



LONDON ANTI-BULLYING COALITION

April 2005

The 2nd International Conference on Bullying

Co-founder, Kathryn Wilkins attended the 2nd International Conference on Bullying last month on behalf of the London Anti-Bullying Coalition.

I had the privilege of attending the 2nd International Conference on Bullying, which was held in Ottawa March 21 –23, 2005.

I was one of 450 delegates who are committed to finding a solution to the problem of bullying in our school systems.

I was impressed by the fact that there were various boards represented, teachers, support staff, administrators, students who sincerely invest their time and energy towards this matter.

What became apparent to me, as the conference unfolded, is that the issues that brought our group to the table are the issues they struggle with on a daily basis. There are frustrations surrounding this issue at every level.

The professional keynote speakers provided statistics and research results to support the implementation of anti-bullying/caring community programs in our schools. They also noted that the success of these initiatives requires accountability of our "systems" in assuring

proper implementation, support for the staff carrying out the initiative and follow through to accurately measure outcomes.

This, I feel is the part missing in our community.

The feedback I received from delegates in attendance from the Ministry of Education, principals, teachers, and others is that this is the piece that is missing everywhere.

The support and encouragement I received assured me that this Coalition, at this time, is a voice that has been anticipated and welcomed.

We are moving in the right direction.

Viewing of TVO Documentary

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Chris Curry gives a summary on the evening at Fanshawe College.

We would like to thank everyone who came out to the TVO documentary viewing of "Battling Bullying" at Fanshawe College on Tuesday March 29.

Although many tears were shed during this emotional evening, we were thankful that people came away from the evening with feelings of healing, belonging and family.

When we gather together to share our stories of trials and triumph, we can begin to heal as a community, and realize that we are all together in the goal of making schools safe for our children, our future.

On behalf of the LABC, we would also like to voice our thanks to our guest speaker, Andrew Camman, from Polishuk, Camman and Steele.

Mr. Camman offered legal options for parents and victims of bullying. He was the

first of several guest speakers that will be speaking this year.

We appreciate his knowledge and legal insight.

The LABC recognizes that legal action is not the only way to create positive change regarding bullying in our schools, but may be one of the tools that may be used to effect change.

We are aware of many teachers, principals, school board members and superintendents, both in London and across Canada, who shine as examples of those who have fostered positive action and successful anti-bullying programs.

Through working together with the blueprints of these successful programs, people and organizations, we can achieve phenomenal results!

We would also like to thank you all for your patience and positive feedback as we grow into a strong and vibrant organization. Your stories and letters of encouragement (please keep the stories coming) confirm your support and reaffirm the truth that the London Anti-Bullying Coalition is needed in our city.

Together we can make our schools a safe place for both our children and educators.

Thank you again for your continued support.

The LABC Board of Directors

Hilton Meeting

On Tuesday, April 5, 2005 we were invited to participate in a Bullying Prevention Consultation workshop held at

the Hilton Hotel. This workshop was created to provide recommendations to the Minister of Education on every stake holders' responsibility to create safe and caring schools. Two members of the Safe School Action team, Ray Hughes and Dr. Debra Pepler facilitated the event.

It was our pleasure to be in attendance and to be heard. The stories that you have shared with us make us not one voice but many. We were able to share your concerns and felt that we were sincerely listened to and respected for our input and viewpoint.

Have you heard....

SAFEGRAD Committee

The SAFEGRAD Committee is pleased to offer this event, following up on the success of last year's inaugural Parent Forum.



WHEN: Monday, April 25, 2005
7:00pm – 9:00pm

WHERE: Wolf Performance Hall at the
Central Library 251 Dundas Street,
London

COST: Admission is free and parking is
free upon validation

To reserve a seat or for further
information, please contact,
Centre for Addiction & Mental Health,
(519) 433-3171, ext. 8106



SAFEGRAD's goal is to reduce injuries due to drug and/or alcohol use for both students and those who may be affected by their

choices. Parents play a key role to ensuring their adolescent's safety.

This forum will help participants talk (and listen) to their teens and offer expert advice and resources on managing the risks of substance use.

