



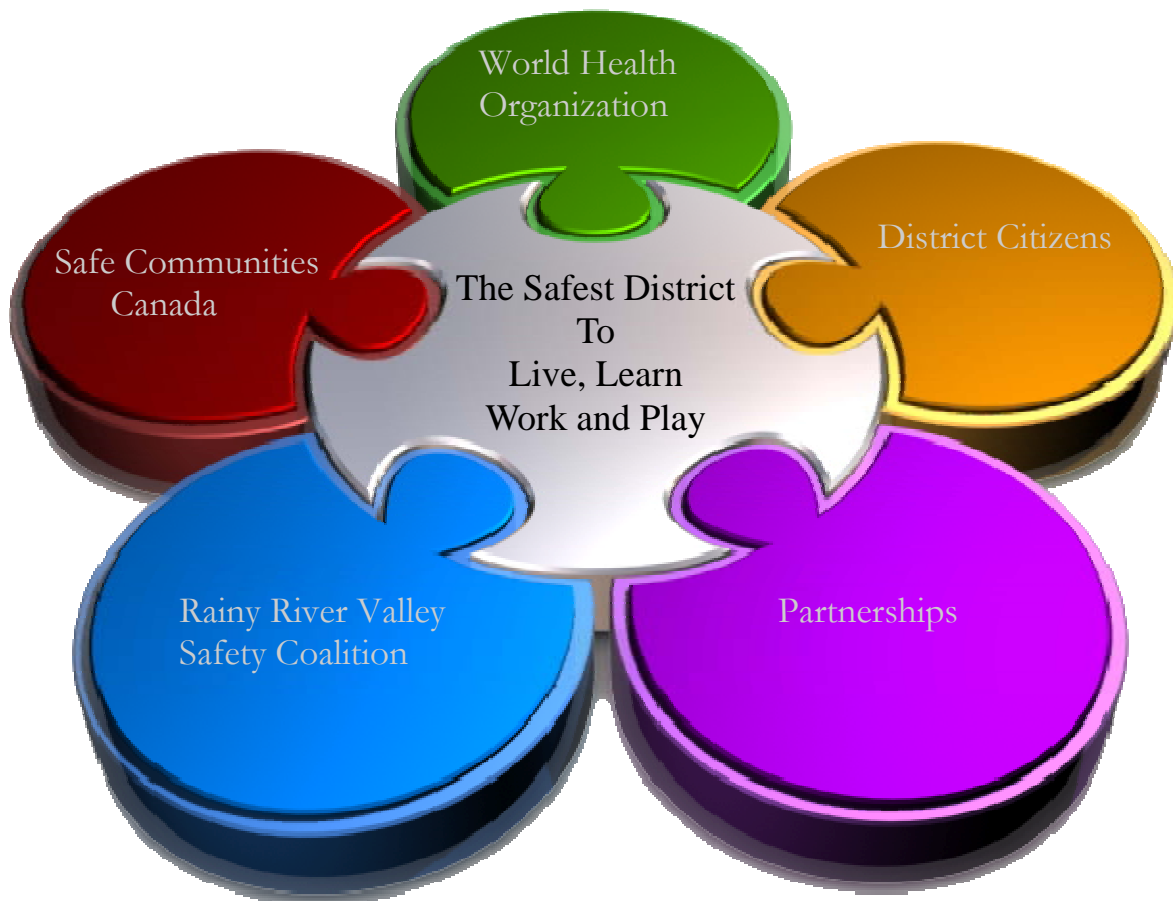
# Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition

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## ANNUAL REPORT

2007-2008

Compiled by the Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition  
"Working to become the Safest Community in  
Canada."

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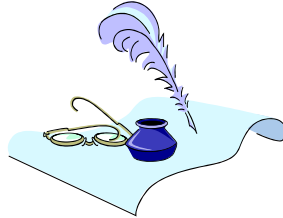
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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007-2008**

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<b>GERRY ARMSTRONG</b>	<b>CHAIRPERSON</b>
<b>BOB SWING</b>	<b>CO CHAIR</b>
<b>FREEDA CARMODY</b>	<b>DIRECTOR</b>
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<b>JOHN ALBANESE</b>	<b>DIRECTOR</b>

**GRACE SILANDER      ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR**



## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to chair an amazing group of leaders! Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition has strengthened our partnerships both nationally and internationally. Close working relationships with the Karolinski Institute (WHO), Safe Communities Canada and a partnership with the National Safety Council (USA) has proven to be an educational and growth experience for our entire movement.

Locally, we have been successful in developing new partnerships and increased programming, target groups and delivery processes,

As we begin yet another year of injury prevention and promotions in safety and face new challenges, it is reassuring to reflect on past team efforts and know our future goals can and will be attainable. Each individual working in our safety movement has shown the dedication it takes to achieve outstanding accomplishments.

I have enjoyed my time in the roll as Chair and appreciate our team's achievements. Everyone should be proud of the work they have accomplished, as well as their efforts in planning for the future. Congratulations on your success, and good luck in your new programs.

To our sponsors, supporters and partners, thank you for your support.



## COORDINATOR'S SUMMARY

What an exciting and successful year! Our Coalition has achieved many outstanding accomplishments.



Our re-designation in May of this year truly speaks for the partnerships, programs and volunteerism that are alive and thriving in the Rainy River District.

Thank you to the Municipalities and First Nation Communities in the district who continue to be extremely supportive of the Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition. As the Coalition's coordinator, I have always felt welcomed into all of the settings and continue to enjoy working with each individual community.

Our programs have reached target groups of all ages through our Car Seat Program, CN Rail Safety, Substance Abuse, Healthy and Safe Seniors, Seniors Coalition, Project Safe Halloween, and the Road 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 so hard advancing the Coalition efforts in the district. You have made a difference!

