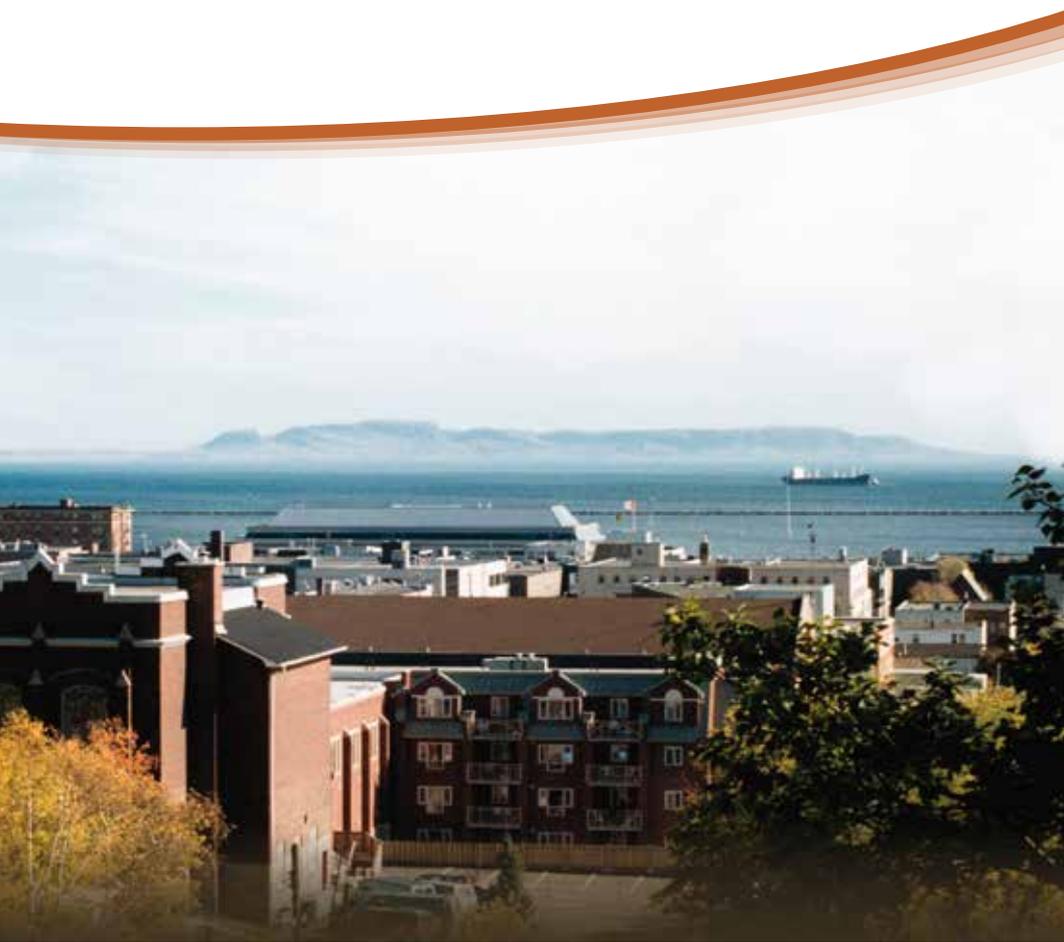




PRESENT
**2014 MAYOR'S COMMUNITY
SAFETY AWARDS**





Mac's Convenience Stores are honoured to sponsor Thunder Bay's Mayor's Community Safety Awards.

At Mac's, we recognize the importance community engagement plays in the prevention of crime and the positive impact it can have on the community.

***"Working Together For
A Safer Community"***

MESSAGES



On behalf of my colleagues on City Council, I am proud to present the recipients of the 2014 Mayor's Community Safety Awards.

Crime prevention requires a united community, one built on partnerships and respect. This year's recipients are setting an example through their tremendous efforts to make our community safer and more welcoming for everyone, and they are inspiring others.

Thank you, and congratulations. You are truly making a difference.

Sincerely,



Keith P. Hobbs, Mayor



As the Crime Prevention Council moves forward with its efforts to build a safe, inclusive and respectful Thunder Bay, it is heartening to see such outstanding community efforts.

To this year's Awards recipients, please accept my congratulations on behalf of the Crime Prevention Council. Your work is making an important contribution to our city.

To this year's sponsors, thank you. This event would not be possible without your generous support. Thank you, as well, to Mayor Keith Hobbs and Thunder Bay City Council for your leadership.

