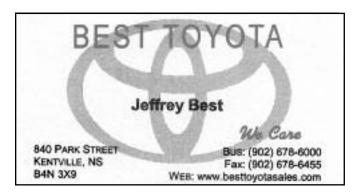
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Lockdown Drill Trains Kids to Handle Emergencies

By MONICA GRAHAM

NEW GLASGOW — It was halfway through morning classes at North Nova Education Centre in New Glasgow, and none of the high school's 900 students could be seen.

The darkened classrooms were locked and silent, and no movement — not even a glow from a computer screen — could be seen through the windows.

No one answered when police tapped authoritatively on classroom doors.

Offices, hallways, cafeteria and common areas were deserted.

And that's the way it should be in a lockdown, said Const. Ken MacDonald of New Glasgow police, who launched Wednesday's "code blue" drill, the school's first this term, to simulate the entry of a dangerous intruder.

Both students and teachers have to be trained to respond quickly, he said.

"They lock the door and close the drapes, and you can't see into the classrooms," he said.

Lynn MacLean, family of schools supervisor for the Chignecto-Central regional school board, echoed the officer's description.

"If I'm an intruder and I come down looking for people, I can't find anyone," she said.

Minutes after the lockdown was called, police and school staff finished patrolling the building and pronounced the site all clear.

As if by magic, classroom lights switched on, doors opened and staff and students emerged from their hiding places.

Before a half-hour had passed, the drill was a memory — except for police and staff, who would pore over every aspect to look for ways to improve.

In-school safety used to mean annual fire drills, but campus violence, beginning with the Columbine High School shootings in Colorado in 1999, changed attitudes about student security, said Const. Mark Young of Halifax Regional Police.

"That was the turning point for all of us, right across North America," said Const. Young, who is also the 'Students have to feel safe. Drills make students feel safer because they know what to do. They don't panic.'

> CONST. MARK YOUNG Halifax Regional Police

provincial school safety adviser in charge of developing security protocols for Nova Scotia schools.

The most-feared school violence, involving a stranger-intruder, is the least likely to happen, but drills based on that scenario makes a school more ready to handle other threats, ranging from violent acts by its own students to a power outage.

"The more it's practised; the more second nature it becomes," Const. Young said, adding that the North Nova model is similar to others in Nova Scotia but tailored to its unique circumstances.

Lessons from North Nova's exercise can help other jurisdictions and vice versa, he said.

Student safety involves both prevention and response, but it's impossible to stop people from entering school buildings, he said.

Instead, teachers and students need to be able to identify and assess potentially threatening behaviour.

"Students know a lot of the time when incidents are going to take place," he said, adding that sharing the information would protect schoolmates and teachers, and get help for the perpetrator.

The nature of youth violence — whether it's increasing or decreasing, or whether girls are more involved than boys — is mostly about perception, Const. Young said.

"If fear is increased, we have to address that.

"Students have to feel safe," he said.

"Drills make students feel safer because they know what to do. They don't panic."

(m graham @herald.ca)

As originally published The Chronicle Herald October 11, 2007



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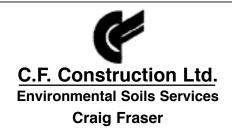
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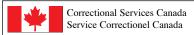
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Truro School Adds Cop to Staff

By The Canadian Press

TRURO — There's a new face at Nova Scotia's largest high school and she carries a badge and a gun.

Const. Karen DeGroot is the first school resource officer for the Truro Police Service and Cobequid Educational Centre.

"I think initially the students were kind of shocked to see a police officer there," DeGroot said in a recent interview.

"But I think ... they're becoming accustomed to seeing me walking around the halls."

The 10- year veteran of the force is not at the school because criminal activity is running rampant.

"We have over 1,600 students in this school," said principal Rosalie Stewart-Fisher.

"The majority of our students are law-abiding citizens that are here for an education. Academics come first and they see her as just part of the staff."

Deputy chief Dave MacNeil said it is a proactive approach to policing.

"We're there to enhance the safety and security and to have a positive learning environment for the kids," he said.

Stewart-Fisher is pleased with how well the program has gone.

"I give the Truro Police Service full credit for picking an officer who is student-centred and someone that gets along well with the students," she said. "We see Karen as a very positive role model."

MacNeil and Stewart-Fisher had spoken last year about such a partnership before funding from the provincial government was made available through the safer



Const. Karen DeGroot is the first school resource officer at Cobequid Education centre in Truro, the province's largest school.

communities initiative. A request was submitted to the Department of Justice and approved.

When the position was posted, De-Groot jumped.

"I really think, for me, it was the challenge," she said. "It was going to be something totally different for me from being on patrol."

DeGroot will assist with Class presentations such as law and journalism, is on the student advisory council and safe grad committee and will help foster relations with the student body by providing an open door policy.

But she is still a police officer, a responsibility she takes seriously.

"I have to enforce the law if I see a criminal offence," DeGroot said.

Students have asked her if she felt it was necessary to carry a gun in school.

"This is part of my uniform. Part of being a police officer is I have a gun," she said. "It's not situational. It's who I am as a police officer."

As originally published The Chronicle Herald, October 6, 2007

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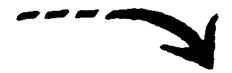
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Electronic Eye on Vandals

Surveillance system installed after damage at veterans park

By **BEVERLEY WARE**

BRIDGEWATER — A small copper plaque sits atop a larger one honouring 33 men and women who died in the Second World War. Etched on it is the name Cpl. Paul Davis, the first to be added to the cenotaph since 1946.

The 28-year-old former Bridgewater resident died in Afghanistan on March 2, 2006. His name joins those of 101 other Bridgewater-area men and women killed in the two world wars.

Four granite pillars around the cenotaph in the Veterans Memorial Park honour those who fought in conflicts in Europe, Korea and the Persian Gulf.

The local legion has spent \$200,000 over the past four years creating a "lovely park" said Roger Purnell, who chaired the legion committee overseeing the refurbishment. Toddlers run on the grass, seniors sit on the benches and high school students have impromptu picnics.

"It's now become a major park in the middle of town but it still holds that wonderful remembrance for the fallen."

Skateboarders use it, as do courting youngsters, and Mr. Purnell thinks that's just wonderful. "We've created something that's living."

The park has been vandalized, too. Four brass nameplates were stolen from benches and have to be replaced at a cost of about \$1,500 each. The most recent incident was just before Remembrance Day when three beer bottles were smashed against the cenotaph.

But if anything like that happens again, it'll be caught on tape, thanks to a video surveillance system bought by some retired RCMP officers.

The South Shore district of the RCMP Veterans' Association received a \$15,000 federal grant to buy the system.



Surveillance cameras watch over Veterans Memorial Park in Bridgewater.



Bridgewater police dispatcher Susan LeBlanc keeps an eye on Veterans Memorial Park. Local retired RCMP officers received a grant to install a surveillance system.

"When you're in the RCMP they always told us to get involved in the community," said Dave Waterhouse, and that's something the 80 retired Mounties from Chester to Shelburn want to continue.

Many of them also give back as members of their local Lions and Rotary clubs, legion and churches, said Mr. Waterhouse, who retired nearly 10 years ago after almost 30 years service.

The retired officers worked with the local legion to install the system late last fall. Images are fed into the Bridgewater police headquarters, where they are monitored 24 hours a day.

"We have enough cameras to cover the whole park," said Mr. Waterhouse.

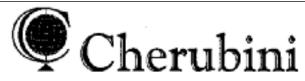
Bridgewater Police Chief Brent Crowhurst said he thinks the system is a good deterrent. "We've not had any problems since it was installed and hopefully those who are prone to such acts are aware there is video surveillance and it's being fed to the police dispatch centre live and monitored."

Police have the same setup at the Bridgewater Mall and at the Bridgewater and Parkview high schools. "We haven't had to rely on it but if something happens there's a record of it," Chief Crowhurst said.

And if police get called to an incident at either of the schools, they can check the video cameras and know what they're dealing with before they get there.

(bware@herald.ca)

As originally published The Chronicle Herald, January 23, 2008



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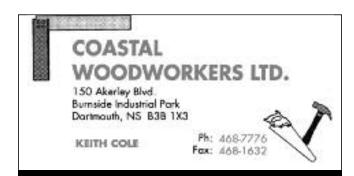
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Retiring Police Chief Gets Warm Sendoff

MacLeod roasted by colleagues from across Canada

By LAURA FRASER

SYDNEY — Police brass from across the country showed up in Sydney on Saturday to salute one of their own.

Politicians and lawyers joined the blue bow ties for the gala evening marking Cape Breton Regional Police Chief Edgar MacLeod's official send-off.

"I was really humbled and honoured," the departing chief said Sunday, despite the good-natured roasting he endured at the hands of several mischievous colleagues. "It was light-hearted ... I never really take myself too seriously."



Cape Breton Regional Police Chief Edgar MacLeod will retire from the force at the end of January.

(LAURA FRASER/Cape Breton Bureau)

initiative as examples of how police can be a community partner rather than just the arm of the law.

"There's been a major change in attitude in our police officers (and) they've embraced the notion of really getting a hold of community ... and working together."

Chief MacLeod has made the force understand that policing is about crime prevention as much as it is about law enforcement, Mayor John Morgan said Sunday.

Chief MacLeod will officially turn the reins overs to Associate Chief Dave Wilson at the end of January, but the force is already preparing for his departure to the Atlantic Police Academy in Prince Edward Island.

"I think we've built an adaptability for change," Chief MacLeod said. "Twelve years as a chief of police is abnormally long. You need new energy (and) new vision for organizations.

"And the change also has to be for myself. I have to look for new challenges to keep motivated."

Chief MacLeod has been at the helm of the 180-member force since its amalgamation in 1995. During that tenure, he said, he focused on collaborating with other organizations within the municipality.

He cites the drug rehabilitation partnership, school liaison officers and a recent crime prevention

"He's aware that the seeds of criminality are sown in the areas of the community that are not functioning well" and tries to address those underlying issues, Mr. Morgan said.

The chief weathered a rocky transition, however, when the public vehemently objected to the amalgamated force taking over municipal policing duties from the RCMP. The public wasn't confident that the new force was large enough or had the proper training to cover the entire municipality, Chief MacLeod said.

"That was a huge challenge. We had to address that perception and do more training ... and regain public confidence."

Chief MacLeod will be sworn in as executive director of the police academy at Holland College on Tuesday.

(lfraser@herald.ca)

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Making Communities Better Place Key Goal of Police Academy Leader

Edgar MacLeod first academy graduate to become institution's executive director

By MIKE CARSON - THE GUARDIAN

SLEMON PARK — Making communities a better place to live is at the forefront of the goals of the Atlantic Police Academy's new executive director.

Edgar MacLeod, a 35-year veteran of police services, was last week officially named the new head of the Atlantic Police Academy at a ceremony at Slemon Park.

MacLeod said the duties of police in this day and age go beyond dealing with crime and criminals.

They also involve eliminating those elements within a community that breed crime and that happens in the development of young officers.

"For me, training and education, the opportunity to shape the minds of young recruits, that is just a tremendous opportunity for me to be involved," MacLeod said following the ceremony.

"This is what it's all about for me, trying to influence the new officers that will be going out into our streets."

MacLeod cited three areas that work together to build on serving the public — community, leadership and teamwork.

"That's what it's all about," he said.

"It's not about the police or the institution, it's making the communities a better place to live. These recruits have a tremendous opportunity when they graduate to go out and reach out to people, to help people, to work in teamwork with other officers and with the community. Really and truly, that's what it's all about. That's the



W J.R. (Mac) Macdonald, right, former Summerside police chief and the founding director of the Atlantic Police Academy, presents Edgar Macleod with the police academy's executive director's badge during a recent ceremony at the academy. Macleod, who graduated from the academy in 1973, is the first graduate to be named executive director of the institution.

Guardian photo by Mike Carson

"It's not about the police or the institution, it's making the communities a better place to live. These recruits have a tremendous opportunity when they graduate to go out and reach out to people, to help people, to work in teamwork with other officers and with the community. Really and truly, that's what it's all about. That's the message I want to get loud and clear."

Edgar MacLeod, Atlantic Police Academy executive director

message I want to get loud and clear."

MacLeod wants to create partnerships and work with the leadership within the community.

"As much to be tough on crime but also to be tough on some of the underlying issues associated with crime," he said.

"Poverty, the lack of proper recreation and work with the communities to do those things so that we're actually altering the conditions where crime would otherwise breed if you don't have good recreation, if you don't have literacy and good education, good health services. This is about a collaborative approach and bringing it all back to one thing, one common denominator — it's about the community."

MacLeod graduated from the Atlantic Police Academy in 1973 in Squad 4 and is the first academy graduate to be named executive director.

After graduation, he went on to a storied police career with the Charlottetown, Shelburne, New Waterford and Sydney departments before becoming the first chief of the Cape Breton Regional Police Service.

He is past president of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and has received numerous awards including an honorary doctor of law degree from Cape Breton University.

(summerside@theguardian.pe.ca)

As originally published The Guardian, January 28, 2008



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Canada's Drug Strategy - Straight Facts About Drugs and Drug Abuse

What are the Harmful Consequences of Drug Use?

Drugs can be considered harmful when their use causes physical, mental, social, legal or economic problems.

Not all drugs are equally hazardous. Drugs sold legally in Canada for medicinal purposes are generally considered safe when taken according to the directions on the label. However, some of these drugs may produce unpleasant side effects even when used under medical guidance. Drugs obtained illegally are more likely to be hazardous; their effects are much less predictable and potentially dangerous. Many drugs are harmful when used in large doses, or in combination with other drugs.

Safety Hazards

Most psychoactive drugs can reduce physical coordination, distort the senses or impair memory, attention and judgment. These effects can lead to serious safety risks, especially if the person who uses the drugs drives a vehicle or operates machinery. Many road injuries and fatalities are caused by drivers intoxicated by alcohol or some other drug or combination of drugs. Also, effects such as reduced physical coordination and impaired judgment can lead to falls and other serious accidents. People who have taken alcohol or other drugs are often unaware of the extent of their impairment.

This makes the risk that much greater.

Physical Health Problems

All psychoactive drugs have effects other than those for which they are used, and some of these can be very damaging to physical health. Smoking marijuana or tobacco, for example, can cause lung damage. Alcohol abuse can cause liver damage. Sniffing cocaine can damage the inside of the nose. People who inject drugs by hypodermic needles can get infections such as hepatitis or HIV.

Mental Health Problems

Some drugs can cause short-term confusion, anxiety or mental disturbance ("bad trips"). In the longer term, drug abuse can result in personality disturbances, learning problems, and loss of memory, and can contribute to mental health problems. A person who turns to drugs as a way of avoiding normal anxiety and sadness may be establishing a pattern of behaviour that can be hard to break. Many people who use drugs in this way come to believe that they cannot function normally without drugs. People with histories of serious emotional or mental health problems may also turn to drugs as a way of coping with unpleasant feelings. Also, experience of physical or sexual abuse is common among people with alcohol or other drug problems.

Violence and Crime

Use of drugs is sometimes associated with violence and crime. Although, alcohol or other drugs do not cause violence, both the victims and perpetrators of violence may be using certain drugs. Date rape is one example, where the effects of benzodiazepines or alcohol may put the victim at increased risk for such violence. Two drugs, Rohypnol (flunitrazepam) and GHB (gamma-hydroxy butyrate) have been associated with date rape because their effects incapacitate the victim and make the person unable to resist the sexual assault. Because they are colourless, odourless and tasteless, the victim may not be aware that the drug has been deliberately added to their drink.

People may also commit crimes in order to make money to buy drugs, and drug problems are frequent among criminal offenders.

Tolerance

Tolerance means that, over time and with regular use, a person who uses drugs needs more and more of a drug to get the same effect.

Tolerance increases the physical health risks of any drug simply because it can result in increased drug use over time. Tolerance also increases the risk of dangerous or fatal overdose, for two reasons.

First, the body does not necessarily develop tolerance to all the effects of the drug to the same extent. Long-term use of barbiturates, for example, causes a person to become tolerant to the mood-altering effect of barbiturates, but less so to their depressant effect on respiration. When this happens, the dose required to achieve the mood-altering effect may be dangerously close to the lethal dose and death can result from respiratory failure.

Second, if a person has not taken the drug in a long time, the expected tolerance may actually have decreased. So, after a long period of abstinence, the size of the dose the person had previously become accustomed to may actually be enough to cause a life threatening or fatal overdose.

As people age, physiological changes may mean they need less of a drug to get the same effect.

This result may be compounded if their liver or kidneys have been damaged by chronic disease.

Physical Dependence

Physical dependence occurs when a person's body becomes so accustomed to a particular drug that it can only function normally if the drug is present. If people who use drugs drastically reduce their level of use or stop using the drug

(continued...)