The Project Safe Halloween "Glow Stick Campaign" has been an annual event over the past six years.

This year the Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition sent this program into Safe Communities Canada for consideration in the Canadian awards.

The Glow Stick program has achieved the 2008 Safe Communities Canada Award of Excellence

This program also has won the 2008 Abitibi Safety Award at the Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce Awards banquet.

Congratulations to the lead agency Family and Children's Services for an award winning event! OPP and CN Police were very instrumental in the success of this event as well.



The work and direction of the Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition has continued forward over the past year and this coming year, the coalition will be concentrating on strategic planning and programming which will have a National scope. Safe Communities Canada has requested our coalition work with the communities to develop two programs – "Be Visible" and "Dreaming Trails" are projects that will be adapted to the grassroots/community level.

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On behalf of the entire Coalition, I would like to thank our sponsors, supporters, our media and partners and look forward to seeing you all out in mid February for our Strategic Planning session.

I reiterate my statement last year; “Working with such motivated individuals keeps one positive and energized to move forward to new horizons.”



**Rainy River District OPP Detachment Area  
Annual Report 2008 for the  
Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition**

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**Overview:**

The Rainy River District is a large area in the North West Region that contains hundreds of accessible bodies of water, several Provincial highways and many communities. These geographical factors continue to present the biggest challenge for policing in the District. We police the communities of Fort Frances and Atikokan under contracts and provide non-contract policing services to the municipalities of Alberton, Lavallee, Emo, Chapple, Morley, Dawson, Lake of the Woods and Rainy River.

**Available Community Awareness and Activities:**

1. D.A.R.E. program taught in all grade six and kindergarten classes within the Rainy River District Board of Education, the Northwest Catholic District School Board and St. Patrick's School in Atikokan.
2. Summer student employment opportunities for students between the ages of 15 to 29 years of age. Duties include marine patrol, highway patrol, crime prevention and general assistance to patrol officers.
3. High school liaison office is available at Fort Frances high school for on duty officers. Community Services officer is active in the school as a liaison and to teach programs and awareness.
4. Aggressive driver initiative conducted within the 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 presentation at prenatal classes at Riverside Health Care Hospital in conjunction with Northwest Health Unit.

8. Area partners and OPP conduct child car seat inspections throughout the Rainy River District. Nine officers are trained throughout the district as car seat inspectors.
9. Marine patrol on area waterways promoting safe boating and awareness.
10. Presentations given upon request to various clubs, organization and students pertaining to Elder Abuse, Fraud, Theft, Bullying & Cyber-bullying, Pre-school age children safety presentations, Crime Stoppers, Impaired Driving, P.A.R.T.Y. Program, Bicycle Safety, OPP Detachment Tours, Bicycle Rodeos, Driver Education, Travelling Alone and Drug Awareness.
11. Public service announcements and media campaigns concerning various public safety, policing initiatives and police enforcement results.
12. Drinking and Driving Simulator car presentations provided upon request.
13. Informational booths provided upon request, as availability allows for fairs.

**Exciting New Initiatives from 2008:**

1. Development of Diversity Committee. A committee designed to promote dialogue between various leaders of our community and determine how we can partner together to develop proactive initiatives to celebrate the Diversity within our District. The committee was designed to help develop strategies to support the wealth of differences within our District. The committee is designed to educate members and then take the initiative to help support differences in our society including culture, age, disabilities, gender, race, those receiving public assistance (in accommodation), sexual orientation, ethnic origin, etc. The Committee has grown to 21 active members and meets the first Wednesday of the month for 1.5 hours to build strategies to promote diversity.
2. The OPP took the lead in coordinating a mock fatal car crash. Constable McCoy was successful in applying for a ministry of transportation road safety committee grant. On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 members of the Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition conducted the mock fatal crash demonstration. The incident was staged at McIrvine road and the CN rail crossing in Fort Frances close to the high school. Literature was handed out on the McIrvine road to passing motorists, B93 radio was on scene to announce mock fatal demonstration and purpose, and an announcement was made at Fort Frances High School as to the purpose of mock fatal. There was excellent coverage in the Fort Frances Times

Our committee coordinated the timing of the mock fatal demonstration and scheduled it two days before MADD Canada was to attend and present a video at all three high schools in the Rainy River District. The video was called 'Dead on Arrival'. After the video, Constable McCoy spoke of her experiences as investigating officer at an accident that claimed



the lives of two male students from Fort Frances High School in August 2007, which involved alcohol and aggressive driving.

The mock fatal demonstration has received favourable responses from all partners

as well as community members. The demonstration was shocking but provided an emotional connection to the message, which is not to drive aggressively and/or under the influence of an intoxicant.



3. The OPP initiated a Drive Wise Program for Seniors held in Rainy River and Emo Townships. Over 40 seniors from the Rainy River District attended the presentations to learn about safe driving tips for mature drivers. Constable McCoy teamed with Rainy River Healthy Coalition and Substance Abuse Prevention Team for the presentations. A lunch was provided for those attending and as a result of a successful application for a grant provided by the Ministry of Transportation, each participant received a pen and tire gauge for completing the program.

4. A bicycle rodeo was conducted in Emo during the Rainy River Valley Agricultural Fair in August 2008. The OPP teamed with CN Police, Emo Township, Cloverleaf Grocery Store, Tompkins Home Hardware and Canadian Tire. 10 children were put through the bicycle rodeo course, had their bicycles inspected and all participants received a prize. Canadian Tire donated a bicycle and the Rainy River Community Policing Committee donated another bicycle, additional prizes including helmets, sounding devices, reflectors and many more. The bicycle rodeo was a follow up to a Bicycle Safety presentation, which teamed Constable McCoy of the OPP with Constable Pete Ledrew of the CN Police. Both officers attended all 15 schools within the Rainy River District and all children in kindergarten through grade 8 received the presentation. Since the bicycle presentation, Green Communities Canada has donated 100 copies of the DVD called Bike Safe, Walk Smart to the Ontario Provincial Police so all Communities Services Officers in the Province of Ontario can deliver the same program.



