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Safer communities: Everybody's responsibility

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Sharing CONNECTIONS

A model project seeks to spread its success

By Marc Gushue

NORTH BAY — To most Canadians, Lynn Johnston is the award-winning cartoonist of the popular comic strip *For Better or For Worse*.

But to her neighbours in this Ontario city, she is the guardian angel of the CONNECTIONS youth drop-in centre.

After witnessing first-hand the profound changes that many of the youth involved in CONNECTIONS were experiencing, Johnston took the project under her wing in 1997, committing \$60,000 of her own money a year, for ten years.

"The thing that really made me dedicate this amount of time, effort and finances to the group was something that occurred when I attended one of the graduations for our CONNECTIONS kids," recalls Johnston.

"I sat down at the table and didn't know anybody. All the kids were different: blonde, dark, Native — they were all so different. Yet they introduced each other to me as brothers and sisters, and told me they were family. That sold me."

CONNECTIONS' programs to help high school students pursue their dreams and avoid bad decisions have made a demonstrable impact on the local youth,

which has, in turn, endeared the organization to the community at large.

Program Director Janet Humble has been involved with the project since 1997. She has watched it grow from a small volunteering project to a model crime prevention initiative that offers a holistic blend of services for high school students who have a hard time fitting in with mainstream high school culture. Some of these students have learning difficulties, some have problems at home, some are bullied, and others are simply shy and reclusive.

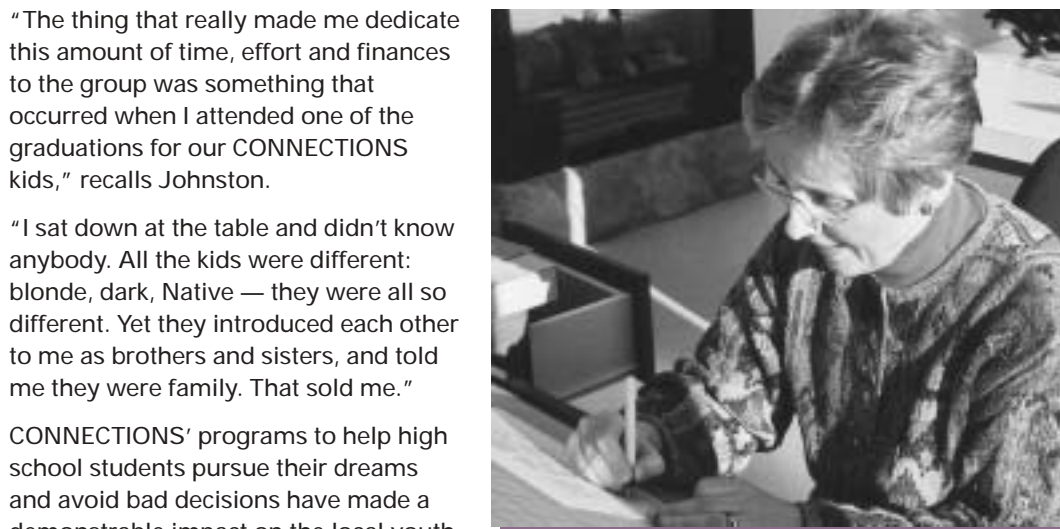
Rather than being left isolated and vulnerable to other risks, CONNECTIONS offers these young people an environment where they feel accepted, valued and free to share their feelings.

"When CONNECTIONS first started, it was a stay-in-school initiative put in place to respond to the enormous number of drop-outs we were having," recalls Humble. "We got kids involved by having them volunteer in the community.

Through these volunteer activities, we were hooking them up with potential employers, teaching them about punctuality and other skills, and hoping that some of these skills would transfer over to school."

The guiding principle of CONNECTIONS is creating a sense of family — a sense of connection — through four key activities:

Volunteering: The students are involved in numerous initiatives in the community each year, working for non-profit organizations and helping out at community events. This



Lynn Johnston



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Letter from the Editors

"There is nothing in this world constant, but inconstancy."
— Jonathan Swift, 1709.

Our world is in such a constant state of flux — some of it good, some bad, some indifferent — that it often goes unmarked or without remark.

That said, it has always been our intent, with *Prevention*, to signal to our readers the changes being authored by Canadians, across this country, to build stronger and safer communities.

The projects that we profile in this edition are all about change, about ideas like drug treatment courts, about action like Regina's Street Culture Kidz, about inspiration like North Bay's CONNECTIONS.

Among our contributors, Barbara Hall has been steadfast in her determination to share her perspectives on the many projects she has visited as Chair of the National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention. It is a tenure that is, after four years, drawing to a close — and this is a change that saddens all of us who work with the *National Strategy*.

Barbara began when the *National Strategy* was launched in June 1998 and she has been here every step of the way, constantly guiding, sometimes exhorting and always inspiring.

She has played a pivotal role in building the *National Strategy*. At every turn, she has brought people together, and she has made the *National Strategy* come alive through her words and the celebration of community initiatives that span the country.

Deliberate in her speech, (a thin disguise for a quick wit and a sharp mind), she is a keen observer, insightful, open and engaged. Guided by strong principles, and a hard-earned faith in the power of the individual and the community, she has always spoken from the heart.

With a varied career as a probation officer, lawyer and municipal politician, Barbara brought a depth of experience and knowledge that has been of incalculable value to the *National Strategy*. And she did so with common sense and an ingrained reflex to cut through the fluff and chatter. She always saw the work of crime prevention for what it is — dedicated, determined individuals joining together to make a difference.



Barbara Hall

In May 2001, Barbara said: "The struggle against crime and violence won't be won in one big, dramatic confrontation. Instead it's a struggle which consists of thousands of tiny battles every day. By working together, we can help to ensure more victories. And although the battles may be small, there's no such thing as a small victory."

Looking at the crime prevention initiatives underway in communities across this country, it is safe to say that the battles are well and truly joined.

Furthermore, it is safe to say that Barbara will continue to be heard on these issues. While her "official" tenure may be coming to an end, her commitment to helping build stronger and safer communities will surely not flag, nor, no doubt, her efforts to champion the work of the *National Strategy*.

In the same breath, because nothing stands still, we wish to welcome the Honourable Martin Cauchon, appointed Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada on January 15. Minister Cauchon joins the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Solicitor General of Canada, as the federal ministers responsible for the *National Strategy*.

