



Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition

P.O. Box 124 Fort Frances, ON P9A 3M5

Telephone/Fax: 807-274-0574



ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007

Compiled by the Rainy River Valley Safety
Coalition

“Working to become the Safest Community in
Canada.”

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007-2008

Grace Silander	Chairperson
Gerry Armstrong	Co Chair
Freeda Carmody	Director
Peter Ledrew	Director
Judy Lindholm	Director
John Beaton	Director
Ed Carlson	Director
Doug Irish	Director
John Albanese	Director
Hugh Dennis	Coordinator

Report of the Chair

As the 2006 – 2007 year for the Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition draws to a close, reflections of this past year instil pride and compassion.

We have been successful in developing new partnerships and increased programming, target groups and delivery processes, yet our community has tragically lost three youths this year, and each of us has felt sorrow and compassion for the families of these young gentlemen. Have we as a Coalition, missed something that could have changed these outcomes?

Our programs have reached target groups of all ages again through our Seat Belt Campaigns, CN Rail Safety, Substance Abuse, Healthy and Safe Seniors, Project Safe Halloween, and the Water Safety Campaign. The Coalition additionally sponsored many individual programs delivered throughout the District. I admire those delivering programs and thank each and every one of you who have worked to advance the Coalition efforts in the district. You have made a difference!

Our program goals will continue in 2007-2008, and in addition:

The Coalition is preparing application for Safe Community Network Re-designation through the World Health Organization. Reviewing the six criteria for this process, and evaluating our status against the indicators, gives me such pride to be associated with this energetic group. We have completed so much in the last five years, and the future promises the continuation of the 2002 agreement between the World Health Organization and the Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition.

Doug Anderson, our past Chair, had a dream of a Safety Institute based on documentation, research and teaching. It would be a shame to lose the knowledge of past experiences, teachings and successes held by the Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition partners, and *time is running out*. An institute can be a reality, and our Coalition data should be used to mentor other local, national and international communities in their safety endeavours.

I strongly recommend we venture forward with Doug's dream while the information is still alive and the energy is flowing.

On behalf of the entire Coalition, I would like to thank our sponsors, supporters and partners. I reiterate my statement last year; "Working with such motivated individuals keeps one positive and energized to move forward to new horizons."

Get ready WHO! The Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition is about to introduce you to the safest place to live, learn, work and play – the **Rainy River District**.

Coordinator's Report

It has been a busy and exciting year. Our partnerships with the Rainy River District municipalities continue to grow, both from a financial support perspective and the program delivery perspective. Thank you to the municipalities in the district who continue to be extremely supportive of the Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition. As the Coalition's coordinator, I have been welcomed into all of the communities and get a real sense of partnership from them.

This past year has seen the delivery and installation of virtually all of the "Safe Community" designation signs across the district. They are pretty impressive to see as you drive through the area.

Other projects that the Coalition was involved in was the "Glow Stick" Safe Halloween event held last October 31, 2006. The feedback has been extremely positive and the young people of the district enjoyed the event and were safer as a result.

Members of the Safety Coalition participated in CN safety messages distributed through the radio stations in the district in the spring of 2007. Across the district, stressing the safety and promoting the use of bicycle helmets was repeated this year in partnership with the OPP and local media.

A new project for 2007 was the raising of awareness and distribution of "post cards", cards and floating key tags stressing the seriousness of impaired boating and advising of changes in the laws concerning it. Literally hundreds of people reviewed these materials and heard the message through the media.

During July 2007, preparations were started to host an appreciation luncheon for our district school bus drivers. A safety message from the CNR Police and OPP will also be included.

The work and direction of the Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition has continued forward over the past year. The re-designation of the Rainy River District as a "Safe Community" is a priority of the Coalition for 2007-2008 as are projects at the grassroots/community level.

Due to my full-time work commitment as the coordinator for the Substance Abuse Prevention Team, I am not able to continue coordinating the Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition past my October 31, 2007 contract date. It has been an absolutely positive experience being your coordinator for the past 22 months. Thank you for the opportunity.