The task is not small but, together, we can achieve great things for Thunder Bay.

Sincerely,



Tom Walters, Chair – Crime Prevention Council

THUNDER BAY CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL GUIDING PRINCIPLES

WE

- Believe effective action is based on knowledge, research and experience.
- Prevent crime through addressing its root causes.
- Build on the strengths and capacities of our communities.
- Collaborate with our communities on solutions and actions.
- Include a diversity of voices.
- Value respect and compassion in our attitudes and actions.
- Believe everyone has responsibility for making the city safe and welcoming.

For more information please visit www.thunderbay.ca/crimeprevention

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COMMUNITY HERO LINDA BRUINS



Linda Bruins, Executive Director of Evergreen A United Neighbourhood, works to support and mobilize the strengths of people to build healthy, safe neighbourhoods.

Linda Bruins continues to revitalize our community while keeping her focus on the most important aspect: the people. The always-smiling Executive Director of Evergreen A United Neighbourhood has built a reputation for working with people of all ages and from all walks of life, moving everyone toward a common vision – strong people living in a healthy and safe community. “I felt overall, we’ve always had a good community, but with safety issues,” Bruins said. “I’ve been aware for a long time, growing up in the Simpson-Ogden neighbourhood, that we need to support one another. Everybody wants to help.”

Evergreen A United Neighbourhood is a neighbourhood association serving

the Simpson-Ogden neighbourhood, and has become a huge success, but it’s not the only initiative Linda has embraced as she works to make Thunder Bay a safer, more vibrant place to live. She’s also a board member at the PARO Centre for Women’s Enterprise, where she uses her entrepreneurial experience to help women start or grow their own business. She has received numerous prestigious accolades for her tireless support of Thunder Bay and its people, including a 2012 Good Citizen Award from the City of Thunder Bay, and a 2012 June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for her commitment to volunteerism from the Ontario government. Perhaps most importantly, Linda has proven to be a valued and trusted friend and ally to those she works with. One such colleague notes, Linda is “always there when we need her, is a great listener, and is kind and supportive to everyone she works with.”

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YOUNG LEADER AWARD

JEEVAN CHAHAL



Jeevan Chahal, a Grade 12 student, is committed to making Thunder Bay safer for everyone through his work with Student Crime Stoppers and the Hate Crimes Awareness Committee.

work on a stirring speech calling on his fellow students to stand up to hate. The speech was fittingly given last spring at Thunder Bay's We Stand Up event, which calls on students to stand up against bullying, racism and social injustice, and encourages them to make positive change in their schools and community.

"Going into high school, I knew a lot about bullying and discrimination," Jeevan said. "I didn't think anyone else knew about it, first of all, and I didn't think anyone else really cared about it. A lot of people just made jokes about bullying and discrimination, racist jokes, and I was trying to help people stop that and inform people."

The dedication, confidence and enthusiasm that Jeevan brings to this work highlights his outstanding leadership abilities, which are making a difference not only in his school, but also our community as a whole.

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PROJECT

STREET OUTREACH SERVICES (SOS)

PILOT PROJECT



Patty Hajdu, Executive Director of Shelter House, works to ensure that all members of our community are treated with dignity, and are able to access the services they need.

The success of last winter’s Street Outreach Services (SOS) pilot project shows exactly how working together can help make our community a healthier, safer place.

The Program, an initiative of Shelter House, was designed to help people who were homeless and/or publicly intoxicated access services such as detox, shelter or medical services.

The four-month pilot project was a success, with close to 1000 people transported to a shelter or other service, alleviating demand on first responders and the emergency department of the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre.

“The SOS Program helps prevent crime and influences community safety in a number of ways, mainly by ensuring that people who

are desperate for shelter can access that shelter,” said Shelter House Executive Director Patty Hajdu. “It also helps improve the perception of safety, which is really important for other citizens to feel like they have a response, there’s something that they can do when they see someone struggling.”

It’s all the more impressive considering the SOS Program was designed and launched within six weeks, after organizers – who include health care workers, police, paramedics and local businesses – saw a need in our community and decided to work together to address it.

Within days of ending the pilot project, community leaders called for the return of SOS, and work has begun on finding ways to keep the program running all year.

The SOS pilot project was co-funded by the City of Thunder Bay and the Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board, with contributions from TbayTel and Safetyline.