Though little time has passed since assuming his new portfolio, Minister Cauchon has already put his stamp on the initiative, terming it remarkable in many ways. In a recent speech in Quebec City, Minister Cauchon stated: "By giving children, young people, and their families the support and the resources they need to start off on the right track, or to get back on track, we are helping them become good citizens who will make an active contribution to tomorrow's society."

And finally, we welcome a fourth member of our editorial team: Marc Gushue, Communications Officer for the National Crime Prevention Centre in Ottawa.

With that, we invite you to read on. 

Perspectives

By Barbara Hall

During my almost four years as Chair of the National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention, I have met with officials from many different countries of the world, all anxious to learn from our Canadian experience with community-based crime prevention through social development.

Government representatives, community-based groups and police organizations are all impressed by a national government working so creatively with so many diverse partners to address the root causes of crime.

While the world watches our experience with hope and anticipation, there are also lessons for us from other places.

I recently visited Brent, a borough in Greater London, England, and Brussels, Belgium, to meet with local crime prevention officials. I was struck in both places with the similarities to the experience of six American cities described in a recent report by the National Crime Prevention Council in the United States.

In all eight communities, there was a serious crime problem, a focussed response and a substantial improvement in both the reality and the perception of safety. Although there were no "one-size-fits-all" solutions, there are common elements, chief among them a willingness to involve the community in a meaningful way. As one Chief of Police observed, "I [used to think] that the police fought crime alone and that the community could only get in the way. Now we've got it right. We understand that in order to prevent crime and keep our community safe, we've got to involve the community as our partner."

Jack Calhoun, President and CEO of the U.S. National Crime Prevention Council, with whom I serve on the executive of the Montreal-based International Crime Prevention Centre, has drawn some interesting conclusions from the American experience.

He's distilled the list down to six factors that were present in each of these cities, even though actual strategies differed. The same could be said for Brent and Brussels.

Number One: A belief that all key municipal entities must play a role in cutting crime and violence. Schools, businesses, municipal government and social services must all work together.

Number Two: Cities must engage in specific, trackable actions. They need to have clear data on what the problems are, where they are and what's causing them. They need to know what's working and what isn't in order to use resources effectively.

Number Three: There must be the courage to do business differently and to share power. Giving up "turf", while difficult, is essential to working together.

Number Four: There must be a dual commitment to targeted enforcement and to prevention — things like after school programs and mentoring. Law enforcement resources must be deployed consistently with broader crime prevention objectives.

Number Five: There must be a commitment to the long term. This is a challenge when some offer instant solutions, but helping young people build better lives doesn't happen overnight.

Jack Calhoun's sixth and final factor, again in his own words, is "clear, passionate, hands-on commitment from the leading policy-makers, prime among them the Mayor and the Chief of Police."

All eight of these cities are in foreign countries and yet the factors that have contributed to their success sound very familiar to me: leadership;

working together; identifying problems and then attacking them; measuring results; doing business differently; being tough on crime and equally tough on the causes of crime. These are the factors that we witness everyday in projects and communities throughout Canada. They produce positive changes here as they have in England and Belgium and in the United States.

Sharing experiences among communities and countries can teach us new ways of doing things. It can also reinforce what we are already doing more effectively — building safer, healthier communities. We welcome all the help we can get on both fronts.

As my term with the *National Strategy* winds down, I must say what a privilege it has been to work for four years with such talented and committed people. Whether public servants, police, youth, business people or citizen activists, you bring an energy to crime prevention that gives me optimism for the future health and safety of our communities across Canada. Thank you very much 🍁

*Barbara Hall
Chair, National Strategy on Community Safety
and Crime Prevention.*

From our Readers

I have read the winter 2001–2002 *Prevention* issue #5 and would like to add to Barbara Hall's piece on Perspectives — Reducing Family Violence.

I am a police officer with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police stationed in Bathurst, New Brunswick. For the past two years, I have been part of a committee called the Regional Strategy for Women Survivors/Victims of Family Violence. We are attempting to develop a crisis prevention and intervention program in the Chaleur Region for women who are victims and/or survivors of family violence and their

children. It is vital that families in crisis are able to not only access immediate support but also counselling services for education and prevention of family violence. It is hoped that this program, a collaborative effort amongst the police services and the Nepisiguit Family Services, will become a reality and a success in the near future. 🍁

*Constable Manon Parent
RCMP Detachment, District 9
Bathurst, New Brunswick.*

Sharing CONNECTIONS from cover

gives them a sense of belonging and allows them to recognize some of the community's needs. They realize where the shortages are and where they are most needed, and develop many skills at the same time.

Recreation and Physical Activity: The students go to the YMCA once a week and take part in activities they might not otherwise have an opportunity to try, such as golf, curling, horseback riding, and canoe trips in the summer. This gives them something to do and a chance to develop an interest in healthy activities.

Mentoring: The students are matched with members of the community. Typically, these

are adults who serve as role models who can provide career guidance or help the young people with school work. College and university students also serve as mentors, and they often invite the CONNECTIONS youth to their campuses. The youth then become less intimidated by these settings and see them as places that they might like to attend one day.



Lynn Johnston

Fast-Break to Learning: The students are provided with a good breakfast at their school, one morning per week. During breakfast, the group discusses an issue or event, or receives a concentrated lesson on a topic such as anger management or study skills.