RIVERSIDE HEALTH CARE FACILITIES INC.
“*Connecting Communities – Committed to Caring*”
Partner Report for the
Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition Annual Report

We are pleased to provide this report to the Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition as a longstanding partner in this successful community initiative. Our partnership with the RRVSC has been both beneficial and complimentary to our organization. It supports our mission, “*to provide safe, quality, compassionate patient and family-centered care consistent with communities’ needs.*”

Riverside Health Care Facilities provides primary, secondary, long-term care and community health services at our three health care facilities across the district. This year, we welcomed Rainycrest Long Term Care Home to the corporation and will be focusing our efforts on standardizing safety programs throughout all facilities over the next several years.

Riverside promotes a safe and healthy environment through various working groups and committees:

Occupational Health and Safety plans fun and educational activities and formal staff mandatory training on an annual basis. Opportunity for additional staff training has derived from our membership in the local group affiliated with the Construction Safety Association on Ontario. We have also conducted hazard assessments in our work areas giving us the advantage to be proactive in risk management. We have ten staff members who have attended core and sector specific certification.

Infection Control efforts have focused on the most important factor in the reduction of spreading disease and infections – **Hand Washing**. Public service announcements helped to educate the public in steps they can take to protect themselves from infections. This year statistics revealed large percentages of staff immunized against influenza.

Quality Management works diligently on improving processes to reduce/eliminate adverse events for patients and staff. Staff members receive continual updates and education on changes in procedures and best practices.

Patient Safety/Risk Management – Riverside has assigned a full-time manager to this position demonstrating our continued commitment to ensuring a culture of safety. We anticipate an exciting year ahead with the establishment of new and revised programs for our staff and patients.

Our Health Records department designed a database this year that will enhance the decision-making and evaluation process for the Coalition program delivery. This

database is flexible to provide requested information regarding numbers, location, and comparisons by year and/or age groups.

Activities for seniors are ongoing at Riverside through our well-established and utilized Day Program. Participation in the October Seniors' Fair provides another avenue to reach out, and promote safe and healthy lifestyles for our seniors.

We value our ongoing partnership with the Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition and remain committed to ensuring excellent health care services and programs for the communities we serve.

Patient Safety Tips

- ❖ Ask questions about your care if you have any doubts or concerns, those involved in your care will welcome your questions.
- ❖ If you think of a question at home, write it down and ask your health care team member during your next visit.
- ❖ Find out more about your condition or treatments.
- ❖ If you are scheduled for surgery, make sure you, your doctor, and your surgeon all agree on exactly what will be done during your operation.
- ❖ Ask...”Could you please explain that to me? Can I come back with my family to talk about this again? How sure are you that I have this condition?”
- ❖ Wear your hospital bracelet at all times.
- ❖ Tell your caregiver about your past illnesses and about your current health condition.
- ❖ Help prevent the spread of germs...”Wash Your Hands”
- ❖ Share information about allergies or addictions such as smoking or alcohol.
- ❖ Don’t be afraid to ask your caregiver if they have washed their hands before beginning your care.

Family & Children's Services Partner Report for RRVSC Annual Report - 2007

October is a very special month at Family and Children's Services. First, this will mark our 5th anniversary for **Project Safe Halloween**. Second, 2007 marks the 15th anniversary for educating and building awareness during October for the **Purple Ribbon Campaign - Child Abuse Prevention Month**.

Project Safe Halloween

FACS has been distributing glow sticks to help keep children safe on Halloween for the past five years. The glow sticks act as night lights that can be worn as a necklace by children as they trick-or-treat to make them more visible to motorists. We have been able to expand this project with the support of the Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition. Last year, the Coalition's support and assistance enabled us to take this initiative district-wide, providing night lights to every child JK to Grade 6 through the schools. Younger children were able to obtain nightlights at municipal offices, who offered to act as distribution sites.

This year, we are proud to say that Project Safe Halloween has expanded again to include youth up to Grade 8. Members of FACS staff and Board as well as Coalition members will distribute packages to schools prior to October 30th. On October 30th, principals and teachers will give a glow stick out to each student along with a Halloween safety tip sheet for parents.



