



Block Parent[®] Program of Canada Inc. Communiqué

Spring/Summer 2016

Symposium and AGM

The Annual Symposium and AGM for 2016 was held in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The Symposium was preceded by the Winnipeg Block Parent[®] Program's AGM on Thursday evening. This was a very special event. At the AGM, service award pins were presented to their long serving volunteers. While not all of the volunteers being recognized for their service to the Block Parent[®] Program were able to attend the AGM, there were a total of 17 volunteers receiving a certificate and service award pin for 35 years of service to the Program and 39 volunteers received a certificate and service award pin recognizing their 40 years of being a Block Parent[®] volunteer. These are truly remarkable milestones for the Winnipeg Block Parent[®] Program.

The recipients of the 35 year service award pin are:

Bill and Lorraine Helgason, Ernie and Joan Ewasko, Frank and Joan Boone, Louise Bromley, Norman and Bella Wolk, Jenna Cutts and Wayne and Jennie Scott.



Recipients of 35 year service award pin pictured above with Linda Patterson, President BPPCI on the left.

The recipients of the 40 year service award pin are:

Andre & Adele Blondeau, Mel & Joanne Chesley, Giovanni & Tomasina De Negri, Cathy Dickie, Bob & Doreen Humenchuk, David & Lynn Kemp, Lionel & Bea Kuran, Maurice Mazerolle and Bill Sydor.

The BPPCI Symposium began on Friday morning with a number of presentations that prompted considerable discussion among the delegates.

Canadian Centre for Child Protection – presented by Graham Milliken

This is a non-profit organization that provides 4 National programs.

The National programs are: 1) cybertip! ca 2) missing kids.ca 3) commit to kids 4) kids in the know

Cybertip! ca

- receives and analyzes tips from the public concerning child pornography and child abuse images
- most of the children are under 8 years of age
- involves on-line luring and travelling to sexually exploit children through prostitution
- the centre receives 3000 reports/month and to date have processed 125,000 reports from Canadians
- 50% of the reports are forwarded to law enforcement
- 82% of the reports involve children under the age of 12
- 83% of the images are female
- 35% of all images showed serious sexual assaults
- teaches children about personal safety and telling a safe adult about being abused or sexually assaulted
- youth 11-17 remain at risk of exploitation due to a) sexually curious b) inexperienced c) rebellious, vulnerable to flattery d) victimized under the guise of a relationship
- there has been a marked increase in reporting of 12-17 year olds
- cybertip!.ca alert – notifications sent out to inform the public concerning technology trends and new resources designed to increase children's personal safety

Missing Kids

- 40,000 children reported
- 80-85% are runaways
- stranger abduction is quite rare – generally for a sexual purpose and often ends badly
- parental abductions more common
- when a child/youth goes missing it increases their chances of being exploited
- child sexual abuse is a widespread problem – in a vast majority of cases the child/youth victim knows the offender
- the offender is not a stranger
- prevention education – schools play a vital role – if a child discloses sexual abuse it will be to an adult they feel is safe

Commit to Kids

- set protocols of what is and isn't acceptable

Kids in the Know

- interactive safety
- integrates lessons on sexual exploitation and personal safety
- incorporates personal safety around technology
- 3 C's of safety 1) content – violent and sexual 2) contact – building a relationship on-line 3) conduct – public nature and permanence of the internet – can never get it back
- importance of seeking help – child doesn't want to lose access to the internet
- resources – the door that is not locked – one stop shopping for adults interested in learning ways to keep kids safe on the internet
- user friendly and empowering

There are several booklets available from the Canadian Centre for Child Protection that address child/youth safety.

- 1) Smartphone – a guide for parents/guardians
- 2) The Door that's not Locked – safety and the internet – a guide for parents of children 8 to 9 years of age
- 3) The Door that's not Locked – safety and the internet – a guide for parents of children 10 to 12 years of age
- 4) The Door that's not Locked – safety and the internet – a guide for parents of children 13 to 15 years of age
- 5) Parenting Tweens and Teens in the Digital World

For more information about the Canadian Centre for Child Protection please visit their website at www.protectchildren.ca.