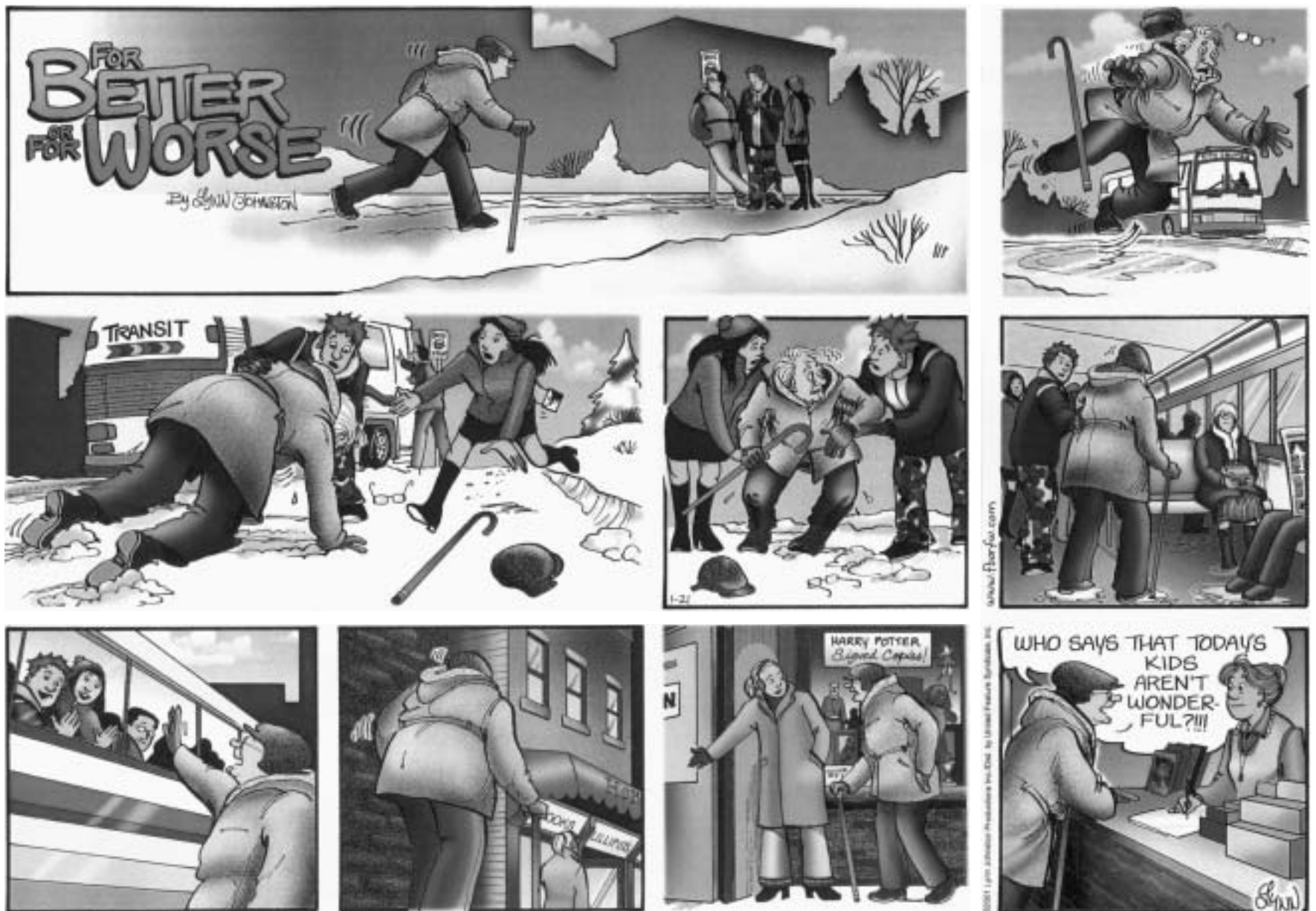
"It's a way to get people through school, into careers, focused, and into a whole new community of peers rather than being mainstreamed with students who have different ideas," explains Johnston.

An obvious success in North Bay, organizers now want to expand into neighbouring communities, to test whether the project is transportable.

"What we've done is created a program that works," explains Johnston. "The biggest hurdle that we have is politics — people worrying that they have already started a program and don't want others interfering with their program. Territorialism is frustrating because, ultimately, we all want the same goal."

"It took us a number of years to work that out here, but now we belong in the community — we're accepted by the community. For the longest time, we were an addendum to the community that no one understood. Now that we have this thing working smoothly and confidently in North Bay, we can present it to other communities because it's really a worthwhile program. It should not disappear anywhere. It should go across Canada."

CONNECTIONS' success has not gone unnoticed. →



Lynn Johnston's comic strip portraying youth helpfulness

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Safer communities: Everybody's responsibility

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from page 4

TransCanada (formerly TransCanada Pipelines) has a large number of employees throughout northern Ontario who have seen the positive changes that CONNECTIONS makes in young people.

Convinced that the project should be replicated elsewhere, TransCanada has donated computers, office supplies and an investment of \$160,000 in the hopes that CONNECTIONS will be able to follow the pipeline and expand into neighbouring communities.

"When employees champion or promote certain groups, we try to focus on those groups," says Dan Stencill, a Community Relations Liaison with TransCanada. "There are lots of groups out there that focus on single issues like drug awareness or academics, but CONNECTIONS has a broader scope and captures all those things. That's why it caught our attention.

"We've seen that this is a good program that can be expanded, and that's basically where our funding has been coming from. We're trying to get them to expand into some of the areas across northern Ontario where employees are living or where we have operations."

"Our communities are important to us," says Stencill. "Our employees live in these communities and they raise families in these communities. This project helps young people to focus on their abilities so that they can achieve in the future and get through those tough times. CONNECTIONS builds capacity over the long-term, which is what we like to see."

Stencill realizes TransCanada cannot fund CONNECTIONS forever because there are other groups that the corporation wishes to support.

"So our focus over the next two years is going to be to draw in other corporations, particularly local corporations, and promote the project to them."

The corporate funding from TransCanada has given the project organizers a much-needed boost, but much work remains to be done.

"We're ready to expand into new communities and, with the help of TransCanada, we're able to do that," says Johnston. "But there's a finite number of individuals who are really prepared to train a whole new group of people and to show them the vision that has already been established here.

"It's not enough to hand them a stack of papers and a video and say 'This is how you do it.' You need someone like Janet or someone with Janet's skills and understanding to actually take the program to the community. It means finding someone who is probably not married, who doesn't mind travelling, who is dedicated to the program, who can work, and who can be an evangelist for the project. We need manpower. We need individuals who are prepared to travel and to take the project on the road."

"It's going to be a good learning process," adds Humble. "We're taking it out of North Bay, where we know what all the issues are, where we've dealt with them for years, and where we've devel-

oped a lot of strategies for getting the community involved and working with the kids. But will those strategies work somewhere else? Why not?"

CONNECTIONS' success has also attracted the attention of the local police, who are excited by the project and agree that it should be expanded. "Having worked closely with the community through my twenty-year policing career, I can't think of any other organization locally that has had the impact on youth that CONNECTIONS has had," says Sergeant Chuck Seguin.