Purple Ribbon Campaign - Child Abuse Prevention Month



According to the Ontario Incidence Study released in 2005, approximately 130,000 children were possibly abused or neglected. Each year, Children's Aid Societies in Ontario launch a Child Abuse Prevention Campaign to inform the public about the signs of abuse to ensure children are safe and well cared for.

At Family and Children's Services of the District of Rainy River, purple ribbons will be handed out to remind professionals and the public of their duty to report child abuse and neglect. As partners in safety, I encourage you to learn the "Top 10 Child Abuse Prevention Tips:"

1. Report Abuse.
2. Know what abuse and neglect is.
3. Know the signs.
4. Volunteer at your local CAS to help vulnerable families.
5. Support prevention programs.
6. Be an advocate for children and families.
7. Educate yourself and others - invite the local CAS to speak to your group.
8. Teach children their rights, especially their right to be safe.
9. Discipline without hurting.
10. Nobody is perfect - if you need help, ask for it.

More information on the Purple Ribbon Campaign and child abuse prevention can be found at www.useyourvoice.ca.

Yours in safety,

Betty-Anne MacKintosh
Manager of Community Services
Family and Children's Services
of the District of Rainy River



516 Portage Avenue
Circle of Life Centre: 616 Mowat Avenue
Aboriginal Headstart: 508 Butler Ave
PO Box 752 Fort Frances ON P9A 3N1

September 2007

Dear Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition:

On behalf of the United Native Friendship Centre (UNFC) I would like to recognize and thank RRVSC Coordinator-Hugh Dennis, Chair-Grace Silander, Board and Committee members for all their hard work and dedication in the Rainy River District. As a new Board member of the RRVSC I have shared with my own organization a first hand view of the safety initiatives carried out in the area communities by the dedicated members of the local agencies.

Some of the past year's projects supported include: playground equipment, seniors safety, Safe Halloween, high school defibrillator program, Chem-Free Grad (Fort Frances & Rainy River High Schools). Also a bicycle helmet campaign, boating safety, CN Railroad crossing safety, junior lifeguard swim program, substance abuse prevention (MADD Canada) and a gender based violence study.

Here at the UNFC the Lil Eagles program is promoting safety through the Junior Life Guard swim program. Our Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children coordinator has received the car seat safety inspection training. We promote safety among staff, summer students and clients through annual First Aid/CPR training, safety policies, procedures and presentations. We have a Safety Committee member in each of our three sites available to carry out inspections, direct and answer questions concerning safety measures.

We are more aware of the services offered in the community and of the safety initiatives. It is a privilege to be part of the Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition.

Sincerely,

Judith Lindholm
UNFC Program Director



Rainy River District Detachment

320 Portage Avenue
Fort Frances ON P9A 3P9

Tel: (807) 274-3322

Fax: (807) 274-7541

File: 190

October 12, 2007

Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition
304 Scott St., P.O. Box 1234
Fort Frances ON P9A 3M5

**Re: Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition and
Partnerships with the Ontario Provincial Police**

1. D.A.R.E program taught in all grade six classes, and Grade 10 at Rainy River and Fort Frances High School. There are 7 D.A.R.E officer located throughout the district.
2. High School Violence Prevention Team and Community Policing Committee pro-active in education at the high school with students, teachers and parents.
3. High school liaison office opened and manned by on duty officers. Community Service officer also active in the school as a liaison and to teach programs and awareness.
4. Aggressive driver initiative conducted within district targeting aggressive drivers, seatbelt usage and other Highway Traffic Act offences.
5. R.I.D.E (Reduce Impaired Drivers Everywhere) officers conduct directed patrols aimed at impaired drivers.
6. Provincial Seat Belt Campaign in spring and fall, officers focus on compliance of seat belt use.
7. Community Service officer conducts infant car seat instruction at prenatal classes at Riverside Health Care Hospital.
8. Area partners and O.P.P conduct child car seat inspections through out the Rainy River District. 6 officers are trained through out the district as car seat inspectors.
9. Marine patrol on area waterways promoting safe boating and awareness.
10. Presentations given throughout the year on Elder Abuse, Fraud, shoplifting, bullying, driver's education and drug abuse.
11. Public service announcements on school bus and emergency vehicle awareness.
12. Drinking and Driving Simulator car presentations provided upon request.
13. Informational booths provided on request for fairs.

