

# Network Newsletter

Spring 2005  
Issue One

NORTH DUMFRIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NETWORK



## Fostering Inclusiveness in North Dumfries

The North Dumfries Community Development Network was established in August 2004 following a forum attended by twenty-five community members representing many different areas of interest.

The Network was established as there was willingness on the part of participants to work together to enhance the overall quality of life for North Dumfries residents.

We recently designed a mini-grant initiative that contributes to this goal by using an intergenerational approach to dealing with age-based stereotypes.

These mini-grants enhance community development

by supporting activities that increase cooperation, interaction and exchange between the generations. Mutual benefits result: older adults have the opportunity to share their skills, knowledge and experience and youth have the opportunity to get more involved, working with others for the benefit of the entire community.

These grants were made possible through a financial contribution from the Public Health Agency of Canada.

### “Spruce Up Our Community”

Intergenerational Grant

Closing the Gap – Bringing Youth and Seniors Together

The purpose of the Intergenerational Project is to close the gap between youth and seniors. We have set out to find ways to bring the youth and seniors of Ayr together to work toward a common goal. Youth and seniors came together on April 23, 2005 to clean up Centennial Park and the surrounding area. On this rainy, cold spring day our youth and seniors bravely picked up litter throughout the park and along the streets, exhibiting great perseverance as a team. Throughout the event seniors and youth gained an intrinsic award, a sense of accomplishment and an appreciation for all team players.

As a group everybody recovered from the rain to a fun game of Pictionary and a pizza lunch. During this time youth and seniors had the opportunity to connect with each other on a more personal level, building new relationships, strengthening already established ones and simply making connections with one another.

The community has benefited from this project as well. Centennial Park and the surrounding area have been prepared for May flowers to bloom free from winter's debris, allowing the community to enjoy a clean park.

Community members have helped with this project by volunteering their time, bringing gardening tools, donating garbage bags and preparing a delicious pizza lunch. This event was a success as we have all achieved our common goal – to enable participants to recognize our sameness regardless of our gap in age.

Tammy Monteiro  
Outreach Worker  
Community Support Services of Ayr & North Dumfries

## Community Connections

We are working on developing a website for North Dumfries which will make it easy for residents to find community resources, services and volunteer opportunities. As well, this website will facilitate the sharing of information and coordination of activities among local groups.

## Leadership Development Series to Launch in North Dumfries in 2006

The North Dumfries Community Development Network is set to launch *10 Steps to Community Action* in the Township of North Dumfries this winter.

*10 Steps* is a locally designed leadership development program for emerging rural leaders. Through a variety of experiential learning activities, participants will have the opportunity to do the following:

- Develop their individual, organizational and community leadership skills
- Increase their awareness and understanding of local community issues
- Create a skilled network for community action

The North Dumfries *10 Steps* series is being sponsored and coordinated through a partnership of local agencies who share the belief that the economic prosperity of a community is linked to the strength and innovation of its local leaders.

*10 Steps to Community Action* can help you make a difference. Are you interested? Contact: Dina Etmanskie, Coordinator, 150 Main Street, Cambridge, Ont. N1R 6P9 (519) 623-1713 for applications and more information.

### Rural Community Development Resources

#### Valuing the Rural Volunteer Toolkit

This toolkit was developed after an extensive literature review, interviews with volunteers and volunteer managers representing a wide range of sectors, and consultation with funders, policy-makers and academics. It is a combination of new tools and the adaptation of excellent existing material and is being made available by the Ontario Rural Council on a cost-recovery basis. To order contact:

Ontario Rural Council, 1 Stone Road West, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Guelph, Ont., N1G 4Y2.  
Telephone: (519) 826-4128; Email: [info@torc.on.ca](mailto:info@torc.on.ca)

## Sustainability Workshop a Success

Earlier this year the Network hosted a *Sustainability Workshop* where representatives from a dozen voluntary and non-profit groups came together to share techniques and learn new strategies to meet the challenges around funding, leadership development, and increased demand for service in this rapidly changing community.

Overall, the workshop was rated very highly. Participants found that the discussion generated useful ideas and plan to use the manual as a resource in their organizations. They also appreciated the opportunity to network with others in the community.

A number of topics were suggested for future workshops.

Would you be like to participate in the Network? If so, please contact us

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