

Risk Guardian



PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF SAFETY IN ONTARIO

Creating change together

The City of Barrie and the Barrie Fire and Emergency Services are proud to announce that one of the city's teachers made it to the top five finalists of NFPA's Teacher of the Year Award and was a recipient of a Fire Safety Award (page 3).

Liz Style is a teacher at Codrington Street Public School with many years of experience. She teaches a Developmental Skills Class. The nine students in her class have multiple needs and problems including physical, communication, intellectual and behavioural. Everyday life activities are a hazard for these students.

Late spring last year, the fire department responded to an EMS call. Three small school age children had been playing in a trunk and had suffocated. The school and local community were devastated.

Recognizing this, the principal of the school originally chosen to host the Risk Watch pilot felt the need was greater at Codrington School. He put the fire department in touch with Codrington's principal, who wanted to do something to prevent a repeat. One presentation by Fire Prevention Officer Terry Arnold was all it took to realize Risk Watch was their answer.

The program was delivered to the entire school, but it found a special niche in Liz Style's class.

The use of comfortable daily routines in the teaching of the lessons minimized the emotional impact and expedited learning.

For example, the seat belt safety component utilized the children's bus. These children require specialized transportation. Getting them to and from school safely was an ordeal. Previously, students could not sit quietly and never kept their seatbelts on. An additional staff member had to ride with them.



EDUCATOR: Top teacher Liz Style with D Shift, Station 2 firefighters from Barrie Fire and Emergency Services.

They began slowly using a make believe bus in class, then worked their way up to the real school bus. Liz accomplished the unthinkable when she took them for a ride on a city transit bus. The children now ride their bus using seatbelts and no additional staff.

Her ability to motivate these children is inspiring. One of the tools that was essential to her success was a Risk Watch wrist watch and the Risk Watch Station.

Each student could wear a coveted Risk Watch wrist watch as long as they stayed safe. Unsafe behaviour meant that the child handed in their watch and sat in the Risk Watch Station in class. Eventually, students realized their own unsafe activities, would take off their watch and sit in the Risk Watch Station without being asked.

All students were pre-tested and post-tested, with good results.

Due to the unique nature of the students, a communiqué was sent home daily to provide parents with information and get their feedback.

Last fall, the "Codrington Street

Crew" responded to an alarm in an apartment where one of Liz's students lived. He has never spoken. The alarm has gone off countless time before without him indicating he heard it. This time, he did. He stood up, took his mother's hand, walked her out the door, down the stairs, out the building, and stood waiting on the front lawn.

Barrie considers the pilot a success and plans to bring Risk Watch to all the City's children.

Article prepared by Cynthia Ross-Tustin, Assistant Chief for Barrie Fire & Emergency Services.

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Implementation News Update

There are 45 school boards out of a total 65 in Ontario committed to the *Risk Watch* program.

Alongside schools, *Risk Watch* is also supported by fire, police and health departments; school boards and teachers; emergency and ambulance staff; poison control centres; Red Cross chapters; and other community advocates.

With regional representation across the province, as of September 2001, the program is being offered to more than 80,000 students in over 331 schools with more than 3,182 teachers.

There are Champion coalitions in 35 Ontario communities reaching a total population of approximately 3,000,000.

New homes to be fitted with CO alarms

An amendment to the Ontario Building Code in August made carbon monoxide (CO) detectors mandatory in all new residences that have fuel-burning appliances or a garage.

Municipalities are now responsible for enforcing the amendment, which includes all new homes and apartment buildings that are slated to be built.

The OFM worked closely with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to develop this amendment that establishes uniform provincial standards to provide for consistent applications across all municipalities.

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Risk-free business in Ontario

SMARTRISK – a not-for-profit organization that is taking injury prevention programs and making them work – outlines its work.

At SMARTRISK, we're out to transform the way people think about – and eventually how they act towards – injuries and injury prevention.

Typically, interest in injury prevention rises only sporadically after individual tragedies that get widespread media attention — the toddler run over by a car, the family who perished in a fire, the young woman driver killed by a flying truck tire.

At SMARTRISK, we believe that building a profile for injury prevention will help bring the issue to the forefront of the consciousness of the general public, the media and the research community.

We want people to understand that injuries suffered in car crashes, pool drownings, fires and falls are not accidents or acts of fate but predictable, preventable events that need not happen as long as they manage their risks.

