



The Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries is a non-profit organization that actively participates in building and strengthening our community through research, analysis, facilitation and education, fostering innovation and positive social change

www.socialplanningcouncil-cnd.org

Poverty Symposium Focuses on Youth

The Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries held its 6th Poverty Symposium on May 31st 2011 at Forward Baptist Church. This annual event provided an opportunity to explore timely and pressing issues related to the health and well-being of our community. This year, the focus of the Symposium was “Youth in Transition”, and examined issues such as poverty, homelessness, gang involvement, and unemployment among youth, and highlighted dynamic and innovative programs and organizations locally and in neighbouring communities. Approximately 70 people from social services agencies, government, the private sector, and interested community members as well as 10 presenters gathered to learn, discuss and to begin to formulate collective community responses to unique challenges facing youth today.



For full 2011 Poverty Symposium proceedings see www.sociaplanningcouncil-cnd.org

‘Becoming an Age Friendly Community’ Forum

For more than a year, SPCCND has been involved in several initiatives focused on making Cambridge a more “age friendly” community. Most recently, this has involved conducting a community needs assessment. This spring, 12 focus groups took place at diverse locations throughout Cambridge- at community centres, day programs, apartment buildings, agencies and churches. In addition, surveys were filled out as well as interviews conducted with service providers. On June 22nd, a community forum highlighted key themes that emerged in the community consultations. The findings were presented followed by a session brainstorming ways to address the needs of all seniors. A full report of the project will be released in the fall.

Watch for new
Demographic Profiles!

**Persons with Disabilities
Youth**

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Neighbourhoods in Action!

The **Cultural Engagement Project** is a joint undertaking between the SPCCND and four Cambridge Neighbourhood Organizations. With generous support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Region of Waterloo, the aim of this project is to build leadership skills among young women, encourage civic participation, and promote intercultural understanding among residents living within the catchment areas of the Alison Neighbourhood Community Centre, Kinbridge Community Association, Greenway Chaplin Community Centre, and the Fiddlesticks Neighbourhood Association.

This spring saw a number of events where people of all ages had the opportunity to get together, have fun and display their aptitudes and abilities. For example, at the April 16th **Multicultural Fair** residents of the Alison neighbourhood learned about the different cultures in their neighbourhood and sampled some delicious food offerings from 7 different destinations from around the world including: Pakistan, Portugal, Poland, India, Columbia, Serbia and Ecuador. There were lots of exciting activities as well including demonstrations of dance, henna painting, and a Bouncy Castle for the kids.

The recently held **Strawberry Social** at the Fiddlesticks Community Centre was a wonderful time for folks in that neighbourhood to socialize, play games, enjoy a North American style barbeque and sample exciting new food dishes as well.

Other events are in the planning stages and will be reported in the next edition of the SPCCND newsletter.



Local News

Federal Election Voter Turnout

In the May 2nd federal election, voter turnout nationwide was 61.4 percent, up from 58.8 in 2008. Kitchener–Waterloo had the highest turnout in the region, with 70 percent. Kitchener Centre had a voter turnout of 62.9 percent, slightly above the national average.

Other local ridings had turnouts below the country-wide average. In Kitchener-Conestoga, turnout was 60.9 per cent. In the Cambridge North Dumfries riding, turnout was 59 per cent.

(Source: The Record)

Residents of North Dumfries

We want to know what you think about
YOUR COMMUNITY!

Why complete the survey?

- Help us fill in the gaps of knowledge about access to health care and other services in North Dumfries
 - Help us learn what is important to Township residents
- Help us learn what services and programs residents would like to see in their community
 - You know your community best!

To complete the survey go to:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/NorthDumfries

For questions or more information contact Julia at:

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Provincial & National News

2009 Figures Show Growth Rate of Poverty in Ontario the Highest of All Regions in Canada since 2007 Election

Statistics Canada figures released this week show that Ontario's poverty rate increased to 13.1% in 2009, a growth rate of 17% since the 2007 provincial election year

"Using the province's official low income poverty measure, Ontario's poverty rate of 13.1% is slightly below the Canadian average of 13.3%," comments Peter Clutterbuck, Co-ordinator of SPNO's Poverty Free Ontario campaign, "The rate of Ontario's poverty growth, however, has increased the highest of all other regions of Canada since 2007." A total of 1,689,00 Ontarians in 2009 lived in poverty, which is 277,000 more than in 2007.

While the rate of poverty growth by age group is lowest among children at 3.5%, Poverty Free Ontario notes that the proportion of working age adults (18 to 64 years old) living in poverty increased from 11.2% to 13.4%, a growth rate of 19.6%. Ontarians 65 years and older also show an extremely high poverty growth rate of 41.9% since 2007, although the overall proportion of seniors in poverty still remains below 9%.

Poverty levels in Ontario among unattached males (24.1%) and unattached females (25.0%) remain exceptionally high. Among the population living alone unattached elderly women have fallen into poverty at the highest rate since 2007 (20.1%).

Considering the latest poverty figures, Janet Gasparini, SPNO Chairperson, comments, "Although measures to end child and family poverty need to be maintained and strengthened, the rate of poverty among working age adults, seniors and adults living alone is entrenched and growing rapidly. A comprehensive strategy to end poverty among all parts of the population is sorely needed to stem and reverse this direction."

The Poverty Free Ontario campaign aims to make the commitment to end poverty for all Ontarians an important part of the policy debate in the upcoming provincial election.

(Source: Poverty Free Ontario, www.povertyfreeontario.ca)



A new face at SPCCND

Julia Oliver is a fourth year student at Mount Allison University in New Brunswick where she is pursuing an honours degree in Sociology with a minor in French. Originally from Ottawa, she has moved to Cambridge for the summer where she is very happy to be working for the Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries. During her time at the SPCCND she will be working on the North Dumfries Community Needs and Capacity Assessment. While working with the SPCCND, Julia hopes to gain a more thorough understanding of the development of social policy. She is also very interested in community-based research and is looking forward to furthering her research skills. Her ambition is to continue her education through a Master's in Women's Studies and Sociology.

Welcome Julia!

Upcoming Event

Provincial All Candidates Meeting
Cambridge Islamic Centre
Thursday September 15th, 2011, 7pm

Information Cambridge and North Dumfries

Information Cambridge and North Dumfries is in the process of its annual summer update. Almost all of the community services and organization records in the Information CND database require updating in the summer months. The majority of all record owners are being contacted to ensure all information is current and accurate. The site is also being re-vamped in order to be more user-friendly.

Records are in the process of being formatted to so that the local 211 service can access the records of Information CND. There will also soon be a new, more visible link for Information CND on the SPCCND website to provides more ease of access. SPCCND is currently creating new ways to promote and expand community-based Information CND. There will be more updates on this initiative in the fall.

SPCCND *In the News*

"Youth Poverty Topic of Forum", Cambridge Times, May 19th

"Unlocking Potential for Youths", Cambridge Times, June 1st

Senior Poverty Growing Concern, Cambridge Times, June 20th

"Symposium puts a face to homeless youth", The Record, May 31st

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