Dan Stencill and Janet Humble at the youth drop-in centre in downtown North Bay

"They have gone to the source of the problem and provided young people with opportunities to develop, grow, and achieve. Sometimes, the smallest successes in a young person's life can motivate them to take on new challenges and achieve even greater things. By identifying youth at risk, working with them, and giving them a chance to succeed, I have seen first-hand, the life of a young man turn around. Isn't that what it's all about?"

"We've got a track record now and that's what really sells the program — the number of graduates, the number of students who come back to speak to our kids and be mentors themselves," says Johnston.

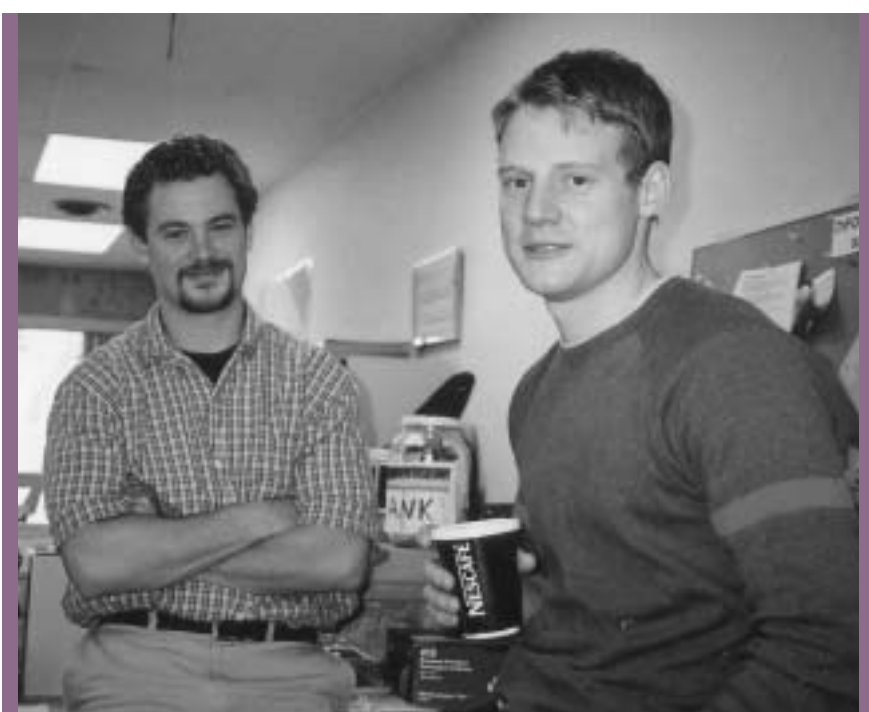
Among those exuberant youth is Darren Patey, a high school student who credits CONNECTIONS for helping him both academically and socially.

"When I moved here three years ago, I was totally new in town; I had no friends and I didn't know anybody," explains Patey. "But all of a sudden, I'm a really popular guy around here, so I'm loving it! It means a lot to other people as well. Some people needed help with their addictions to drugs or their family problems. It's an excellent program — I don't know what I'd be without it."

"These are great kids," adds Johnston. "They just need some direction. And they're so thrilled when they realize that they are responsible, that they can be trusted, that they are respected, and that people are listening to them. It's a breakthrough! It's joyous!"

For more information on CONNECTIONS, visit www.onlink.net/~connect.

Marc Gushue is a Communications Officer for the National Crime Prevention Centre in Ottawa.



Program Coordinators Jon Corbett and Steve Osborne

Education Is Prevention: The SWOVA Way

By Gina Giessmann

Like too many other organizations, the efforts of Saltspring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse (SWOVA) arose from a tragic beginning.

About ten years ago, residents of Saltspring Island were shocked by a horrific incident of violence in their community.

Upon returning home one evening, a woman and her nine-year-old daughter surprised an intruder. The mother was beaten and injured so badly it wasn't clear she would survive.

The horrible events of that night not only shocked the community, but also brought to the forefront a frightening truth: violence against women and girls can happen anywhere — even in a small, rural community like Saltspring Island (BC).

That night was the spark.

Stunned by the events and the lack of services, a group of women gathered around a kitchen table to discuss the issue. A few months later, SWOVA was formed.

Initially, SWOVA attempted to be all things — a service provider, research institute, resource and education centre, as well as the catalyst for social change and crime prevention.

“We feel like the little engine that could, and it was that event that caused us to focus,” says Project Coordinator Lynda Laushway, one of the women who sat at that first kitchen table.

About six years ago, the determination to be a positive social influence, combined with increasing client demands, resulted in the creation of two distinct groups, each with a different mandate.

Saltspring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse, became SWOVA-Community Development and Research Society. The society focussed on the areas of research, education, and prevention.

The second organization, the Gulf Islands Women's Resource Network, took responsibility for the service needs of women who have experienced violence and abuse.

Through its project, Women and Violence: Education is Prevention, local youth learn the skills needed for healthy interpersonal relationships. The school-based skills development program works with youth in Grades Seven, Eight, Nine, and Eleven.

Working with the school district has been a key to the success of the program. In the beginning, SWOVA delivered single workshops to schools, but those workshops did not significantly influence the behaviour or the development of skills necessary for healthy relationships.

Lasting change required a progression of classes and an opportunity to reinforce the concepts. With a grant from the *National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention*, the students receive twelve one-hour sessions that focus on positive relationship development with peers and dating partners.

A fundamental strength of the program is the “for youth by youth” component. Youth were actively involved in the development of the manual, *Freedom from Fear: The How-To Guide on Violence Prevention Inspired by Teens for Teens*. Youth from the high school also co-facilitate the workshops.

The program strives to give both boys and girls the tools necessary to build a sense of self-worth

Conversely, SWOVA Community Development and Research Society strives to build strong relationships, especially within the education system. It works with its many partners to expand the understanding of issues concerning the personal security of women and girls.



