

## **Provincial Coordinator Update**

Welcome to the 10th Annual Conference of Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centres (SA/DVTCs). The planning committee has worked hard - *twice!* - to bring this event to you. As you are aware, last year's conference was cancelled due to SARS.

We have a high learning curve right now so we added a pre-conference workshop this year with a specific focus on pediatric care following sexual assault/abuse. Most of our programs are in the process of enhancing the pediatric service – we hope this workshop with Dr. Astrid H. Heger will assist you in providing care to this client population.

### **A Reflection Over the Past 10 Years**

#### ***The Network Perspective***

It has been an interesting, dynamic time since the establishment of the Network of SA/DVTCs in 1993. The Network now consists of 33 Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centres across the province of Ontario. Your program Coordinator represents your Centre on a provincial level.

As a group, we have worked to support and assist each other through our growth and development. One of our goals is to ensure that there is standardized comprehensive care accessible at all our programs. Even though we are unique locally, we share concerns/issues relating to sexual assault/domestic violence that we discuss and resolve as a Network. We have accomplished many activities over the last 10 years. Some are listed below:

- An Annual Conference which is held in different cities
- This Quarterly Newsletter
- The Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Training Program, beginning in 1995
- A Standardized Data Collection Form
- Two (2) videos - a Sexual Assault Awareness video, a Domestic Violence Training video
- A Network Website ([www.satontario.com](http://www.satontario.com))
- Social Work Training Week

The Network has also established committees to provide leadership within specific areas such as: Social Work, Nursing, Research, Website, and SANE. Adhoc committees include the Conference Planning committee. As well, we have collaborated or participated in numerous research projects. The Network website lists the publications from our Centres.

#### ***Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centre Perspective***

Our original mandate of providing emergency medical/forensic care and short-term crisis counselling to victims/survivors of sexual assault expanded - starting in 1997 - to include emergency medical/forensic care for victims/survivors of domestic violence.

Although children have always been part of the sexual assault mandate, many of our programs are enhancing services (*health & counselling*) for children who are seen in non-acute situations.

The expansion of our services over the 10 years is a reflection of the need for service for victims/survivors of violence.

It is demanding and challenging to keep up with the constant changes in meeting the needs of our clients. Your commitment, passion, and dedication to your program and to victims/survivors makes a difference to those who have experienced violence!

**Sheila Macdonald R.N.  
Provincial Coordinator**

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Community Partners
- Celebrating Women
- 3 Rs and the Big 'V'
- Days to Remember

# Tools for Making A Difference...Community Partnership

Unfortunately, our community has a very high rate of domestic violence. Our police service receives as many *domestic violence related* calls per month as the Windsor police service, which serves approximately 2 ½ times our population. The Six Nations Police Service also report a very high incidence of calls related to domestic violence. These are not numbers to be proud of. But, like many other communities, we are working together to make a difference.

All too often we hear of community agencies that have their own agenda and are not able to work with other community groups to develop strategies that generate positive outcomes with specific problems. This is definitely *not* the case in the Brant community.

Over the past 2 years approximately 12 local agencies got together regularly and have now published and launched a resource book for professionals in our community called *The SAFETY NET*. This publication addresses all forms of abuse and who to call for help in each case. This book was launched at our local theatre for the performing arts. A small skit was performed that told the story of a domestic violence case. Initially, as each agency became involved and did the wrong thing, a sheet was placed over the victim until she was buried under 15 sheets. The scenario was followed through again - this time with each agency involved doing the *correct* thing, so that finally all of the sheets were removed and the victim was free. The impact was very dramatic as the audience realized how many things can go wrong in the course of a victim's escape to freedom and a new life. If you have seen this skit you will know what I mean. If you haven't and would like a copy, let me know (*depending on the audience, I would provide contact information here or at the bottom*).

We are now in the process of making sure that each professional in our community who could benefit from such a good resource has a copy. A web site is also being created so all information will be current, and easy to access.

**Donna Mitchell, Coordinator  
Brantford SA/DVCT**

# Celebrating Women...Chatham's Choices

Women's groups around the world celebrated International Women's Day on March 8th. Rallies, vigils, art shows, luncheons were held to call attention to missing women, violence against women, poverty and women, HIV and women. It's a day to celebrate the economic, political and social advancement of women, to remember the age-old struggle of women for equal rights, and to protest the barriers that still stand in our way.

