

# IMPACT ON INJURIES

## Manitoba's Injury Prevention Newsletter

September/ October 2006

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### PFD Loaner Program off to good start

This past spring, Manitoba Healthy Living and the Manitoba Coalition for Safer Waters launched an exciting new program aimed at reducing drowning in northern communities by making PFDs more accessible to residents.

To date, 20 communities have applied to the PFD loaner program and have received a supply of child, youth and adult PFDs. Each of these communities has organized a system for loaning out PFDs to local residents for boating, fishing and other water-related activities. So far 546 PFDs have been distributed.

The good news is that we still can accommodate more communities wanting to participate in this program. While it is getting late in the season, communities can still put in an application and receive PFDs, so that next spring they are ready to go.

This program is available to northern communities that are close to water. Communities must set up a system for loaning out the PFDs and identify how lost or damaged PFDs will be replaced.

For more information about how your community can offer a PFD Loaner Program, call Shawn Feely at 787-1823, e-mail [sfeely1@mts.net](mailto:sfeely1@mts.net) or visit Manitoba Coalition for Safer Waters at [www.hsc.mb.ca/impact/s\\_w\\_index.htm](http://www.hsc.mb.ca/impact/s_w_index.htm)

### Safe Communities National Conference "Honour Our Roots – Celebrate Our Future"

- by Sharon Young

I had the privilege of attending my first Safe Communities Conference in Chatham-Kent, Ontario. What a fine time it was! I came back to Brandon feeling energized and committed to working with partners in injury prevention.

#### COMMUNITY PRIDE MEETS HOSPITALITY

The Chatham-Kent Safe Communities Coalition, a designated Safe Community since 1999, hosted the event. The organizers held an opening/networking in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. We were introduced to their newly constructed Children's Safety Village, designed for hands-on safety teaching opportunities by Fire, Police and EMS workers. Rather than the workers coming into schools, children will be bussed to the Village to learn in an interactive environment about home, road and rail safety. I was impressed with the "home" inside the building – a kitchen, living room and bedroom – where children would point out fire hazards, and then escape through the bedroom window when the "smoke" appeared. Under construction outside, the streets and roads were coming alive with road and rail signs and "Obie", CN Rail's brand new miniature locomotive and rail car paid a visit.

#### THE LEARNING

Monday and Tuesday were packed with keynote speakers, concurrent sessions, a display room and more networking. **Dr. Robert Conn** of [SMARTRISK](#) gave the opening address on the national injury picture and encouraged us to support the proposal for a nationally funded injury prevention strategy [www.timeforaction.ca](http://www.timeforaction.ca). I was intrigued to learn about research for a new innovation for fall prevention with the elderly – a shoe insert that stimulates cells and nerve endings and improves balance!

**Marilyn Adams**, Founder and President of [Farm Safety 4 Just Kids](#) was the keynote on Tuesday. Marilyn's passion for safety for kids in rural settings came through loud and clear – in 1986 she lost her 11-year old son, Keith when he suffocated in a gravity flow wagon of shelled corn. For the past 20 years she has devoted her life to promoting farm safety for children and their families in North America. Her U.S. statistics for farm safety tell the tale; in 1986, 300 children lost their lives in farm incidents; today 100 die and Marilyn keeps advocating for less. See [www.fs4jk.org](http://www.fs4jk.org) for more information.

The closing keynote was **Dick O'Brien**, a motivational speaker who gave us an energizing message about resilience and keeping ourselves healthy in order to be community leaders. "The Resilient Journey" helped us re-focus on what is important about our work.

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Safe Communities...continued from page 1)



by Neil Enns

The summer of 2006 has been busy for Farmers With Disabilities in Manitoba (FWDM). Many districts across the province offered the Progressive Agriculture Safety Camps for children in Grades 4, 5 and 6. The camps had 8-stations, each addressing a safety issue related to a specific topic such as fires, ATVs, animals, chemicals, motor vehicles. FWDM addressed machinery safety including Power Take Off and Tractor Roll Over Protection. We were involved in 21 camps. Thanks goes out to all our volunteers!

It was a great experience for over 5500 children who attended the camps. The Safety Camps were run in Beausejour, Teulon, Gimli, Arbourg, Fisher Branch, MacGregor, Glenboro, Roblin, Melita, Souris, Boissevain, Virden, Stonewall, Crystal Spring Colony (hosted 5 other colonies), Aspenheim Colony (hosted 5 other colonies), Austin, Moosehorn, Ethelbert, and Russell.

