

Renfrew County and District Health Unit

ANNUAL REPORT 2003

Highlights from Health Promotion and Clinical Services

Parent-Child

- 23 prenatal class series were conducted, at which 360 women received information to help them have a healthy pregnancy
- 891 postpartum mothers were contacted by a Public Health Nurse after hospital discharge to ensure the well-being of mother and baby, and to screen for potential health issues
- 484 home visits were made to postpartum mothers who identified that they would like a visit. These visits involved breastfeeding support, health assessments of mom and baby, discussion of any concerns, teaching, and referrals to community resources where appropriate.
- 102 families received Healthy Babies, Healthy Children home visiting services to provide support, information and referrals relating to healthy pregnancy, parenting, child growth and development, health and safety. 1503 visits to these families were made by Home Visitors and Public Health Nurses.
- Approximately 500 children attended Child Health Clinics with a parent/caregiver; Child Health Clinics held at 9 locations throughout Renfrew County provided immunization, dental screening, child development screening and parenting information sessions
- 151 parent education/support group sessions were held
- 495 mothers received breastfeeding information and support by telephone or at a well baby drop-in clinic

Dental Health

- 4159 dental screening examinations of preschool and elementary school-age children were completed; 304 children received dental treatment through the Children in Need of Treatment program
- 1,805 children participated in the “2 for2” provincial dental education campaign, which promoted brushing your teeth twice a day for two minutes each time

Sexual Health

- Over 1900 clients were seen at high school health centres and sexual health clinics held in community locations

Infection Control

- 247 reportable disease cases were investigated
- 5 influenza outbreaks in long term care facilities were investigated

Immunization

- 1192 grade 7 students were immunized against Hepatitis B

- 7824 influenza immunizations were given at 27 clinics

Health Info Line

- Responded to 2,575 calls

Chronic Disease Prevention

(Healthy Eating, Healthy Weights, Physical Activity Promotion, Tobacco Use Prevention, Sun Safety)

- **School events:** Participated in and/or planned 111 events for 7,681 students; provided 8 teacher in-services reaching 167 teachers.
- **Community Food Advisor Program:** Coordinated 22 community placements reaching 1,385 people.
- **Food Security:** Priced Ontario's Nutritious Food Basket in local grocery stores to estimate the cost of a week's supply of nutritious groceries; estimated cost for a family of four in June 2003 was \$131.55.
- **Community and worksite events:** Participated in and/or planned 55 events reaching 2,486 people.
- **Healthy Living Awards:** Worked with the Healthy Living Partnership to recognize schools, workplaces, restaurants and community individuals and groups for innovative efforts to promote healthy eating, regular physical activity and/or smoke-free living; 21 nominations were received; 5 awards were presented.
- **Clear the Air Campaign:** In collaboration with community partners, planned and implemented a tobacco prevention campaign; disseminated messages through print and radio.

Early Detection of Cancer

(Breast Health and Cervical Screening)

- **Resources and events:** In collaboration with community partners, distributed educational resources about the importance of breast and cervical screening to community organizations, workplaces, health professionals, libraries and schools including a directory of services, posters, a calendar of events, videos and promotional materials such as bookmarks and placemats; provided 5 presentations to community members and health professionals; promoted the Ontario Breast Screening Program through radio and newspaper.

Injury and Substance Abuse Prevention

(Falls Prevention, Bicycle and Car Restraint Safety, Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Motorized Vehicle Crashes)

In collaboration with community partners, some activity outcomes were:

- **Impaired Driving:** Produced and distributed 1500 Boat Safety Kits, 3000 Driving Safety Kits, 200 Hunter Safety Kits and 1500 Snowmobile Safety Kits; organized two “Ignition Interlock” community forums to examine the consequences of being convicted for impaired driving according to new provincial legislation; 70 people participated and media coverage was received.
- **Host Liability Campaign:** Planned and implemented a countywide communication campaign about the importance of preventing guests from overindulging in alcoholic beverages, and the possibility of being sued for alcohol-related injuries; set up 4 displays, held 2 community forums, and disseminated messages through presentations and radio PSA’s.
- **Rape Drugs:** Increased awareness of the use of rape drugs and prevention strategies. Organized a media conference which received extensive media coverage; held 1 training event for bar staff.
- **Safety for Older Adults:** Planned and implemented a “Medicine Clean Out” campaign; 17 pharmacies participated and 95 bags of outdated medications were brought to pharmacies for safe disposal; produced and distributed 2700 copies of the Falls Prevention Calendar for Older Adults; revised the Seniors Stay Safe Checklist and distributed 850 copies.
- **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD):** Developed a pamphlet about FASD and distributed 2000 copies; developed a directory of resources for women at risk of using alcohol during pregnancy for use by health professionals and distributed 100 copies.
- **Bicycle Safety:** Planned and implemented 11 community and school events, reaching 1147 children.
- **Car Seat Safety:** Planned and implemented 2 workshops to train car seat inspectors; held 4 car seat safety clinics.
- **School Activities Addressing Alcohol and Substance Abuse and Motorized Vehicle Safety:** Participated in 41 school events, reaching 4,762 students.
- **Workplace Activities:** Provided displays and print materials on alcohol and drug topics to 25 workplaces.

Highlights from Environmental Health

Safe Water

- 617 private wells were inspected
- 14 boil water orders were issued for public water supplies
- 1060 water samples were taken at 22 beaches; 3 beaches were posted as unsafe for swimming

- 79 investigations of adverse test results were carried out for water supplies regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act
- 735 private water test results were interpreted

Food Safety

- 1431 food premise inspections were carried out
- 73 food premise inspections using the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) program were carried out
- 27 food-related complaints were investigated
- food premises at 50 outdoor events were inspected
- 17 food establishments were charged with an offence under the Food Premises Regulation
- 46 Food Handler Training courses were provided; 380 people successfully completed the course and were certified in safe food handling
- 10 food recall inspections were carried out

West Nile Virus (WNV)

- 95 sightings of dead birds were reported to the Health Unit by the public
- 27 dead birds were collected and submitted to a laboratory for examination
- 6 birds were identified as having WNV, indicating that WNV was present in Renfrew County; larviciding was carried out in selected communities
- 55 mosquito traps were set up and monitored for the types of mosquitoes known to carry WNV; none of these mosquito types were found
- 48 consultations were carried out in response to inquiries from the general public

Tobacco Control Act (TCA) Enforcement

- 184 retail stores were inspected for signage in compliance with the TCA
- 201 retail stores were checked for merchants selling tobacco products to minors; 7 fines were issued for selling tobacco products to minors
- 8 secondary schools were checked for students smoking on school property; 12 fines were issued for smoking on school property

Rabies Control

- 372 visits were made as part of animal bite investigations (This involved visiting people who had been bitten, determining method of quarantine, enforcing quarantine, and inspecting and releasing animals from quarantine after 10 days.)
- 31 follow up inspections were carried out to ensure that domestic animals had a current rabies vaccination
- 4 rabies awareness presentations were made to grade 5 classes

Health Hazard Investigation

- 30 indoor air quality complaints were investigated
- 4 outdoor air quality complaints were investigated
- 19 sewage complaints were investigated
- 24 garbage complaints were investigated

- 31 housing disrepair complaints were investigated
- 8 rodent complaints were investigated
- air quality was monitored in 4 municipal arenas

Land and Sewage Control

- 98 visits were made to private properties in relation to the approval of septic tank installations; 71 certificates of approval were issued; 60 use permits were issued after final inspections determined that septic systems had been installed in compliance with regulations
- 16 site land severance site visits were made to determine if the properties were capable of sustaining a well and septic tank system
- 2 sewage complaints were investigated under the Ontario Building Code

2003 Board of Health

Reeve Janice Bush, County of Renfrew
 Ms. Sheila Clarke, Provincial Appointee
 Mayor Jim Etmanski, Township of South Algonquin
 The Honourable Lawrence Foran, Provincial Appointee
 Ms. Margo McIntyre, Provincial Appointee
 Mayor John Murphy, County of Renfrew
 Councillor Marian Patterson, Chair, City of Pembroke
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2003 Approved Budget

Total budget: \$7,796,657

Funding sources:

- Province of Ontario - 65%
- County of Renfrew, City of Pembroke and Twp. of South Algonquin - 24%
- Other sources - 11%

How the funds are allocated:

- Salaries, benefits and program costs - 84%
- Occupancy and communications - 7%
- Other operating costs - 9%

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 Branch offices are located in Arnprior, Barry's Bay, Deep River and Renfrew.*