Our SA/DV Treatment Centre was privileged to be part of the planning committee for Chatham-Kent's 11th year of celebrating the event. The theme '*She's On A Role*' was incorporated into our plans. A luncheon and evening event was held at a local banquet hall, where lunch and refreshments were provided. Local female guests either gave a short presentation or mingled with visitors. Some of the women attending were:

- Our mayor who, although not the first female mayor of Chatham, has met with much adversity and strife
- A local judge who spoke on becoming a lawyer in the 1970's, and eventually one of the first female judges
- The Chief of Wapole Island First Nations spoke about being elected as the island's first female chief
- A female firefighter shared her story about becoming Chatham-Kent's first professional firefighter
- A female race car driver, shared with us her struggles to earn respect and recognition from fellow drivers
- A young female hockey player offered insight into her experience playing on an all-male team

Our feature speaker was Faranaz Nazir, a woman's advocate and political activist from Afghanistan. Faranaz organized a woman's group with the intent of providing health care and promoting self-sufficiency among Afghani women. She also fought for equality and education for women. Threats against Faranaz's life prompted her to seek refuge in Canada. Her freedom came with the responsibility to encourage women throughout the world to fight for protection of basic human rights. Her courageous story moved and inspired us all.

**Linda Murray, Facilitator  
Chatham SA/DV TC**

# 3 Rs and the Big 'V'...Curriculum Guidelines

In Cornwall, we recently carried out a campaign in all area schools, primary to secondary. When the worker who facilitated these presentations and I debriefed, some of the feedback was shocking. One event, however, remains uppermost in my mind:

Our worker was attempting to present in a high school class. The kids were totally out of control and the teacher did nothing. Our worker informed the teacher that if he could restore order she would do a short presentation, but if not, she was leaving. The teacher then asked one boy to leave the class. As he was leaving, an overweight girl entered the classroom and the boy snarled, "*Bacon!*" My worker brought him to the front of the class and used this example as a learning tool. The teacher did nothing more the entire time.

I have had similar experiences when presenting on subjects such as sexual violence, etc. I even had a few situations where I felt personally threatened. Our schools need a lot of improvement if they are not to breed abuse. Many schools are taking on bullying full force and putting in strict disciplinary procedures. But many are not. What it comes down to, is that we are basically playing Russian roulette with our children - by depending on a principal and/or teacher there is no assurance that a non-tolerance atmosphere for abuse is being enforced.

For some time, I've felt that outside agencies don't offer enough. We cannot teach about issues of violence in one hour, 1 or 2 times a year. Additionally, not all schools have presenters on these issues, or only *some* classes benefit.

I believe that Issues of Violence (IOV) warrant a curriculum response...so it should be the 3 R's and the big V - for issues of violence. Therefore, I wrote a proposal to the English Public School Board for Eastern Ontario and received a grant to work with the board to develop a curriculum response to IOV for primary schools. The idea is that we create lesson plans, projects and activities that compliment the curriculum guidelines for health and physical education. We have just begun this work and should have it completed before January 2005. The intention is to have a curriculum guide available in every school. My biggest dream is that the superintendent makes this work *compulsory* in all schools.

Sarah Kaplan, Coordinator  
Cornwall PA/SATC

## Dates To Remember...Focus on Awareness

Initiating/maintaining effective *public awareness* within your community is never easy. Special dates are ideal to focus on. Here is a list pertinent to promoting our issues.

- **March 8th - International Women's Day:** First recognized in 1911 to protest women's working conditions. In 1977 the UN encouraged countries to designate a day in celebration of women's efforts. The 2004 theme is '*She's on a Role!*' to promote the advancement of women's equality, and to recognize the changing roles and significant contributions of women in society.
- **April 7th - World Health Day (*International*):** World Health Day is an annual event of the World Health Organization (WHO). The 2004 theme is '*Road Safety*' - which we can interpret as 'travel safety' for women to prevent sexual assault.
- **May - Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention month**
- **In 2nd/3rd week of Sept. - Take Back the Night march - (*International*):** The first march was held in 1973 in Germany as a response to a series of sexual assaults, rapes and murders. Women march to reaffirm their commitment to making our streets free of violence, sexual assault and harassment.