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142 South Albion St. Unit 200 Amherst Center Mall Amherst, N.S B4H 4H4 Ph :(802) 657-1592 Fac: (902) 651-9649 f.kcompulers@ns.allantzino.ca abruptly, they may experience a variety of signs and symptoms ranging from mild discomfort to seizures. These effects, some of which can be fatal, are collectively referred to as "withdrawal."

Withdrawal symptoms are often opposite to the effects produced by taking the drug, e.g. when a person stops using a stimulant drug such as cocaine they may become depressed, need to sleep a lot, and have increased appetite when they awaken. To avoid the discomfort of withdrawal, the person who uses drugs may start to use again or feel unable to stop using the drug. Not all drugs produce physical dependence, but they may still be abused because the person who uses drugs becomes psychologically dependent on the drug's effects.

Psychological Dependence

Psychological dependence exists when a drug is so central to a person's thoughts, emotions and activities that it is extremely difficult to stop using it, or even stop thinking about it. A strong desire or craving to use a drug may be triggered by internal or external cues such as the end of a meal for smokers or seeing injection equipment for people who inject drugs. Like physical dependence, psychological dependence is a cause of continued drug use. An individual may be both psychologically and physically dependent on a drug.

Overdose

An overdose of any drug is a dose that can cause serious and sudden physical or mental damage. An overdose may or may not be fatal, depending on the drug and the amount taken. Dangerous overdoses are more likely to occur in people who have developed a tolerance for some effects of a drug more than others, those who return to drug use after a long period of abstinence, or those who use drugs illegally and have no way of knowing the exact potency of what they are buying. Sudden increases in the purity of some illegal drugs (e.g., heroin), have resulted in unintentional fatal overdoses.

Hazards of Using Drugs Illegally

Using drugs illegally has its own set of risks. People who use drugs that have been obtained illegally can never know exactly what they are taking. Dealers may not know (or reveal) exactly what they are selling. Some drugs are laced with other drugs or chemicals, or contaminated by fungi or moulds, that can be harmful. Often one drug is sold in place of another, e.g., PCP sold as LSD. As a result, many bad drug reactions, including fatal overdoses, have occurred. People who use drugs heavily may use any drug that is available at the right price.

As well, people who regularly use drugs illegally, particularly people who inject drugs, are at increased risk for a range of health, legal and social problems.

Combining Drugs

Many drugs become more dangerous when they are mixed. People may combine drugs intentionally to enhance the effects, or to counteract undesirable side-effects, or they may use a hazardous combination of drugs without intending to do so. For example, they may take sleeping medications after drinking alcohol without being aware that using these drugs together is hazardous. Even if the person is aware that mixing drugs is dangerous, they may do so anyway. Today a mixture of heroin and cocaine is a common example. People who use drugs illegally may mix drugs unknowingly because they do not know what they are taking.

Many drugs taken together have the potential to interact with one another to produce greater effects than either drug taken by itself. Or, the combination of drugs may produce a new or unexpected effect. For example, alcohol, opioid analgesics (like codeine), barbiturates (like Seconal®) and benzodiazepines (like Valium®) are all depressant drugs. When taken alone, they can cause relaxation, disinhibition, loss of coordination and sleepiness. If these depressant drugs are taken at the same time, these effects are increased. Such combinations may result in confusion, injuries from falls, depressed breathing, coma and death.

Some antidepressants and many drugs taken to treat epilepsy, nausea, allergies and colds also have depressant effects. When taken with other depressants like alcohol, they can dangerously slow or stop breathing. Alcohol can also interact with common medications for heart problems, blood clotting disorders, fungal and bacterial infections, and diabetes, either making them less effective or producing unexpected and undesirable effects.

Although classed as a stimulant, cocaine can also cause irregular and shallow breathing. Taking cocaine with heroin, a depressant, increases the risk of death from respiratory depression.

Combining drugs may also seriously impair a person's ability to operate a motor vehicle or other machinery.

Legal Problems

A drug-related conviction can have serious consequences for the individual. The conviction may result in a fine or prison sentence as well as a criminal record. Having a criminal record may restrict employment opportunities and travel outside the country. A subsequent conviction may result in a harsher sentence.

Athletes who use a substance that is banned by their local, provincial, national or international sporting organization may be convicted of a doping infraction. This may result in being banned from participating in sports and may also have consequences for their future career opportunities.



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When Does Drug Use Become a Problem?

Drug use becomes a problem when use of a drug results in negative consequences for the person who uses the drug. These may be physical, mental, social, emotional, legal, economic or environmental consequences. When a person continues to use a drug despite negative consequences to him or herself or to other people such as family, friends or employer, this use is often informally referred to as drug or substance abuse. Other terms used to describe drug use associated with negative consequences include "misuse", "dependence" and "addiction". As well as being used informally to describe the negative consequences of drug use, the terms "abuse" and "dependence" are also used by professionals in classifying substance-related disorders, e.g., drug dependence, alcohol abuse.

"Drug or substance misuse" is generally used to describe drug problems that are less serious or longstanding or, in some cases, inadvertent, such as not complying with prescription medication instructions.

When used informally, "dependence" refers to when a person who uses drugs feels unable to function without taking the drug. Dependence may be either psychological or physical or both. Dependence includes continued use of the drug despite adverse consequences and usually, but not always, the presence of tolerance and withdrawal symptoms.

Although the term "addiction" is no longer used as a medical diagnosis, it is still commonly used to describe a range of compulsive behaviours, including drug abuse and gambling problems. It is also often used to describe specialized services (as well as related policies and activities) for people with drug abuse problems.

Drug abuse can result in increased risk of health problems such as illness, injuries and physical damage to the body or death.

Drug abuse can result in personal problems such as loss of motivation, or physical and/or psychological dependence, problems at work or school.

Drug abuse can result in family problems like strained and unhappy family relationships and family breakdown.

Drug abuse can contribute to social problems like increased crime and traffic crashes.

Drug abuse can also result in financial costs to society for things like health care, crime or lost productivity.

Sometimes even the use of a drug for medicinal purposes can cause problems. These problems may occur because of side effects from the medication, or because the drug is used for too long, at the wrong dosage or because the person does not use it as directed.

Different Types of Drug Problems

Drug problems can develop for a variety of reasons and from use of any type of drug.

Using Drugs Too Much

Use of a drug can cause a problem if too much of the drug is taken at one time or if the drug is taken too frequently.

These problems may include immediate consequences such as unpleasant side effects or even a harmful or fatal overdose. Other problems may take some time to develop, such as needing more of the drug to achieve the same effect and becoming dependent on the drug.

Some medicinal drugs can have a beneficial effect if taken at the correct dose for that person, but cause problems if too large a dose of the drug is taken or if the drug is used more frequently than prescribed. In the same way, a drug like alcohol may not be harmful if taken in moderation. Many of the problems caused by alcohol result from drinking too much at one time.

Using Drugs for Too Long

A drug can cause problems if it is taken regularly for a long period of time. Some medicinal drugs, like pain killers, as well as drugs taken to aid sleep or reduce anxiety, can cause problems if they are taken after they are no longer needed. For instance, people who use drugs may have difficulty stopping use of the drug because they have become dependent on it.

Taking Drugs for the Wrong Reasons

A drug can cause problems if it is taken for the wrong reason. A common example is using alcohol as a way of coping with unpleasant feelings, rather than drinking as part of a social or celebratory occasion.

(continued...)





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Taking Drugs Without Following Directions

Taking drugs without paying attention to label directions and warnings can also lead to serious problems, especially with drugs that can impair driving performance and drugs that should not be mixed with alcohol. Taking a drug prescribed for someone else is another example of not following directions as a prescription label designates that the prescription is for a particular individual. Also, taking less than the prescribed dose of a drug or stopping its use too early can result in problems.

Combining Drugs

A drug can cause problems if it is taken in combination - either knowingly or unknowingly - with certain other drugs. Some combinations can produce unwanted and unexpected effects. Using alcohol with a benzodiazepine increases the likelihood that the person who uses the drugs may feel increased effects such as drowsiness, dizziness and confusion. Other combinations, like barbiturates with alcohol, can cause death.

Extremely Dangerous Drugs

With a few drugs, like PCP (Angel Dust), and inhalants such as gasoline, the potential dangers are extremely

high and there are no legitimate human uses. These drugs can cause serious problems no matter how or when they are taken. With such drugs there is no difference between use and abuse. To use them is to abuse them.

Commonly Used and Abused Drugs

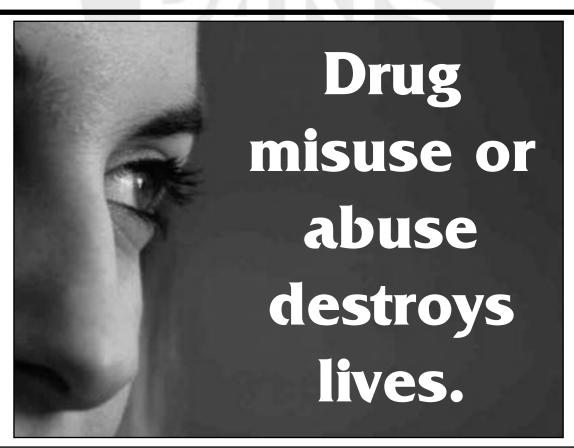
Caffeine is the most commonly used psychoactive drug in our society. However, alcohol and tobacco are the most widely abused drugs by both young people and adults. Abuse of these two drugs results in enormous costs to both the individual person who uses drugs and society. Among smokers, those who begin smoking as adolescents often become regular, lifelong smokers. Smoking and heavy drinking are major causes of health problems and premature death among Canadians, and they result in enormous costs to both the individual and society.

Illegal use of drugs is more common among adolescents and young adults than other age groups. Several surveys have found that as many youth report using cannabis in the past year as tobacco. In contrast, use of medication to aid sleep or reduce anxiety is more common among seniors than other age groups.



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Drug Laws in Canada

Drugs in Canada are regulated under the *Controlled Drugs and Substance Act*. Offences under this act include: possession and trafficking or possession for purpose of trafficking.

Penalties under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act

Substance	Possession	Trafficking or Possession for purpose of trafficking
Cannabis (ex: marijuana)	30 grams or less: up to 6 months imprisonment or \$1000 fine or both	3 kilograms or less: imprisonment up to 5 years less a day
	More than 30 grams: imprisonment up to 5 years less a day	More than 3 kilograms: up to life imprisonment.
Cocaine	Up to 7 years imprisonment	Up to life imprisonment.
Ecstasy	Up to 3 years imprisonment	Up to 10 years imprisonment
GHB	Up to 3 years imprisonment	Up to 10 years imprisonment
Heroin	Up to 7 years imprisonment	Up to life imprisonment.
Ketamine	Up to 7 years imprisonment	Up to life imprisonment.
Methamphetamine	Up to 7 years imprisonment	Up to life imprisonment.
Psilocybin	Up to 3 years imprisonment	Up to 10 years imprisonment

Youth

Young people who commit offences under this act can be arrested and charged, and can get a criminal record, subject to the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

In 2006, 6,382 young persons between the age of 12 and 17 were charged with a drug offence. Among them:

- 4,737 (74%) were charged with a cannabis offence;
- 794 (12%) with a cocaine offence; and
- 851 (14%) with other offences.

For more information about the Youth Criminal Justice Act including information about youth records, contact the Department of Justice Canada.



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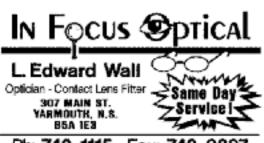


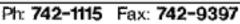
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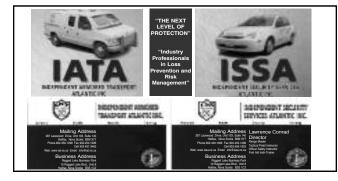
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Signs and Symptoms of Drug Use

What are the signs that your teen is using drugs? These are not easy to detect because they often overlap with very common teenage behaviours such as changes in sleeping habits, changes in hobbies, and changes in mood or attitudes. So, are there more specific things to look for?

Although they may not necessarily be signs or symptoms of drug use, keep an eye out for signs of depression, withdrawal, carelessness with grooming or hostility. Other signals might be changes in school performance, ability to socialize with friends, or active engagement in sports or other activities.

Things to watch for:

- Changes in friends
- Negative changes in schoolwork, missing school, or declining grades
- Increased secrecy about possessions or activities
- Use of incense, room deodorant, or perfume to hide smoke or chemical odors
- Subtle changes in conversations with friends, e.g. more secretive, using "coded" language
- Change in clothing choices: new fascination with clothes that depict drug use
- Increase in borrowing money
- Evidence of drug paraphernalia such as pipes, rolling papers, etc.
- Evidence of use of inhalant products (such as hairspray, nail polish, correction fluid, common household products); Rags and paper bags are sometimes used as accessories
- Bottles of eye drops, which may be used to mask bloodshot eyes or dilated pupils
- Missing prescription drugs--especially narcotics and sedatives

This list is meant to provide you with behavioural cues that something harmful could be occurring with your teenager - and it may involve drugs. If you think you see some or many of these changes occurring in your teenager, you may want to consult resources such as your family physician, pediatrician or your teenager's school counselor. Continue to talk with your teenager about your observations and ask them for an explanation about what may be causing these changes in behaviour.

Tips on Avoiding Drug Use

Here are two ways to avoid drug use:

- Refusing drugs
- Avoiding drug situations

Refusing Drugs

It can sometimes be difficult to say no to friends or peers without offending them. Here are some tips on refusing drugs.

- Be Polite, But Firm
 - ♦ You can be clear that you don't want to use drugs without telling others that their decisions are wrong. It can feel good to stand your ground when you know you're right. And you could earn more respect from other friends who also want to avoid drug use.
- Give Reasons. There are lots of reasons why people don't use drugs. Here are some common ones:
 - ♦ I don't want to.
 - ♦ I don't feel like it.
 - ♦ I have asthma. (Or bronchitis, or any other health problem that could be made worse by drug use.)
 - ♦ I have to be home soon and I don't want to get in trouble.
 - ♦ I have to go to work soon.
 - ♦ I don't have any money.
- Talk About What's Important to You
 - ♦ Drugs interfere with the other parts of your life. Things like sports, relationships, music, family, work, school or other activities. Pick something that's important to you and tell people you don't want to mess it up by using drugs.

Avoiding Drug Situations

Drugs are more likely to be present among certain groups of people and in certain locations. Here are some tips on reducing the chances of being offered drugs.

- Hang out with people that are less likely to use drugs.
- Spend time in places where you're less likely to encounter drug use.



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Substance Abuse Issues

Substance Abuse: A basic understanding

What do we know about substance abuse?

Substance abuse comprises more than illicit drugs-- as you will see, there are higher social and economic costs associated with alcohol and tobacco than with illicit substances.

- Substance abuse negatively affects the safety and quality of life in our communities.
- Substance abuse prevention is crime prevention.
- A balanced approach to prevention and treatment must include enforcement.
- Well-informed Canadians help us in making our communities safe and healthy.
- Substance abusers deserve effective treatment.
- Police are making a difference through partnerships with education, social services and health agencies.

Police have a role to play in preventing substance abuse, as well as in communicating the reality of its causes and impacts. Substance abuse is frequently a symptom of larger social problems, and only through education can we attempt to highlight this issue.

As police officers, we have a responsibility to work in co-operation with agencies who address the social and economic roots of substance abuse.

The causes and effects of substance abuse are as varied and complicated as the individuals affected. It is the role of police officers to try to understand these complex circumstances in their community; always in partnership with other community services.

Costs of Substance Abuse

In a cost estimate study completed by the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, it was revealed that substance abuse cost Canadians more than .45 billion in one single year (1992). And by most experts' calculations, that's an underestimation of the problem's cost.

While dollar figures can never wholly explain the human misery that substance abuse causes and perpetuates, they help illustrate its impact in terms of the dollars that could be put towards related social services.

As such, substance abuse affects more than the user. We all pay the cost in monetary as well as social terms; those close to the abuser also pay on an emotional level.

The social and economic costs of substance abuse come in many forms, including hospitalizations, courts costs, productivity losses, ambulance services, social welfare, research and training, traffic accident damage, and much more. These are the substantial costs of substance abuse to highlight to the public and the media.

Results from an on-going CACP-supported scientific study are expected in Fall of 2000 (see www.ccsa.ca). The study will highlight the impact and costs of crime attributable to substance abuse. This will likely increase the estimation of the overall costs involved with all substances, but especially those attributed to illicit drugs and alcohol.

Issues and Explanations

There are many heated arguments on substance abuse issues circulating in the media, in town halls and in school rooms. The following explanations are meant to clarify the CACP and RCMP positions on various substance abuse issues.

a) Alcohol and Tobacco

Alcohol and tobacco have more negative social and economic costs than do illicit drugs. Nationally, alcohol alone accounts for more than .5 billion per year in terms of financial costs, or 5 per Canadian, for tobacco it is .56 billion, or 6 per capita, and illicit drugs are estimated at .37 billion, or per capita.