5. OPP teamed with Family and Children's Services to deliver Operation Safe Halloween.

For six years, Family and Children's Services has been distributing glow sticks to help keep children safe on Halloween. The glow sticks act as a night-light that can be worn by children as they trick-or-treat to make themselves more visible to motorists. With the financial support of the Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition, the program has been



expanded to take the initiative district-wide. This year, as a Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition partner, the OPP Community Services Officer Anne McCoy teamed with a member of FACS and attended all 15 schools within the Rainy River District completing over 30 Halloween Safety presentations and distributing the glow sticks. Every child between kindergarten and grade 8 received the safety presentation and a glow stick.

6. With the successful application of a Road Safety Grant application, the OPP was able to implement a Marine Safety initiative on the waterways of the Rainy River District. Officers conducting marine patrol educated members of the public about Bill 203 – legislation regarding impaired marine operators and new laws enacting the Administrative Driver’s Licence Suspension. With the funds received from the Ministry of Transportation, through the Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition, the OPP were able to proactively hand out useful marine bags containing literature pertaining to Bill 203. The bags said “Don’t Booze and Cruise”. The program was well received by members of the public and officers appreciated having the opportunity to be proactive during their patrol and give professional looking materials to marine operators with an important message.



7. OPP implemented a new program to coincide with the Fall Seatbelt Campaign. With a successful grant application, officers were able to conduct seatbelt checks and child car seat clinics with a learning twist. Thanks to receiving funding from the Ministry of Transportation Road Safety Committee, the Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition was instrumental in helping in the purchase of seatbelt protectors for vehicle operators and their passengers. The program was international in nature, when a seat belt slogan **“the car shouldn’t start til you cross your heart”** was designed by 16-year-old Bryanna Odell from California. Community Services officer Anne McCoy located a news report on the slogan where Kelly Ripa from “Live with Regis and Kelly”. Constable McCoy contacted Bryanna and she gave permission for the Rainy River District OPP to use her slogan on the seatbelt protector. The project was delivered within the Rainy River District with success and is now being consider province-wide through the Ontario Provincial Police Community Issues and Crime Prevention Section.

8. The Rainy River District OPP has teamed with the Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition for numerous events including display booths.



**Conclusion:**

The Ontario Provincial Police is proud to be a partner of the Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition. The partnership has offered the opportunity to receive funding that support numerous safety

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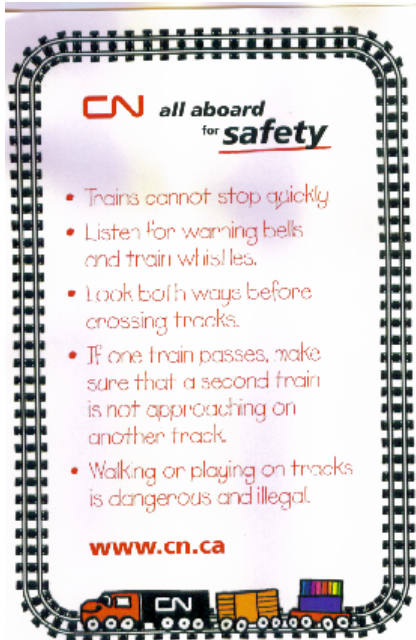
initiatives to help officers enhance many of the goals of the 2008 Business Plan. The OPP wishes to thank the members of the Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition for their continued support in helping to make the Rainy River District a safe place to live, play and work. Together, we are making a difference.



**CN** 2008 Activities:

Children:

Educational sessions were delivered at the school level utilizing the “On the Right Track for Rail Safety” community resources. Coalition partners worked with our local school Teachers, to deliver messages and safety incentives to the students regarding Rail Safety.



Students, most vulnerable to rail accidents due to the frequency of entering crossing areas while getting to and from school, received on location training for proper crossing techniques.

These sessions were held in Emo, and Fort Frances and included crossing on foot, safety measures when crossing on bikes, and the need for removing any I-pods and/or MP3 players when approaching or utilizing a crossing. The Emo Fall Fair, a District attraction was the setting of our Bike rodeo. A wide age group received instructions on wearing the gear, proper fitting safety gear, and rail crossing techniques to promote safety. Participants received flashers for their bikes, and food treats.

The Youth Programs:

Radio spots were broadcasted over the entire District population giving messages of rail safety. Topics:

Trespassing on C.N property and in proximity of the rail systems by off road vehicles and foot, wearing I-pods and MP3 Players while around tracks as well as how and when to cross the rail system.

General assemblies at our two District high schools were held to reach the teen population. An educational blitz in conjunction with the OPP provided our youth the laws and regulations relating to off-road vehicles, and the operations of these vehicles on CN property. Safety measures were part of this program and crossing while barriers are in place was heavily stressed.

A mock collision with a train at the Fort Frances McIrvine crossing provided a traumatic visual for students. The news was circulated that a train and a car full of students collided over the noon hour break. This brought most of the school population to the scene yielding a huge platform for education. The scene was near perfect with the make-up of the victims

and the presence the train itself. Many thanks to the hard work of our CN police to provide a realistic setting.