Winnipeg Police Service – presented by Patrol Sergeant Phil Penner

- stranger danger – 90% of predators are known to the victim – a large part are familial
- a predator spends time grooming the victim
- a teacher is a trusted person – kids safe area
- a lot of crimes are unreported
- even though police videotape a child victim interview – the child still has to answer questions under oath in court
- it is difficult to have someone placed on the child abuse register if not convicted
- it is not illegal to take pictures at parks, pools etc. – still call police to report the activity so it can be documented in the system

Neighbourhood Watch

- neighbourhood watch in an area – crime reports go up because people are more aware
- some insurance companies give 10% discount if you are involved in Neighbourhood Watch
- see it, say it – record accurate description and/or license plate numbers
- don't assume someone else will call police
- most importantly – do not put yourself at risk

911

When to call 911;

- 1) any crime in progress e.g. break and enter, robbery
- 2) any situation where people or property are at risk e.g. fire, children on ice
- 3) any medical emergency e.g. heart attack, accidental poisoning

- 3 worst enemies of a burglar – time, light and noise
- most common major crime committed is break and enter
- how long does the average break and enter take (in and out) – less than 3 minutes
- almost half of all break and enters occur through an unlocked door

Operations of the Block Parent® Program of Winnipeg – presented by Ryan Sereda

A demonstration was made of the application that uses Google Earth to show all the Block Parent® homes and Business Block Parent® locations in Winnipeg.

It also identifies incidents that have occurred in the area. Information is imported from Google Alerts into the map. There is no cost to develop the map.

Member to Member Sharing

PSQI

– will be celebrating their 40th anniversary in June and Linda Patterson will be attending

Manitoba Block Parent® Program

- requests have been made to start up Programs
- the impact of police checks continues to present a problem
- some RCMP locations only do police checks one day a week

Alberta Block Parent® Association

- Alberta has an organization (Volunteer Alberta) that pays for police checks but each individual Program has to apply
- the organization may be in other provinces as well
- RCMP will no longer screen 12 year olds – the privacy act has impacted the screening policy
- BPPCI policy should be updated to reflect the screening policy of the local police
- ABPA had the largest number of Programs attending their AGM ever
- there has been increased interest and enthusiasm in the Program

BPPCI

- have been contacted by Windy Willows Pet Services (Rachelle Buckle) to help promote dog bite prevention across Canada
- 4 modules have been created to teach children under 6 about a dog's body language so they won't get bitten
- the Program is being launched in Woodbridge, Ontario in June
- the search for a National sponsor continues
- The Co-operators had been a National sponsor for 15 years but has changed their focus to distracted drivers

Future of the Block Parent® Program

- there continues to be interest in the Block Parent® Program
- communities are being established or re-established
- a new 40 year service pin is now available at a cost of \$ 8.00 each
- due to rising production costs the 10,15,20,25,30 and 35 year service pins will now cost \$ 6.00 each; the 5 year service pin will cost \$ 4.00 each
- local community Programs should approach the United Way in their community for possible funding

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016-2017

The Board of Directors for 2016-2017 are:

President: Linda Patterson
Secretary: Position Available
Director: Position Available

Vice-President: Michael Byrne
Director: Francine Chartrand

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Director: Ryan Sereda

SENIOR'S SAFETY TIPS

Falls in the home are considered one of the most common reasons why thousands of older adults are hospitalized each year. As an individual ages, their level of activity decreases. Some of the leading causes that have an impact on seniors falling are as follows:

- The environment within an individual's home becomes hazardous (i.e. electrical cords, throw rugs).
- An individual may begin to witness various physical changes (i.e. decreased mobility, memory loss, deteriorated vision and hearing).
- Medication prescribed for health reasons may have some side effects that cause an individual to become dizzy or disoriented.
- Many individuals put themselves at risk by trying to complete household tasks that they now have difficulty completing (i.e. shoveling snow).

Safety Tips to make your household a safe and hazard free environment

- Ensure that you install proper lighting in your home. Have light switches located at both ends of the stairway and hallway. Plug-in night-lights where needed, specifically between the bedroom and bathroom.
- Have at least one handrail (preferably two) located by all stairways. Make sure that it is securely attached.
- Check all stairs to ensure that they are slip-resistant, and mark the edges of steps with a contrasting coloured strip so not to miss a step and fall.
- Keep high traffic areas such as hallways and stairs clear from clutter and any electrical cords. Avoid the use of throw rugs as they can cause individuals to slip.
- For outside steps make sure you take the proper precautions and arrange to have any leaves, snow or ice removed on a regular basis.
- Install grab bars in your bathroom by the toilet, bathtub and shower for extra support. Place a bench in your bathtub or shower so you are able to get in and out effectively and efficiently.
- Place rubber mats in your bath tub, and non-slip mats beside the tub to prevent falls when wet.
- Wear proper footwear that will provide you with support. Avoid using loose slippers and stockings.
- Use safe walking devices if necessary, for extra support. Check with your health care provider to see what would best suite your needs.
- Make sure that you have smoke and carbon monoxide detectors operating effectively in every area in the house.

Thanks to Canada Safety Council for providing information on Senior's Safety!

2017 SYMPOSIUM AND AGM

The location of the 2017 Symposium and AGM will be held in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Once the dates have been finalized the details will be sent to the Provincial Programs.