

The overall crime rate in Thunder Bay has been trending downward since 1998. Between 2014 and 2015:



“Understanding the value of community and neighbours is critical to building belonging and inclusion into the services communities offer and the social change strategies they affect.”

Paul Born, Co-founder, Tamarack Institute



Mayor Keith Hobbs, Lee-Ann Chevrette, Dr. Irvin Waller, Karen Lewis and Jeff Upton at the Community Learning Event.

BUILDING THE EVIDENCE

The Crime Prevention Council completed a comprehensive report - **Snapshot in Time: Risk Factors, Protective Factors, and Trends of Crime in Thunder Bay**. The report identifies many of the known risk and protective factors of crime, and tracks police-reported crime data in Thunder Bay over several years. It also helps to identify crucial community safety issues and to implement proactive solutions to reduce crime, victimization and fear of crime.

Dr. Irvin Waller, renowned expert on crime prevention and victimization, was invited to Thunder Bay for a **Community Learning Event on Evidence-based Crime Prevention**. More than 80 community members attended the event, which was followed by a special meeting with the Crime Prevention Council.

As a member of the **Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention**, The Crime Prevention Council continues to participate in a community of practice with other Canadian municipalities to share research and expertise, and encourage investment in effective, evidence-based and collaborative crime prevention strategies. The implementation of a multi-year project funded through the National Crime Prevention Council is being supported.

“Violence is preventable; the challenge is investment in action. An abundance of evidence already exists, which clearly demonstrates that early investment in proven crime prevention and public safety strategies is the most efficient and cost effective way to reduce crime. All orders of government need to make the shift to smarter crime control.”

Dr. Irvin Waller

The Crime Prevention Council is a unique partnership between citizens, community organizations and service providers:

- Mayor, City of Thunder Bay
- Chief of Police, Thunder Bay Police Service
- Detachment Commander Ontario Provincial Police - Northwest Region
- Chief, Fort William First Nation
- Deputy Grand Chief, Nishnawbe Aski Nation
- Métis Nation of Ontario
- Ontario Union of Indians
- Medical Officer of Health
- Crown Attorney, Ministry of the Attorney General
- City Councillors (2)
- Citizen Representatives (2)
- Youth Representatives (2)
- Matawa First Nation
- Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service
- Ontario Native Women's Association
- Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Centre
- Urban Aboriginal Advisory Committee
- Lakehead District School Board
- Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board
- Northern Nishnawbe Education Council
- Conseil Scolaire De District Catholique Des Aurores Boréales
- Recreation and Culture Division
- Age Friendly Thunder Bay
- Shelter House
- William W. Creighton Youth Services
- Kairos Community Resource Centre
- John Howard Society
- Elizabeth Fry Society
- Thunder Bay Parole Office (Correctional Service of Canada)
- Dilico Anishinabek Family Care
- Children's Aid Society of the District of Thunder Bay
- Chamber of Commerce
- BIAs and Business Areas of Thunder Bay
- Children's Centre Thunder Bay
- St. Joseph's Care Group
- Thunder Bay Drug Strategy
- Lakehead Social Planning Council
- Thunder Bay Sexual Assault Centre
- Thunder Bay Counselling Centre
- Thunder Bay and District Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse
- Thunder Bay District Crime Stoppers

THUNDER BAY CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

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ACTION REPORT 2015-16

Message from the Chair



We are proud to share the 6th Annual Action Report, highlighting the progress achieved over the last year. We have supported and implemented a variety of initiatives to address known risk factors of crime and victimization in Thunder Bay, and engaged our community in the task of preventing crime.

Thunder Bay is among a growing number of Canadian municipalities who have set crime prevention as a top priority. Community safety is truly a community issue that requires everyone's involvement.

“Together we can develop solutions and use evidence-based approaches to create a safer city for everyone.”

On behalf of the Crime Prevention Council, I'd like to thank our community partners for their ongoing commitment to making safety and the well-being of all a priority. I look forward to working together to embrace the principles of crime prevention, to cultivate collaboration and partnership opportunities, and to deepen respect, equity and inclusion so that everyone feels safe and welcome in Thunder Bay.

Sincerely,

Jeff Upton, Chair – Crime Prevention Council



CREATING A CULTURE OF RESPECT & INCLUSION



STRENGTHENING NEIGHBOURHOODS



BUILDING THE EVIDENCE

Smarter on Crime

In the coming year, members of the Crime Prevention Council will continue to work closely with our community partners to address the risk and protective factors of crime and victimization, and fear of crime in Thunder Bay.

We will prioritize evidence-based approaches, including:

- A new Community Safety & Crime Prevention Strategy to increase community safety and well-being
- A three-year pilot project known as Community Mobilization Thunder Bay, based on a well-established risk-intervention model
- New youth initiatives, including neighbourhood-based youth hubs
- Efforts to reduce violence against women
- Building stronger neighbourhoods
- Advocating for equity, respect and inclusion to reduce marginalization and discrimination



Walid Chabal, Diana Atkinson and Vince Simon. Diana, President of the Thunder Bay Caribbean African Association received the 4th annual **respect.** Award at Diversity Thunder Bay's 10th Annual Celebration Breakfast for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, March 22, 2016



Alison Bortolon, **respect.** Intern

respect.
it begins with
you & me.

CREATING A CULTURE OF RESPECT & INCLUSION

The City's **respect.** Initiative gained some added momentum this year with the addition of an internship position, funded through Northern Ontario Heritage Research Fund Corporation. Alison Bortolon was the successful candidate, and came with a strong social media and videography background that helped the campaign become more visible in the community.

The Respect Working Group developed its Terms of Reference and a three-year Action Plan, which prioritizes the development of a Welcoming Strategy and anti-racism tool-kit, as well as partnership engagement, education, training and outreach.