(continued...)



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In Canada, policing alcohol costs three times more than policing illicit drugs. In 1992, the cost of policing alcohol (violations of provincial liquor acts; impaired driving; violence related to alcohol) was 5 million whereas drug enforcement cost 8 million. (Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, 1996)

Many researchers consider alcohol and tobacco to be the true "gateway" drugs, leading to the increased potential for the use and abuse of other drugs such as marihuana, prescription medication, MDMA (ecstasy), cocaine, etc.

b) Marihuana

Effects

At present there is a great deal of misinformation circulating surrounding the properties of marihuana; more seriously, there is an almost complete lack of public debate based on the facts and consequences of marihuana use.

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) position statement on cannabis (spring 2000), comments on the severity of its regular use, through the following: "CAMH emphasizes that the most effective way of avoiding cannabis-related harms is through not using cannabis, and encourages people to seek treatment where its use has become a problem... Cannabis is not a benign drug. Cannabis use, and in particular frequent and long-term cannabis use, has been associated with negative health and behavioural consequences... the consequences of use by youth and those with a mental disorder are of particular concern. However, most cannabis use is sporadic or experimental and hence not likely to be associated with serious negative consequences."

$\label{lem:possession} \textbf{ - decriminalization / the} \\ \textbf{ use of alternative justice measures}$

In regards to cannabis (marihuana) and penalties for possession, support exists for the following CACP position from our expert partners on substance abuse issues, such as the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA), Council on Drug Abuse (CODA), and from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH).

To decriminalize a drug is to keep it a controlled substance, only remove criminal sanctions for its consumption or possession. In other words, with decriminalization, instead of facing a criminal penalty and/or record for possession of a small quantity of a controlled substance, the accused could receive an alternative penalty, including a fine or community service.

If the government were to create initiatives aimed at integrating all of the following components, including prevention, education, enforcement, counselling, treatment, rehabilitation and diversion programs, the CACP would consider endorsing initiatives to decriminalize certain offences related to the possession of small amounts of marihuana or other cannabis derivatives.

Alternative justice measures could be used, as set out in Bill C-41, for summary conviction offences of possession of cannabis after a mandatory assessment of the accused. A range of options should include, but not be limited to drug and life skills counselling, fines, community service or a combination of alternative measures.

The CACP has heeded calls by experts to alter our approach to the first-time cannabis/marihuana user, and modify the consequences they face. We also want to improve the tools and processes to maximize the options available to law enforcement officers. Because cannabis/marihuana is not a benign drug and our goal is to reduce drug use, we are asking that offenders be assessed to determine an appropriate response.

Legalization

To *legalize* a drug is to make it legally available for consumption without a prescription, within the limits of government regulations, such as with currently legal drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

The CACP stands in opposition to the legalization of any and all illicit drugs in Canada, including the possession of small amounts of marihuana.

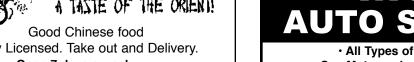
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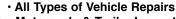


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Police do not target marihuana users.

Police do not target those who possess minor quantities of marihuana for personal use. A recent study conducted in Ottawa, by the RCMP Drug Awareness Service, confirmed that over 90% of marihuana related offences were secondary charges to more serious primary charges of trafficking, possession of other drugs, weapons offences, fraud, assault, and most commonly, court/parole breaches.

For example, a police officer stops an impaired driver and during the search finds marihuana in the car or on the person. A warrant is executed to arrest a Break and Enter suspect and when arrested, is found to be in breach of parole and having marihuana in his possession.

Both charges are laid, but there is no data base to show how they were linked, or that the possession of marihuana charge was only laid, after the person was arrested for another criminal offence. At present you can only identify the link by examining court records. To presume that police set out and target people for possession of small amounts of marihuana is inaccurate. (RCMP Drug Awareness Service, 1999)

Police continue to advocate enforcement to stem the importation, cultivation and distribution of marihuana which is controlled and fuelled by organized criminals, including outlaw motorcycle gangs.

Medicinal marihuana

The CACP supports research into medicinal uses of any currently illicit drug. We accept that it is the responsibility of Health Canada scientists and Federal Legislators, through their research and regulatory approval process, to safeguard the interests of all Canadians.

Pertaining to the issue of the medicinal use of marihuana and any and all other current illicit drugs, the CACP, as with all Canadians, are concerned with the potential hazards, the health care costs, safe storage, misuse and a host of other issues. Health Canada scientists and our Federal Legislators will take the necessary action in the best interest of all Canadians to assess, through their research and regulatory approval process, if marihuana or other current illicit drugs and their derivatives should be

approved for medicinal use, in a similar vein that currently enables tranquillizers, morphine and other drugs to be legally prescribed, despite their potential for addiction. (1999 CACP policy)

The Ontario Court of Appeal has recently ruled that existing legislation regarding the use of marihuana for medicinal purposes is unconstitutional. They have requested that legislation be enacted by the federal government by July 2001 to allow sick persons easier access to marijuana to treat their symptoms, over and above the current exemptions from law (ie. Section 56 of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act) offered by the Minister of Health toward selected individuals. The Minister of Health recently announced that his department will take the steps necessary to develop regulations in response to the Court's decision.

c) Harm reduction

The stated goal of Canada's Drug Strategy is to "...reduce the harm to individuals, families and the community at large caused by the use of substances such as alcohol, pharmaceuticals, solvents and illicit drugs...."

Because there is no single definition of harm reduction, the term should always be defined in context, and any debate on harm reduction should be entered into carefully.

For example, the reduction of harm has been effected through designated driver programs that prevent drinking drivers from getting behind the wheel; as a result of public education and sensitization, people were challenged to think about the consequences of driving drunk. As such, this public awareness initiative was a successful harm reduction measure.

Methadone maintenance and needle exchange programs are two of the examples most commonly associated with harm reduction. Police fully support these measures, in principle, to save lives. We believe that once lives are saved, the quality of that life should not be forgotten.

The view of the Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine (CSAM) in that no treatment can be effective if it involves the addict's continued use of drugs; the effectiveness of harm reduction efforts

(continued...)





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should be considered helpful only if they encourage abstinence from substance abuse as their final goal. (Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine, Policy Statement, 1999)

There is no agreement within addictions medicine concerning the best approach to addiction. There is support within the health services community for both an abstinence and a harm reduction approach. As addictions medicine is not a law enforcement area of expertise, we are not well positioned to argue these issues or support one approach vs another.

d) Needle exchange programs (NEPs)

The CACP and the RCMP supports the National AIDS Strategy in advocating a community-based needle exchange program model including [all of the following integral components]: outreach, education, counseling, testing of needles and drug users, the provision of condoms and the exchange of needles. (CACP policy from 1995)

Our partners in addiction medicine have told us needle exchange programs are only effective when offered in conjunction with full service support (housing and employment outreach programs, counseling, and community support services). The NEP must also employ needle-return measures, so the number of addicts using the service can be registered and the prevalence of communicable diseases can be assessed. (Addictive Drug Information Council, British Columbia, 2000)

e) Community Injection Sites

At this time, further research is needed to show how they can be beneficially applied in Canada. It is not clear that what seems to work in a few European communities can effectively be applied within a Canadian context.

f) Methadone maintenance programs

Methadone maintenance can provide addicts with a period of stabilization and transition while they try to put their lives back together, if they are properly supported by counselling and social services. However, there are significant risks involved in providing easy access to methadone because it is an extremely powerful opiate similar to morphine or heroin. (Dr. Douglas Coleman, Addiction Medicine

Specialist, "Speech to International Conference on Drug Use", Montréal, March, 1999)

g) Medicinal uses of heroin / heroin substitution - clinical trials

Currently, heroin is available by prescription as a painkiller. It is not frequently prescribed because other, less addictive, alternatives have proven more effective. Clinical trials using heroin would require a controlled structure, including a limited number of test subjects, urine tests, high levels of counselling and all other available social support, including housing and employment programs.

The CACP and RCMP supports research into medicinal uses of any currently illicit drug. We accept that it is the responsibility of Health Canada scientists and Federal Legislators, through their research and regulatory approval process, to safeguard the interests of all Canadians.

h) Club 'designer' drugs

Club or 'designer' drugs are being used by young adults at all-night dance parties such as "raves," dance clubs and bars. MDMA (Ecstasy), GHB, ketamine, methamphetamine (speed) and LSD are some of the party drugs gaining in popularity.

No precursor drug, including ecstasy, is benign, as some of the effects of use include:intensified sensory perception, heightened interpersonal feeling toward others, acute serotonin depletion, toxicities such as tachycardia, panic, and could induce seizures, coma or death especially if used in high doses or combined with other drugs. (see www.clubdrugs.org for more specific information)

Club drugs are generally produced by organized criminal groups, with little care for the quality of the drugs they manufacture or distribute, or the health risks they may present. (Cpl. Scott Rintoul, "Designer Drugs and Raves", 2000)

i) Raves

Police strive to protect the health and safety of youth, who are the main audience at rave parties. By working with rave promoters and providing substance abuse training to security guards, and by working

(continued...)

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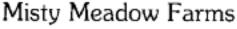
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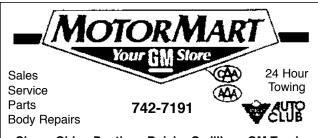
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directly with youth to educate them regarding the dangers of designer drugs, police officers can work to facilitate positive, recreational events while simultaneously preventing any possible tragedies in their communities.

We agree with many of the recommendations of the Rave Inquest held in Toronto in May 2000, <u>including having municipal by-laws in place</u> requiring the following safety provisions for raves:

- Both city property and private venues be made available for raves, subject to licence or permit system.
- That public health departments work with health-care practitioners, police and school boards to educate people about the risks associated with drug use.
- A restriction on admission to those 16 and older.
- A ban on depictions of drugs and drug use on advertising material.
- Unlimited access to drinking water.
- That a paramedic be present at all times, with access to a proper first-aid room.
- That bonded security guards be used to ensure safety.
- That security guards have search privileges, at the entrance door, and admission be refused to those found with drugs.
- Unrestricted access to exit doors. (City of Toronto Coroner's Inquest into raves, May 2000)

Although these drugs are primarily available at this time at Raves, it is important to note that the focus of attention needs to be on the illicit, harmful drugs and not the venue.

j) Other emerging and important substance abuse issues

Mental Health and Drugs

We know there is a high correlation between drug use/abuse and crime. We know from our expert partners in addiction and health services, that mental illness can be a powerful factor in the motivation to use drugs, and in the attempt to stop drug use from escalating into abuse. Often symptoms of mental illness mimic that of drug abuse.

In one large US study, 30 per cent of alcohol abusers and 50 per cent of drug abusers also had a serious mental illness. A smaller study in Edmonton, Alberta, yielded similar results. (Darryl S Inaba, Pharm.D. "Uppers, Downers and All-Arounders", 1997.)

All substance abuse prevention professionals, including police who are on the 'front-line' in interaction with substance abusers, should learn to recognize and understand the most common concurrent disorders.

Impaired driving and testing

In most impaired driving studies marijuana is the most commonly detected drug after alcohol, and is most often consumed in combination with alcohol. Marijuana impairs driving behaviour such as braking time and reaction to red lights or other signals. Impaired driving by prescription medication, such as allergy or anxiety medication, is also significant.

The CACP and RCMP support the use and expansion of the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) program and corresponding legislation. This will enable police to identify drivers impaired by illicit and/or prescription drugs, to prevent these users from driving, and further promote road safety for Canadians.

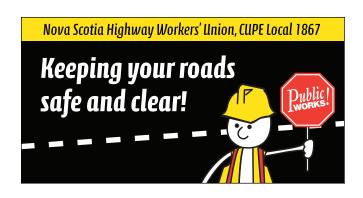
Inhalants

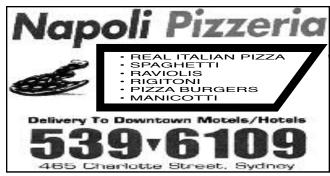
Inhalants comprise a wide variety of substances, including gases, liquids that give off fumes and aerosol sprays. Commonly used products include: typewriter correction fluid, toluene (glue), gasoline, spray paints and anaesthetic agents; they are used for their stupefying, intoxicating and sometimes slightly psychedelic effects.

Inhalants are distinctly different from other psychoactive drugs. They are fast-acting and have intense and extremely harmful effects.

Cheap and readily available, inhalants are used more often by the young and the poor. The use of inhalants by high-risk groups is alarming. Moreover, inhalants have not been dealt with adequately in any preventative measure by the majority of parents, educators, media or the police.

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Misuse and Abuse of Oxycodone-based Prescription Drugs

Oxycodone is a narcotic frequently used as a pain reliever for the treatment of moderate to severe short-term and long-term pain as well as palliative care for the terminally ill. It produces an opiate-like effect similar to morphine in all aspects including its abuse and dependence.

Oxycodone has been available for many years in combination with acetaminophen or ASA in the short acting pain reliever commonly known as Percocet® (generic names are Endocet® and Oxycocet®) or Percodan® (generic names are Endodan® and Oxycodan®). The amount of oxycodone present in these short acting pain relievers ranges from 2.5mg to 5mg per tablet.

In recent years, another short acting oxycodone tablet was introduced to the market under the brand name Supeudol® and Oxy IR®, containing 5, 10, or 20mg of oxycodone per tablet. A long acting dosage form of oxycodone has also been introduced to the market which contains between 10mg and 80mg of oxycodone per tablet. This long acting tablet marketed under the brand name OxyContin®, is formulated to release oxycodone over a long period of time. However, when crushed or chewed and either inhaled by the nose, injected or swallowed, the oxycodone will be released and absorbed rapidly producing a heroin-like effect euphoria. For this reason, OxyContin® is often referred to as "Hillbilly Heroin".

When oxycodone-based prescription drugs are taken as directed by a physician for a short period of time, most patients will not develop a dependency for the product. However, similar to other opioids, misuse and abuse can easily lead to dependence and tolerance to oxycodone, requiring more frequent and higher doses.

Health Canada is aware of increasing concerns about the possible misuse and abuse of oxycodone-based products in Canada, particularly in Atlantic Canada.

Health Canada has met with key Atlantic stakeholders including the provincial ministries of Health and licensing authorities for pharmacists and physicians to discuss their concerns about the prescribing and usage of controlled substances, especially oxycodone. As a result of the consultations, Health Canada undertook a review of all sales transactions of oxycodone-based products in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. To date, only estimates regarding the volume of prescriptions and transactions of oxycodone-based products in Atlantic Canada were available. Please note that one prescription can generate a number of transactions.

The review undertaken by Health Canada, led to a report which helps to establish baseline information regionally and provincially for a six-month period, for a number of key indicators including the volume of transactions. This report was shared with the Atlantic ministries of Health, and licensing authorities of pharmacists and physicians in July, 2005, for their information and to complement their activities in the area of misuse and abuse of prescription drugs.

Although the most explicit concerns about the possible abuse and misuse of oxycodone-based products have been voiced in Atlantic Canada, the report provides knowledge that could be helpful to other jurisdictions.

Health Canada has established a federal, provincial and territorial committee to discuss issues including the abuse of narcotics, controlled substances, alcohol and prescription drugs. Health Canada will continue to work with these jurisdictions and other stakeholders to address issues associated with substance abuse.

A roundtable discussion on the specific issue of abuse of pharmaceuticals is also being planned under Canada's Drug Strategy.

Need More Information?

Canadians are encouraged to speak to a health care provider if they have questions about prescription drugs and substance abuse.



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Oxycontin Addiction

OxyContin addiction is a relatively new, but very serious, concern. Like Vicodin addiction or other forms of prescription drug addiction, OxyContin addiction occurs when patients take high doses of this prescription drug for an extended period of time. Although these prescription drugs are intended for medicinal use only, OxyContin addiction, like Vicodin addiction, is an unfortunate occurrence.

One of several opiates available by prescription, OxyContin is a powerful painkiller available in time-release tablets whose effects last for twelve hours. When used as prescribed, OxyContin manages pain for cancer patients and chronic pain sufferers. However, OxyContin addiction has created an entirely new set of problems.

First introduced to the public in 1996, OxyContin is a white, odorless, crystalline powder derived from the opium alkaloid. A very strong narcotic, OxyContin is similar in effect to morphine. OxyContin addiction under a qualified physician's care is rare. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, however, many physicians limit prescribing OxyContin because they believe patients may become addicted to the drug.

