

## Provincial Coordinator Update

### Video Award !!

Our Sexual Assault Awareness Video won a bronze (3rd) prize at the 2002 ICON Awards for marketing and promotion in Waterloo Region! On behalf of the Network, thanks to Cynthia Colby (*Creative Communications*) for working with us to produce such quality! Also thanks to Pepperbox Productions for direction and production and Random Access Productions for the original music score throughout the video.

Network members (*from Waterloo Region SATC*) to be recognized for playing a part in the video include: Lynne Legge, Penny Bedford, Cheryl Coffey, and Casey Cruikshank. Also thanks to the ER staff at St. Mary's Hospital in Kitchener.

The planning committee for the both the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence videos was made up of Mary Carter (Sudbury), Anne Finigan (London), Kathy McIntosh (Windsor), Norah Holder (Orillia), and Sheila Macdonald (Network Coordinator). Thanks also to Deidre Bainbridge (Toronto) who proof read the Woman Abuse booklet, and Casey Cruikshank (Kitchener) for input on the Sexual Assault script.

### Annual Conference Summary

The Annual Conference for SATCs in Ontario was held April 11,12,13 in Toronto with a focus on the pediatric/adolescent population. 325 team members attended from across the province. Thanks to all our speakers for sharing their experience and expertise with us. Evaluations from participants were very positive. Some participants would have liked more advanced training, others wanted more culturally specific information - it's a great starting point to build our knowledge base for the care of children being abused.

This conference was funded to cover your costs, including an honorarium to assist you in receiving this training. Thanks to the Ministry of Health for their ongoing support.

### HIV Prophylaxis Project

We are just finalizing the contract for the HIV prophylaxis project in our Centres. The Ontario Network of SA/DV Centres does not have legal standing (*we are not registered as an organization*), so the Centre for Research in Women's Health, Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre is going to manage the project. Dr. Mona Loufty has been hired to provide the medical leadership. We will be contacting you over the next few months with ongoing information.

One of our research goals is to determine if HIV prophylaxis should be offered to sexual assault victims, and if so, under what circumstances? Your participation in this research study is crucial. There is very limited information about HIV and sexual assault survivors, and their need for HIV prophylaxis.

### Site Visits

June was a great month for me. I had the opportunity to visit Windsor to hear about the SAFE-Kids program – thanks to Kathy McIntosh for organizing the day. I also did training in Burlington, Ottawa, Brockville and Smith Falls.

It's wonderful to see how different programs work and collaborate within communities. Despite our common goals as Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence programs, implementation of our services varies a lot across the province. The creativity and commitment of team members to providing services for survivors of sexual violence is truly amazing!

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

# For A Safer Community ...ANNUAL PEACE DAY

The Chatham-Kent community celebrates its 3rd annual Peace Day this year. Its goal is to promote non-violence. Violence and discrimination in all forms (*physical, sexual, emotional as well as violence against animals and property*) is destructive and communities must take action if it is to be stopped. Whether it involves families, peers, places of employment, schools, or the streets, it will take a whole community working together to make people aware of the unacceptability of violence among its citizens.

Our 2nd annual Peace Day last October ended up being a week long! Our Sexual Violence Services Advisory Committee organized the events and many agencies played an active role: Chatham-Kent Health Alliance, Family Services Kent, Chatham-Kent Integrated Children's Services, Chatham-Kent Police Services, Municipality of Chatham-Kent (*Public Health Division, Sexual Health Program*) Chatham-Kent Sexual Assault Crisis Centre, Chatham-Kent Women's Centre, Physician representative, Ontario Provincial Police, Chatham-Kent Victim Services, Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Events included:

- Council Proclamation for a Day of Peace in Chatham-Kent
- March from City Hall down main street with a banner. Lunch was served (*food donated*)
- Anger Workshops for professionals, one (1) for the general public
- A Poster Showcase featuring posters drawn by students in various age categories: the theme for the 8 ½ x 11" posters was: "*A Day of Peace to Promote Non-Violence in Chatham-Kent: Picture That*". All posters were displayed in strategic locations throughout Chatham-Kent. As well, a book featuring selected works was compiled and sold to continue the work of the Task Force on Family Violence.
- Panel discussion one evening with representatives from many service provider agencies in the community

Certificates of appreciation were given to the schools who submitted posters for promoting non-violence. A letter, signed by our Chief of Police, was sent to acknowledge the classes that submitted posters. It was amazing to see the different themes that were outlined.

We are currently planning the 2002 Peace Day. This year it will include our Community Care Access Centre, and Elder Abuse will be one of the focuses in our panel discussion. The whole community will again be invited to play an active role in our events and to affirm our community's commitment to non-violence in Chatham-Kent.