Marika Swan, Youth Facilitator, 2000, co-facilitating a workshop on the partnership model of the project



Current SWOVA Youth Team members Becky Acheson, Jocelyn Langdon and Brooke Shergold



The SWOVA Way
from page 6

and self-respect. Other goals of the workshops include the development of skills to set personal boundaries, deal with feelings, handle peer pressure, and recognize healthy and unhealthy relationships. Issues facing youth like gender stereotypes, having a positive body image,

power and violence, rights and responsibilities, and the effects of media violence are also addressed.

From the spark that became SWOVA Community Development and Research Society, to coordinating a national demonstration project that reduces violence against women and girls by educating youth, SWOVA has proven itself to be a catalyst for social change.

For more information on SWOVA Community Development and Research Society, or the manual *Freedom from Fear: The How-To Guide on Violence Prevention Inspired by Teens for Teens*, visit www.saltspring.com/swova, phone (250) 537-1336 or e-mail swova@saltspring.com.

Gina Giessman is a Communications Officer for the National Crime Prevention Centre in Winnipeg.

The Power of One

By Adam Davies

I am one of the youth facilitators working with Saltspring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse, in British Columbia.

On the night of December 6, 2000, I attended my first candlelight vigil to remember and honour the women who died during the École Polytechnique tragedy.

The air was cold and breezy as we stood together in that circle, holding our candles.

"It is fitting that we are using candles for this ceremony," I said, as I stepped forward into the circle. "These candles represent life, the wind, the danger and the troubles that affect all of us. As you have noticed, the wind is constantly trying, and sometimes succeeding, in blowing out our candles. Luckily for us, we can re-light them with the help of the person next to us. Eleven years ago, this was not an option for the young women who lost their lives. Their candles are out, and cannot be re-lit. But, if you cup your candle with your hand, you can protect it from the wind. If all of us protect our friends and our loved ones from the wind, then our candles will never go out."

This year, as part of our White Ribbon Campaign, three classmates and I delivered presentations to each class at our school. We divided up the school into four portions, and went around to give talks in each class.

I had decided that I would do one presentation to *all* the classes from my quarter of the school at the same time. At the beginning of my presentation, I picked fourteen girls at random, and gave each the name of a woman who was slain on December 6, 1989, along with instructions for the presentation.

I moved to the front of the room, and called the students to attention. When the room grew quiet, I raised my hand in the air and hit the table with a thunderous slap, to imitate the firing of a rifle. As I did this, the fourteen girls dropped to the floor. Nervous tension hung in the air; the silence was

sombre. For ten minutes, there was no laughter, no talking. There was nothing to be heard but the sound of my racing heart and, eventually, my quivering voice:

"On December 6, 1989, a man walked into a school with a semi-automatic rifle and killed fourteen women. The girls who lay on the ground before you represent the women who were killed twelve years ago. The White Ribbon Campaign was created by a group of men who hoped to prevent future violence against women. For two weeks (from November 25 to December 6), men and women wear a white ribbon. The ribbon is a personal pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about acts of violence against women. We must all think about this tragedy in the context of our own school and our own lives. Think about what you would feel if these were your friends lying on the ground, dead. Think about your sisters, mothers, aunts, and grandmothers, and how violence endangers them. These young women laying on the ground today can stand up. But twelve years ago, those fourteen women did not have that option. If this school cares, and I know that you do, you will not let this happen here. It may be that a man killed fourteen women, but the solution to this problem rests with all of us: men and women working together."

I innocently thought that I was only doing this elaborate presentation as an experiment. That thought dropped away as soon as I started to look at everybody's face. Something changed. By bringing a presence, something physical to their lives, by bringing immediacy, they gave it right back.

For the next two days, I saw a white ribbon prominently fixed to almost every shirt.

We would now like this campaign to become an annual event, including a ceremony at the beginning, and at the end; our own candlelight vigil.

As we reflect on this day of remembrance, it is important to remember the power of one.

If my efforts have made an impact on twenty people, then those are twenty people who will stand against violence. And if those twenty people connect with one other person, that's twenty more people. And if those twenty people connect with one person, that's twenty more still. Now, suddenly, we have a lot of people who are united against violence.

One person can make a difference.

It begins with one person and grows with all of us.



Adam Davies

Adam Davies was 17 and a student at the Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) in Saltspring Island, British Columbia when he wrote this story.

Street Culture Kidz

By Sylvia MacBean

REGINA — Amid the tire warehouses, furniture stores and stereo shops of old Regina stands a curious building, with no sign on the outside.

Young people go in and out, accompanied by music, voices, laughter, and the smell of barbecues wafting over the backyard fence.

This is "The Studio," the home of the Street Culture Kidz project.

Since 1997, Street Culture Kidz has been encouraging children, teenagers and young adults to strengthen their skills and make positive life choices.

Originally intended as a two-month summer program for young children in the inner city, the project has now blossomed into one of Regina's most prominent community services.

"The biggest thing that I always stress is that we do not change kids," says coordinator Kim Sutherland. "We do not save kids. We provide environments — safe and respectful environments — where they can choose to make changes in their own lives. We are merely the support for those changes. We do not identify the changes that are needed. We work with them so that they find their own options. We don't impose our options on them. We don't have a design on their outcome other than to support them to achieve their identified goals."

Each program offered by Street Culture Kidz targets a specific age group.

For children below the age of fourteen, volunteers provide help after school with homework at twelve schools and community centres throughout the city.

"We ask the schools to refer their most difficult kids: the bullies, the victims, those who are most often in trouble, those who have limited family support," explains Sutherland.

For teenagers between thirteen and nineteen, the program serves as a social drop-in centre and provides an evening meal program twice per week.

For young people from fifteen to twenty-nine, the program teaches job skills through its EmployAbility Project. The goals of this project are established by its participants, who work together to meet those goals, while receiving personal support and professional skills development from volunteers.

"Our program has evolved from the needs of the participants," he adds. "All I have done is kept pace with those needs. When someone identifies a resource that would help them, we find that resource for them. It can be as simple as finding

a computer program to learn a new skill, or it could be finding someone to talk to at mental health.

"Too many articles have been written about us proclaiming that we are somehow saving kids or that we are changing people. We simply don't do that. People will change when they are damn well

ready! That is what we have found. We are here to provide long-term support so that when they are ready to change, they have a safe place to try that change out. They have new people to hang out with and new supports to find comfort in," explains Sutherland.