Because OxyContin is a time-released drug, taking one or more pills should not produce an effect attractive to drug addicts. When taken correctly, OxyContin does not produce euphoria. When the drug is released all at once, however, broken, crushed or chewed (as is the case with those experiencing OxyContin addiction), OxyContin produces a pleasant, euphoric feeling. OxyContin addiction can also cause overdose and death.

People with OxyContin addiction acquire the drugs in a variety of ways, including forging fraudulent prescriptions, visiting several different doctors for prescriptions or buying the drugs illegally on the street. Because most health insurance companies will cover the costs of OxyContin, abusers can purchase the drugs at pharmacy prices, and then sell the OxyContin for wildly inflated street prices.



Unfortunately, many of those suffering from OxyContin addiction have health insurance that will no longer pay for prescriptions. Because these addicts cannot afford the high street-level prices, they often switch to heroin; OxyContin and heroin have similar effects, so both drugs are attractive to the same abuser population. In fact, OxyContin is sometimes referred to as "poor man's heroin."

Like other substance abuse problems, OxyContin addiction cannot be treated effectively at home, but requires close supervision by a trained medical professional. Because OxyContin addiction affects the brain's chemical make-up, drug abusers who attempt to detox at home will experience severe withdrawal symptoms. In a medical environment, these symptoms can be eased and the addict undergoing detox made more comfortable.

Treatment Referral provides referrals to rehabs that effectively treat OxyContin addiction and other forms of substance abuse, addressing the behavior and thinking patterns that directly contribute to the individual's disease and ensuring patients have a meaningful recovery.

If OxyContin addiction might be a problem for you or someone you love, we encourage you to give Treatment Referral a call today to learn more about our treatment options. 800.375.4577

As originally published - www.oxycontin-addiction.us

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Wife Abuse - The Impact on Children

The scope and seriousness of wife abuse is increasingly becoming known in our society. Thirty percent (3 in 10) of Canadian women reported at least one incident of physical or sexual violence at the hands of a marital partner in a large-scale 1993 national survey on violence against women conducted by Statistics Canada. Of the women who had been abused, one-third had feared for their lives during the abusive relationship. Forty-eight percent of women with a previous marriage reported having experienced abuse.

The profound negative effect on children who witness their mother being assaulted is now being recognized. Children are affected in their emotional development and behaviour, as well as in their educational adjustment. Children, especially boys, who witness violence are more likely to be violent when they grow up. Witnessing violence in childhood increases the likelihood of a man becoming an abusive husband and causing severe injuries.

How many children are affected?

Estimates of the proportion of children of abused women who witness the violence range from 40 to 80 percent. The consensus of opinion is that children see, overhear or are aware of the majority of violent incidents. Best estimates indicate that three to five children in every Canadian school classroom have witnessed their mother being assaulted. In many cases children witness severe violence. For example, in the 1993 Statistics Canada study, children were reported to have witnessed violence in more than half of the cases in which women feared for their lives. Children who witness physical violence toward their mother almost invariably witness a great deal of psychological abuse, including verbal abuse, belittling and threats toward her.

What are the links between wife assault and child abuse?

- Children who witness the violent behaviour of their father or their mother's partner toward their mother are being emotionally abused.
- There is 30 to 40 percent overlap between children who witness wife assault and children who experience direct physical abuse themselves.
- Women are often abused during pregnancy and miscarriage sometimes results.
- Abuse and the resultant trauma and stress on the mother lessen the coping resources that mothers have available for parenting. This can result in less effective

parenting by the mother and neglect or child abuse in some cases.

• A pattern of physical and emotional abuse of mother by father or other male partner is common in families in which children are sexually abused by fathers or male partners of mothers.

What are the emotional and behavioural effects on children?

- Children who witness their mother being abused by their father or mother's partner frequently experience Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The symptoms of PTSD include re-experiencing the trauma (nightmares, intrusive thoughts or images, flashbacks); fear, anxiety, tension and hyper-vigilance; irritability and outbursts of anger and aggression; and efforts to avoid being reminded of the abuse.
- If the mother takes her children and leaves, the children suffer disruption of their home, routine, relationships with their friends, and often their school. These children may be pre-occupied with fear that violence will re-occur and are often aware of threats and attempts at renewed contact, or stalking, by their fathers. At the same time the children may be relieved to be in a safer place.
- Children who have witnessed their mothers being assaulted display greatly elevated rates of depression, withdrawal, low self-esteem and other emotional problems.
- These children who witness wife assault have a much greater risk of behaviour problems, such as aggression with peers, non-compliance with adults, destructive behaviour, and conflict with the law.
- These children who witness wife assault and whose parents separate may have ambivalent feelings toward their father. They may miss him, and worry about his well-being, but also be afraid of him at the same time.
- Children, as they enter adolescence, may also have mixed feelings about their mothers. They may feel sympathy and support, but also be resentful and disrespectful, because of their opinions about their mother's choices.
- Their level of emotional and behavioural problems is of a magnitude similar to that of children who are themselves physically abused.

(continued...)



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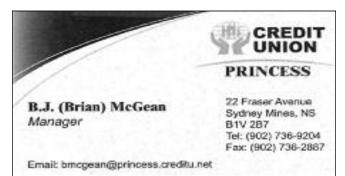
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What is the impact on education and social skills?

- Children who witness their mother being abused by their father or other male partner tend to have lowered school achievement. They may have increased school absences because they are needed at home to look after siblings when the mother is incapacitated, or they may refuse to go to school because they do not want to be separated from their mother. At all ages, they may not pay attention at times because they are preoccupied and anxious. They are more often truant. When at school they may be withdrawn and/or aggressive.
- Children from violent homes tend to have lowered social skills.
- Abusive homes are often socially isolated and children may be taught to be secretive about the abuse.

What are specific effects at different ages, and for girls and boys?

- Very young children, even infants, are seriously affected, and may suffer problems with sleeping, weight gain and excessive crying.
- Pre-schoolers display effects such as anxiety, clingingness and aggressive behaviour.
- Children beyond the infant or pre-school age often feel responsible to try to intervene in the abusive situation.
- Children aged 6 to 10 tend to have school and peer relationship problems.
- Teenage children tend to be truant, run away or drop out of school, and they tend to become involved in violent dating relationships. Teens may, in some cases, use denial as a coping method.
- Some, but not all, studies find that girls who witness violence have a greater tendency to become withdrawn and depressed, while boys have a greater tendency to act aggressively. However, these problems are present in both boys and girls.
- Boys, especially at age 11 or older, who identify strongly with their fathers may imitate his actions by being aggressive towards their mother and other women.

Are all children affected to the same degree?

• Children whose mothers cope especially well and have strong social support will fare better. Children who have areas of strength in school, social relationships and sports activities are also better off. • Children who witness abuse and are also themselves abused tend to fear the worst.

Links between witnessing violence and learning to be violent

- Children from violent homes are being taught that violence is an effective way to gain power and control over others.
- Children from violent homes are more prone to accept excuses for violent behaviour, and have increased risk of acting aggressively toward peers and adults.
- Witnessing violence greatly increases the chances that a boy will grow up to act violently with dating and/or marital partners. For girls, it increases the chances that she will accept violence which occurs in her dating and/or marital relationships.

What can be done to help children who witness wife assault?

A coordinated community response, with all professionals and service agency personnel trained to understand issues of woman abuse and its effects on children, is needed if battered women and their children are to be adequately protected. Public awareness of the issues involved is also important.

Early identification and appropriate referral of battered women can assist in preventing future harm to these women and their children.

Legal/policing issues

When the legal system and police effectively protect women and their children, the trauma for children is lessened. Current issues include effective and easily accessed protection orders; quick access to the matrimonial home with the batterer removed; and the enforcement of probation conditions and anti-stalking laws. Appropriate penalties for wife assault all directly affect children's safety, sense of security and adjustment after abuse.

Child protection

Recognizing that witnessing wife assault constitutes emotional and psychological abuse is an important first step in protecting children. At the same time, support to the mother, without victim blaming, is essential. Six of ten provinces in Canada stipulate in legislation that children who witness woman abuse can be found in need of protection. (However, child protection agencies are overwhelmed with existing caseloads and may not have adequate resources for these cases.)

(continued...)



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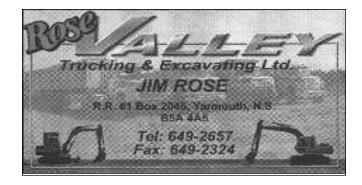
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Child custody/access

After separation, many batterers use the issue of legal child custody as a means to threaten and control their former spouses. The period immediately after separation is a very high-risk period for abuse and killing of mothers. In a recent study, it was found that of 1,157 wife assault cases tracked through the Nova Scotia justice system, 24 percent of victims suffered abuse while their male partners were exercising court-ordered child visitation. Wife assault should be considered a major factor in child custody cases, as the effects on mothers and children are so serious.

Children's mental health/Children's groups

The high incidence and serious effects of witnessing wife assault make it a prime issue in children's mental health. Groups for children who have witnessed violence are an important service. In group situations, children can learn safety skills for themselves in abusive situations. They can learn that no one has the right to abuse another and that they are not responsible for the abuse. They can also learn alternative ways to handle conflict without violence. Individual treatment, and treatment for depression, fear, post-traumatic

stress disorder and aggressive behaviour may also be needed, depending on the child's adjustment.

Shelters and advocacy for battered women

Support services for battered women, through shelters, legal, housing and financial supports, all have a major positive impact on the accompanying children. Without such services, many more children will continue to witness abuse.

Schools

Schools are in contact with hundreds of thousands of child witnesses of woman abuse in Canada each year. Professional development for teachers, as well as the development of school protocols to deal with and assist such children are very important.

Prevention

Schools and community resources cooperating in awareness programs constitute the best hope to educate all community members about the effect of witnessing abuse on families and children. Effective programs are available and can be implemented at low cost.



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Child Abuse – Knowing the Signs

Emotional

Emotional abuse includes all acts of omission or commission which result in the absence of a nurturing environment for the child. It occurs when the caregiver continually treats the child in such a negative way that the child's self concept is seriously impaired. Emotionally abusive behaviour by the caregiver can include constant yelling, demeaning remarks, rejecting, ignoring, isolating the child or terrorizing the child. Emotional abuse is often difficult to prove.



Signs may include:

- Severe depression
- Extreme withdrawal or aggressiveness
- Overly compliant, too well mannered, too neat or clean (an effort to avoid further abuse)
- Extreme attention seeking
- Displays extreme inhibition in play
- Bedwetting that is non-medical in origin
- Frequent psychosomatic complaints; headaches, nausea, abdominal pains
- · Child fails to thrive

Physical

Most caregivers do not intend to neglect their children. It usually results from ignorance about appropriate care for children or an ability to plan ahead. Neglect occurs when a caregiver fails to meet the basic needs such as food, sleep, safety, supervision, clothing, or medical treatment.

Signs may include:

- Pale, listless, unkempt
- Frequent absence from school
- Inappropriate clothing for the weather, dirty clothes
- Engaging in delinquent acts, alcohol/drugs
- Frequently forgets a lunch for school
- Poor hygiene
- Unattended need, i.e. dental work, glasses
- Consistent lack of supervision

Sexual

Sexual abuse is any sexual exploitation of a child by an older person where the child is being used for sexual purposes.

The Criminal Code of Canada identifies a number of types of sexual abuse, including;

- Sexual interference
- An invitation to sexually touch
- Sexual exploitation of a young person
- Parent or guardian procuring sexual activity from a child
- Age inappropriate play with toys, self or others displaying explicit sexual acts
- Age inappropriate sexually explicit drawings and or descriptions
- Bizarre, sophisticated or unusual sexual knowledge
- Prostitution
- Seductive behaviours
- Unusual or excessive itching in the genital or anal area
- · Torn, stained or bloody underwear
- Pregnancy
- Injuries to the genital or anal areas, i.e. bruising, swelling, or infection
- Venereal diseases

Source: National Clearinghouse on

Family Violence, Family Violence Prevention Division, Health Canada Ottawa, Ontario

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Potential Effects of Witnessing Family Violence on Children

Physical Effects

INFANTS

- low birth weight
- prematurity
- poor health
- poor sleeping habits
- excessive screaming

CHILDREN

- agitation
- developmental delay
- sleep disturbances
- enuresis (involuntary urination, bedwetting)
- anxiety (shaking, nail biting, hair pulling)
- speech and hearing difficulties
- psychosomatic complaints
- eating disturbances

Cognitive Effects

- difficulty concentrating
- deficits in thinking through social problems
- deficits in generating appropriate solutions to social conflicts
- increased academic involvement

Emotional Effects

- increased anxiety and/or depression
- anger
- ambivalence
- feeling unloved
- hostility
- stress
- confusion
- shame
- despair
- loneliness
- guilt
- sadness
- jealousy
- worrying
- embarrassment

Source:

isolation

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GENERAL

- bed-wetting
- whining
- clinging
- yelling
- irritable behavior
- hiding
- shaking
- stuttering
- lower social competency

BOYS

- aggression
- temper tantrums
- fights with peers and siblings
- bullying tactics
- low frustration level
- disobedience
- lying, cheating
- destructive
- impulsive
- argumentative
- loud
- tease excessively
- worry excessively
- withdrawn

GIRLS

- withdrawn
- passive
- approval seeking
- compliant
- low frustration level
- infinite patience
- cling to adults
- · overly dependent
- stubborn
- tease excessively
- worry excessively
- increased somatic complaints

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ADULT SURVIVORS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

WHO IS AN ADULT SURVIVOR OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE?

An individual who was sexually abused as a child is an adult survivor of child sexual abuse. This abuse may have had long-term effects on the survivor's life. In most instances, the victim of the abuse never discussed the abuse with others while it was occurring. This individual is learning now, as an adult, to deal with the effects of the abuse.

The term 'survivor' is used, instead of the term 'victim', because the individual has survived the childhood sexual abuse. The term is used in recognition of the strengths of the individual who has survived.

Child sexual abuse occurs when a child is used for the sexual gratification of an older adolescent or adult. It also involves the abuse of power that an adult has over a child. The sexual abuse may be used by the adult as a means of fulfilling his need to be powerful.

Sexual abuse occurs across all communities regardless of race, religion, cultural heritage, social or economic status.

According to the Committee on Sexual Offences Against Children and Youth (commonly known as The Badgley Committee) 98.5% of abusers are male and most victims are female.

For this reason when referring to abusers the male personal pronoun will be used. However, it is important to recognize that boys and male adolescents are also sexually abused. Male survivors may recognize some of their experiences as similar to those of female survivors.

HOW WIDESPREAD IS THE PROBLEM?

The most recent national Canadian study (1984), conducted by the Badgley Committee, estimates

that about one in two females and one in three males have been victims of unwanted sexual acts. Four in five of these acts were committed against the person as a child or youth.

If you are dealing with the effects of child sexual abuse, please remember that you are not responsible for the abuse. No one ever deserves to be abused. As an adult, you can overcome the effects the abuse may have on your life.

FACTS TO CONSIDER

- Many survivors, estimates are as high as 50%, do not remember the abuse until years after it has occurred. Usually something in adulthood will trigger the memory. Some are never able to clearly recall the abuse.
- Survivors often hold the distorted belief that they are responsible for the abuse perpetrated against them. This results in feelings of extreme guilt and self-blame. Most abusers tell children that it is their own fault they are being abused, shifting the blame away from the abuser, where it belongs, and placing it on the child.
- A recent Canadian survey (1991) of women serving federal sentences in penitentiaries notes that 53% of the women incarcerated stated that they had been sexually abused at some stage in their lives, most commonly during childhood or adolescence.
- Children with disabilities are particularly at risk for sexual abuse. Researchers evaluating the findings of several incidence studies suggest that the risk of sexual abuse is at least 50% higher for children with disabilities than nondisabled children of similar age and gender.
- As adults, people with disabilities who have been abused are further disadvantaged by the fact that they are frequently denied access to counselling services and even when services are accessible, they are unable to meet the individual needs of clients with disabilities.

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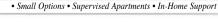
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- Numerous studies have discussed the direct relationship between child sexual abuse and adolescent/adult prostitution. The estimates range from 76 to 90 % of prostitutes having a history of child sexual abuse, the most common form being incest (the sexual abuse of a child by a family member).
- Survivors are revealing in increasing numbers that they have been victims of ritual abuse. Studies indicate that this type of abuse, which is characterized by its repetitive and systematic severe sexual, physical, psychological, and spiritual abuse of children, is much more prevalent than originally believed. The aftereffects are severe.

COMMON LONG-TERM EFFECTS

Each individual's experiences and reactions are unique to that individual. However, with so many survivors breaking the silence and talking about their experiences, it has become apparent that there are some responses to child sexual abuse that are common to many survivors.

