

Students design NFF radio ads soon to air on local radio

The Neighbours, Friends and Families campaign, a provincial initiative designed to engage community members to take steps to end violence against women, is in full swing in Huron County.



Students in the upper high school grades have no trouble relating the warning signs of woman abuse to their own relationships, and to those amongst their peers.

As in other communities across Ontario, NFF Co-ordinator Vanessa Yeats is striving to deliver the message to as many groups of people as possible.

“While many people may think that the presentation may only be appropriate for social service providers, the truth is that the presentation can be adapted to inform any group of people within the community. It is not just about the signs of violence that we may see in our professional lives, but also in our personal lives; in our families, our neighbourhoods, or social circles. I would encourage any group that meets and has the capacity to include a guest speaker to consider including the neighbours friends and families campaign as part of their agenda.”

While the presentations normally take about 45 minutes, the co-ordinator is happy to modify this timeframe to fit any schedule.

“Even the opportunity to talk briefly about the campaign can be helpful; a lot of people have been exposed to the campaign materials (pamphlets and cards that are available throughout the county), and the presentation can really accent the message within those materials.”

Another group that the message has been a hit with is high school students. While the campaign was designed primarily for a target audience of adults, stu-

In fact, a number of local students were so engaged by the campaign materials, they decided to take the message to an additional medium, that of a radio public service announcement. Written entirely by Grade 12 media students, the PSA aims to highlight some of the symptoms of unhealthy teen relationships. The opportunity to record this material professionally came with the help of media teacher R. Lobb and local recording expert Mark Hussey. The result is a finished product that the teens themselves, as well as the whole community, should be proud of. Listen for it this spring on local radio stations!

The most essential component of changing the way our community tackles violence against women is getting accurate, current information to as many people as possible. Please consider including a short NFF presentation at one of your upcoming meetings or events. Pick up a brochure and learn the warning signs of women abuse. It is our responsibility to keep each other safe!

For more information, Yeats can be contacted at Women Today of Huron, 519-524-6767 or 888-547-3478.

Neglecting fatherhood...

to whether they are fathers or not. And most crucially, it's hard to take fathers' rights groups seriously when the majority of fathers simply abandon their kids, financially and personally. Without repercussions, and without the need for "safe haven" laws. From this point of view it is clear that we're dealing with literally thousands of uninvestigated cases of the worst kind of child neglect - abandonment - on a massive scale. What else would you call it when a parent walks away? Permanently.

A few years back, when people generally started to notice fathers taking more active roles in parenting, I'd be in the mall with my mom and she'd notice a man with a young child and say, "look at that father with his child, isn't that great?", or "isn't that sweet?". I would counter that he was just parenting, and that we should also notice the 50 women with children in strollers and children in tow who were also busy parenting in the mall. Now I think, okay, let's take notice when men are parenting, as long as we also take notice when they are not.

Assaulted Women's Helpline is a 24-hour crisis line for women



1-866-863-0511

We also speak to friends and family members of abused women, service providers and other professionals in contact with abuse.

All calls are anonymous and confidential

- You don't have to give your name.
- Our toll-free number **will not** show up on your phone bill.
- We do not have call display.
- We have services in more than 100 languages.

How We Count!

A handbook for Rural Women & Rural Communities on Poverty

Reprints still available!

Find great resources for women living in Huron, Perth, Grey and Bruce Counties

- Tips for Communities on Improving Conditions for Rural Women in Poverty
- Helpful tips and advice for rural women

Copies of **How We Count!** are available through **Women Today of Huron**
45 West St. Goderich,
524-6767 or
1-888-547-3478
Info@wthuron.ca or
Fax—524-1233