We also feel it is critical that many additional researchers begin to choose injury prevention as a field of investigation. And SMARTRISK wants to ensure public policy related to injury prevention is consistent and makes sense.

SMARTRISK is a national, non-profit group that takes a risk management approach to injury prevention.

Like *Risk Watch*, we believe the concept of risk is so central to injury prevention that we have included the word in our name.

"What appeals to us about *Risk Watch* is the fact that it talks about risk and the management of risk," says Robert Conn, President and CEO of SMARTRISK.

"It helps young people to see the risk in their everyday lives and helps them to manage that risk. It's designed to build on the previous years of the program.

"And it gives the opportunity to mobilize and utilize all the people in a community with an interest in talking to young people about preventing injuries.

"Like everybody involved in *Risk Watch*, SMARTRISK is keen to see the incidence of injury in young people and children reduced."

Thanks to a five-year investment by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, designed to strengthen the impact of injury prevention programming in the province, SMARTRISK has begun to build the infrastructure needed to address



SMART THINKER: Robert Conn

injury prevention in the manner required.

Our work is organized around four key building blocks: research, education and social marketing, information sharing and program development and support.

Dr. Conn sits on the Ontario *Risk Watch* Advisory Coalition. He also chairs a subcommittee that's looking to attract corporate financial support for the program.

Dr. Conn believes it's critical to find the evidence that indicates why programs such as *Risk Watch* are effective, so that learning can be infused into other programs.

"We all know it's not enough anymore to merely believe that something works or to be passionate about something," he said. "We need to determine why things work."

SMARTRISK supports the research Morag MacKay, director of Plan-it-Safe at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, is doing with pilot *Risk Watch* projects in Ontario. Ms. MacKay is also a member of SMARTRISK's research advisory committee.

"As part of our mandate, SMARTRISK is looking for programs that have an effect and then looking for ways to champion these programs and to help them," Dr. Conn said.

A helping hand

To complete the 12 requirements for safe community accreditation by the World Health Organization, the Safe Community Coalition of Brockville and District needed to form a mentoring program with a developing country. The coalition chose Belarus, and in particular, the village of Chausy.

Children from Chausy take part in an annual summer respite program in August at Vanier Public School in Brockville involving around 40 local families.

Teacher Terry Grimes, with the help of interpreter Andrei Simanev and fire prevention mascot, Sparky, worked with a group of these children and their counterparts from the Brockville area to show a group of Belarusian officials how the *Risk Watch* program works.

Students from both countries learned how kids can be safe from fire as part of the *Risk Watch* injury prevention program. They demonstrated stop, drop, and roll and explained how to spot exits, obey alarms and leave matches to adult hands.

In many places a safe community is merely a dream. Chausy residents struggle daily after Chernobyl nuclear meltdown in 1986.



WELCOME: Interpreter Andrei Simanev (right) welcomes everyone.



TEACHING: Vanier Public School teacher Terry Grimes and Sparky work with a group of local and Belarusian children.

Keep in touch! Risk Guardian has started a Risk Watch listserv for everyone involved in the program to contact each other and share information, lesson plans, resources. To join send an email to risk_watch-subscribe@yahoo.com.

Council awards recognize fire safety

Solicitor General David Turnbull and Ontario Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle presented 33 individuals and groups, including five children, with Fire Safety Awards at a special luncheon on November 8 in Toronto.

The awards, sponsored by the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council, recognize outstanding contributions to fire safety in Ontario.

"Unnecessary fire deaths and injuries have undoubtedly been avoided because of these individuals and organizations," said Mr. Moyle. "They are a credit to Ontario and an

example for us all."

This year, fire departments throughout the province nominated a total of 59 individuals and organizations. There were four categories. The final recipients were:

Fire Safety Action Awards:

Junior Bailey, 12, of Brampton; Katie Grierson, 10, from Durham; Harrison Tim, eight, from Ajax; Daniel McIntosh, six, and Dawna Neufeld, 13, from Cambridge.

Individual Awards:

The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario; William H.

Brock, from London; Maureen Callan, Heather Roy and Steve Soroko from Halton; Karen Cook, from Omemee; Brian Ellsworth from Halton Hills Fire Department; David Penlington, from Ayr; Elizabeth Style from Barrie; and Louis and Maryann Yacobucci from Brantford.