14. Officers across the district also participated in a bicycle helmet promotion. Officers carried coupons with them while on general patrol. District youths observed wearing helmets were awarded a ' Bicycle Helmet Safety Award ' coupon for ice cream that could be redeemed at McDonalds in Fort Frances, Chester Fried Chicken in Rainy River and GGG.
15. Our Detachment also provides a "Fishing for Futures" program, which is a fun filled day of fishing for children in grade six who may not otherwise have an opportunity to enjoy the activity. Children are paired for the day with both active and non active police personnel. This year, Safety Coalition Coordinator, Hugh Dennis, a retired police officer, volunteered his time representing the Safety Coalition.

This is a brief outline of some of the many programs the OPP is proud to provide to the citizens within the Rainy River District.

D. J. Irish
Constable # 7464
Community Services Officer
Fort Frances Detachment 2D00



Northwestern Health Unit

www.nwhu.on.ca

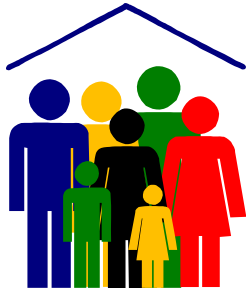
The Northwestern Health Unit's Health Promotion program has been a member of the Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition (RRVSC) throughout the 2006-2007 fiscal year. As injury prevention is an important component of the Northwestern Health Unit's mandatory programming, we are pleased to have the opportunity to be a part of the RRVSC.

Over the past year, the Northwestern Health Unit's Health Promotion program has been involved in various initiatives that pertained to safety within the Town of Fort Frances. For example, the Rainy River District Seniors' Coalition, of which the Northwestern Health Unit's Health Promotion program is an active partner, carried out our "Second Annual Medicine Cabinet Cleanout Contest" this past March. This initiative resulted in 80 people returning a total of 75 pounds of expired medication. The Rainy River District Seniors' Coalition also held the "First Annual Seniors' Lifestyle Expo" last October. Approximately 200 individuals attended the Expo and 37 businesses and organizations set up displays at the Expo. In addition, the Northwestern Health Unit's Health Promotion program has been involved in conducting child safety seat inspections and providing information regarding car seat safety to parents and caregivers on an ongoing basis.

The Northwestern Health Unit's Health Promotion program is impressed with the RRVSC and all of the initiatives that it has carried out over the past year. We plan to continue on as a member of the RRVSC in the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Siobhan Booth
Health Educator



**Rainy River District Social Services
Administration Board**

450 Scott Street
Fort Frances, ON
P9A 1H2
Phone: (807) 274-5349
Fax: (807) 274-0678
Toll Free: (800) 265-5349

Raw Road Centre
P.O. Box 1300
Atikokan, ON
P0T 1C0
Phone: (807) 597-
1431
Fax: (807) 597-1493

October 22, 2007

Dear Safety Coalition:

The Rainy River District Emergency Medical Services has been very busy since January when the switch from Riverside occurred.

There have been a number of changes happening. A couple of the most noticeable would be the purchasing and renovations of the old Knights of Columbus building into the new Fort Frances Base. At the same time, a new base was purchased for Emo and it also had to have extensive renovations to accommodate the Medics there.

The service now functions as a truly district-wide operation with Atikokan being brought under the same management umbrella. This makes it possible for Medics to work district wide as they are all one union and all part of the same service.

All four services are very active in the community, providing standby coverage at local sporting events throughout the year. This year with the Junior Sabers being added to Fort Frances, our crews will be kept busy adding this team to the growing list of events they will be part of. As always, the crews add their expertise to events such as Railroad Daze in Rainy River, Rainy River District Fall Fair, Fort Frances Canadian Bass Championship, Emo Walleye Classic, Rainy River Walleye Tournament, and the Atikokan Bass Classic.

The Medics also perform blood pressure and blood glucose clinics at various events, which always proves to be a hit with the general public. Throughout the year, we receive several requests to participate at Job Fairs at various First Nation Communities, which we are pleased to do and are encouraged by the interest shown by many of the youths.