KEY EVENTS

- **Everyone Matters Day**, a global inclusiveness campaign
- 2nd annual **Weed Out Hate Day**
- 2016 **Community Fall Feast and Festival of Services** in partnership with the City's Aboriginal Liaison Unit

A monthly **respect.** training module was delivered to all new City staff, and partnership with Human Resources took place on an Employee Conduct Training Pilot Project. **respect.** Training was also delivered to the Thunder Bay Public Library, St. Joseph's Care Group, the Regional Multicultural Youth Council and the North McIntyre Recreation Centre. Work is underway to explore the implementation of **respect.** with Lakehead Public Schools.



Evergreen a United Neighbourhood Youth Night at Minnesota Park, in the Simpson-Ogden Neighbourhood.

STRENGTHENING NEIGHBOURHOODS

Community safety begins in a community's neighbourhoods. The Strong Neighbourhoods Working Group led a number of initiatives and special events over the past year to connect with the city and members of the community.

6th Annual Jane's Walk Festival

The event grew again this year, with nine different neighbourhood walks taking place, led by community volunteers who love their neighbourhoods. The event supports a community approach to urban planning, which promotes accessible, mixed-use neighbourhoods as the key to healthy, safe and inclusive cities.

4th Annual City Hall Sounds

Held every Thursday in August, the event included noon-hour music concerts in McGillivray Square. These free public events brought Thunder Bay residents together to enjoy a positive social activity. A fifth Concert, **Fort William Sounds**, was also held in partnership with the Fort William BIA.

Eversport Program

Evergreen a United Neighbourhood successfully implemented this two-year, intergenerational sports recreation program funded through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Sport. In its first year, the program saw an increase in participant's physical health, coping skills, confidence and self-esteem.

Youth Move @ Your Library

In partnership with the Thunder Bay Public Library, the City's Recreation & Culture Division and Evergreen a United Neighbourhood, the Crime Prevention Council developed this exciting Pilot Project. The free drop-in program for all Thunder Bay Youth runs at Brodie Resource and Mary J.L. Black Library. The sites provide safe spaces for youth to share ideas, plan and organize their own activities, participate in programs, and access information and services.

“At the heart of every city are its neighbourhoods.”

Lee-Ann Chevrette, Crime Prevention Council Coordinator



Mayor Hobbs with elementary students from Agnew H. Johnston Public School for We Stand Up Day.

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

Strengthening partnerships with various organizations and groups across the community who share a vision for a safe, inclusive and welcoming Thunder Bay is very important. The Crime Prevention Council continues to support the following projects and initiatives:

- Annual Valentines Day Memorial Walk and Full Moon Memory Walk for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women.
- 3rd Annual Victims & Survivors of Crime Walk in partnership with Thunder Bay & Area Victim Services, Thunder Bay Police Service, Thunder Bay Counselling Centre and Evergreen a United Neighbourhood.
- We Stand Up Day with Wali Shah, in partnership with the Thunder Bay Police Service and Lakehead Public Schools.
- Connecting Project, in partnership with the City's Aboriginal Liaison Unit, which seeks to better support youth moving to Thunder Bay to attend school.
- Violence Prevention Initiative, in partnership with the Thunder Bay District Health Unit, Thunder Bay Drug Strategy and Lakehead University, it explored peoples' experience with violence in Thunder Bay. Focus groups and key informant interviews were held, and a community survey was conducted. The goal is to engage the community in a conversation about violence, identify key concerns and actions, and lay the groundwork for a violence prevention strategy. A Community Report will be released at a community forum in March 2017.



South Core Public Safety Task Force Ambassadors Devon Hutchinson and Sarah Fiddler

IMPROVING NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY

The **South Core Public Safety Task Force** is half-way through its implementation of the recommendations of the Comprehensive Safety & Security Assessment in the South Core Neighbourhood. The Initiative is based on a situational crime prevention approach: Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, which seeks to address deficiencies in the built environment and make improvements to increase safety & security for all users.

This year's key accomplishments include:

- Lighting improvements in alleys
- Tree trimming along Victoria Avenue to improve lighting efficiency
- Two comprehensive neighbourhood clean-ups in partnership with Shelter House and the City's Parks Division
- Removal of overgrown vegetation from alleys and parking lots to improve natural surveillance and sightlines
- Support for the **Fort William BIA's Annual Fall Street Festival** as this year's Opal Sponsor
- A three-month **Portable Toilet Pilot Project** to address the issue of the lack of accessible washroom facilities in the neighbourhood

Building on the success of last year's **South Core Public Safety Task Force Ambassadors** pilot project, the program was expanded to include a partnership with the Thunder Bay Drug Strategy (TBDS). Two Ambassadors spent eight weeks with the TBDS, and eight weeks with the South Core Public Safety Task Force. Devon Hutchinson and Sarah Fiddler implemented ongoing neighbourhood clean-up activities, reported graffiti, monitored emerging safety issues, supported local service agencies and maintained a consistent positive presence in the South Core neighbourhood.



Six outstanding individuals and organizations in crime prevention and community safety were recognized during the Mayor's Community Safety Awards, Nov. 2, 2015

RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY HEROES

The 5th annual **Mayor's Community Safety Awards** were held in November, and recognized the community safety efforts of outstanding individuals and organizations across the community. Six awards, each one generously supported by local sponsors, were awarded to those whose efforts address the risk factors of crime, and contribute to improved community safety.

“These outstanding individuals and organizations contribute significantly to improving safety and quality of life for all citizens of Thunder Bay.”

Mayor Keith Hobbs

respect.
it begins with you & me.