Teaming with our Health, Substance Abuse and Emergency Services partners, the Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition delivered the PARTY (preventing alcohol related trauma in youth) program. Six sessions in total were delivered in the District High Schools. The Coalition used this event to deliver rail safety messages to youth, and to also discuss off-road vehicle accidents related to alcohol.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of October the Coalition delivered the HEREOS program. District students arrived by school buses into Fort Frances to attend one of our two sessions, receive the messages of “choices”. HEREOS promotes students making the right choices, and delivers messages from injured victims of the same age group of hardships they faced due to making the wrong choices in their lives. HEREOS also stressed wearing the “gear” for protection while performing risky activities.

#### Adult/Youth

Off-road vehicle hazards and the appropriate use of warning signals has been a joint effort with our adult and youth population of the Rainy River District. The Rainy River Safety Coalition completed presentations at the Service Club level to deliver the safety messages, and provide information regarding laws and by-laws for off-road vehicles as well as the impact of Helmets, MP3 players and I-Pods and the inability to hear approaching trains. These efforts will be starting again soon as winter is fast approaching, and snowmobiles will be travelling throughout the District.

Radio spots broadcasted over the entire District population giving messages of rail safety. Topics as trespassing on C.N property and in proximity of the rail systems by off road vehicles and foot, wearing I-pods and MP3 Players while around tracks as well as how and when to cross the rail system. Emphasis was placed unsafe acts as on trying to “Beat the Train” and going around barriers rather than waiting to the train to pass.

In addition to our target groups, the Coalition held a safety session with the bus operators and drivers of the District. Our buses travel from rural settings to our urban settings to transport our students into class. Many buses cross numerous crossings in their daily trek to school. Over 60 drivers attended the lunch and learn and received messages of emergency procedures, rail safety, and an open discussion with the drivers and owners of the buses has started the implementation of strobes for all buses in the Rainy River District. Strobes will be operational at any time there are students occupying the school buses.

Our Coalition has not been completely successful in our stop sign efforts. We have met strong political challenges in some of our unorganized communities, but continue to advocate for these safety avenues to become a reality. The 10 Municipalities of our District

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have accomplished the erection of stop signs at uncontrolled crossings and continue to promote crossing safety in each of their jurisdictions.

The Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition continues to advocate for our student safety in the promotion of “Safe Routes to School”. Joint rides with the CN Police and OPP were held at the beginning of the school year to educate the school children when and how to cross the tracks with their bicycles. An effort is presently ongoing to designate two areas at which the children will have “safe crossing”. We are presently in the infancy stages of planning this endeavour.

Meeting our Goal of establishing on-going rail safety within the Rainy River District through the promotion of knowledge, awareness, visibility and behavioural change, and the development of new partnerships and programs specific to rail safety has been accomplished!

Attendance was good to excellent in each of the sessions, positive comments and feedback gave us energy to continue our efforts, and there was conversation generated following our radio spots being aired. Education is enhanced through discussion of this information, and this gave us positive energy once again.

It was heart-warming to review our accomplishments as we discussed the contents of this report. We did indeed promote knowledge, awareness and visibility in rail safety thanks to the efforts of our many volunteers and coalition members. New partnerships are formed each time we venture into another avenue of education for our citizens.

Service clubs, teachers, parents and volunteers have been helpful additions in our efforts in rail safety.

Some of our existing programs are facing modifications to include rail safety, while other new ideas have been tested.

**The goal of The Safety Coalition is to develop effective injury prevention and promotional programs through an individual and community based level within the Rainy River District.**

**The Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition has not only met the priority relating to our rail systems in the District, but has once again met and fulfilled their goal with this project.**



[www.nwhu.on.ca](http://www.nwhu.on.ca)

The Northwestern Health Unit's Health Promotion program has been an active member of the Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition (RRVSC) throughout the 2007-2008 fiscal year. Injury prevention is an important component of the Northwestern Health Unit's mandatory programming and our membership with the RRVSC has supported many of our initiatives.

Over the past year, our Health Promotion program has been involved in various activities that promote safety within the Rainy River District. The Northwestern Health Unit is an active partner in local healthy community coalitions in Atikokan, Emo and Rainy River as well as local Seniors' Coalition in Fort Frances. Through the efforts of these coalitions, we have been able to offer a variety of program to promote safety over the past year including:



Sage Advice and Gentle Exercises for Seniors programs have been running throughout the past year in Emo, Fort Frances, Rainy River, Stratton and Devlin. This program promotes seniors to be active as a means of falls prevention and provides educate for home safety for seniors.

**Medicine Cabinet Cleanout:** In March 2008, the local Seniors' Coalition & Emo-Lavallee-Chapple Healthy Communities Coalition, in partnership with local pharmacies, collected 55lbs of expired and unused medications from Emo and Fort Frances area residents. This is an important program to increase awareness that medications should be safely disposed to prevent incidents of medication theft or improper usage.

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Seniors' Lifestyle Expos have been hosted in both Emo and Fort Frances. This health fair is designed to increase seniors' awareness about local services and promote healthy aging.

Care Seat Inspections & Awareness

Safe Kids Canada Week Activities

Sun Safety for Outdoor Workers Campaign

The Northwestern Health Promotion program is proud to be associated with the RRRVSC and the contributions they have made over the past year toward improving safety in the Rainy River District. We look forward to continuing our membership with the RRVSC in the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

*Becky Holden*

Health Educator

Northwestern Health Unit

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Family & Children's Services  
Partner Report for  
RRVSC Annual Report - 2008



**FACS Submission to the RRVSC Annual Report  
November 2008**

2008 has been a special year for safety at Family and Children's Services of the District of Rainy River. Through the RRVSC, **Project Safe Halloween** has not only gained local and provincial recognition, but also has gained national attention, winning the **2008 Award of Excellence from Safe Communities Canada**.