**Linda Hathaway, Co-ordinator  
SATC, Chatham-Kent**

# 10th Anniversary ...CENTRE FOCUS

Our Sexual Assault Response Team celebrates its 10th Anniversary this year, having received its initial funding in 1991-92. To commemorate this, our Team hosted 4 days of events. They included:

- Career panel presentation to people interested in working in this field, the panel consisted of the Crown, police, shelter workers, SANE, social workers, crisis centre workers
- Presentation at a Seniors' residence on 'Sexual Assault and the Elderly'
- Presentation for parents on empowering children, reducing the risk of sexual assault
- Physical/psychological impact of sexual assault

Our week culminated with a commemoration ceremony and cake cutting by the Mayor. We had the day proclaimed Cornwall's *Sexual Assault Awareness Day* in honour of our 10th anniversary. A survivor who used our services spoke about her experience. We also had speakers talk about services *before* our program, what services we have *now*, and where we are going.

We had good media coverage although I had to fight hard to get it! In Cornwall, the media likes to cover sexual assault cases and who gets released, who commits suicide, etc. They like to make it look like there is nothing being done in the area of sexual assault work. At our commemoration ceremony we honoured 10 agencies in the community that provide sexual assault services. We thanked them publicly and gave them a gift. This was not covered in the media.

After 10 years - I have been here for almost 5 - there is still much work to be done. Many people know of our services and use them, but many still do not. Many have repeatedly heard our messages about sexual assault and choose to

maintain dangerous attitudes. However, even though we are faced with so much resistance, I am convinced that we are making a difference and any difference - no matter how small - is better than no difference at all.

**Sarah Kaplan, Program Coordinator  
Cornwall SART**

## **Making Positive Connections ...NATIVE OUTREACH**

Our catchment area at BCHS includes the largest reserve in Canada: Six Nations. Over the years it's been an upward struggle to attain their confidence and acceptance for treatment at our Centre. Since returning to the team as Coordinator, one of my goals is to improve my understanding of the native culture and to begin some educational programs in their community. I have found myself on various committees with representatives from Six Nations and am slowly beginning to see my goal become a reality.

In the spring, Pinetree Native Centre gave a presentation at Kanata Village. '*Sharing Our Path for Tomorrow's Healing: Aboriginal Domestic Family Violence Prevention and Networking*' focused on the native culture and gave some understanding on their methods of dealing with crisis. Following that, our local Sexual Assault Centre of Brant hosted a 2-day forum at the Pinetree Native Centre. It included many pertinent speakers: the head of our Vice squad, a Crown Attorney, a Defence Attorney, representatives from our Sexual Assault Care Team, Nova Vita Women's Shelter, and Victim Services, as well as a counsellor from Pinetree. The forum offered an overview of each agency's role in dealing with sexual assault and domestic violence survivors, along with an open question period to address any concerns.

As a result of my presentation at this Forum, I was asked to speak at one of the women's group counselling sessions (*6 native women*) at Pinetree. As the women arrived there was a definite undertone of animosity, and side glances with the underlying question of, "*What does she think she is doing here?!*" with comments such as, "*Let's get this started so I can go*". This is a typical barrier that I have come across time and time again, but I was finally there and hopefully would make a bit of an impression.

The session opened with a '*smudging*' ceremony and I was asked if I would like to participate. Not knowing what this was about, up I got. If I understand this ceremony correctly, everyone stands in a circle and a bundle of dried sage is lit and, smoking, is presented to each individual. You cup your hands and scoop the smoke and carry it over your body to open your heart and mind to what is going to happen that evening. Immediately, one of the ladies in the group pointed out that I was not presenting myself properly because I was wearing jewellery, but the counsellor pointed out that this was my first time and it would be overlooked.

After we sat down and the counsellor took care of some issues, I was given the floor. I chose to remain seated so I would not come across like a teacher with students. As I spoke I noticed the atmosphere in the room changing from animosity to interest. One lady began to cry as obviously something I said hit home and the counsellor was able to comfort her and had her *smudge* again. As the evening continued, we had coffee and I finished my presentation by showing our awareness video on Sexual Assault. Wow, what an evening! I felt like I had climbed Mount Everest, totally exhausted but on top of the world. You may think that this wasn't much - only 6 women but as the counsellor said to me after, "*...these were 'touch' ladies and the word would spread*".

My next goal is to be able to do some 'role call' training with the Oksewen police department. If I get invited to do this training I will feel like I have bridged the Grand Canyon.