Organization Awards: Bringing an Awareness of Senior Safety Issues to the Community (BASSIC) in Toronto; Beaver Valley Kinsmen Club in Thornbury; Cobourg Fire Safety Team; Gillons' Insurance Brokers Ltd and Holmlund Financial Services, from Fort Frances;

Moosonee Lions Club; Ontario Power Generation Darlington Nuclear; Ray Johnson and Associates Inc. in Georgetown; Seniors Awareness of Falls and Fire Education (SAFFE) committee; Stephanie Gaetz Keepsafe Foundation in Mississauga; Touchstone Homes; Sutton Legion Branch 365 of the Royal Canadian Legion; and The Windsor-Essex County Real Estate Board.

Media Award: Ayr News; Lindsay Daily Post; Shaw TV in Sault St. Marie; STAR 96 FM in Pembroke; and the Town & Country Crier in Mildmay.



Project Maple Leaf

A relief fund has been established for the families of the firefighters, police and emergency medical services personnel who made the supreme sacrifice while trying to save the lives of others after the attack at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Visit www.safecommunities.com to donate.

Council remembers firefighters

The Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council had its semi-annual meeting three days after the U.S. terrorist strike.

Toronto Fire Chief Alan Speed led a moment of prayer and remembrance, followed with a few heartfelt thoughts and words.

"We will always remember the events of September 11, 2001.

"Let us also remember the victims, the broken hearted, the broken families and the shattered lives, as they try to cope with devastation and destruction that has rained down upon them," said Chief Speed.

"Let us be thankful for our own firefighters, police officers, paramedics, doctors, nurses and other professionals who willingly put their lives on the line for our benefit."



HOME RUN: Council members, Toronto Fire Services representatives and Fire Prevention Week sponsors team up with Toronto Blue Jay Billy Koch at Fire Safety Day on October 6, 2001.

The Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council and Toronto Fire Services teamed up at Mel Lastman Square in October to kick-off Fire Prevention Week — 'Cover the Bases & Strike Out Fire.'

Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle addressed 250 local school children: "Fire safety isn't just up to the grown ups in your home. It's your job to remind your parents to test your smoke

alarms and to tell them if you spot any fire hazards."

He also thanked the Ontario sponsors of this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign: the Electrical Safety Authority; Enbridge, Kidde Safety Canada and McDonald's. "With the assistance of these organizations, the Council has been able to provide educational materials to fire departments across Ontario," he said.

Also, attending were

Solicitor General David Turnbull, former Lieutenant Governor Lincoln Alexander, Attorney General David Young, Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman and Toronto Fire Services Chief Alan Speed.

On October 6, Fire Prevention Week got a hand from the Toronto Blue Jays with a series of fire safety messages broadcast over the stadium Jumbotron and sponsors received an autographed baseball.

Safety information online for kids

www.safekid.org - The web site of the Children's Safety Association of Canada provides information on child safety.

www.injuryfreezone.com — Injury prevention games, media awareness campaigns and educational programs about high-risk activities from the British Columbia Injury Prevention Centre.

www.fs4jk.org — Farm Safety for Just Kids is a non-profit organization based in Iowa, which services Canada and the U.S. It promotes a safe farm environment to prevent injuries and fatalities.

www.firepals.org — Tips, games, music and videos about various life safety concerns including fire, earthquake, bike safety, drug awareness, water safety and latch key safety. Fire Pals is composed of firefighters who are devoted to educating children from kindergarten to Grade 12 about life safety and fire prevention.

www.elmer.ca — The official site of Elmer the Safety Elephant run by the Canada Safety Council with interactive safety games and pictures to print and colour. Elmer reminds kids about playground, bicycle, fire, railway and home and community safety.

www.theodoretugboat.com/start — Ahoy there! Theodore is the Official Ambassador of the US National Safe Boating Council, and

Canada's Safe Boating Ambassador. The web site contains online colouring material, lots of games, stories, a sing-along and links.

www.usfa.fema.gov/kids/house_enter.html — An online game for kids to find the fire hazards in Hydro's Hazard House.

www.mcgruff.org — Safety tips from the National Crime Prevention Council on a variety of subjects including being home alone, bullies and other tips on being safe. Contents includes games, puzzles, plus a free comic book can be ordered.

www.ol-og-canada.org — Information for kids and adults on railway safety from Operation Lifesaver, which is sponsored by The Railway Association of Canada and Transport Canada and works in co-operation with the Canada Safety Council.

What makes you click? Send suggestions for additional resources to:

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