



PRESENT
**2015 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 2015 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 outstanding 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 work to build a safe, inclusive and respectful Thunder Bay, it is encouraging to see such tremendous efforts in the community.

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 we extend sincere thanks as 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.

Together, we can achieve great results for Thunder Bay and make our city a safer place for all.



Jeff Upton, 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, visit thunderbay.ca/crimeprevention

PROTECTING YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

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COMMUNITY HERO

KATHY & BRIAN FORBES



Kathy and Brian Forbes, Community Heroes, have been neighbourhood safety champions for over 20 years.

getting the area around the railway bridge and river cleaned up, overgrown vegetation trimmed, and better lighting installed for the neighbourhood. They are also building relationships with the CN Police Service and Thunder Bay Police Service.

The couple has also collaborated with the McKellar Ward Councillor and many area residents to raise awareness about neighbourhood safety. Kathy and Brian's work has resulted in a much more open and well-lit neighbourhood from the 800 block of Syndicate and William Street along the river. Residents testify they feel safer when going out after dark thanks to their efforts. Negative activity in the area has been reduced and outdoor users of the river area have avoided potentially serious incidents due to the improved visibility and the Forbes' monitoring. The couple lives by the motto, "Look out for your neighbour."

Kathy and Brian Forbes have been working on neighbourhood safety since 1988. They have been custodians of William Street from the CN Railway Bridge to Memorial Avenue for many years, and have been involved in the Neighbourhood Watch program, and neighbourhood policing. Brian has been an active member of Zone Watch since it started. Over the past year, they have been instrumental in a number of improvements including

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YOUNG LEADER AWARD

ANTON DEMETRAKOPOULOS



Anton Demetrakopoulos, Grade 12 Student Crime Stoppers' lead at Hammarskjold has recruited a large student committee.

Hammarskjold High School's Student Crime Stoppers lead, Anton Demetrakopoulos, has been involved with the program for the past two years. He quickly took on the leadership role and developed a very strong committee at Hammarskjold. He has engaged the committee in weekly meetings and arranged a number of events to support the program, including:

- Student Open Skate Night at the Waterfront skating rink
- Teachers vs. Police Volleyball Game in support of Crime Stoppers
- Crime Stoppers Awareness Event that engaged over 150 students to discuss the Crime Stoppers program

- Coordinator of the Hammarskjold Safe Schools Video Challenge

“Anton is one of the hardest working young people I have encountered in working with the Student Crime Stoppers Program over the past four years,” said Constable Julie Tilbury, Thunder Bay Police Service and Coordinator of Thunder Bay District Crime Stoppers. “He is self-motivated and task orientated and responsive. His commitment to the program allows for new and innovative ideas to come to light that will help engage the youth of our community.”

He has recruited a large Student Crime Stoppers Committee in the school. Anton has even taken it upon himself to recruit and mentor a Committee Lead to take over the program once he graduates from high school. His commitment and dedication are commendable.

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PROJECT

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK



Volunteers led by Amina Abu-Bakare (fourth from left) pack Blessings in a Backpack for children in need.

The Blessing in a Backpack program was brought to Thunder Bay by Amina Abu-Bakare who saw a need to address the food insecurity of many of our community's children. Many programs and services were available to provide food during the week, but children in need did not have support on the weekends. The initial program started in February 2014, with three local schools being involved. Children who could benefit from the program were identified by the school's Principal. Three additional schools were then added.

This project contributes to community safety by providing much needed food, reducing the need for children to be tempted to put themselves in positions where they might need to steal food or items to sell. They may also eat unsafe food without the provision of the groceries. Parents are also provided relief knowing their children are fed and therefore, not inclined to use drastic measures to obtain food.

School attendance on Mondays drastically improved after the program started. This program would not be successful without the support of the Regional Food Distribution Association and Our Kids Count, the principle program partners. Renco Foods has provided plastic bags to be used when the backpacks are not returned. Many people support this program by volunteering. The Kiwanis Club of Westfort has funded the program for St. Ann's School and has also provided volunteers to pack the bags once a month. Currently, there are 167 children from six schools participating in the program, 60 children on a waiting list from one additional school, and two more schools waiting to get on board.