We feel that this program is very valuable and encourage the Province and our Coordinators to keep it going. FWDM thanks all those who helped out with travel costs. We received very positive evaluations.

The Camps are now over with for the year. Whether you are traveling, working on the yard, or preparing equipment for harvest, please take a minute to check before you go into your work. FWDM is planning a conference celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> year. The conference theme is Education on accident awareness & being a support group for those living with disabilities related to farm accidents. On October 27-28, FWDM is partnering with Manitoba Rural Stress line in a conference. It will be held at the Greenwood Inn, Winnipeg. The theme is Mental Health & Stress. For more information, call the FWDM office at (204) 436-3181.

## HONOURING OUR ROOTS

A conference highlight was hearing from our "roots" – **Paul Kells**, Founder and Vice-Chair of the Safe Communities Foundation ten years ago. Paul's devotion to SCF and to building partnerships throughout Canada in injury prevention has been outstanding. Since he became involved with the Passport to Safety Program in recent years, that program has also expanded to other countries and to new populations. A pilot of "Passport to Safety 101" was launched in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick recently, designed for special needs youth and new immigrants. [www.passporttosafety.ca](http://www.passporttosafety.ca)

## CELEBRATING OUR FUTURE

Meeting our "future" was also very exciting. Daniele Zanotti, President, SCF since the spring of 2006 unveiled the new logo and look of Safe Communities Canada, the new name being proposed for SCF as our role changes and becomes more defined. Watch for changes on the website [www.safecommunities.ca](http://www.safecommunities.ca) as SCF launches its new look and offers downloadable tools for engaging and mobilizing communities in injury prevention.

## ON A FINAL NOTE

Each year SCF gives Awards of Excellence to designated safe communities in the categories of 2<sup>nd</sup> year, 3<sup>rd</sup> year and Mature (4 years +) at the National Conference. In addition to a warm reception and a great learning and networking opportunity, I was thrilled to accept the Third Year Community Award on behalf of the Brandon & Area Safe Community Coalition. In addition to a cash award, our city will be honoured with a tree planting by Safe Communities Canada.

As we grow as a Safe Community, wouldn't it be great to host all of Canada at a national Safe Communities conference in Brandon? Mark your calendars for 2007: The Safe Communities Canada national conference will be on November 10<sup>th</sup>, tied to the National Injury Prevention Conference on November 11 - 13<sup>th</sup> in Toronto.

Thank you, Chatham- Kent and Safe Communities! Special thanks to the Brandon & Area Safe Community Foundation for giving me this opportunity to represent them at the conference.

Sharon Young  
Co-Chair, Brandon & Area Safe Community Coalition  
PH: (204) 571-8398



*Safe Communities President Daneille Zanotti and Founder, Paul Kells present Sharon Young with cheque for receiving an Award of Excellence*

**Editor's note:** Sharon will be leaving her position at Brandon Regional Health Authority and, in time, her position with Brandon & Area Safe Communities coalition. We would like to thank Sharon for her vision, energy and commitment to making Brandon a safer place to live and we wish Sharon much success in her new position.

## Conferences

**Taking Care of Safety is Good Business** is the theme of the Canadian Agricultural Safety Conference in Canmore, Alberta from November 15-17. Visit [www.casa-acsa.ca/english/](http://www.casa-acsa.ca/english/) for complete information.



The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Health Conference in Quebec, is holding a symposium on *Safety Promotion, Violence Prevention: When Networks Unite*. Visit, [www.inspq.qc.ca/jasp/programme/2006/default.asp?A=7&Lg=en](http://www.inspq.qc.ca/jasp/programme/2006/default.asp?A=7&Lg=en) and then click on Safety Promotion, Violence Prevention under Thursday and Friday's program.



The XVII Canadian Multidisciplinary Road Safety Conference will take place in Montreal, Quebec, June 3-6, 2007. There is currently a call for abstracts of scientific papers for presentation at the conference. Abstracts should be submitted by the January 1, 2007 deadline. For more information, visit [www.cmrcs.polymtl.ca/en/en.html](http://www.cmrcs.polymtl.ca/en/en.html)



**Winnipeg Committee for Safety Awards Luncheon and Forum.** On Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, there will a forum to discuss how we can work together to create a safer Winnipeg. At noon, Paul Kells, Founder of Safe Communities Canada, will speak on how Winnipeg can become a designated Safe Community. For more information or to register, contact Linda Williams at 986-7924 or e-mail [LWilliams@winnipeg.ca](mailto:LWilliams@winnipeg.ca).