Meet some of the Street Culture Kidz

Tomiko Koyomo, 20, met a young man who worked at Street Culture Kidz and discovered she liked the program so much that she wanted to be part of the team.

"I wanted to do something. I had all these ideas but I couldn't put anything into action. I called up, had an interview, and got the job.

"I facepaint, fundraise, and right now I am working on a grant project through the city waste management department. I will be educating children on recycling paint and how we make paint environmentally sound.

"Here I feel I am doing something that I want to be doing. I am making a contribution to something that I believe in.

"I think we are making positive changes and it's much more than simply keeping kids away from drugs, or whatever dangerous choices they may be making," she said.



Danny Apooch, 18, was recommended to the program by a social worker. Apooch moved to Regina from Yellowquill First Nations Reserve, in the Yorkton area, when he was seven years old.

"I was raised in the inner city. There weren't any programs like this when I was growing up. It gives the kids a place to go instead of the usual alternatives of getting into trouble," he said. Apooch does face painting, catering, and gets help with his education.

Brady Delorme, 19, was turned away from speaking at a school because of his criminal record.

He is working on a program sponsored by Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) called "Change by Choice," in which participants travel to schools telling their stories of how auto and property theft has affected both them and their victims.

"I go in and tell them about the experiences that I have had and I bring in speakers and they tell about the experiences they have had and the choices we have made. That is why it is Change by Choice. I myself am trying to change," he said.

Delorme is also co-ordinating a program called Heartbeat Of The Street, or HOTS. "It is a program for youth to come in and learn how to play the drums."

Delorme got into the Street Culture Kidz program through the John Howard Society, as a way to work off a fine option.

"I was into crime when I was twelve years old. I am nineteen now and it is really sad to realize that I lost a lot of schooling. I have my Grade Ten. I am going to work on the adult Grade Twelve program. I am thinking about becoming a social worker. I like working with little kids. I want to work with kids and keep them from getting into trouble," Delorme said.

While most of the participants in the program join on their own, others are referred by government agencies such as Aboriginal Family Services or schools. About 25 to 40 teenagers participate regularly in Street Culture Kidz activities and the challenges facing these

young people are as varied as the individuals themselves.

"They might need to talk to someone about going into detox," notes Sutherland. "Or, they might need someone to work with them in a school-based program. This can mean meeting with

their teacher or attending parent-teacher interviews as their guardian during report card time. We have a lot of youth that are in institutional settings who use us as a personal support. All of our energy and all of our processes evolve from the identified needs of the participants.

"I say identified because many times a social worker, for example, will say, 'This kid has a drug problem.' But, if the kid does not identify the drug problem then we are powerless to work with that as the problem."

Meet some of the Street Culture Kidz (continued)

Jason Simcak, 20, is also involved with the Change by Choice program. Simcak grew up in the upper-middle-class neighbourhood of Lakeridge, in Northwest Regina.

"There is this misconception that inner city youth are the only ones who can be led astray. I got involved with the wrong crowd, got into trouble with the law, and my dad kicked me out of my house when I was seventeen. One of my friends took me to Street Culture Kidz, just to hang out and make a little bit of extra cash.

"I got offered a job co-ordinating the children's area of the Dragon Boat Festival in 1998. Then, I left for a while. I went to work at KFC and Subway, and I just came back from a summer of working on the pipelines. Now, I am back," he said.



Ellen Mossny is the mother of two sons, aged 27 and 24. She discovered Street Culture Kidz when she was volunteering for another organization that runs conferences on abuse of women and children.

"I do volunteer work at one of the schools in the lunch homework program. The kids who come to us are supposed to do their homework for fifteen minutes and then we have activities that we do with them for the rest of the time, such as gym activities, drawing, talking, or simply going to the studio to see what goes on here," Mossny explained.

"I work one lunch hour per week with the school lunch program. I come to the team meetings and I go face painting with them," she said.

She also went camping in the summer with a group of kids. "I was a little worried about acceptance, but they gave it to me completely, and they gave me respect and friendship. I had a ball! I had never done anything like that before and I totally enjoyed myself. We face painted and just hung out together. We went through a big storm together. I doled out little cookies, it was really fun," she laughs.

"I have come to know the kids better. They seem to like me. I don't know if I have helped anybody directly, but I am there if they want to chat."



Dave Cowan, 21, has been with the Street Culture Kidz project for just over a year and is coordinating the EmployAbility project.

"I was without work and I had a child on the way. I just wanted to get some summer employment. I went back to school in the fall and I spoke with Kim, the director. After a lengthy process, I got onto a training program," Cowan said.

"Kids come here to hang out because things aren't good at home, or things aren't good at school, or things aren't good with their girlfriend or boyfriend. Sometimes they just want to come in and say hello. Kids just want to hang out and there are kids here their age that they can hang out with. They can have some positive role modelling. As well, we try to instil in them to see beyond the now and to try to focus.

"I plan to finish my Grade Twelve and then to work at Street Culture Kidz for the rest of my career."



Kim Sutherland (right) with one of the Street Culture Kidz

Much of the early Street Culture Kidz programming was art-based, because the volunteers found art to be a natural way to bond with the kids. In retrospect, however, the volunteers agree that art really had nothing to do with the impact that was being made.

"It is really overrated, the idea of art helping kids, because it is really the artist — the adult

mentor, not the tool — who inspires the young person," explains Sutherland. "Whether it is art, sports, or a job, it is the adult mentor who affects these young peoples' lives. The art or the recreation or the sport is only a tool. I try to really get people to understand that our success comes from our ability to build relationships, not from the tools we use.

"Sometimes people have a hard time understanding our project because they want something that they can touch. They want something that starts here, and then ends here, and has these results. We don't have any of that. We don't do anger management classes. We don't do quick fixes. We work long term to improve the well-being of kids and young adults."

The project is a registered non-profit corporation and charity and is governed by a volunteer board of directors.

Many of the youth and young adults referred to Street Culture Kidz have a history of involvement with the law, but they are not turned away. "We support these participants by accepting them through our referral network, offering activities and involvement to satisfy legal requests (such as fine options or community service hours), and by attending court to provide personal support. We

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Street Culture Kidz
from page 9

also visit young people in open and closed custody, upon request," notes Sutherland.

Donovan Caldwell, a volunteer with the school homework program is one of the many people who helps to make Street Culture Kidz a success.