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OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PROJECT

WALKING WITH OUR SISTERS



Leanna Marshall, WWOS Co-Lead, says the memorial has tremendous and immeasurable impacts on participants.

with traditional Anishinaabe teachings. People spent hours walking through and appreciating each one of the 1,800 profiles encouraging humanitarianism in our community.

Walking With Our Sisters is non-government funded and run through community donations by volunteers. A variety of organizations have donated products so that 100% of the profit goes to the program. WWOS has over 30 volunteers from all walks of life building community capacity.

Leanna Marshall, Walking With Our Sisters Co-lead, has worked tirelessly and collaboratively with a large team of community volunteers of all ages and backgrounds to bring Walking With Our Sisters to Thunder Bay.

Walking With Our Sisters (WWOS) is a commemorative art installation rooted in ceremony which honours the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women across North America. It provides an opportunity to honour the women who have tragically passed on and offers healing to families and communities impacted by these losses. It also serves to raise awareness of this issue and create opportunity for broad community-based dialogue.

Although here for only a few short weeks, the project touched peoples' lives, offered healing and the opportunity to grow and learn along

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PROJECT

CHOICES PROGRAM



L-R; Nancy Chamberlain, Executive Director, Thunder Bay Counselling Centre, Pia Heikkinen, CHOICES Program Coordinator, Sheri Fata, Manager of Education and Support Services, Thunder Bay Counselling Centre

The CHOICES Program is a free, social skills program for youth aged 12-17 that encourages young people to think and act positively, build self-esteem and learn valuable life skills in a safe environment. This 10-week group program is offered through UTurn, a partnership between three organizations (Thunder Bay Counselling Centre, Children's Centre Thunder Bay, and St. Joseph's Care Group). Topics include communication, decision making, goal setting, and self-respect to name a few. Sessions are led by community mentors, providing youth with someone to look up to and be a positive role model.

The CHOICES Program is for young people who may be experiencing difficulties at home, school, or in the community. Young people who are at risk may have difficulties such as antisocial behaviour, anger and frustration, truancy, peer pressure, running away, substance use, shoplifting and vandalism. The youth practise life skills and learn healthy refusal strategies so they can cope with outside influences at school and in their communities.

The CHOICES Program teaches youth the difference between right and wrong to help them make positive life choices as they grow into adults. Unfortunately, making the right choices is not always easy or straight forward. As a result CHOICES youth have access to a variety of mental health and addictions services offered through UTurn if desired.

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OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PROJECT

DIE ACTIVE YOUTH ART COLLECTIVE



L-R; Jayal Chung-Die Active member, Kristin Jorgenson-Die Active member, Lora Northway-Youth Outreach Coordinator, Elizabeth Buset-Die Active member and Mentor Artist, boy Roland-Die Active member and Mentor Artist.

Die Active is a youth art collective established by Definitely Superior Art Gallery in 2009. The Collective focuses on mentoring and supporting local and regional youth artists by supporting traditional and alternative art practices through educational workshops and mentorship opportunities as well as exhibitions, publications, art sales and public art works. Since its inception, the collective has amassed over 650+ members aged 14-30, and is the largest art collective in Canada.

Die Active strengthens community safety by empowering youth to contribute and reshape the cultural landscape of Thunder Bay. Through collaborative projects and programming, youth are shown how individual creative efforts can help to make Thunder Bay a more cultured, empathetic and beautiful place to live.

Die Active has been creating public artworks, interventions and performances for over six years. One of its most successful public art projects is its creation of over 20+ large scale street art murals. Unlike graffiti, these murals are produced legally and created with the conscious intent to reinvigorate, celebrate and beautify Thunder Bay. Partnering with local businesses and neighbourhoods, established artists work directly with young and emerging artists, to design and paint each mural. The process is collaborative, educational and evolves to accommodate individual talents and ideas. The murals contribute to community safety by fostering community pride, beautifying the downtown core and curbing illegal graffiti practices by providing legal and free spray painting projects. The content of the murals celebrates diversity, understanding and community.

Die Active has a strong history of community partnerships focused on building a stronger and safer Thunder Bay.



Proud to support the



**Congratulations to
all the nominees!**

Union Gas is proud of our commitment to the safety of the communities we serve. Together, we're helping to make a positive difference.



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THUNDER BAY HYDRO

Proud to sponsor the Mayor's Community Safety Awards for 2015.

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.