- Feelings of extremely low self-esteem or self-hatred are common in survivors. Extreme depression is something with which survivors also battle.
- Survivors often experience frequent sleep disturbances and nightmares. Links have been made between this and the fact that children are often sexually abused in their rooms, in their own beds.
- Trust is a crucial issue for many survivors throughout their lives. They were betrayed by the very people who cared for them, who insisted they loved them even while abusing them. Often, a sense of a just world is denied children who are sexually abused. Learning to trust can be next to impossible under these circumstances.
- Revictimization describes the process whereby women who were sexually abused as children frequently find themselves in abusive, dangerous situations or relationships as adults.
 Diana E.H. Russell found in her study (1986) that there is a strong relationship between incestuous abuse and later experiences of sexual assault, wife abuse and other forms of sexual victimization.

- Survivors with disabilities who experienced sexual abuse in childhood might never have reached a level of independence to escape this abuse and it has become a way of life. Even if they do leave an abusive home, they could continue to be abused by family, caregivers and professionals.
- Flashbacks can be frightening experiences, not only for the survivors, but for those around them. During a `flashback', the survivor re-experiences the sexual abuse as if it were occurring at that moment. It is usually accompanied by visual images, or flashes of images, of the abuse. This is one of the ways of remembering the abuse. Flashbacks are often triggered by an event, action, or even a smell that is reminiscent of the sexual abuse or the abuser.
- Dissociation refers to the ability to escape stressful or harmful situations by creating another place for the mind to go. The intense pain of sexual abuse creates a situation where the victim, in order to cope, must try to dissociate from her body to leave the situation the only way she can. In simpler terms, it can be described as a type of daydreaming, a need to find a place for the mind (and ultimately one's self) to hide while being sexually abused.
- Multiple personality can occur among survivors of child sexual abuse. When the abuse is severe, dissociation or `splitting' can become the only means of escape. By splitting, other alter personalities develop to help the individual survive the abuse. In a recent study of 185 people in treatment for multiple personality, 98% had experienced sexual abuse in childhood. Multiple personality is described as the process of dividing one's self up into many different parts to handle the many painful experiences of the past.

COPING MECHANISMS

Coping mechanisms can also be described as Survival Strategies. These strategies have been utilized by survivors in the past, or they are using them at present to help numb the pain of the abuse. They are also used to control feelings, which may threaten to overwhelm survivors. Survivors may





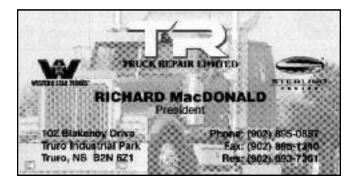
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- Recent studies have shown a relationship between the frequency of drug use and a history of childhood sexual abuse.
- A similar relationship has been noted with the development of alcoholism and the impact of childhood sexual abuse.
- Eating difficulties are common to female survivors. They may develop anorexia nervosa or bulimia. For a survivor, compulsive control of food intake can be a way of exerting control over her body, control that was denied when she was being abused.
- Some survivors injure themselves, hurting their bodies by burning, slashing or cutting. The reasons for this behaviour vary. It can be a way of relieving unbearable anxiety, triggered by memories of the abuse. It can also develop as a way of dealing with and confronting strong, painful emotions, "using new pain to hide old pain".

A WORD TO SURVIVORS

If you find yourself using any of these strategies, it does not mean that you are 'seriously ill' or 'beyond help'. You did (or are doing) whatever was necessary for you to do to survive. However, these strategies may be endangering your health. Now, as an adult, you can choose to change these behaviours.

Coping with the above-mentioned experiences leads many survivors to feel overwhelmed, or that they are "going crazy". These feelings are completely understandable. Think of these experiences and feelings as reactions to trauma that occurred when you were a child. This may be your way of dealing with that trauma. It is especially difficult if you have been living with these feelings locked up inside of you for a long time.

Some of the survival strategies that children use to survive sexual abuse can also become strengths as they grow older. For example, being a hard worker, having a sense of humour, handling crisis situations well, are skills that many survivors develop. These skills help them move beyond surviving to thriving.

IF YOU ARE A SURVIVOR, OR SUSPECT YOU MIGHT BE, TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT IT.

It is important that you find someone to talk to about your experiences and feelings, either someone you know and trust, or a counsellor. If this is not an option for you right now, reading or viewing some of the material suggested below may be helpful.

WHERE TO GO FOR HELP

- Your local/regional sexual assault or rape crisis centre. The phone number can usually be found on the second page of the telephone book with other emergency numbers.
- If there is no sexual assault centre in your area, contact a local women's shelter or transition house.
- Community health centres, mental health clinics and family service centres may have counsellors who have worked with survivors before. They may also be able to refer you to a self-help group for survivors in your area.
- The hospital in your area may offer counselling services for survivors.

WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE TELLS YOU HE/SHE WAS SEXUALLY ABUSED

- Do not judge, condemn or criticize.
- Believe the person.
- Respond in a caring manner and ask them how you can help.
- Encourage the survivor to get support.

Source:

National Clearinghouse on Family Violence, Family Violence Prevention Division, Health Canada Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B5



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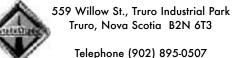
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What is dating violence?

Dating violence is the sexual, physical, emotional or psychological abuse of one partner by the other in a dating relationship. Adolescent girls and women are the predominant victims of dating violence, although some teenaged boys and men can experience violence in their dating relationships. Abuse against women is significantly more severe and pervasive. Teens are especially vulnerable as they are at the stage of forming their first intimate relationships and are often unsure of themselves and what to expect in a relationship.

Types of abuse

- Physical abuse: punching, slapping, kicking, shoving, choking, hair pulling, striking with an object, assault with a weapon and physical confinement.
- Sexual abuse: any form of sexual activity with a person without the consent of that person, with the exception of children who, in most circumstances, cannot consent. Sexual abuse may include unwanted sexual touching, sexual relations without voluntary consent, or the forcing or coercing of degrading, humiliating or painful sexual acts.
- Emotional/psychological abuse: behaviour intended to control, humiliate, intimidate instill fear or diminish a person's sense of self worth. It can involve threatening or terrorizing the partner, stalking, extreme and irrational expressions of jealousy, isolating the partner, threatening the victim's family members, and destroying personal property.

Prevalence

- The Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women found that 11% of young women in Nova Scotia faced sexual abuse within dating relationships, 32% experienced emotional abuse and 18% faced physical abuse.
- A 1989 survey of 216 high school girls in Cumberland County, Nova Scotia found that 40% reported experiencing physical and/or emotional abuse in a dating relationship.

- The National Violence Against Women Survey estimated that 1.7 million Canadian women have been involved in at least one incident of sexual or physical assault by a date or boyfriend since the age of 16. This represents 16% of all women.
- Half of all women who reported an incident of dating violence were between the ages of 18-34.
- In a 1992 national survey of 3,142 Canadian college and university students, female students reported overall rates of sexual abuse of 45% since leaving high school. A total of 35% of female students said they had been physically assaulted in a dating relationship. 17% of males said they had been physically violent towards a date since leaving high school.

Contributing factors

Patriarchy theory: Society's belief in male dominance often contributes to violence in intimate relationships. It is argued that the use of violence by males is reinforced by sexist ideology and the notion that males are superior. Though we have seen increasing changes in these gender values, there are males who feel it is their right to punish, control, or batter their partners.

Peer pressure: Within adolescent groups, there is often a pressure for boys to be sexually active and/or sexually aggressive which can contribute to sexually abusive behaviour and date rape.

Intergenerational violence: Children who are victims of family violence or who witness abuse in the home can often repeat abusive patterns of behaviour in adolescence and adulthood. Children exposed to violence often learn that violence is an acceptable means of conflict resolution. Similarly, girls who witness violence in the home will often tolerate abusive behaviour in their own dating relationships.

Social Learning Theory: Today's youth are constantly exposed to violent and sexist images in the media. These images convey the notion that violence is an acceptable way to resolve conflict and that girls/women are acceptable targets. This may influence some people to replicate that behaviour, particularly if the viewer identifies with, emulates or is desensitized by violent images.

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Why do young women stay in abusive dating relationships?

- Many girls stay in abusive relationships because of peer pressure to have a boyfriend. In a 1989 study of 216 adolescent girls in Nova Scotia, 26% of the girls said they would rather have a boyfriend than be alone.
- Many young women have difficulty identifying abuse, particularly in the case of sexual abuse. There is a common misconception that rape and sexual abuse are committed by strangers, therefore victims who have been sexually assaulted by their partners tend not to identify the incident as rape.
- Some girls stay in abusive relationships because they hope their partners will change. Fitzpatrick's (1989) study notes that 54% believed their partner would change, and 47% thought they could change their partner's behaviour. Thirty-two percent of the girls stayed with their partners because they believed they needed their love and support.

What can be done to prevent dating violence?

Many of the solutions to preventing dating violence are the same as woman abuse.

Education: High schools and universities are an influential means of providing information and counselling to students with regard to dating violence. Educational programs that teach students about healthy relationships and appropriate, non-violent ways to resolve conflict can prevent dating violence. Young men and women should know that:

- Abuse is always wrong and no one deserves to be abused. Violence is a crime, whether the abuser is a stranger, friend or a partner.
- One always has the right to say no to unwanted sexual activity. No one has the right to force sexual activity on another person. Any sexual act committed against a person without their consent is against the law.
- Controlling, possessive or jealous behaviour in a dating relationship should not be mistaken for love. Relationships should always be based on trust, equality and mutual respect.

Youth involvement: As teens you can...

- Stage dramatic productions to raise awareness and convey the message of prevention to your peers.
- Take a stand against violence by working to create
 a school environment that embraces positive,
 healthy relationships among peers and dating
 partners. As students, you can form "anti-violence"
 committees to provide peer support and
 information about dating and youth violence.
- For girls, support a friend who may be experiencing violence in a dating relationship by encouraging her to seek help/talk to someone. For guys, adopt a zero tolerance attitude towards violence in dating relationships, and support the message that you don't have to hit to be "cool".

Community awareness: Communities can highlight the issue of dating violence through public awareness campaigns and prevention programs. Public libraries can offer information packages and reading material on dating violence. As a community member, you can support available resources for youth, sexual assault centres, and local public awareness initiatives. Local businesses can become involved by displaying posters and phone numbers of available resources for youth experiencing violence.

Campus awareness: Universities can provide resources to students such as information, counselling, support centres, crisis hotlines and educational workshops on issues of dating violence.

As parents/guardians: Help young people build their self-esteem by encouraging them to talk about the things that bother them, listening respectfully, encouraging them to express their likes and dislikes, acknowledging their achievements, being positive when correcting them, and teaching them that jealousy and forced intimacy in relationships is not a sign of love.

Sexual Assault Centres: Provide public education, counselling, support, information and referral to victims of sexual assault and their advocates, partners, family members and others. Call for help.

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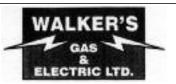
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DATING VIOLENCE

Listen to these stories

"The first time it happened, I was about 14. My boyfriend saw me at a movie with a bunch of my friends. The next day he slapped me across the face and told me I should not go out without him. After that, he hit me so often, I began making up lies about the bruises."

"My girlfriend was so jealous she would constantly accuse me of crazy things. It drove me nuts so I decided to break up with her. When I tried, she said she would kill herself if I left."

If this is happening to you, you are not alone...

At least one in ten high school students has experienced some form of dating violence. It often starts in junior high. Girls are usually the victims, but it happens to boys too.

What is your relationship like?

- 1. Does your girlfriend/boyfriend make fun of you in front of family and friends?
- 2. Are there times when your girlfriend/boyfriend hurts your feelings? (Name calling, ignoring, for example)
- 3. Does your girlfriend/boyfriend threaten or intimidate you or someone you care about?
- 4. Has your girlfriend/boyfriend ever pressured you to do uncomfortable things?
- 5. Does your girlfriend/boyfriend insist on making the decisions in the relationship?
- 6. Has your girlfriend/boyfriend ever pushed or slapped you?
- 7. Does your girlfriend/boyfriend get jealous and stop you from doing activities or seeing friends?
- 8. Does your girlfriend/ boyfriend demand to know how you spend your time when you are apart?
- 9. Does your girlfriend/ boyfriend expect sexual favors in return for spending time with you or buying you gifts?
- 10. Are you afraid to say "no" without having to explain your reasons?
- 11. Does your girlfriend/boyfriend make you feel bad about yourself?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you may be in or headed for an abusive relationship. Watch out! This happens to a lot of teens. It helps to know the facts.

Why does Dating Violence happen?

It happens. Listen to what some teens have said:

- "I didn't know it was wrong."
- "I thought the jealousy meant he really loved me."
- "I thought I deserved it."
- "I saw the same thing at home so I thought it was okay."
- "I thought it was okay to hit my girlfriend... I had to keep her in-line."
- "So what's the big deal? I hit her...who's going to stop me?"
- "The way she was dressed, I knew she was looking for it."
- "He was my boyfriend, he shouldn't have talked to her."
- "I thought if I threatened to kill myself, she'd never leave me."

Is Dating Violence against the law?

Some aspects of dating violence are against the law. Other behaviors are inappropriate and unacceptable. Here are a few examples of dating behaviors that are unacceptable and dating behaviors that are criminal in nature.

Unacceptable

- put downs and name calling
- extreme jealousy and possessiveness
- manipulation and control
- isolation from friends and family
- · threats of suicide

Against the law

- hitting, shoving, kicking, etc. (intentional use of force against somebody without his or her consent is assault)
- repeated harassment such as phoning you or following you everywhere (stalking)
- forced sex, unwanted sexual acts (Sexual activity without consent is sexual assault)
- threats to harm you, your family or property (threatening to cause harm may be an assault)

Source: National Clearinghouse on Family Violence, Family Violence Prevention Division, Health Canada Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B5

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Bullying In Canada

Canadians are concerned with the level of violence in today's society, the safety of their communities, and the welfare of their children. As we know, too many children are victims of violence and aggression in the schoolyard, the playground and elsewhere. Some studies indicate that violent behavior of young people is increasing, that the violence is directed at other young people, and that the violence is committed by younger people than was the case in the past. To prevent youth violence and reduce the rate of violent crime, research indicates that focusing on the early signs of antisocial behavior is effective. Bullying is one phenomenon that contributes to the development of such behavior patterns.

Bullying is a serious problem for those who engage in it, for its victims, and for the communities in which it takes place. It is not a normal part of growing up. It can make children feel frightened, sick, lonely and unhappy. Unfortunately, these childhood bullies are also more likely to develop anti-social behaviors (Farrington, 1993). Studies indicate that 30% to 40% of children with aggression problems grow up to have problems with violence as adults (Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick).

Bullying changes its form with age:

- Younger children's playground bullying often involves pushing, shoving, name calling teasing and isolation;
- Teenage bullying may begin to include sexual harassment, gang attacks, dating violence; and
- Adult bullying may become assaults, marital violence, child abuse, workplace harassment, and senior abuse 1 Education and Information Service of New Brunswick).

For victims, repeated bullying can cause psychological distress and many related difficulties (Besag, 1989; Olweus, 1993). The impact of bullying extends beyond the bully and victim to the peer group, school, and community as a whole. It is important to stop bullying at a young age and strive to create a safe and peaceful environment for everyone.

With an understanding of factors related to bullying, we can design prevention and intervention efforts that decrease bullying and increase the likelihood that teachers, parents and other children will intervene when it does occur.

The Government of Canada's National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention was launched in 1998 to help Canadians deal with the difficult problems of crime and victimization. The National Strategy is built on the common sense principle that the surest way to reduce crime is to focus on the factors that put individuals at risk-factors such as family violence, school problems, and drug abuse - preventing crime before it starts. By providing tools, knowledge, and support, communities are able to address their unique issues of crime and victimization. In its work with communities, the National Strategy has placed a particular emphasis on children, youth, women, and Aboriginal people.

The National Strategy endeavors to intervene early in the lives of our young people, addressing issues of antisocial behavior before they become more serious problems. Building resiliency and healthy environments for children and youth today will reap benefits far into the future. The Strategy supports communities and schools - working with students, parents, educators, and practitioners, and others in developing, and sharing, grass-roots initiatives to combat bullying.

What is Bullying?

Bullying is the assertion of power through aggression. Bullies acquire power over their victims physically, emotionally and socially. This can be done in many ways: by physical size and strength, by status within the peer group, by knowing the victim's weaknesses or by recruiting support from other children, as in group bullying. Emotional and social bullying may perhaps be the most frequent and harmful forms. Bullying can be physical or verbal. It can be direct (face-to-face) or indirect (gossip or exclusion) (Olweus, 1991). With repeated bullying, the bully's dominance over the victim is established and the victim becomes increasingly distressed and fearful.

How Widespread Is Bullying?