Donovan Caldwell

"The highlight of this job is working with the youth," says Caldwell. "I know that if I had been able to do stuff like this when I was young, I probably wouldn't have been in so much trouble myself. I started hanging around with a bad crowd. I was following mostly. They were stealing bikes, breaking into cars, and stuff like that. I decided to leave Regina when I was in Grade Nine; I didn't want to spend my youth in institutions." 

Sylvia MacBean is a freelance writer in Regina.

By the Numbers

- Average number of minutes per week that North American youth watches television: 1,875.¹
- Number of minutes per week that the average North American youth spends in school: 1,125.⁴
- Number of minutes per week that parents spend in meaningful conversation with their children: 38.5.²
- Percentage of parents who consider watching TV with their children to be a family activity: 78.³
- Number of violent acts that the average North American child sees on TV by age 18: 200,000.⁵
- Number of murders witnessed by children on television by age 18: 16,000.⁶
- Actual homicide rate in Canada for the year 2000: 1.8 homicides per 100,000 population.⁷
- Number of violent acts per hour during Saturday morning children's programming: 20 to 25.⁸
- Percentage of households that have a TV in a child's room: 47.⁹
- Percentage of Grade Four children that watch more than 14 hours of television per week: 81.¹⁰
- Hours per week of TV watching shown to negatively affect academic achievement: 10 or more.¹¹
- Percentage of youth (age 11 to 20) that spend over 40 hours per week on the computer for fun: 12.1.¹²
- Percentage of youth that spend over 40 hours per week on the computer for work: 6.9.¹³



¹ T.V. Facts sheet: "Children and Education"

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ The Dove Foundation. "Statistics That Make a Case for Family Entertainment," www.dove.org/research/stats.htm

⁵ T.V. Facts sheet: "Children and Education"

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ Statistics Canada "The Daily," www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/010719/d010719b.htm

⁸ The Dove Foundation "Statistics That Make a Case for Family Entertainment," (USA) www.dove.org/research/stats.htm

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ T.V. Statistics Compiled by T.V. Free America.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² GVU's 10th WWW User Survey (October 1998), (USA) www.cc.gatech.edu/gvu/user_surveys/survey-1998-10/graphs/use/q03.htm

¹³ *Ibid.*

RESOURCE CENTRE ON CRIME PREVENTION

We are pleased to announce the opening of the *National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC)* Resource Centre. The Resource Centre's holdings include reference works, periodicals, and other materials such as videos and games related to crime prevention (including the fields of sociology, criminology, violence against women and children, management, economics, etc.).

The Resource Centre's online catalogue is accessible through the NCPC Web site at www.crime-prevention.org.

SERVICES, FACILITIES AND MATERIALS

Researchers, students and crime prevention specialists can make appointments to receive personalized service during their visits. Library loans, on-site consultations and the viewing of audio-visual material are also available for visitors. The Resource Centre includes a consultation room, two work stations with access to the online catalogue, a photocopier, as well as a TV and a VCR for viewing videos. The hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Mariette Langlois, Information and Research Officer, to make an appointment or to receive additional information.

Telephone: **1-877-302-NCPC** or **(613) 946-9994** • E-mail: ncpc@crime-prevention.org

See a list of some of our newest acquisitions on page 11

Drugs and Crime: Breaking the Cycle

By Lynne Carrière

Canada now has a second Drug Treatment Court.

On December 4, Vancouver's court opened, about three years to the day that the Toronto Drug Treatment Court began operation.

Though separated by geography, the courts have similar goals: to reduce drug abuse and criminal behaviour through judicially-supervised treatment programs and community support. The treatment courts are helping addicts with issues such as housing, employment, and life skills, as well as forcing offenders to deal with, and accept responsibility for, their addictions.

The first of their kind in Canada, the drug treatment courts are modelled on the approximately 600 courts that are in operation in the United States. Fostered by a collective desire to break the troubling cycle of crime and addiction, the Drug Treatment Court of Vancouver was established by the Attorney General of British Columbia and the Federal Prosecution Service of the Department of Justice. The project is supported under the *National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention* and is a collaborative effort between the Department of Justice, the city of Vancouver, and various community-based agencies.

The nature of the drug challenge in Vancouver is very similar to Toronto, though its size may be of a different order. There were an estimated 11,700 injection drug users in Greater Vancouver in 1998, with a large percentage of those living on the streets or in temporary housing in a few square blocks of the Downtown Eastside. According to a 2000 report by the City of Vancouver, the total number of overdose deaths in British Columbia rose from 39 in 1988, to 331 in 1993. Since then, Vancouver alone has averaged 147 illicit drug overdose deaths per year.

The Drug Treatment Court of Vancouver addresses the needs of those non-violent offenders who are charged with criminal offences as a result of their drug addictions. Eligible persons will be offered an intensive and co-ordinated combination of judicial supervision, multi-phased treatment for their dependence and a range of other community support services. A team of therapists and case managers will provide treatment to the participants as well as referrals to other services. The judge, prosecutor, defence counsel, case managers and treatment providers will work together to monitor each participant's progress carefully.

A rigorous evaluation is being conducted for the Toronto Drug Treatment Court and a similar evaluation has been planned for the new Vancouver

project. While the final results are not yet available, early anecdotal evidence suggests that the program is on the right track. Several mothers who were previously addicted to crack cocaine have given birth to drug-free babies as a result of the Toronto program.

Many participants in the Toronto court have stated that the positive reinforcement received from the judge and other officials has had a powerful effect on their efforts to remain drug-free.

"Just hearing the judge compliment me made me feel so good about myself," said one of the

participants. "The Drug Treatment Court has made the real me come back."

For more information on the Toronto Drug Treatment Court, see the cover story of *Prevention* issue #2 (summer 2000) or visit www.crime-prevention.org/DTC.

Lynne Carrière is a University of Ottawa coop student who worked for the National Crime Prevention Centre as an intern.

New Acquisitions — NCPC Resource Centre

Alternatives to Exclusion from School

Cullen, Mairi Ann; Lloyd, Gwynedd; Munn, Pamela. London: Paul Chapman, 2000. LB 3089.4 .G7 M86 2000

The Bully at Work: What you can do to stop the hurt and reclaim your dignity on the job.