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OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PROJECT COMMUNITY ARTS & HERITAGE EDUCATION PROJECT (CAHEP)



Alana Forslund, interim Executive Director of CAHEP, brings multi-disciplinary arts and heritage education programming to youth and families in Thunder Bay and area.

The Community Arts & Heritage Education Project (CAHEP) is dedicated to building a stronger, safer community. Since its creation nearly 15 years ago, CAHEP has enriched the lives of thousands of Thunder Bay youth and their families by offering accessible, low-cost arts and heritage education.

CAHEP offers multi-disciplinary arts programming in and around Thunder Bay, allowing youth to explore dance and movement, drama, literary, visual and cultural arts, music and new media, which builds confidence and artistic ability.

The group recently partnered with Evergreen A United Neighbourhood for “Art to the Streets.” The program engaged youth in the Simpson Ogden neighbourhood in meaningful arts programming and community building activities, where they established positive peer relationships, increased optimism and expectations for the future, developed better coping skills and increased their sense of pride and belonging in their neighbourhood.

“We see youth who have never engaged in the arts come into the program, and they pick up, say, a camera, and they begin to take some photos,” said Alana Forslund, CAHEP’s Interim Executive Director. “They start to identify with that art and share their own stories. They build a stronger connection to their neighbourhood by talking to their peers, and interviewing them or taking photos of them, and sharing their stories, as well.”

By implementing participant-driven arts projects, CAHEP encourages community members to remain proud of their creations and engage as citizens who contribute to a strong, safe, healthy and vibrant community.

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PROJECT BROKEN PIECES MENDED HEARTS – A PHOTOVOICE JOURNEY OF YOUNG PARENTS



Members of the Young Parents Program at Our Kids Count developed Broken Pieces Mended Hearts to help break the stigma surrounding parenting at a young age.

Broken Pieces Mended Hearts celebrates the strength of Thunder Bay’s young parents.

The project addresses the stigma of parenting at a young age through sharing the stories of some of our community’s young parents. The project educates the public regarding the issues and challenges facing young parents, in turn making the community more inclusive and safer for them and their children.

“We want to make the community safe and responsive to young parents, to develop empathy and support for the very important job that they do,” said one program participant.

This initiative of the Young Parents Program at Our Kids Count was developed in partnership with Leadership Thunder Bay through a Community Action Project. A grant from the Thunder Bay Community Foundation allowed for the hiring of a facilitator to oversee the project. The City’s **respect.** Initiative came on board to support the project’s official launch at City Hall in May 2014; the foyer housed stunning photographs of young parents and their children, and included their stories, their challenges and their triumphs.

“When I look at this picture it makes me feel proud to be a mom,” said Brooklyn, one of the program’s participants. “It shows the love and compassion I provide my kids. The way they love each other and the way they look at each other; I feel at peace.”

The PhotoVoice project has also been displayed at Waverly Public Library and Confederation College, and will be showcased at other Thunder Bay locations in the future.

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OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PROJECT

ZONE WATCH



Zone Watch is a partnership between Thunder Bay Police and citizens, which allows members to communicate and share information to make Thunder Bay neighbourhoods safer.

Crime prevention is a community initiative. Everyone, from police to citizens, must embrace the concept and play a role in making our community safer.

In June 2013, Thunder Bay Police Service launched its innovative Zone Watch program, which aims to bring our community's citizens and police together to share crime prevention ideas.

“We have to work together in order to address the issues that

are of concern to the community,” Const. Julie Tilbury said. “In many cases, thinking outside of the box can tease out some innovative ideas that we in policing may not necessarily see. We are happy to work alongside our citizens and hear their ideas for making our community safer for everyone.”

So far, about 100 citizens have signed up to participate in Zone Watch. The program allows them to share ideas among each other and communicate directly with police officers who work in their neighbourhoods through a specially-developed, secure website accessible only by Zone Watch members and police.

One example of the success of Zone Watch is the recent cleanup of the area around the rail tracks by the McIntyre River, in the Intercity area. The cleanup was an initiative of Zone Watch and community members, who also brought in police and CN Rail representatives to help make the area safer.

Zone Watch members have just announced a new speed awareness campaign, which includes messaging that raises awareness of speeding on Thunder Bay's roadways. The campaign will include a billboard and handouts.





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Proud to sponsor the Mayor's Community Safety Awards for 2014.

A focus on safety is vital to the lives of our workers and our customers. We appreciate those in our community who are working towards making Thunder Bay a safer city.