## Healthy Schools Resource Project

IMPACT has been working with Manitoba Healthy Schools on a project that aims to identify and make available a comprehensive list of safety and injury prevention resources that are appropriate for school administrators, teachers, students and parents. We are looking for all types of resources (WebPages, posters, DVDs, pamphlets, storybooks, etc.) on the following subject areas:

- Bike, scooters, in-line, skateboard, winter sports-helmet use
- Burns/Fire
- Guidelines for facilities, equipment, policies, etc.
- Falls/Playground
- Farm
- First Aid
- Internet
- Motor vehicle (child restraints, school bus, driver education, drinking & driving)
- Recreation/Sport
- Special needs children
- Suffocation/Choking
- Violence (gangs, bullying)
- Water/Drowning
- Weather (sun, winter)
- Young Workers
- Pedestrian
- Poisoning

If you know of any particularly good resources, please send a copy, description or web-link to Wendy French at [wfrench@exchange.hsc.mb.ca](mailto:wfrench@exchange.hsc.mb.ca). This resource will be posted on the Manitoba Healthy Schools website.

## Youth Leadership Scholarship Program

Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth is encouraging university and college-bound students to promote health and wellness through a new scholarship program by investing \$100,000 in a Youth Leadership Scholarship Program.

This program recognizes and supports the students' efforts to promote healthy living through volunteer activities. Examples of eligible projects include those that promote wellness and disease prevention through healthy eating, physical activity, **prevent injures** though education and reduce health risk factors such as smoking.

Some 200 students province-wide will receive a \$500 scholarship. Application forms will be provided to schools. Teachers or program leaders who supervised the work must verify the application.

For more information phone 945-2568 (Winnipeg) or 1-800-282-8069 or visit [www.edu.gov.mb.ca/youth/initiatives/youthleadershipscholarship.html](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/youth/initiatives/youthleadershipscholarship.html). Application forms should be submitted by the February 28, 2007 deadline.

## Baby Bath Seat Advisory

Health Canada is reminding caregivers that constant supervision is needed while bathing infants. This is important even if the child is in a bathing device such as a bath seat or bath ring. Since 2004, there have been four infant drowning deaths related to bath assistance devices. Since 1991, there have been 12 drowning deaths and since 1983 there have been 23 near drowning deaths linked to these products. In all cases, the infant was left unattended in the product.

The Health Canada Advisory is available at [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006\\_97\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/2006/2006_97_e.html).

For further information or to report an incident, phone the Manitoba Health Canada Product Safety Office at 983-5490 or e-mail [mb\\_prodsafe@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:mb_prodsafe@hc-sc.gc.ca)

## What is CHIRPP?

CHIRPP is the Canadian Hospitals Injury Reporting and Prevention Program, a surveillance system for injuries treated in Emergency Departments. Currently, data are collected at 10 pediatric and six general hospitals in Canada, including the Winnipeg Children's Hospital. Injured children and their caregivers are asked to complete a form at the Emergency Department describing the injury incident. This includes when, where, and how the child was injured. As well, the physicians complete information about each case (i.e. outcome, body part injured, type of injury). IMPACT summarizes local CHIRPP data for specific injuries for media and other data requests (e.g. bicycle-related head injuries, falls, trampoline-related injury).

Data from the CHIRPP database can help identify new injury types, guide injury prevention planning and programming, and point to risk factors and injury mechanisms that can be addressed. It is often used for priority setting by injury prevention professionals, as a component of efforts to lobby government for legislation, and as a complement to other data to present a more complete picture of injuries (i.e. combined with death and hospitalization data). The pre-event data collected by CHIRPP is a rich set of information not collected in other databases that is very useful for injury prevention.

This surveillance system is not without its limitations. Winnipeg Children's Hospital is the only Children's Hospital in Manitoba, so the injured children sent from other hospitals in Winnipeg and from rural Manitoba are more serious injuries that cannot be cared for locally. As a result, our CHIRPP database misses minor Winnipeg and rural Manitoba injuries and results in an over-sampling of more severe injuries. The voluntary method of data collection does not capture all cases at our hospital.