In a letter drafted by President and Founder Paul Kells to local RRVSC chair, Gerry Armstrong, it is stated. *"By developing a new partnership with the region's municipal offices, O.P.P. and Fire and Ambulance services stations to provide glow sticks to children not yet involved in the school system, you have dramatically increased the level of safety and educate the public. You have also raised the standard as a catalyst for change in safe communities across Canada. The very fact that the number of glow sticks being distributed from 250 to over 3,500 is an accomplishment that should make all involved very proud."*

As a member of the RRVSC, we are proud to say that the program has reached provincial recognition, with other regions in the province starting to use the school-based distribution system.

Locally, and in the same week as the Safe Communities announcement, FACS was the proud recipient of the Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce **Safety Award – Business** sponsored by AbitibiBowater. The announcement was made at the annual Business Awards on November 8th presented by Bell.



RRVSC partners accepting the Safety Award.

FACS has been distributing glow sticks every year since 2003. With the assistance and support of the RRVSC, we have been able to make glow sticks available across the District, with yearly enhancements:

- Year one, 250 night lights were given out by staff at our office on Scott Street.
- Year two, 1,200 night lights were handed out at Kitowski's Trucking "Spooky Trailer" (MacDonald's parking lot).
- Year three, we distributed 1,300 at the Scott Street Scare in Fort Frances and at our Atikokan Branch office (ran out).

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- Year four – District-wide expansion with 2,500 night lights being distributed through the schools (JK to Grade 6) and for younger children at the FACS offices and municipal offices.
- Year five – Expansion to include Grade 7 & 8. Approximately 3,000 glow sticks were distributed to schools and municipal offices.
- Year six – Development of the theme “*Safe Routes*” through sponsorship of the CN Police. Thirty presentations made to the schools by OPP Constable Anne McCoy and FACS employees/Board members to deliver the safety message. Approximately 3,500 glow sticks were given out. Now supplying younger children through municipal offices, nursery schools, preschool programs and day care centres.



As Mr. Kells stated above, it takes true partnership and commitment to keep growing and expanding a great initiative. Our partners have already begun discussions on how we can make it even better next year!

Yours in safety,

Betty-Anne MacKintosh  
Manager of Community Services & Quality Assurance  
Family and Children’s Services of the District of Rainy River.



Final Report for the Rainy River District  
Substance Abuse Prevention Team

Here is a Synopsis of the yearly activities of the Rainy River District Substance Abuse Prevention Team:

### **Coalition Development**

In the first six months of this fiscal period the activities/projects of the Rainy River District Substance Abuse Prevention Team as an organization and the Coordinator have been significant. Attendance at the monthly Healthy Community meetings in Atikokan, Fort Frances, Emo and Rainy River has led to high visibility of the "Team" and projects in every community.



Examples of the visibility and projects are attendance at the Atikokan Bass Tournament (Aug), Emo Fall Fair (Aug), Fort Frances Health Team Expo (May), Rainy River Pumpkin Festival (Sept) and Rainy River Railroad Daze (July).

Positive youth profiling projects involving high school students from Rainy River, Fort Frances and Atikokan High Schools were completed in May and June of 2008. Media coverage was

excellent including radio, newspaper and the Substance Abuse Prevention Team's website at [www.preventingtragedy.org](http://www.preventingtragedy.org).

Attendance at the FOCUS Conference in April was valuable and a good learning experience. Seniors in the Rainy River District have been a targeted group for presentations and activities including health fairs in Emo and Rainy River.

In addition to those already mentioned the Substance Team Coordinator has presented at Weechitewin Family Services - Foster Parents, Stanjikoming First Nation, Sunny Cove Church Camp, Northwest Bay First Nation Territory, Parents Against Illicit Narcotics, Seven Generations Educational Institute, Loggers Event, Air Cadet Presentation and Big Grassy First Nation Territory.

### **Environmental Support for Youth**

Chem-Free Grads were held at Fort Frances High School and Rainy River High School. Both events were well attended and the volunteerism by parents was very impressive. Both events received support from the Rainy River District Substance Abuse Prevention Team. The in-kind contributions by the communities were huge.

The two major components of this program i.e. the Heroes Program and the photo voice project are occurring in the second half of the 2008-2009 fiscal year and are well into the planning stages.

Financial assistance has been given to support summer youth activity events at the local United Native Friendship Centre Youth Group. The Substance Abuse Prevention Team has also assisted financially in two community bike and hike programs by purchasing prizes and supporting activities.

Presentations have been done at several schools at the elementary level to increase awareness and consequences of alcohol and drug use. These have included Robert Moore Grade 7 & 8 classes and Lac La Croix First Nation Grade 7 & 8 class.

### **Environmental Support for Adults**

The environmental support program for adults was successful in raising awareness in the Rainy River District of the consequences of excessive alcohol consumption as well as drug use. Many events were attended and information booths set up. These include at the Logger Association, Emo Walleye Tournament, Rainy River Railroad Daze, Emo Fair, Atikokan Bass Tournament, Northwest Bay Pow Wow, Weechitewin Family Services - foster parents and the Seven Generations Educational Authority.

The Strengthening Families Program was participated in through a financial contribution in early 2008 and the program successfully concluded in May 2008.

Financial support was also extended to 10 volunteers who took the Smart Serve Program in Rainy River in June 2008. The volunteers participated at several events in Rainy River this past summer. Attendance by the Coordinator and several partners at the Parents Against Illicit Narcotics (PAIN) group has continued in the first six months of this fiscal period. Another group, the Fort Frances Opiate Task Group, representing many professional groups in Fort Frances has been created in September 2008 to raise awareness of the opiate addiction issue in the area.

A methadone clinic is also scheduled to open in Fort Frances before Christmas. This clinic is a partnership between a local pharmacist and the OATC group of doctors.