- **October - Women's History Month (Canada):** Established in 1992 to encourage greater awareness of the historical contributions of women to our society, to recognize the achievements of women as a vital part of our Canadian heritage, and to develop a better understanding of the diverse roles women play in contemporary society. October was chosen due to the historical significance of the *Persons Case* on October 18, 1929.
- **October 18 - Person's Day (Canada):** On October 18, 1929, the British Privy Council decided that women were '*persons*' under Canadian law, and therefore eligible for appointment to the Senate.
- **4th week in Oct. - Week Without Violence. (Canada):** Begun in 1996, it's a violence prevention initiative of the YWCA of/du Canada. This week encourages people and communities to identify realistic and sustainable alternatives to violence.
- **November - Family Violence Prevention month (Canada)**
- **1st Full Week on November - National Crime Prevention Week (Canada):** In the early '80's, there was the New Brunswick Crime Prevention Week. In 1983, Canada's Solicitor General initiated observing Nov. 1st - 7th nationally as Crime Prevention Week.
- **Nov. 20 - National Child Day (Canada):** Commemorates the date in 1989 when the UN adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In '93, Canada designated Nov. 20th as National Child Day.
- **Nov. 25th - International Day to End Violence Against Women:** Declared in 1981 by women in Latin America and the Caribbean to commemorate the brutal murder of the Mirabel sisters in the Dominican Republic back in 1960. It begins the 16 '*Days of Activism Against Gender Violence*' which end Dec. 16th.
- **Dec. 3rd - International Day of Disabled Persons:** First declared in 1992, this day reminds people of the special concerns, rights and needs of disabled persons. December 3rd is also the anniversary of the adoption of the *World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons* in 1982.
- **Dec. 6th - Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre (Canada):** This date commemorates the massacre of 14 women at Ecole Polytechnic in Montreal in 1989. It was established in 1991 by parliamentary consensus to recognize violence against women.
- **Dec. 10th - Human Rights Day (International):** Celebrates the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proclaimed in 1948, and is an opportunity to reinforce Canada's commitment to *women's* rights as *human* rights.

**Cynthia P. Colby**  
(Creative Communications)

## Changes in Windsor...Centre Focus

There have been many changes to our program in the last few months. We recently moved our office to the Met Campus of Windsor Regional Hospital. There have been some growing and moving pains but we hope to iron out these problems soon. I know that many of you have been through this process and are more than aware of what I mean. I have a lot of new staff in this hospital to orient to our programs!

Our community has identified the need for a program focusing on the physical abuse and neglect of children. To address this concern, our SATC will be opening a 'mini' SCAN program beginning this May. We are using our 'Early Years' dollars with the blessing of the Ministry of Health. Windsor/Essex already has a SAFEKIDS Program for sexually abused and/or assaulted children, which has been in operation since 1993. Now there will be a place to see physically abused and neglected children. Forensic photography will be utilized to document any injuries seen. Our local Children's Aid Society anxiously awaits our opening.

Windsor's Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse will be hosting a 2-day conference June 10th and 11th. Dr. Dirk Huyer and Dr. Jim Cairns will be presenting along with Tanya from SCAN and Robert Parrish on the 2nd day. Costs have not been finalized, but should not be very much. Plan to attend!

Lastly – I have been voted the International Representative for the International Association of Forensic Nurses. If you have any questions or concerns about the organization, please call or e-mail me with your thoughts.

**Kathy McIntosh, Program Manager  
Windsor SA/DVTC**

## Updating Lanark County...Centre Focus

It has been a busy year for the Lanark County Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Care & Treatment Centres. We offer service on 4 sites within a rural area with a population of approximately 60,000. We are in the process of restructuring with the termination of a crisis line and the development of a social work component for our hospital-based program. The social work component is a welcome addition, and key to the development of our Domestic Violence and Pediatric services.

Mary Pat Bingley, the Coordinator, had the opportunity to work with the Perinatal Partnership Program of Eastern & South Eastern Ontario (PPPESEO) to develop '*Woman Abuse in The Perinatal Period, Guidelines For Care Providers*'. This collaborative project discusses the prevalence of abuse during pregnancy, the role of healthcare providers, legal issues, and screening. Information about the document is available on the Perinatal Partnership website.

Barb Lotan, our Community Coordinator, organized a 1-day workshop on Male Sexual Victimization. Rick Goodwin, E.D. The Men's Project, and Andy Fisher Ph.D. presented information about the dynamics of male sexual abuse and the challenges facing practitioners who work with these clients. A male survivor of childhood sexual abuse shared his experiences and added a valuable personal dimension to the workshop.

We continue to provide education for staff. Sheila Macdonald met with nurses at Carleton Place Hospital to review changes to the Sexual Assault Evidence Kit and related documentation. We are participating in the HIV project on the Smiths Falls site. The Police Protocol for Sexual Assault has been updated. Community education is a priority, particularly in the schools. Barb works with local police and other agencies to provide information and support.

**Mary Pat Bingley, Coordinator  
Barb Lotan, Community Coordinator  
Lanark County SA/DVCTC**

*"Work joyfully and peacefully, knowing that right thoughts and right efforts inevitably bring about right results."*

James Allen