For more information visit the national CHIRPP site:  
[www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/injuries/chrpp/chrpa\\_e.html](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/injuries/chrpp/chrpa_e.html)

## WaterSmart Education Programs for Northern and Remote Communities

- by Carl Shier, CEO, Lifesaving Society - Manitoba

Each year in Manitoba, an average of 25 people drown. About half of the drownings are Aboriginal people. The Lifesaving Society has just concluded its second summer of providing education programs to Manitoba's water-rich north.

The Manitoba Branch of the Lifesaving Society tailored three programs to meet the unique needs of northern and remote communities. This year two lifeguards traveled to 12 different destinations, serving 15 communities. During their week long visits they taught:

- **Swim to Survive**- swimming lessons and water survival training.
- **The Boat Operator Accredited Training course**. Successful candidates obtained a Transport Canada, Coast Guard approved boat operator's license.
- **Emergency First Aid and CPR** - taught to the new ILCOR standards.

Their success was overwhelming with great participation and support from every community visited: Garden Hill, Wasagamack, Pukatawagan, Sherridon, Berens River, Ilford, York Landing, Lynn Lake, South Indian Lake, Camperville, Oxford House and Ste Theresa Point.

At the end of the week, we gave a dozen new PFDs to each community. That was further supplemented with more PFDs from the PFD Loaner Program funded by Manitoba Healthy Living and administered by IMPACT.

The Society is grateful to program sponsors: Aboriginal & Northern Affairs; The Manitoba Departments of Culture, Heritage & Tourism, Health, and Culture, Education and Citizenship; Human Resources & Development Canada; and our newest partner, Sport Manitoba. Thanks to all; we could not deliver these programs without your commitment.

**Even with a record hot summer, drownings have decreased significantly this year.** In 2005, there were 19 reported water related fatalities by this date. Currently, we estimate that number has been reduced by nearly 50%. I am certain that with the growing interest in water safety and the positive impact of the WaterSmart® program, we will be teaching in many other northern communities in 2007. While we're seeing some very positive changes, there's still much to be done.

## New Fire-Setting Prevention Book

Manitoba Labour and Immigration released a new local fire-setting prevention book for youth in time for Fire Prevention Week October 8-14<sup>th</sup>. The activity book encourages children to participate in discussions and activities that help them understand the dangers and impact of arson. The Firefighter's Burn Fund contributed to the development and production of the book.

The new book and the original book, Firesetting and Youth, were written by Paula Cook, a special education teacher with the Winnipeg School Division, Marc Proulx, a fire safety educator in the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service, and Gord Favelle, manager of Critical Incident Stress management and Youth Fire Stop programs, Manitoba Office of the Fire Commissioner, as a resource for parents, educators and professionals. Since its release in 2003, Firesetting and Youth has become widely used across Canada and the United States and was nominated for an international award.

To obtain a copy of the new Firesetting and Youth Activity Book, call The Winnipeg Office of the Fire Commissioner at 945-3388 or e-mail [firecomm@gov.mb.ca](mailto:firecomm@gov.mb.ca).

## Updates from Health Canada

Health Canada is preparing for the Baby walker Board of Review and is looking for parents whose children were injured while using baby walkers. Some examples of walker-related injury are falls downstairs or sustaining a burn by accessing hot substances or electrical appliances. Health Canada is requesting that any parents who fit these criteria and are willing to testify at the hearing in December of 2006 contact Health Canada Consumer Product Safety.

If you know of any parent who would be interested, please ask them to contact:

Jonathan Williams  
Manager, Mechanical & Electrical Hazards Division  
Health Canada Consumer Product Safety  
Phone (613) 945-4671  
E-mail: [jonathan\\_k.Williams@hs-sc.gc.ca](mailto:jonathan_k.Williams@hs-sc.gc.ca)

The Consumer Product Safety Branch of Health Canada has a new electronic subscription mailing list. This subscribing will make sure that you receive the latest warnings, advisories and recalls. In order to continue receiving or to start receiving the latest news and information from Health Canada, Consumer Product Safety, it is important that you subscribe by entering your e-mail address at the Consumer Product Safety sign up at [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/advisories-avis/subscribe-abonnement/index\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/advisories-avis/subscribe-abonnement/index_e.html).



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