As our service continues to grow, I am sure so will the requests for our continued presence throughout the District, not just in an emergency capacity. I know this is something the Medics and Management endorse and look forward to in the future.

Sincerely,

Ed Carlson
EMS Supervisor
RRD EMS

Fort Frances Fire & Rescue Service
Fire Prevention & Public Education
Annual Report 2007
To The
Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition

Overview:

Fort Frances Fire & Rescue Service (FFFRS) continues to provide education in fire and safety throughout the community and District. We are dedicated to ensuring the highest level of programming and delivery techniques are utilized when imparting educational material necessary for our residents to keep safe.

History:

In previous years, Fort Frances Fire & Rescue Service has been very active in achieving the safety needs of the Community and District and this year is no exception. While continually analysing local safety issues, the FFFRS continues to develop, implement, deliver and evaluate all programs to ensure we maintain quality safety initiatives.

Present Community Awareness and Activities:

A number of comprehensive programs are presently being offered and delivered in the Community. These programs are directed at what are considered to be groups at higher risk to fire and other safety concerns. For example, Risk Watch is promoted in elementary schools to help young persons make smarter choices in eight separate categories of safety. Older Adults are provided education through group discussions and programs such as Older & Wiser. Fire Prevention Week provides the advertised opportunity to reach all age groups in between with general fire safety messaging on topics such as safe cooking, candle safety and safe use of smoking material.



*Fire safety Day 2007 at Canadian Tire - Fire Fighter Tyler Moffitt
Photo Courtesy Fort Frances Times*

“Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives”

Developed programs presently offered by the FFFRS are as follows:

- Risk Watch for elementary schools
- TAPP-C The Arson Prevention Program for Children
- Fire Station Tours with general fire safety messages geared to age
- School Fire Safety & Exit Drill Practices
- Community Smoke Alarm Program
- Fire Prevention Week Activities and Awareness Displays/Presentations
- Commercial & Industrial Fire Safety Plan Staff Training
- Fire Safety Training for Staff in Health Care Facilities
- Routine Fire Safety Inspections
- General Fire Safety Public Service Announcements



*Fire Safety Specialist Wayne Riches on a school visit
Fire Prevention Week 2007-10-31*

Photo Courtesy Fort Frances Times

(663 children were provided fire safety lessons in the local schools during Fire Prevention Week)

2007 Results:

- Many Commercial and Industrial Establishments received at least one inspection in the past 12 months
- 663 children were provided fire safety lessons in the local schools during Fire Prevention Week
- Many Fire Safety Plan Staff training sessions were delivered to Commercial and Industrial Occupancies
- Older Adult Fire Safety sessions continue to be delivered at Senior Housing Complexes
- A variety of safety related public service announcements aired on the local radio stations on a continual basis each week – being updated every 3-4 months
- The newly revised Risk Watch Program has been implemented in the District School System
- Only one child in the District (thus far) has been enrolled in the TAPP-C Program for 2007, compared to 12 in 2005/2006 (a really positive sign)

“Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives”

- One exit drill at each school is witnessed by fire service personnel annually
- Fire Safety Displays are conducted at various locations



*Fire Safety Day at Canadian Tire
 Captain Kirk Armstrong
 Photo Courtesy Fort Frances Times*



Fire Safety Day – Canadian Tire

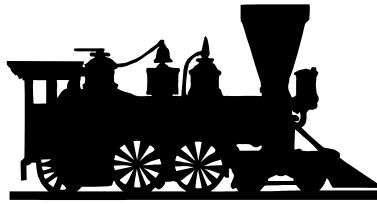
Conclusion:

The 2007 Safety Season has been a busy and challenging exercise for the Fort Frances Fire & Rescue Service. We are continuing to see positive results in reduced costs regarding fire loss and most importantly, reduced deaths and health care requirements caused by a variety of preventable injuries.

A huge thank you goes out to all the fire fighters in the Fort Frances Fire & Rescue Service for their dedication and commitment to ensuring safety to the residents of our community.

Sincerely

Wayne Riches
 Fire Safety Specialist
 Fort Frances Fire & Rescue Service



PROGRESS REPORT FOR 2006 - 2007 CN PROGRAMS
RAINY RIVER VALLEY SAFETY COALITION

Rail Safety Program was once again very active through out the Rainy River District.