A 1997 survey of Canadians revealed that 6% of children admitted bullying others "more than once or twice" over a six-week span and 15% of children reported that they had been victimized at the same rate (Pepler, et al.). Researchers' observations of children on playgrounds and classrooms confirm that bullving frequently: once every 7 minutes on the playground and once every 25 minutes in class (Craig and Pepler, 1997). To understand the problem of bullying, we must consider the characteristics of everyone involved in the bullying scenario: the bully, the victim and the bystander. We must also examine the social contexts in which bullying occurs, such as the family, peer group, school, and community.

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Who are the Bullies?

Children bully in many different ways-there is not a single type of bully. The following characteristics have been identified primarily through research on boys who bully.

- Gender: Both boys and girls are involved in bullying as either bullies, victims or bystanders at approximately the same rate, although each gender expresses bullying in different ways. More boys report their bullying than girls; boys report more physical forms of bullying, while girls report indirect forms of bullying, such as gossiping and excluding (Craig and Pepler, 1997)
- Age: Ages 4-10, aggression is mainly confined to same-sex peers, whereas ages 11-18 expand their aggression to involve opposite-sex peers as well. In addition, 11 to 12-year-old students reported bullying others more than did younger or older student groups (Pepler, et al.).
- **Temperament**: Bullies tend to be hyperactive, disruptive, and impulsive (Lowenstein, 1978; Olweus, 1987).
- Aggression: Bullies are generally aggressive toward their peers, teachers, parents, and siblings, and others (Olweus, 1991). Bullies tend to be assertive and easily provoked. They are attracted to situations with aggressive content and have positive attitudes about aggression (Stephenson and Smith, 1989).
- **Physical Strength**: Boys who bully are physically stronger and have a need to dominate others (Olweus, 1987).
- Lack of Empathy: Bullies have little empathy for their victims and show little or no remorse for bullying (Olweus, 1987).

Children become victimized for many different reasons there is not a single victim type. For some children, the following characteristics are present before bullying occurs; for others, they develop as a result of bullying.

Gender: Boys and girls are equally likely to report being victimized (Charach et al., 1995; Pepler et al., 1977).

Age: Victimization decreases across grade levels: 26% of children in Grades 1-3 report victimization compared to 15% in Grades 4-6 and 12% in Grades 7-8 (Pepler et al.). Children in lower grades are more likely to be victims of older bullies, whereas children in higher grades are more likely to be victims of same-age bullies. Younger students experience more direct bullying, whereas older students experience more indirect bullying (Olweus, 1993).

Temperament: Victimized children have a tendency to be anxious and withdrawn. There is more evidence of this among preschool children than among school-aged children.

Physical Appearance: Research has not supported the popular stereotype that victims have unusual physical traits (Olweus, 1991).

Who are the Victims? Self-Esteem: Victims often report low self-esteem, likely because of repeated exposure to victimization (Besag, 1989).

Depression: Both boys and girls who are victimized report symptoms of depression, such as sadness, and loss of interest in activities (Slee, 1995; Craig, 1997).

Anxiety: Boys and girls who are victims report symptoms of anxiety, such as tension, fears and worries (Neary and Joseph, 1994; Slee, 1995).

What Role Do Peers Play?

Bullying usually involves more than the bully and victim-85% of bullying episodes occur in the context of a peer group (Atlas and Pepler, 1997; Craig and Pepler, 1997). Although 83% of students indicate that watching bullying makes them feel uncomfortable (Pepler et al., 1997), observations indicate that peers assume many roles in the bullying episode: joining in, cheering, passively watching and occasionally intervening.

 Peers tend to give positive attention to the bully, rather than the victim.

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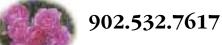
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Their reinforcement of the bully may serve to maintain the bully's power over the victim and within the peer group. The bully may also affect the peers who are watching.

- Peers who watch bullying may become excited and more likely to join in.
- Compared to girls, boys are more likely to be actively drawn into bullying episodes (Craig and Pepler, 1997; Salmivalli et al., 1996).
 - In playground observations, peers intervened in significantly more episodes than did adults: 11% of episodes versus 4% (Craig and Pepler, 1997).

What Role Does the Family Play?

children.

Children's behavior patterns are first established at home. It is important that parents create a home environment that discourages bullying behavior and supports children who are victimized

- Bullies often come from homes that are neglectful, hostile and that use harsh punishment (Olweus, 1993). Bullying may be learned by observing conflict between parents. Care needs to be taken by parents so that they do not model bullying for their
- Fighting amongst siblings to solve problems can inadvertently support bullying when it is accepted as a normal part of growing up.
- Victims often keep their problems a secret because they feel that they should handle bullying themselves. Often they worry about the bully's revenge or other children's disapproval, and/or they think adults can do little to help them (Garfalo et al., 1987; Olweus, 1991).
- When they are courageous enough to tell, victims talk more often to parents than to teachers. As their children's most important advocates, parents must support their victimized children by working with the school to ensure their children's safety.

What Role Does the School Play?

Schools play an important role in shaping children's development. As with families, schools must strike a balance between clear, consistent discipline and warm, supportive relationships.

 Principals: Principals set the tone for their schools. Bullying is reduced if the principal is committed to addressing bullying (Charach et al., 1995).
 Strategies used by principals include: consistent and formative consequences for bullies; an open-door policy for victims, with empathetic responses to their concerns; and working together with teachers on classroom management, and strategies for troubled children.

- Student-Staff Relations: Bullying is less prevalent in schools where there are supportive relations among school staff, warm relations between staff and students, shared decision-making among staff and students, and where the adults do not model bullying for the students (Olweus, 1987).
- **School Policy**: The key to reducing bullying in schools is a clear policy regarding bullying with consistently applied consequences (Olweus, 1991).
- **School Organization**: Schools which emphasize academic success without respecting children's individual strengths and weaknesses tend to have more bullying (Tattum, 1982).
- Playground Supervision: Students report that the majority of bullying occurs on the playground (Olweus, 1991; Pepler et al., 1997). Bullying occurs where there is little supervision or when large groups of children engage in rough-and-tumble play or competitive sports (Murphy et al., 1983).

What Role Does Broader Society Play?

Bullying problems may reflect Canada's cultural tolerance of aggression. Much of this tolerance is created through the popular media, including television, movies, music and video games. The consistent message presented by these media is that aggression is an effective solution to social problems. Aggressive children are more likely than non-aggressive children to be drawn to and imitate media violence (Huesmann et al., 1984).

Because Canada is culturally diverse, children may be bullied due to their race or ethnicity. Within schools, anti-racism and anti-sexism initiatives are often considered together with anti-bullying programs to promote positive social behavior.

As children enter adolescence, bullying declines somewhat and sexual harassment, both between boys and girls and within same-gender groups, increases. Unwanted sexual harassment, including comments, looks, gestures, and name-calling, is reported by 48% of 12-year-old children (McMaster et al., 1997). Although equal numbers of boys and girls report experiencing this form of bullying, more boys than girls acknowledge that they have sexually harassed other students.

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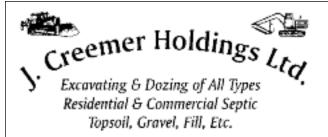
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What Can We Do To Reduce Bullying?

To be effective, bullying interventions must focus beyond the aggressive child and the victim to include peers, school staff, parents and the broader community. Although there are substantial differences among schools, comprehensive anti-bullying initiatives can help reduce occurrences of bullying.

The central feature of the intervention must be a clearly stated code of behavior, such as respect for one another, and enforced by consistent and supportive follow-through. It takes considerable time to bring about both attitudinal and behavioural changes among the staff, students, and parents in the school community. The ing sections provide a brief overview of components of an anti-bullying program.

- School Staff: Motivation and support from the school staff are essential. All school staff should be included in educational sessions. Staff, together with parent and student representatives, should be responsible for updating the code of behavior and its consequences. Teachers' attitudes are reflected in their behavior. When adults recognize the problem of bullying and their central role in reducing it, they supervise actively and intervene to stop bullying.
 - Parents: Parent meetings and newsletters should inform parents about the problems of bullying. Parents should talk to their children about bullying and be aware of signs of potential victimization. Communication between parents and the school is essential, as parents are often the first to know that their children are being victimized.
 - Peers: Peers play a critical role in bullying. Interventions must aim to change attitudes, behaviors and norms around bullying for all children in a school. Under teachers' guidance, students can recognize the problem of bullying and their potential contributions. With teachers' support, they can develop strategies for intervening themselves, or seeking adult assistance to stop bullying. Promoting attitudes in the peer group which support empathy for the victim and condemn aggression will reduce bullying.
 - Bullies and Victims: Children involved as bullies or victims require individual attention. Talks with bullies should emphasize that bullying is not acceptable and point out the consequences established in the code of behavior. If a group of children is involved in bullying, the bully and bystanders are made to understand their role and responsibility. Talks with victims encourage them to

speak up and confirm the school's intention to ensure that they are protected from further harassment. Talks with parents inform them of their children's difficulties and enlist their cooperation in disciplining bullying behavior and/or monitoring for further occurrences of bullying or victimization.

Conclusion

This review is not a comprehensive description of all factors related to bullying and victimization, but it does attempt to capture those most frequently addressed in the literature. Children involved in bullying, whether as bullies or victims, may have negative attitudes, poor social skills and emotional difficulties which begin at home. These problems are transferred to the school and peer contexts, where they may be reinforced. The development of antisocial behavior problems depends on the interaction of individual characteristics and exposure to risk factors at critical developmental periods.

The National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention supports community initiatives that strive to create better opportunities for children. High-quality and consistent nurturing, combined with a secure, physically and emotionally safe environment through childhood will improve each child's prospects of success in life and make it less likely that they will later be victimized or become offenders. Programs that teach children resilience, empathy and social skills can help protect—children from negative experiences.

Interventions for the issue of bullying should extend to all those involved: bullies, victims, peers, school staff, parents, and the broader community. We all have a role to play in declaring bullying is not a rite of passage for Canadian children.

This fact sheet was developed by the National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention in cooperation with Debra J. Pepler of the LaMarsh Centre for Research on Violence and Conflict Resolution and Department of Psychology, York University, and Wendy M. Craig of the Department of Psychology, Queen's University.





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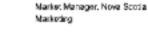
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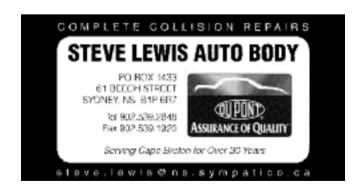
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CHILDREN AND BULLYING

Did you know ...?

- * Bullying happens once every seven minutes on the playground and once every 25 minutes in class.
- * Bullying episodes are approximately one minute long but the emotional scars can last a lifetime.
- * By age 24, 60 per cent of identified boy bullies have a criminal record. Victims of bullying are often rejected by their peers and are at risk for depression and dropping out of school. Some see suicide as their only escape.

Bullying is a sad, tragic reality that affects virtually every Canadian child as a victim, bully or bystander. And as much as we would like to be there for our children, the reality is that most bullying episodes occur when adults aren't around. It's therefore essential that we empower children with tools to address bullying on their own.

Canadian research says that peers or bully bystanders are key to addressing the issue of bullying, because they are present in 85 per cent of the bullying episodes on the playground and in the classroom, whereas adults are seldom present. The unfortunate thing is that although 80 to 90 per cent of students indicate that watching bullying makes them uncomfortable, the majority of the time, bully bystanders reinforce bullying by passively watching (54 per cent) or actively modelling bullying behaviours (21 per cent).

At the same time, we know that they can be instrumental in stopping bullying because when peers do intervene on behalf of the victim, bullying stops within ten seconds 57 per cent of the time. The trick is to teach children how to intervene appropriately so they don't put themselves or anyone else in danger, while trying to make a difference.

CCA's anti-bullying commercial, "Walk Away" aims to empower bully bystanders or the "silent majority" that might stand and watch bullying with practical tools and information to safely help stop bullying. Take a look at www.cca-kids.ca/life/bullying/html.

As well, the following pages list tips for children on how to help stop bullying, and tips for parents, caregivers and coaches on helping children deal with bullying, either as victims, bullies or bystanders. We hope you find them useful.

HELPING CHILDREN TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN BULLYING

Tips for Parents, Caregivers and Coaches from CCA:

* Explain Their Role

Explain to children how crucial they are to stopping bullying. Bullying requires an audience, and without an audience, the bully has no power. Remind children the next time they see bullying to walk away.

* Encourage Safe Measures

Tell children to keep their own safety in mind when dealing with bullying, and to leave any potentially dangerous bullying scene to find a grown-up to help.

* Help Define Bullying

Remind children that bullying is not just about hitting or pushing and that emotional bullying, such as calling names or leaving other kids out is equally as harmful and wrong.

* Advocate for Potential Victims

In order to assist potential victims, encourage children to get to know withdrawn children who find it difficult to make friends, and to get their friends to do the same.

* Help Spread the Word

Challenge children to talk to other children about the fact that bullying isn't cool. It won't be long before the word catches on.

* Encourage Communication

Ask children to tell you or another trusted adult when they see bullying of any kind. Assure them you're there to listen and help and that you won't get upset.

* Praise Communication

Congratulate them when they do talk to you about bullying. Encourage them to tell their friends to talk to the adults they trust about bullying too.

* Value Differences

Work with children to develop a code of mutual respect. Remind them that everyone deserves to be treated with kindness, regardless of race, size, skin colour, hobbies, religion, clothing, beliefs, anything at all.

* Change Takes Time

Remind children that ending bullying won't happen overnight. Try relaying bullying episodes from your childhood so they understand that change takes time.

* Help Is There

Remember whether you're the parent of a bystander, victim, or bully, someone is there to listen if you have parenting concerns. Call Parent Help Line at 1-888-603-9100.



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TALKING TO YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT BULLYING

Tips for Parents of Victims and Bullies:

If you think your child is a victim...

- * Talk about it. Encourage your child to talk about school and friends. Keep the lines of communication open so they feel they can talk to you about what's going on.
- * Build Their Confidence. Work deliberately to build your child's confidence. Remind them about what they do well and that they are good people who deserve to be treated with respect.
- * Try Something New. Trying new things can help to build children Os selfesteem. Encourage your children to try something new, whether it be playing an instrument or playing team sports, which can help to build their social skills as well.
- * Avoid Overprotection. Rather than sheltering your children from difficult situations, give them the skills to deal with them on their own.
- * Teach Assertiveness. Encourage assertive, but not aggressive, behaviour so your children can stand up for themselves. Remind them that a bully only has power if it's given to them.
- * Encourage Socializing. Bullies target shy, introverted children. Encourage your children to try and develop new friendships and to surround themselves with friends.
- * Kids Help Phone is There. Sometimes, as much as we would like to talk to our children, they're just not comfortable talking to us. Remind your children that if they need someone to talk to, Kids Help Phone is there to listen at 1-800-668-6868.

If you think your child is a bully...

- * Stay Calm. Now, more than ever, it's important to model good listening and problem solving skills. Don't deny the fact that your child is a bully or take it personally, but begin immediately trying to rectify the situation.
- * **Be Clear.** Explain that any type of bullying or any mistreatment of another human being is absolutely unacceptable, whether it be at home, school or play.
- * Explain Sticks and Stones. Explain that teasing and name-calling is just as bad as hitting and kicking. In the cases of emotional bullying, they might not realize the harm they're causing.
- * Channel Their Energy. Encourage your child to use their energy and express their emotions in constructive ways. For example, team sports and physical activity can be a positive outlet for high- energy children.

- * Teach Respect for Other's Differences. Prejudice is often the basis for mistreatment of other people. Work with your children to develop a code of mutual respect for all people, regardless of race, religion, background, clothing, or anything at all.
- * Encourage Empathy. Try and get your children to put themselves in the shoes of the victim.
- * Set an Example. Let your own actions illustrate how important it is to be kind to other people and how to solve problems in a positive manner.

PUT AN END TO BULLYING - TIPS FOR KIDS

* Recognize Bullying

Bullying comes in many different forms - all equally painful and wrong. Whether it's hitting or pushing; ridiculing or calling names; ignoring or spreading nasty rumours, don't put up with bullying in your school or community. It makes everyone feel bad.

* Keep Track of Places

Work with friends to take note of places where bullying occurs. Pass this information on to teachers, playground officers, bus drivers, any grown-up they want to help!

* Define Cool

Spread the word in your school or community that bullying isn't acceptable. Once the word catches on, it won't be long before everyone realizes that bullying isn't cool.

* Speak up!

State clearly to the bully that you and your friends won't be involved in any bullying. When someone is bullying someone else, speak up and tell them that bullying is wrong. If it doesn't feel safe, get help.

* Help the Victim

Make an effort to get to know kids who are picked on. If they seem sad or worried, tell them there is help available - they can tell a parent, teacher, or coach or they can call Kids Help Phone at 1-800-668-6868. Ask them to join you. Be sure they're not alone.