### **Senior's Substance Abuse Prevention**

This program continues to be busy in the Rainy River District. Seniors have been under-educated in the past, particularly with respect to the use of prescription drugs. Health fairs have been held in Rainy River and Emo during the first half of the fiscal year. More events are occurring in the second half targeting seniors.

Information about drug use, particularly oxycotin and other painkillers is well received by the seniors. Issues such as security of drugs, disposal of unused prescriptions and drug-sharing are just three of many aspects of drug use that are presented.

The Fort Frances Seniors' Coalition is active as is the Emo Healthy Community Committee. The Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator attends both these group meeting and assists in their work

### **Peer Led Program**

Youth leading youth is the core concept of this program. The OSAID group at Fort Frances High School is functioning well and meets on a monthly basis. Unfortunately, the OSAID funds were unavailable for representations to attend the OSAID Conference in the spring of 2008. Although the Substance Abuse Prevention Team has assisted financially in the past it simply could not afford to pay for all of the expenses for the youth.

The youth profiling project went ahead very successfully this past spring and funds were allocated from a different program of the FOCUS budget.

It is anticipated that the photo voice project will be funded from this program. Plans are to start the program in November of 2008.

### **Aboriginal Substance Abuse Prevention**

There has been significant work on several First Nations Territories in the Rainy River District in the past months. The Coordinator presented educational and awareness presentations to community members at Northwest Bay First Nation Territory and the staff of the Big Island First Nation Territory as well as to approximately 70 employees of the Seven Generations Educational Authority. These presentations have been extremely well received.

The Coordinator and a First Nation Health Symposium by father/son speakers did presentations to First Nations' youth at the Lac La Croix School in May 2008. There was virtually no cost to the FOCUS Program for these events except for time and travel.

An information booth was also set up at the annual pow wow at Northwest Bay First Nation Territory in August. It was also well received by the community and more of that kind of work will be done in the future.

A letter of support by the Rainy River District Substance Abuse Prevention Team was prepared for a prescription drug assessment project that is being funded by the Federal Government on the Couchiching First Nation Territory, which borders on Fort Frances. A partnership is developing between that project and presentation work being done by the Substance Abuse Prevention Team.

Three young women from Winnipeg who are recovering from cocaine/methamphetamine and alcohol addiction presented to two First Nation Territories. A funding partnership was developed with the First Nation Health Access Centre, which frankly made the entire project possible.

More projects are planned in the future with the First Nation Communities in the Rainy River District.

### **Adult Awareness and Education**

In the first six months of this year's adult awareness and education program significant information and awareness have been shared and passed on to the communities in the Rainy River District. Numerous events have been attended and booths to distribute information were set up. Some of these events were the Logger's Association, Rainy River Railroad Daze, Atikokan Bass Tournament, Emo Fall Fair, and the Northwest Bay Pow Wow. The

Substance Abuse Prevention Team's website is kept updated and enquiries have been received from England, Australia and many states in the United States as well as Canada. Information has been shared with the senior's community about prescription drug sharing and security. Three women from Winnipeg, MB who are recovering alcoholics and addicts, shared their stories of recovery at several community presentations in the late spring of 2008. Presentations to raise awareness of drug abuse by the Coordinator have been conducted at several locations including the Seven Generations Education Authority, Riverside Health Care workers and the employees at Big Island First Nation Territory. Media interviews concerning the work of the Substance Abuse Prevention Team have been given as well and been editorialized by the local newspaper.

### **Youth Awareness and Education**

This program is one of the busiest that the Rainy River District Substance Abuse Prevention Team is involved with. Projects such as having three young females who are recovering addicts/alcoholics present at the three high schools and communities in the spring of 2008 is one example. The women travelled from Winnipeg and presented at several venues including the schools. The presentations were excellent and district young women had an opportunity to interact with other young women about recovery and childbirth.

Financial support was extended to "Chem-Free" graduation ceremonies at both the Rainy River and Fort Frances High Schools.

Presentations have been made by the Coordinator and in some cases other partners to numerous young people's groups throughout the Rainy River District. Some examples are to the Weechitewin Family Services - foster children, Discovery Camp at Sunny Cove Youth Facility, Rainy River High School student executive council and an Air Cadet meeting.

Another project that assisted in accomplishing our goal of raising youth awareness was bringing in a speaker and his 15-year-old son to speak to grades 7-12 First Nation youth. The presentation dealt with the parent recovering from his addiction and the impact his illness had on his 15-year-old son. The youth's message was both informative and emotional for the youth of this area.

The student-profiling project that occurred in the spring of 2007 repeated in May/June of 2008. High School students from the three high schools presented messages about the dangers of binge drinking, prescription drug abuse and drinking and driving to their peers and younger youth. The media throughout the district including Shaw TV, newspapers, and radio were all involved and supportive.

The PARTY program was also implemented at Fort Frances High School and Riverside Health Care Facility and was hugely successful in the second semester of 2008.

**RAINY RIVER DISTRICT**  
**PARTY.**  
**PREVENT ALCOHOL AND RISK RELATED TRAUMA IN YOUTH**

The **P.A.R.T.Y. (Prevent Alcohol Related Trauma in Youth) Program** is a dynamic, interactive injury prevention, health promotion program for teenagers. **P.A.R.T.Y.** was developed in 1986 at Sunnybrook & Women's College Health Sciences Centre in Toronto, Ontario, through a request made by teenagers. Currently seventy-two sites are operating; spanning Canada, U.S.A. and Australia.

The greatest incidence of death and injury occurs in the 15–24 year age group. **P.A.R.T.Y.** was created to educate teens to the perils of risk-taking behaviour and the tragic consequences that can occur. This program is a vital component in the growing community effort to reduce death and injury in alcohol and risk-related incidents.