Keeping our youth safe while allowing them to explore their newfound independence is a challenge all parents face.

This event will be of interest to parents and to those who work with youth.

Northwest London Resource Centre (NWLRC)

The NWLRC is a new agency operating out the Sherwood Forest Mall. They have an award winning Youth Committee that will be staging a play in the not too distant future.

We encourage you to check out this resource centre and to watch for announcements date and time of the play. It will be staged at the Wolfe Performance Hall in the London Public Library.

The Play is called "Bang Bang You're Dead" and is an award winning performance regarding the results of violence on our youth and society.

It was written by William Mastrosimone based on a true story and is performed by secondary school youth from "Centre Stage Theatre". This is a Theatre Program of the Northwest London Resource Centre, which empowers youth to bring community awareness to community needs.

The youth feel strongly about this topic as some have experienced bullying, violence

or played a role in it. Their desire is to end it.

The play is for adults as well as youth from Grade 7 on. Service Providers, those working in Crisis Services and the police are invited. It is a dynamic performance meant to make a difference.

For further info and to book tickets call 471-8444
tickets-students \$5.00, Adults \$10.00
Families of 4 -at least 1 parent in attendance is \$20.00

Barbara Coloroso

Barbara Coloroso will be in London this month speaking on a new topic: Beyond Bullying - Teaching Kids to Think and Act Ethically. The event will be at Centennial Hall on Wednesday April 27.

Tickets can be purchased at London Children's Connection –
346 Wonderland Rd. S (rear entrance)
471-4300

And at the Ontario Early Years Centres:

Westmount Mall-Upper level 473-2825
265 Maitland St. 434-3644
1892 Dundas St. E 455-2791
80 Frank Street, Strathroy 245-8879

Tickets are:
\$12 if purchased in advanced
\$15 at the door.

We Really Appreciate...

David Millen, ED of Ottawa Anti-Bullying Coalition for traveling to speak at our first press conference and for inviting us as his guest to the 2nd International Conference on Bullying.

Denis Gadwa, Field Placement Coordinator, Social Service Worker Program, Fanshawe College for being our voice of reason, providing a safe haven, and for mentoring us with integrity and commitment.

Mike & Brenda Neuts, Cindy Wesley and John & Maria Melo for sharing their stories in the documentary and for being willing to step forward and make a difference.

Amanda Griffith and Marta Dankiewicz, Social Service Worker students from Fanshawe College who through the Sonier Centre have been providing valuable input, time, research, and support to this initiative.

Stephen Bahm, Creative Elements, for helping us to learn to work together as a team.

Rubi's Coffee Shop for the coffee and bagels donated to our early morning get together.

Cyndi Mills for her excellent guidance in creating a communications plan and for all of her work on this newsletter.

Cathy Cove, advocath, what can we say? Keep the information flowing our way. We could not have made the connections we have without you.

Walter Sayers for all his creative hard work towards the creation of our new logo. The moment we laid eyes on it we knew it embodied the message we were putting forth.

The following individuals have stepped forward and have offered to help lighten the load. We are truly appreciative of their support and patience:

Chris Curry, Marjorie Leyland, Deb Peckham, Tena Whyte, Deb Emerson and

Kathy Robertson.

Special mention to our supportive employers: Glennalee Berman-Hatch and Pat Pinnoy.

Did You Read About Us?

This week Sun Media columnist, Moira MacDonald, wrote a story about the bullying situation in London. People can check it out at...

www.canoe.ca/NewsStand/Columnists/Toronto/Moira_MacDonald/2005/04/04/981962.html

The column was printed in the Toronto Sun as well as The London Free Press.

Odds and Ends

In planning an ongoing speakers' series we NEED your input. Please forward your ideas for topics, possible speakers, and let us know what information you need. Many voices – One vision.

The LABC is in need of reasonably priced printing services because at this time we are not receiving any funding.

We have a newly developed brochure that we want to have produced. Please forward the name and contact information of any printers that you know are supportive of the cause.

If anyone is interested the evaluation notes from the conference or list of recommendations generated by the consultation workshop please email us for a copy

If you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact us at 473-5214 or c.morrison@ody.ca

And remember: We need your stories.