* Bullies need help too

Be firm that bullying is wrong, but don't ever be mean to the bully. Most times, bullies are bullies because they're unhappy inside. Remember - they need help and understanding too.

* Walk Away!

By standing and watching bullying, you're encouraging it. Walk away as soon as you see something mean, nasty or threatening happening, and then go and get help!

* Choose your Friends Wisely

Make it clear to your friends that you will not put up with bullying. Refuse to spend time with people who are mean to others.

continued...



Michael Baker, MLA

Lunenburg Office

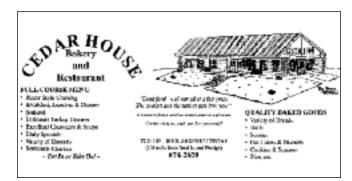
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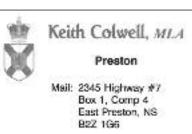










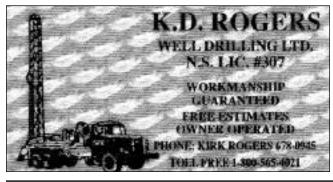


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* Share the Responsibility

Everyone has a responsibility to help stop bullying. Spread the word that bullying isn't cool. Support victims. Speak up or get help when you see it happening. Make sure you're doing your part.

* Be a Leader of Cool

Take steps to stop bullying in your school. Talk to your teacher or principal and ask for help in setting up a "Say No to Bullying" campaign.

TIPS FOR KIDS BEING BULLIED FROM KIDS HELP PHONE

www.kidshelpphone.com 1-800-668-6868

Bullying is scary and embarrassing. It can make you feel as if it's your fault. It's not! There are things you can do to make bullying stop. Here are some tips.

- * Stay calm and don't act upset or angry: bullies love a reaction. Practise what you'll do the next time it happens. If you don't act upset or react the way they want you to, they might get bored and stop.
- * **Don't fight back.** If you fight back you could make the situation worse, get hurt, or be blamed for starting the trouble.
- * Try to calmly withdraw from the situation. Try to ignore the bullying or say "no" really firmly, then turn and walk away calmly. It's very hard for the bully to go on bullying someone who won't stand still and listen.
- * Give your stuff up, if it's either you or your stuff. Things can be replaced you can't!
- * Avoid being alone in places where you know the bully is likely to pick on you. It's not fair that you have to do this but it might put the bully off until you talk to an adult or find another solution to stop the bullying.
- * Don't be afraid to tell an adult you trust, like a teacher or your mom or dad, and keep telling them over and over again. You don't have to let them take over. You can talk with them about what you would like to happen.
- * Most of all, don't give up. Being bullied can make you feel really bad about yourself and verydiscouraged. This is exactly what the bullies are hoping for. If you give in, they will be able to take advantage of you in different ways and at different times.

If you're feeling like giving up, make sure you talk to someone. Don't forget Kids Help Phone at 1-800-668-6868 is always confidential and free.

Or check out the "Violence" section of the Kids Help Phone website, Kids Help Phone and Bell Online: http://kidshelp.sympatico.ca.

ARE YOU A BULLY?

Tips for Bullies from Concerned Children's Advertisers:

- * Weigh the Odds. Decide if bullying is worth getting in trouble, possibly hurting yourself or others and turning people away from you for a long time. Chances are, you just want to make a point, but it's probably not worth the price and you likely won't get what you want.
- * Put yourself in their shoes. As hard as it is, try and understand what it would be like for others to be mean and nasty to you, and to be unable to defend yourself. If you can even slightly identify with the feelings of a victim, it won't be long before you stop.
- * Appreciate People's Differences. Instead of picking on people for being different, use it as an opportunity to learn new things. Ask children who are different from you about their background, beliefs, favourite foods and music they might introduce you to something new to enjoy.
- * Temper Triggers. Learn to recognize your 'temper triggers.' When someone pushes the wrong button, just take a deep breath and walk away. That way YOU are the one in control of the situation.
- * Cool Down. Try not to act out in anger. When you are upset, give y ourself time to cool off. Go for a walk. Call a family member. Listen to some music. Think of something that makes you feel good.
- * Express Things Differently. Channel your energy by doing something active or creative. Sports are fun, challenging and a great way to learn how to get along with other kids; writing, painting or drawing can make you feel a whole lot better. Try sharing your thoughts on paper with someone you trust.
- * It's Not Funny! You might think that being mean to other kids is funny because others are watching and laughing. Know that they're watching and laughing because they're frightened of you. It's really not funny at all.
- * **Get some advice.** Know that it's okay to be angry and upset, but it's not okay to take it out on people. When you feel angry, try talking to a grown up or friend you trust instead or call Kids Help Phone at 1-800-668-6868.
- * Learn to Get Along. Talk to your parent or teacher about helping you find ways to get along with other children. Your school library might have books or games to help you learn how to get along with others and start enjoying life.
- Be a Real Leader. You're already a leader, because other people often watch you pick on others. Instead of being mean and nasty, set a real example by being kind and respectful of other kids. Think of how good you'll feel when others follow your lead.

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Challenging Cyber Bullying

The Internet has created a whole new world of social communications for young people who are using e-mail, Web sites, instant messaging, chat rooms and text messaging (STM) to stay in touch with friends and make new ones.

While most interactions are positive, increasingly kids are using these communication tools to antagonize and intimidate others. This has become known as cyber bullying.

Today's young Internet users have created an interactive world away from adult knowledge and supervision. MNet research shows that 50 per cent of kids say they are alone online most of the time, and only 16 per cent say they talk to their parents a lot about what they do online. Because bullies tend to harass their victims away from the watchful eyes of adults, the Internet is the perfect tool for reaching others anonymously - anytime, anyplace. This means for many children, home is no longer a refuge from the cruel peer pressures of school.

The anonymity of online communications means kids feel freer to do things online they would never do in the real world. Even if they can be identified online, young people can accuse someone else of using their screen name. They don't have to own their actions, and if a person can't be identified with an action, fear of punishment is diminished.

Nancy Willard of the Responsible Netizen Institute explains that technology can also affect a young person's ethical behaviour because it doesn't provide tangible feedback about the consequences of actions on others. This lack of feedback minimizes feelings of empathy or remorse. Young people say things online that they would never say face-to-face because they feel removed from the action and the person at the receiving end.

There are several ways that young people bully others online. They send e-mails or instant messages containing insults or threats directly to a person. They may also spread hateful comments about a person through e-mail, instant messaging or postings on Web sites and online diaries. Young people steal passwords and send out threatening e-mails or instant messages using an assumed identity. Technically savvy kids may build whole Web sites, often with password protection, to target specific students or teachers.

An increasing number of kids are being bullied by text messages through their cell phones. These phones are

challenging the ability of adults to monitor and guide children because, unlike a computer placed in a public area of a home, school or library, mobiles are personal, private, connected - and always accessible. Kids tend to keep their phones on at all times, meaning bullies can harass victims at school or even in their own rooms.

Built-in digital cameras in cell phones are adding a new dimension to the problem. In one case students used a camera-enabled cell phone to take a photo of an overweight classmate in the shower after gym. The picture was distributed throughout the school e-mail list within minutes.

Schools are struggling to address the issue of cyber bullying among students, especially when it occurs outside of school. When real world bullying occurs in a schoolyard or classroom, teachers are often able to intervene, but online bullying takes place off the radar screen of adults, making it difficult to detect in schools and impossible to monitor off school property.

Cyber bullying and the law

Young people should be aware that some forms of online bullying are considered criminal acts. Under the Criminal Code of Canada, it is a crime to communicate repeatedly with someone if your communication causes them to fear for their own safety or the safety of others.

It's also a crime to publish a "defamatory libel" writing something that is designed to insult a person or likely to injure a person's reputation by exposing him or her to hatred, contempt or ridicule.

A cyber bully may also be violating the Canadian Human Rights Act, if he or she spreads hate or discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or disability.

The role of Internet service providers (ISPs) and cell phone service providers

Internet service providers (ISPs) are the companies that provide Internet access to consumers. Most ISPs have Acceptable Use Policies (AUPs) that clearly define privileges and guidelines for those using their services, and the actions that can be taken if those guidelines are violated.

(continued...)

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800 WINDMILL RD. DARTMOUTH (902) 468-0762 ISPs and cell phone service providers can respond to reports of cyber bullying over their networks, or help clients track down the appropriate service provider to respond to.

Taking action on cyber bullying

Cyber bullying is everyone's business and the best response is a pro-active or preventative one.

What parents can do

- Get involved and be aware:
 - * Learn everything you can about the Internet and what your kids are doing online. Talk to them about the places they go online and the activities that they are involved in. Be aware of what your kids are posting on Web sites, including their own personal home pages.
 - * Encourage your kids to come to you if anybody says or does something online that makes them feel uncomfortable or threatened. Stay calm and keep the lines of communication and trust open. If you "freak out" your kids won't turn to you for help when they need it.
- Encourage kids to develop their own moral code so they will choose to behave ethically online:
 - * Talk to your kids about responsible Internet use.
 - * Teach them to never post or say anything on the Internet that they wouldn't want the whole world including you to read.
 - * Create an online agreement or contract for computer use, with your kids' input. Make sure your agreement contains clear rules about ethical online behaviour. MNet's research shows that in homes where parents have clear rules against certain kinds of activities, young people are much less likely to engage in them.
- Take action if your child is being bullied online:
 - * Watch out for signs that your child is being bullied online a reluctance to use the computer or go to school may be an indication.
 - * If the bully is a student at your child's school, meet with school officials and ask for help in resolving the situation.
 - * Report any incident of online harassment and physical threats to your local police and your Internet Service Provider (ISP).
 - * If your child is bullied through a cell phone, report the problem to your phone service provider. If it's a persistent problem, you can change the phone number.

What schools can do

- Integrate curriculum-based anti-bullying programs into classrooms.
- Educate teachers, students and parents about the seriousness of cyber bullying.
- Change the school or board's bullying policy to include harassment perpetrated with mobile and Internet technology. There should be serious consequences for anyone who doesn't follow the guidelines.
- Update the school or board's computer Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) to specifically prohibit using the Internet for bullying.

What kids can do

Because most incidents of bullying occur off adults' radar screens, it's important that young people learn to protect themselves online and respond to cyber bullying among peers when they encounter it.

Guidelines for children and teens:

- Guard your contact information. Don't give people you don't know your cell phone number, instant messaging name or e-mail address.
- If you are being harassed online, take the following actions immediately:
 - * Tell an adult you trust a teacher, parent, older sibling or grandparent.
 - * If you are being harassed, leave the area or stop the activity (i.e. chat room, news group, online gaming area, instant messaging, etc.).
 - * If you are being bullied through e-mail or instant messaging, block the sender's messages. Never reply to harassing messages.
 - * Save any harassing messages and forward them to your Internet Service Provider (i.e. Hotmail or Yahoo). Most service providers have appropriate use policies that restrict users from harassing others over the Internet and that includes kids!
 - * If the bullying includes physical threats, tell the police as well.
- Take a stand against cyber bullying with your peers.
 Speak out whenever you see someone being mean to another person online. Most kids respond better to criticism from their peers than to disapproval from adults.

www.media-awareness.ca

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Online Dangers

According to Statistics Canada, children are spending less time watching television and more time in front of the computer. From a health standpoint, other activities such as outdoor play would be far more beneficial than sitting in front of a screen for long periods. From a personal safety standpoint, the unregulated environment of cyberspace is virtually impossible to police.

The Internet has been called an electronic Trojan horse. It offers education, entertainment, and communication with people around the world - all potentially good experiences. Unfortunately, it also attracts con artists, pedophiles, ideologies and other material to which parents might not want their children exposed.

The Canada Safety Council and Media Awareness Network Web sites provide Internet safety tips to help parents protect their children from the Dark Side of the World Wide Web.

Name Exposure

Exchanging e-mail with friends seems like an innocent activity. However, after children exchange e-mail addresses they may start to receive forwarded messages, some re-forwarded by several senders. Everyone uses the CC field, exposing the e-mail addresses to more and more strangers, sometimes into the hundreds.

Spammers pick up names from these chain e-mails, enabling them to clog Inboxes with unwanted e-mails, from sales pitches to pornographic and hate spam. They may also be able to obtain personal information if the e-mail address is attached to traceable identifying information through an ISP.

When you give a friend your phone number or address, you don't expect that he or she will pass it along to everyone they phone or send mail to, and that the next person will then do the same. Most parents and children do not realize the risks and consequences of this common practice.

Bullies

A survey released in April 2002 by the UK children's charity NCH found more than one in four teenagers had been bullied either by e-mail or mobile phone. The 856 respondents were between 11 and 19 years of age. Sixteen percent had received bullying or threatening text messages, seven percent had been harassed in Internet chat rooms and four percent by e-mail. One in three of the victims had told no one.

The Internet takes bullying beyond the school yard there is no safe haven, even at home. Bullies can create hate Web sites about other children and distribute the URLs through Internet chat rooms. A bully can harass by persistent e-mails. The Internet provides an anonymity that creates the confidence to make threats a child would not make in person. Victims should change their mobile number or e-mail address if they receive threats. If the messages continue, they should not be afraid to go to the police.

Cyber Stalking

A cyber stalker is someone who contacts or seeks to gain intimate personal knowledge of another person through online communication without their consent or after being told to cease. Stalkers lurk in chat rooms, news groups, bulletin boards and e-mail. Their objective is to create fear and get a reaction. They may also send viruses or masses of spam, or hack into a computer.

According to a 1999 report of the US Department of Justice, one out of every 10 Internet users had been stalked online. Most victims are adults, and 80 percent are women. Alarmingly, one out of every five cyber stalking cases becomes an offline, real-world stalking case.

If you feel you are being stalked, respond to absolutely nothing sent by the stalker. Use a filter or blocking software to prevent the e-mails from reaching your Inbox. If the problem only exists on ICQ or IRC, completely change your online identity.

The offender will eventually give up when you won't play the game. If harassment continues you can report the stalker to both their ISP and your own. With sufficient grounds, most ISPs will terminate offenders' accounts, but beware that doing this could aggravate the situation. You may have to change your e-mail account or even your ISP.

Cybertip.ca

In 2002, a new Web site was launched at www.cybertip.ca. The site is operated by Child Find Manitoba in partnership with the federal government and private sector partners. It handles tips from individuals reporting the online sexual exploitation of children. There is also a toll-free phone line (1-866-658-9022).

Incidents of child pornography, luring, child sex tourism, or child prostitution can be reported. Cybertip.ca receives and analyses the tips, then refers leads to the appropriate law enforcement agencies.

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Internet Child Exploitation - Internet Luring

The Internet has come into the lives of children and youth at a rapid rate. It serves not only as an excellent educational tool but also as a means of communication, allowing people to chat with their closest friends and Internet friends living in other parts of the world.

There are also many dangers on the World Wide Web. Strangers no longer need to meet children face to face but can easily develop a relationship online, in secret. Some children will begin to trust strangers on the internet and accept them as friends, without knowing the dangerous intentions of the "predator".

A predator will make up lies and change his online identity to make children believe he is someone he is not. Once the predator senses he has gained the trust of the youth he will set up a meeting in person, which can lead to a very dangerous situation.

The protection of children from Internet predators is a difficult one. Many parents conclude that the only way to deal with the problem is to keep the child offline or monitor them exceptionally close.

Luring of Children on the Internet

In 2002, Section 172.1 was added to the Criminal Code of Canada to criminalize electronic communication with a person believed to be a child for the purpose of facilitating the commission of sexual offences. Depending on the offence, the requisite age (real or believed) of the intended victim varies from 14 to 18. Internet luring of children is punishable on summary of conviction. The maximum penalty is a fine of \$2000, and/or imprisonment for up to six months. For an indictment, imprisonment is up to five years.

Advice for PARENTS

Here are some very important steps you should take to help ensure the safety of your children.

Be Informed

- Talk to computer sales clerks and determine which software packages are available to safeguard your child and block out offensive materials.
- Sit down with your child and talk about their computer interests.

Be Smart

- Promise your children you will not get angry if they come to you with a problem they experience online.
- Set the rules for Internet use, including when and how long your child can go on-line.
- Have your child use a code name while on-line.
- Change passwords frequently.
- Periodically view the history of your child's chat line.
- Always maintain access to your child's on-line accounts and randomly check the e-mail messages.

Advice for YOUTH

It is important to talk to your children and inform them of the following steps they can take to protect themselves from internet predators.