School programs were delivered in JW Walker School, as well as the Emo School. Students attending these learning centres were identified as most vulnerable to rail accidents due to the frequency of entering crossing areas while getting to and from school. By actually bringing a train engine to the students, they had a first hand look at the size and power of these large machines.

Reaching out to the District was accomplished through Public Service Announcements. Three radio stations played out announcements over a period of two weeks beginning with the Rainy Safety Week. Messages were focused on playing around the tracks, crossing in undesignated areas, use of MP3 and iPods while around the rail crossings, and general traffic safety.

Snowmobile travel was identified in our application, and we did focus heavily in this area through the winter months. Sessions were held with the Snowmobile Clubs of the Rainy River District to stress the danger of riding along the rails system. Helmets impair the hearing ability of riders, as well as hinder the visual capacity of riders. The program was well received.

Rainy River Safety Coalition began a challenge to post "STOP" signs prior to rail crossings, as there are numerous crossing in the District that are hard to see, and pose hazards to motorists. The majority of the Municipal crossings have indeed been posted.

We found Unorganized Areas to be quite a challenge. Ministry of Transportation opposed the idea voicing concern of stopping individuals and posing a problem getting started again.

Our position: (If you cannot get started, can you actually stop for a train?) We continue to work with the unorganized areas, and I am happy to announce Halkirk Township has erected unofficial stop signs for their resident's safety. With this step forward, Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition is quite confident the others will follow suit.

Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition looks positively on our endeavours in CN Safety.



Annual Reporting of participation for Ainsworth within the RRVSC



Ainsworth is a leading Canadian forest products company with a 50-year reputation for safely manufacturing quality products while providing unsurpassed customer service.

With 9 different operations located in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and United States operations in Minnesota.

In 2007, Ainsworth's Barwick site became a member of the Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition. Recognizing that safety is an all the time- 24hour-365 day a year concept is important. As such, membership in the RRVSC helps us ensure that our obligation towards providing a safe, healthy and productive work environment is enhanced. All of our Team Members reside in the Rainy River District and are positively affected by the RRVSC mandate. Recognizing the importance of safety, health and wellness both on and off the job is a key component to our facilities success.

Collaborative efforts on many off- the job topics that directly affect our Team Members are nurtured by our own Joint Health, Safety and Wellness Committees. We also have supplementary Ergonomics and Disability Management Committees that contribute as well. Through promotion and education we hope to further strengthen our local Safety Culture. RRVSC programming and involvement with the Dare, CN Rail Safety, Bicycle Rodeo's for youth awareness, Halloween Safety Promotion, Senior's Fairs and the Substance Abuse Prevention Team has directly affected Team Members lives through family involvement.

We hope to further our success through becoming more involved within the programming portion of the RRVSC. Currently, our site has worked over 3 years, over 1 million man-hours, since the last Lost Time Accident. We are a founding member of the Safe Workplace Ontario-Safety Group program run through the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board of Ontario. Ainsworth currently employ's over 20 Team Members that hold Core Certification Accreditation with the WSIB as well. Through Ainsworth contributing industrial expertise within the safety, health and wellness areas, we hope to further enhance the reach of the RRVSC.

The pictures below help to illustrate the collaborative ways in which we recognize performance and celebrate successes. The JHSW Committee held BBQ's recognizing TM safety performance and thanking them for their contributions.



Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition

Treasurer's Report as at September 30, 2007

Bank Reconciliation

Balance per books	\$ 30,985.57
	<hr/> <hr/>
Balance per bank	\$30,985.57
Less Outstanding Cheques	
	<hr/>
Balance per bank	\$30,985.57
	<hr/> <hr/>

2007 Municipal Funding received to date

Chapple	366.50
Morley	250.00
Dawson	256.50
Emo	593.00
Fort Frances	3,782.50
Alberton	461.50
Atikokan 2006 & 2007	2,950.00
Lavallee	484.00
Rainy River	433.00
	<hr/>
Total Received to date	\$9,577.00
	<hr/> <hr/>

Submitted by
H. E. Dennis
Administrative Co-ordinator