In our second year of operation **P.A.R.T.Y.** has been brought to 160 grade ten high school students at Riverside (LaVerendrye site).



Students 14–19 years old experience a full day session; following the path of an injury survivor, meeting the professionals that would care for them in a trauma situation. Paramedics, Police, Fire, Emergency Physicians, Nurses and Therapists describe the painful journey of a trauma patient. Facts are presented about head and spinal cord injury, and the students have hands-on experience with the equipment used in trauma care and rehabilitation.

The most powerful part of the day is the injury survivor presentation! Young people talk frankly about their injuries, the events that lead to the injury and what their lives are like now. Students have the opportunity to ask questions of these speakers and learn what life is really like after an injury. This by far has the greatest impact on teens and leaves an impression that for some lasts a lifetime!



RAINY RIVER VALLEY SAFETY COALITION

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2007-2008

RRDSAP Team, RRDEMS, OPP, TREATY THREE Police, FF FIRE, RIVERSIDE and other community partners, bring P.A.R.T.Y. to you.

**The P.A.R.T.Y. mission is to promote injury prevention through reality education, enabling youth to recognize risk and make informed choices about activities and behaviours. This program is making a difference with our youth and saving lives!**

John Beaton.  
Rainy River District P.A.R.T.Y. Program Coordinator



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## RIVERSIDE HEALTH CARE FACILITIES INC.

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“CONNECTING COMMUNITIES – COMMITTED TO CARING”

PARTNER REPORT FOR THE

RAINY RIVER VALLEY SAFETY COALITION ANNUAL REPORT

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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.

Our Partnership with the Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition supports and promotes our mission:

“To provide quality patient care with a commitment to clinical achievement, safety and enthusiasm to assure the best possible health care”

“To support a safe and healthy work environment where each person is valued and respected and where personal and professional growth is encouraged”

“To responding to community health care needs and providing creative, ongoing community support initiatives”

Riverside Health Care Facilities provides primary, secondary, long-term care and community health services at our four health care facilities across the district corporation. We focus our efforts on standardizing safety programs throughout all facilities, as well as reaching out into the communities and our clientele.

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

*Occupational Health and Safety* plans fun and educational activities, and formal mandatory staff 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 Hygiene**. 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 –

Safe and Healthy Seniors Program has achieved their goal of community involvement in patient safety endeavours. Partnering with the Safety Coalition has resulted in the development of the Home Check List – a booklet to guide you through a safety check of your home or dwelling, and identify potential hazards before they can cause injury to you or your loved ones. Many safety tips for travel, emergency preparedness, Internet safety and personal safety are also included in the booklet.



Involvement in your health care is so very important for safe delivery of your care. Riverside Health Care Facilities has developed a wallet sized medication record that will help you keep track of your medications, vitamins and other dietary supplements.



The recorder is simple. It has ample space to list the medication name, strength and how often you take the medication. There is also space to list the “over the counter” medications you take and any medical conditions you are being treated for.

The recorder is designed to be user-friendly with you in mind! You can pick up medication recorders at multiple locations throughout the District at Clinics, Health Centres, Retail Pharmacies and other health care providers.

Senior’s Manors were setting for informational sessions, which included medication safety and step-by-step instructions on completing the medication recorders. Many thanks to Dave Schwartz from our local Safeway for the detailed educational experience for our seniors.

Informational booths at the Emo Fair, Emo Seniors Fair and the Seniors Lifestyle Expo were avenues for further distribution of both our safety items, as well as a platform for dissemination of “getting involved in health care, including medication safety.”

Patient Safety Week (September 29<sup>th</sup> to October 3<sup>rd</sup>) gave a great opportunity to address patient safety issues, hand hygiene, and personal safety in both the health care setting, and the community. Thank you to Cloverleaf, Rainy River Drugs, and Safeway for the provided space for our booths.

Our Health Records department designed a database last 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. We now have a year of data consistent with our program needs.

RAINY RIVER VALLEY SAFETY COALITION

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2007-2008

Activities for seniors are ongoing at Riverside through our well-established and utilized Day Program.

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.

**For further information contact:**

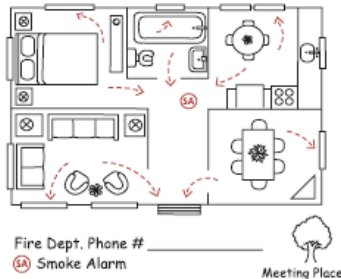
**Grace Silander (807) 274 3261 or [g.silander@rhcf.on.ca](mailto:g.silander@rhcf.on.ca)**



FORT FRANCES FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE  
Fire Prevention & Public Education  
Annual Report 2008  
TO THE  
RAINY RIVER VALLEY SAFETY COALITION

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Fort Frances Fire and Rescue Service has implemented a District Home Escape Plan Program which is on-going in the west Rainy River District.



Six schools have been visited, and 223 students have learned of the importance of a home escape plan, how to develop one, and have been encouraged to ensure the escape is practiced on a regular basis.

Students of the 10 classrooms have been very receptive to the program.

We are looking for 100% participation in the completion of the home escape plans. This involves the parents.

November 10, 2008 a pizza party is planned for the best participating classroom.



This District initiative was very successful and provided the students and their families with the ability to better protect themselves in the event a fire occurs in their home.

Expanding the program to include all students is a consideration for the future.

Contact Information: Wayne Riches, Fort Frances Fire (807) 274 9841  
[wriches@fort-frances.com](mailto:wriches@fort-frances.com)

**Ainsworth  
Annual Report 2008  
To  
Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition**

Ainsworth is a leading Canadian forest products company with a fifty year reputation for safely manufacturing quality products while providing unsurpassed customer service with various operations located in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Minnesota.