Be Alert

- Do not believe everything you read online, and treat everyone you meet as a stranger. Internet predators will use fake names for false intentions.
- Use "Netiquette". Be polite to others online. If someone is rude or offends you, do not respond to them.
- Never open emails from someone you do not know. Just delete them.
- Tell an adult if someone makes you feel uncomfortable or scares you.
- Never meet someone in person with whom you communicated with on the Internet unless you have received parental permission. Accompaniment of the parent is an absolute must, and the meeting should only be arranged in a public place.
- Use a gender neutral "nickname" when entering chatrooms.
- Never give your name or family names, addresses, telephone numbers, the name of the school you attend, parent's workplace or any other pertinent information that might help a predator locate you.

www.gnb.ca

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Managing the Internet

Many parents are anxious about introducing the Internet into their homes. Children have always been the heaviest users of electronic media and it is inevitable they will be drawn to this exciting new medium. Because of safety and privacy concerns however, parents must take an active role in guiding their children as they explore this new world.

Government and industry are working to make the Internet a safer place for children – implementing "codes of conduct" for online marketing and the protection of privacy, developing rating systems for web sites and creating better blocking software. Parents however, remain the best line of defense in protecting their children and making Net surfing a safe and enjoyable experience.

Getting started

- Become web-literate so you can direct your children's online experiences. Even if you've never surfed the web before, (and still think Java refers to coffee!), it doesn't take long to feel at ease on the Internet.
- Try to keep up-to-date on web issues by reading the technology section of your newspaper. New technologies present new challenges for parents.
- Focus on the positive aspects of the Internet. You wouldn't take your children to a library and start off by telling them where they shouldn't go instead you would point them in the direction of books that will interest them. Approach the Internet in the same way. Direct your children to sites where they can learn and share common interests with peers, and roam safely under your supervision.

Online marketing aimed at children

Advertisers have discovered that the unregulated Internet is an ideal vehicle for marketing to children. Interactive advertising sites, disguised as children's entertainment, are proliferating on the World Wide Web. Some marketers are using these sites to track children's online computer use and gather personal information.

Many sites prompt children to fill out forms or questionnaires so they can join a club or win a prize. To protect your children's privacy, make sure they always check with you before giving any personal information over the Internet.

Using chatrooms, newsgroups and email

One of the Internet's greatest attractions for children, especially teens, is its interactivity. Making friends all over the world is exciting and a wonderful use of the Net. Keep in mind, however, that "chatmates" are not always who they claim to be. The anonymity of online correspondence makes it easy for people to misrepresent themselves.

- Make sure your children always use a nickname and don't reveal personal information online until you are sure of the identity of the recipient.
- If your children have passwords they use on the Internet, make sure they never reveal them to anyone.
- Consider using "filtering" software which can block access to newsgroups containing objectionable words or phrases. (See Protecting children from hateful or obscene material for more information on filtering software)
- If your children receive an offensive message or junk email, send copies (including the sender's email address) to your service provider.
- Parental involvement is the key to safe surfing, so keep your computer in a well-used area. Even when you can't be right beside your children, you will still be able to keep an eye on their online activities.

Protecting children from hateful or obscene material

There are a variety of technologies available to help parents restrict access to objectionable or obscene material on the Internet.

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(...Managing the Internet continued)
adult material or objectionable words. It often comes
"bundled" with the other programs loaded on new
PCs. In this category are products such as
Surfwatch, Cyber Patrol, Cybersitter and NetNanny.

Commercial Online Service Blocking Features:
 Most Internet service providers now offer their
 customers filtering software. These features are easy
 to use and part of the regular menu of options
 offered to users.

• Web-based PICS filtering:

Many "browsers" – the software used to access the World Wide Web – now allow parents to block access to certain material using web site rating systems. Products such as Net Shepherd, RSACi, and SafeSurf classify sites according to their content and will only allow access to sites rated "child-friendly."

These filtering technologies are just tools and are not meant to be substitutes for parental guidance. It is virtually impossible to monitor and rate the millions of new web sites cropping up each month. Much of the software is difficult and time-consuming to configure. Most can be defeated and those which can't are so restrictive they may block a lot of worthwhile material.

Great Kids' Sites

For a great starting point on the Web, check out these sites which provide hundreds of safe, kid-friendly links:

Canadian Kids Page (http://www.onramp.ca/cankids)
Berit's Best Sites for Children
(http://db.cochran.com/db_HTML:theopage.db)
Yahooligans (http://www.yahooligans.com)

..and for a fun way to teach your child about Internet safety, download Privacy Playground: An Adventures of the Three Little CyberPigs – a multi-media game from the Media Awareness Network. (http://www.screen.com/mnet/eng/cpigs/cpigs.htm).

Online house rules for kids

Copy the following handout for kids on Internet use. Read through the rules with your family and then post them near your computer for easy reference.

I will not give out any personal information online without my parents' permission. This includes my name, phone number, address, email, location of my school, my parents' work address/telephone numbers and credit card numbers.

I will always use a pretend name or nickname when using the Internet.

When creating a password I will make one up that is hard to guess but easy for me to remember. To avoid having it stolen, I will never reveal it to anyone.

I will not respond to any message that makes me uncomfortable. I will log off and tell an adult right away.

I will arrange to meet a friend I have made on the Internet ONLY if one of my parents has been informed and will be present.

I will not send an insulting or rude message to anyone online. This is called "flaming" and is not good Netiquette.

I will not disable any filtering software my parents have put on the computer.

I will not believe everything I read on the Internet. I will always check the source of the information and confirm it with my teacher, parent or librarian.

www.media-awareness.ca

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Creating a Family Internet Agreement

A family Internet agreement is a set of guidelines or rules for home Internet use. An online agreement should offer your kids very clear guidelines on the following:

- where they can go and what they can do online
- how much time they can spend on the Internet
- what to do if something happens that makes them feel uncomfortable
- how they can protect their personal information
- how to stay safe in interactive environments
- · how to behave ethically and responsibly online

The key to an effective agreement is to create it with your family's input.

You'll need to do some research before you get started:

- If they're already using the Internet, ask your kids what activities they like to do online? Do they enter contests or fill out surveys or quizzes? Do they download music files, games or software? Do they like chatting with people through chat or instant messaging?
- Sit with them and ask them to show you where they go and what they do online. Check out their favourite Web sites, visit chat rooms they've used, look at their instant messaging contact lists.
- Learn how they find their way around the Internet. Do they rely on hyperlinks (links to other sites), or do they use search engines? If so, which ones? Ask them why they prefer one over the other, and how they formulate their searches.

Now you can create a family online agreement based on your children's online interests and activities. Keep your agreement by the family computer as a reminder. Review it regularly and update it as your children grow older.

Sample Family Online Agreements

Joy and Stephen Smith have three children: Holly is 7, David is 9 and Justine is 14. Holly loves anything that has to do with space, and David thinks dinosaurs are really cool. The are no museums in the Smiths' small town, so Holly and David like to go to places on the Internet where they can learn more about their interests. Holly's favourite Web site is the Canadian Space Agency's KidSpace. David searches all over the Web for great dinosaur stuff, like newsgroups, Web sites and games. Justine uses the Internet for homework and chatting with friends.

Joy and Stephen both work full time, so they sat down with their kids to determine a family online agreement that the baby-sitter, Marjory, can refer to when they're not around. They've also made a separate agreement for their teenager.

Holly and David's Online Agreement

- Either Mom or Dad or Marjory has to be with us when we go on the Internet.
- We are allowed on the Web for one hour on school nights, only after we've done our homework and cleaned up the supper table.
 Holly gets to do the surfing Mondays and Wednesdays, and David gets to do the surfing Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- We will only use Berit's Best Sites for Children or Yahooligans! to find Web sites.
- When searching for information online we will use these filtered search engines: Ask Jeeves for Kids or KidsClick!
- We will not give out any personal information online without Mom or Dad's permission.
- Only Mom or Dad can download our e-mail. They will tell us if we have any new mail in the family mailbox.

(continued...)

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(...Creating a Family Internet Agreement continued)

- If we get any e-mail from a stranger, we will tell Mom or Dad right away. We won't open it without their permission.
- We are only allowed to use monitored chat rooms and Mom or Dad must be with us when we're chatting.
- We will never be rude or mean to anyone online.
- We will check with Mom and Dad before downloading software or games from the Internet.
- In signing this family online agreement, we promise to follow these rules. If we break our family agreement, we understand that we will not be allowed on the Internet at all for one week.

Mom	Date:
Dad	Date:
Holly	Date:
David	Date:

Justine's Online Agreement

- The maximum I can be online for fun is one hour on weekdays and two hours on weekends.
 There is no time limit when using the Internet for homework.
- I will not buy or sell anything over the Net without my parent's permission.
- I will tell my parents before downloading any games, music files or software from the Internet.
- I will not visit gambling sites or sites containing offensive or illegal material.
- I will not disable any filtering software that my parents have put on the computer.

- I will not open any e-mail or files from strangers.
- I will read the privacy policy of a Web site before giving out any personal information and make sure they will not share my info with a third party.
- I will only use monitored chat rooms for teens and I will stay in the public area and not go off into private rooms with strangers.
- I will only talk to people in instant messaging that I have met in person.
- I will always behave responsibly and ethically when online. I will always use Netiquette when using instant messaging, chat rooms and e-mail.
- If I ever arrange to meet an Internet friend in person, I will tell Mom and Dad and one of them will accompany me for the meeting.
- I will tell my parents right away if I get into any kind of trouble or if I feel uncomfortable in any situation on the Net.

In signing this family online agreement, I promise to follow these rules. If I break my family agreement, I understand that I will not be allowed on the Internet at all for one week.

Mom	Date:
Dad	Date:
Justine	Date:

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THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Tracking where kids have been on the Internet

Just as you have the right to know where your kids go at night, or any time for that matter, you have the right to know where your children go online.

You can find out a lot from your Web browser. Browsers are software programs that allow users to visit and read Web sites. The most popular browsers are Microsoft Internet Explorer (MSIE) and Netscape Navigator.

Web Surfing History

Browsers usually keep a history of sites recently visited. For Microsoft Internet Explorer (MSIE) users, there may be a button on your tool bar that says "History." If this button is not displayed, then someone has probably configured MSIE to not allow browsing of the history files. If you see the History button, then simply click it to view recently visited sites. If you can't find it, go to "Help" and search in the "Index" for "History."

Netscape users can search through the menu items across the top of the computer screen for a selection called "History." If you're using a recent version of Netscape, you will find it in "Communicator" at the top of the screen. Click it, then select "Tools." Choose "history" and a list of Web sites, dates and times will appear. Or, press the "Ctrl" (control) and "H" keys together on your keyboard to view the history. Using either browser, you double-click on the Web site name in the left column to visit any Web site listed in the history.

Cache files

Browsers also make copies of the Web pages viewed and store them on your computer. This helps the browser load recently viewed pages much quicker than if it had to download the pages all over again every time you visited the Web site. These Web pages are stored on your computer and are called temporary internet files or cache files.

Microsoft Internet Explorer (MSIE) users will need to find a menu item called "Internet Options." Depending on the version of MSIE you are using, it may be found under the "View" or "Tools" main menu items. Once you have located this menu item and click on it, a box will be displayed with several "tabbed" pages. The tab page you want to use is the "General" page. Click on

the button marked "Settings." There, you will see another button marked "View Files." Click on that button and you will see a list of all Web pages that are stored on your computer. You can double-click on any file name in the left column to view it. If you use Netscape, simply type in "about:global" (without the quotation marks) to get a list of recently cached files.

To find all Web pages stored on your computer, you can use a tool in Windows Explorer called Find. The easiest way to start the Find function is to click anywhere on your desktop (screen) and press the F3 key. Or, you can find it listed in your start menu, if you click the "start" button on your screen. Choose "Files or Folders."

When the Find box is displayed, select the following options to search for Web pages stored on your computer.In the "Named:" box type in: *.htm *.html (be sure to put a space between "*.htm" and "*.html"). In the "Look in:" box select: "My Computer" from the drop down list.Make sure the "Include subfolders" item is checked.

The Find function will return a list of all Internet Web pages stored on your computer. Just double click on the file name in the left column (or icon if the results are displayed in icon format) and you will be able to view the file.

Cookies

A cookie is a file sent to your Web browser by another Web site. Its purpose is to record your activities on that Web site when you visit it, so that next time you return, you can be presented with customized information. Cookies are regularly used by commercial Web sites and "adult" Web sites.

The cookie file resides on your computer, so you can look at it so see where your family has been. Use the Find tool (described above) to look for "cookies.txt" (without the quotation marks). When you find it, click on it. You will see a list of Web site urls that have placed cookies on your computer.

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Internet Addiction

The amount of time kids spend online is a source of frustration for many parents. Initially, parents welcomed the Internet into their homes, believing they were opening up an exciting new world of educational opportunities for their children. However, many parents soon realized that, instead of using the Internet for homework or research, their kids were spending hours instant messaging with friends, playing online games or talking to strangers in chat rooms.

Maintaining a healthy balance between entertainment media and other activities in their children's lives has always been a challenge for parents. The Internet has made this challenge even more difficult. The engaging nature of Internet communications and interactive games means many children and teens have trouble keeping track of time when they're online.

It is likely that over 10 per cent of students have an Internet dependency problem. Unfortunately, parents and teachers are usually not aware that there is a problem until it becomes serious. This is because it is easy to hide what you are doing online and because Internet addiction is not widely recognized by the medical community. (Mental health practitioners continue to debate whether this behaviour is an "addiction," with some preferring to identify it as "compulsive behaviour.")

Children and young people can easily become 'hooked' on online activities such as multi-user games, instant messaging, pornography and chat rooms. The most vulnerable children, according to the Computer-Addiction Services at Harvard Medical School, are those who are "lonely and bored or from families where nobody is at home to relate to after school."

Children who are unpopular or shy with peers are often attracted to the opportunities for creating new identities in online communities. Boys, in particular, are frequent users of online role-playing games, where they assume new identities and interact with other players. Although playing these games with thousands of other users may appear to be a social activity, for the introverted child or teen, excessive playing can further isolate them from friends and peers.

Harvard Medical School's Computer-Addiction Services identifies the following symptoms of computer addiction.

Psychological symptoms

- Having a sense of well-being or euphoria while at the computer
- Inability to stop the activity
- Craving more and more time at the computer
- Neglecting family and friends
- Feeling empty, depressed and irritable when not at the computer
- Lying to family and friends about activities
- Problems with school or work

Physical symptoms

- Carpal tunnel syndrome
- Dry eyes
- Migraine headaches
- Backaches
- Eating irregularities, such as skipping meals
- Neglecting personal hygiene
- Sleep disturbances and changes in sleep patterns

Tips for parents

If your kids are spending too much time on the Internet, you need to establish a healthy balance between Internet use and other activities.

- Look for symptoms of Internet dependency. Ask yourself if your child's Internet use is affecting his or her school performance, health, and relationships with family and friends.
- If your child is demonstrating strong signs of Internet addiction, consider seeking professional counselling. Compulsive Internet use may be symptomatic of other problems such as depression, anger and low self-esteem.
- Examine your own online habits. Do you have trouble controlling your Internet use? Remember, you are your child's most important role model.
- Don't ban the Internet it is an important part of most kids' social lives. Instead, establish rules about where your kids can go online and what they can do there and stick to them. Such rules might include: a limited amount of time online each day; no surfing or instant messaging until they complete their homework; no chat rooms or online pornography.
- Keep your computer in a public area of your house, not in a child's bedroom.
- Encourage and support your child's participation in other activities - particularly physical pastimes with other children.
- If your child is shy or socially awkward with peers, consider a social skills class. Encourage activities that will bring your child together with others who have similar interests, such as computer classes or hobby groups.
- Investigate software that monitors and restricts Internet use. Although these tools are helpful, keep in mind they can be easily disabled by a savvy computer user. Your ultimate goal should be helping your kids to develop self-control, discipline and accountability with the Internet.
- If your child seems interested only in playing online video games, try a tie-in to one of their favourite games. For example, if your child prefers fantasy role-playing, encourage her or him to read fantasy books.

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ST. LEO'S & ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISHES
ST. MICHAELS PARISH
ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
ST. PETERS BOTTLE EXCHANGE & RECYCLING
STANDARD DRAFTING SERVICES
STANDARD LIGHTING
STELLA MARIS PARISH
STEVE MORSE HEAVY TOWING
STELLA MARIS PARISH
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STEWART'S GARAGE
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STEWART'S TOWING
STEWART'S GARAGE
STEWART'S RV AND HOME CENTER
STRAIT ENGINEERING LTD
STRAITVIEW AUTOMOTIVE
STONE'S RV AND HOME CENTER
STATT ENGINEERING LTD
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STUDIO 21 FINE ART
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TIERRY SPRINKLER LTD.
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TOWN & COUNTRY IMPROVEMENTS
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TRAVEL UNIVERSAL VACATIONS LTD.
TRECAN COMBUSTION LIMITED
TREEN MANSION BED & BREAKFAST
TRENT CONRAD GEN. TRUCKING
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WELLS BOOKS
WELLS BOOKS
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WILLIAM THO

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