Namie, Gary. 2000. HF 5549.5 .N348 2000

The Courage to Change: A Teen Survival Guide

Leave Out Violence teens. c2001. HV 9069 .C68 2001

En 2002 — j'aurai 5 ans! : étude longitudinale sur le développement des enfants du Québec : voici une belle occasion de nous parler de vos enfants!

Institut de la statistique du Québec. Québec, 2000. RJ 60 .I56 2000

Psychological Assessment of Sexually Abused Children and their Families

Friedrich, William N. c2002. RJ 507 .S49 F745 2002

Qualitative Research and Evaluation Methods

Quinn Patton, Michael. c2002. H 62 .P3218 2002

Safe Teen: Powerful Alternatives to Violence

Roberts, Anita. 2001. HM 291 .R57 1999

Understanding Violence

Barash, David P. c2001. HM 1116 .B37 2001

Bully Beware: Take Action Against Bullying [videorecording]

Lajoie, Gesele; McLellan, Alyson; Seddon, Cindi. Bully B'ware Productions. c1997. VID 132 1997

Jeux d'enfants : les enfants rejetés [video]

Canada. Radio-Canada. October 9, 2001. VID 133 2001

Events Calendar

May 2002

Canada's Children... Canada's Future 2002
This Conference, held by the Child Welfare League of Canada, will attract more than a thousand people who work with and care for vulnerable children, including professionals in the fields of child welfare, youth justice and children's mental health.

When: May 5-8, 2002
Where: Toronto, Ontario
Contact: John Smith, (416) 366-8115
E-mail: amills@oacas.org
Web site: www.oacas.org

Alberta Crime Prevention Conference 2002 — "Building Resiliency in the Community"
This conference will offer a variety of workshops to crime prevention experts.

When: May 8-10, 2002
Where: Edmonton, Alberta
Contact: Eileen Bell, (780) 423-2031
E-mail: info@accpa.org
Web site: www.accpa.org

First International Seminar on Women's Safety
From the 1970s to the World March of Women in 2000, groups of women on all five continents have worked to highlight the phenomenon of violence against women.

When: May 9-11, 2002
Where: Université du Québec — J.A. Sève Pavilion
320 Ste. Catherine St. E.
Quebec City, Quebec
Contact: (514) 987-6123
E-mail: info@femmesetvilles.org
Web site: www.femmesetvilles.org/en/index_en.htm

World Conference — Injury Prevention and Control
Injuries, Suicide and Violence: Building Knowledge, Policies and Practices to Promote a Safer World.

When: May 12-15, 2002
Where: Montreal Convention Centre
Montreal, Quebec
Telephone: (514) 848-1133
E-mail: info@trauma2002.com
Web site: www.trauma2002.com

Violence Against Women Symposium 2002

This symposium will take the time to question, examine, explore and celebrate the initiatives, accomplishments and policy directions that have occurred over the past 20 years in the area of violence against women.

When: May 13-14, 2002
Where: Vancouver, British Columbia
Contact: Tamar Levi-Bandel, (604) 528-5625
E-mail: tlevi-bandel@jibc.bc.ca
Web site: www.jibc.bc.ca/ccs/events.htm

Child and Youth Friendly Communities: Challenges and Achievements
This Child and Youth Friendly Communities Conference will raise awareness of the importance of communities in the growth and healthy development of children and youth. Successful community initiatives will be celebrated and workshops will highlight best practices, innovative solutions to challenges and new findings from research and evaluation.

When: May 15-18, 2002
Where: University of British Columbia
Vancouver, British Columbia
Contact: Society for Children and Youth of B.C., (604) 433-4180
E-mail: scy@portal.ca
Web site: www.scyofbc.org

Fear and Loathing — A Symposium on Bullying
An integral aspect of this symposium will be to consider a national campaign relating to bullying and the development of a resource document that outlines a universal process for bullying prevention and intervention in Canadian schools and communities.

When: May 23-25, 2002
Where: Ottawa Marriott Hotel
Ottawa, Ontario
Contact: David Millen, (613) 244-3803
E-mail: cayfo@aol.com
Web site: www.cayfo.ca

Teens' Fest Québec
Try out various sports, take part in quiz games, attend shows by your favourite artists, and find information on health, sexuality, fashion, trades of the future and other topics that are closely linked to adolescence.

When: May 24-26, 2002
Where: Quebec City, Quebec
Contact: Ève Hudon, 1-888-274-6124
E-mail: eve@comjeune.com
Web site: www.groupejeunesse.com

13th Annual People in Motion 2002
Canada's premier event for persons with disabilities, seniors with special needs and professionals working in related areas.

When: May 31 – June 1, 2002
Where: Toronto, Ontario
Contact: (877) 745-6555
E-mail: sales@people-in-motion.com
Web site: www.people-in-motion.com

June 2002

Vitalize Provincial Volunteer Conference 2002
This conference will be of particular benefit to non-profit and charitable organizations. Vitalize sessions are specially geared to people working within or providing services to the voluntary sector.

When: June 13-15, 2002
Where: TELUS Convention Centre
Calgary, Alberta
Contact: Tim O'Donnell, (780) 422-2325
E-mail: vitalize@gov.ab.ca
Web site: www.cd.gov.ab.ca

16th Annual Atlantic Coordinating Committee on Crime Prevention and Community Safety — Conference 2002, "Communities in Action... Making a difference!"
The Crime Prevention Association of New Brunswick invites you to share ideas and solutions to assist in crime prevention through social development. In addition to thought provoking keynote addresses, you may participate in 3-hour training modules, sessions on various crime prevention concerns, and site visits.

When: June 13-15, 2002
Where: Saint Thomas University
Fredericton, New Brunswick
Contact: Linda Patterson, (506) 446-5992
E-mail: etrade@nbn.net.nb.ca
Web site: www.jaba.net/cpanb/en/committees.htm

August 2002

Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police — 97th Conference
Attend lectures, debates and workshops on various topics, each one related to the management of the profound crisis leading police organizations to take an important new direction, to restructure, to change their methods or modify their corporate philosophy.

When: August 25-28, 2002
Where: Montreal, Quebec
Contact: Pierre Mathieu, (418) 691-7963
E-mail: info@accp2002.com
Web site: www.cacp2002.com