In July of 2008, our site successfully exceeded four years with over 1.25 million man hours of work since our last lost time accident! Ainsworth continues to be a founding member of the Safe Workplace Ontario program operated through the Workplace Safety Insurance Board.

Recognizing the importance of safety, health and wellness both on and off the job is a key component to our facility's success. Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition's involvement with programs such as D.A.R.E., Risk Watch, CN Rail Safety, Heroes, Bicycle Rodeos, Seniors' Fairs, Substance Abuse Prevention Team, Halloween Glow Stick Program has a profound impact on our Team Members and their families. As such, membership in the RRVSC helps us ensure that our obligation toward providing a Safe, Healthy and Productive work environment is enhanced. All of our Team Member reside within the boundaries of the Rainy River District and as the programs are easily accessible, they are positively affected by the RRVSC mandate.





The concerns of the District in regard to Safety, Health and Wellness mirrors our own priorities at Ainsworth. Better

understanding these priorities as they affect the District will help us to integrate them into our home and work environment. As the Priority Setting Sessions for the District continue to progress, we at Ainsworth want to ensure that we are fully involved and engaged in the process in order to link with our

own internal programs.





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

On behalf of the United Native Friendship Centre (UNFC) I would like submit this annual report.

I wish to thank RRVSC Coordinator Grace Silander, Chair Gerry Armstrong, Committee and Board members for their hard work and dedication in the Rainy River District. As a committee and Board member I have shared with my own organization information about the safety initiatives carried out in the area communities by the dedicated members of the local agencies. As RRVSC members, we are especially proud to have been recognized and recertified as a Safe Community by WHO Safe Communities Canada.

Some of the past year's projects supported include: school bus safety, Seniors Lifestyle Expo, Safe Halloween Glow Stick program, Chem-Free Grad (Fort Frances & Rainy River High Schools). Also canoeing, bicycle and road safety, CN Railroad safety, Car Seat Loaner program, and Air Cadet first aid training.

The UNFC is promoting safety through fire extinguisher training and annual Fire Department inspections. The Akwe:go and Lil Eagles participants were enrolled in a learn to swim program. The Life Long Care seniors program is involved in distributing cards to record prescription drugs and the Home Checklist safety booklets produced by the RRVSC. 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

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**RAINY RIVER VALLEY SAFETY COALITION'S SUCCESS  
STORY FOR 2007-2008**

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**2007 – CN Grant Award**

**2007 – Safe Communities Canada Award of Excellence  
for Community Leadership**

**2007 - Safety Tree planted in Alberton Township to  
commemorate this event**

**2007 – New Horizons Seniors Grant Award**

**2007 – Perfect Score on the National Report Card through Safe  
Communities Canada**

(This report card is a scoring mechanism to evaluate and continue our Safe  
Communities Canada Designation)

**2008 – CN Grant Award**



**2008 – WHO Re-designation of the Rainy  
River Valley as a Safe Community**

**2008 – Fort Frances Times received the Safe  
Communities Canada Ambassador for  
Safety Award - Business**

**2007 – Perfect Score on the National Report  
Card through Safe Communities Canada**

**2008 – Safe Communities Canada Award of Excellence**

**2008 – Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce Business Awards – Safety  
Award of our Glow Stick – Project Safe Hallowe'en**

**Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition  
Treasurer's Report  
as at September 30/2008**

**Bank  
Reconciliation**

<b>Balance per books</b>	41,672.3 1
<hr/>	
<b>Balance per bank</b>	43,912.6 5
<b>Less Outstanding Cheques</b>	-
	<b>1,405.00</b>
	<b>-750.00</b>
	<b><u>-85.34</u></b>
<b>Balance per bank</b>	<b>41,672.3 1</b>

**2008 Municipal Funding received to date**

Chapple	383.00
Morley	250.00
Dawson	262.50
Emo	593.00
Fort Frances	3,782.50
Alberton	479.00
Atikokan	1,475.00
Lavallee	484.00
Rainy River	<u>379.50</u>
<b>Total Received to date</b>	<b><u>\$8,088.50</u></b>

Submitted by

Grace Silander  
Administrative Co-ordinator

**Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition  
Treasurer's Report  
as at September 30/2008**

**Previous Funding Requests Approved:**

**Requests for August 2006 to July 2007**

Rob't Moore Playground Equip	450.00
NWHU Seniors Expo	1000.00
FAC - Safe Halloween	1000.00
Highschool Defibrillator Program	1000.00
GenderBased Violence Study	250.00
ChemFree Grad 07	200.00
UNFC -L'il Eagles	250.00
Sub.Abuse Prevention (MADD Can)	<u>575.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$4,725.00</u></b>

**Requests For Funding August 2007 to July 2008**

FAC - Safe Halloween	1000.00
Atikokan Safe Comm. Drug Awareness Event	800.00
Jeff Tilbury - Bike Hike Event	50.00
ANFC - Native Crafts	250.00
Car Seat Program(Coming Together forKids)	702.85
FFHS Safe Grad	200.00
RRHS Safe Grad	<u>200.00</u>

RAINY RIVER VALLEY SAFETY COALITION

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2007-2008

Julie Lenk Atikokan Centennial Triple P 120.00

**Total Funding for 2007/08** **3,322.85**

**Financial Report**  
**For**  
**August 1, 2007 - July 31, 2008**

**Total Revenue** \$56,860.71  
**Total Expense** \$46,162.56  
**Gains** \$10,698.15

**Grant Awards**

SC Award of Excellence \$2,000.00  
New Horizons Canada \$22,010.00  
CN Award \$6,500.00  
Road Safety Challenges \$5,000.00  
**Total Grant Achievements** \$35,510.00