To breakdown the walls of discrimination and let the native community know that we can work together to care for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence - this will continue to be an upward battle and maybe one that will never be quite overcome, but if we can make a difference in just *one* person's life...it will be worth while.

**Donna Mitchell, Coordinator  
Brantford SA/DV Program**

## **Community Cohesiveness ...A TEAM APPROACH**

Windsor has been fairly successful in utilizing all available resources within our community to provide the best care and information to survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse. It's a cooperative effort with one main goal: to assist victims of abuse, their family members and significant others. This goal is the Centre's baseline when determining which resources are beneficial to include as a complimentary approach to treatment. In order for program initiatives to be successful, it's important that the agencies involved establish protocols to be used as guidelines.

Here are a few tips to bear in mind when: *a)* determining which resources would be helpful, and *b)* starting the process of collaboration and communication to establish *your* extended team:

- Gather information on available resources in your area
- Review their goals and purposes
- Determine how their services would be beneficial for SATC
- Develop a presentation outlining the pros and cons if the services cooperated

- Schedule meetings with appropriate directors to discuss the proposal
- Establish a referral system - how to access services and programs
- Educate and train staff members involved in programs

Although a team approach involves hard work and persistence, as well as overcoming many obstacles and barriers, it is imperative that you maintain your focus on the main objective: to assist victims of abuse

In today's society, our communities are extremely diverse with varying needs and services. Establishing a unique team not only will benefit those in need, it will also provide the community at large with a sense of togetherness, safety and belonging. Although the process is long and tiring, gratification is achieved when our common goal is reached. The reward and end result will be tremendous.

**Victoria Laba, R.N.  
Windsor SATC**

## Preparing the Community ...DV PROGRAM

The Lanark County SAP is working with our community to prepare for our expansion to provide services to victims of domestic violence.

Lisa Carver - Community Coordinator and the Hospital Coordinator - networked with community agencies to develop the *Lanark County Police Protocol* for Woman/Partner Assault and Criminal Harassment. On November 28th 2001, we held a Police Training Day on the new *Protocol*. Using a case study to dramatize the elements of the Protocol, officers were shown how the victim moves through the system, and what role the officers play in each step. We were fortunate to have a survivor of domestic violence to explain the impact of the police on her experiences.

Our Hospital Coordinator also held a training session for nurses at the Almonte General Hospital. Thirty-four nurses (34) attended and participated in discussions on the following topics: the dynamics of partner abuse; screening and interventions in the Emergency Department; referral resources in the Community; safety planning, (*by Fern Martin of Lanark County Interval House*).

In June of this year, we held an information session for Hospital Administrators, Managers, and Physicians, with Sheila Macdonald, Ontario Network Coordinator as the guest speaker. The focus was on introducing the Domestic Violence Program mandate and plans for implementation.

In September 2002 the Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital, in conjunction with the Perinatal Program of Eastern and South Eastern Ontario, will be sponsoring an education day for nurses and physicians with guest speakers Penny Simkin and Dr. Patricia Morris. Topics will include: assisting survivors of childhood sexual abuse during labour and delivery; postpartum - the forgotten phase of pregnancy; screening for violence in pregnancy. Also included that day will be information on screening for violence during pregnancy.

We are planning an evaluation of our program in 2003 and would welcome any input, suggestions or recommendations of Consultants.

**Mary Pat Bingley, Hospital Coordinator  
Lanark County SAP**

## June Stewart ...IN OUR THOUGHTS

In great sadness, we grieve the loss of our colleague and friend June Stewart, Coordinator of the Renfrew County Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Program who died unexpectedly in her home on July 3, 2002.

June provided great leadership to her community and to our Network. She started the Sexual Assault Program in Renfrew County and included domestic violence in the service long before the provincial implementation of the domestic violence program - because she knew it needed to be done.

June filled the room with warmth and laughter. She loved her work and she loved life, and she lived each day to the utmost of enjoyment. Greeting her at a meeting was like embracing a close friend, and she was like that with everyone. Our deepest sympathy and condolences to her family, many friends and to her colleagues in Renfrew County. We will be remembering June and what she meant to us at our next Coordinators' meeting in October.

## **...FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

### **Upcoming Events**

2002 National Conference on Health Care and Violence  
September 26-28, 2002  
*Atlanta, Georgia, USA*

International Association of Forensic Nurses Scientific Assembly  
October 9-13, 2002  
*Minneapolis, USA*

Domestic Violence Conference (*Windsor SA/DVTC*)  
November 7 -8, 2002.  
Caboto Club, *Windsor, ON*

*NOTE:* Dr. Dan Sheridan will speak on Day 2.  
More details will follow to all Centres.