

provide injury prevention assessments, arrange for safety devices and installations and provide ongoing education.

Download the report at [www.oninjuryresources.ca](http://www.oninjuryresources.ca) or [www.algomapublichealth.com](http://www.algomapublichealth.com). Contact Sharon Vanderburg for more information at [svanderburg@algomapublichealth.com](mailto:svanderburg@algomapublichealth.com)

## One on One Mentoring expands in Toronto

Now in its 11th year, Toronto Public Health's One on One Mentoring program continues to expand into city schools, with more than 45 taking part.

The program's goal is to foster resiliency in children, enabling them to better deal with life's pressures and difficulties. Adult volunteers (now more than 125 strong) are matched with school-age children (650 to date) to spend one lunch hour a week together at the child's school.

Research has shown that children involved in mentoring programs are: 53% less likely to skip school, 27% less likely to begin to use alcohol and 46% less likely to begin to use illegal drugs (Big Sisters Big Brothers Ottawa, 2004). A report produced by Resiliency Canada cited that "youth that have caring families, positive peer relationships, supportive schools and compassionate commu-

nities tend to cope with adversity more effectively than youth who do not experience these extrinsic factors."

Here is an excerpt from an interview with a 19-year-old who had a mentor for about five years during elementary school. He has completed high school and is working full time. "My work experience includes working in day camps for 4 years and I've also volunteered with the Out of the Cold program for the last two years. In my opinion, the One on One Mentoring Program 'prevents kids from going in the wrong path' and through my association with Brian, I want to thank him for helping me find 'the right path.' Thank you Brian, for all the time you spent with me and for being my friend."

For information about the program, contact Fulvia Canzian, Program Supervisor, at 416-338-7943 or visit [www.toronto.ca/health/one\\_index.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/health/one_index.htm)



Hosted by SMARTRISK, with funding and in collaboration with the Ontario Public Health Association and the Government of Ontario  
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## ONTARIO STAKEHOLDERS

NEWS  
SEPT/OCT. 2007

### Featuring...

- We're moving to e-mail.....
- Injury strategy released.....
- Training opportunities offered
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### We're going electronic: this is last paper OSN

The November/December 2007 issue of Ontario Stakeholders News will be sent in an electronic format only: this is the last paper issue. Get set for a redesigned newsletter, which will be easier to view onscreen or to print out.

If you have not already switched your subscription to e-mail and you wish to continue getting OSN, e-mail us at [osn-subscribe@oninjuryresources.ca](mailto:osn-subscribe@oninjuryresources.ca). We'll make sure you don't miss an issue.

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## Ontario launches injury prevention strategy

The Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion launched an injury prevention strategy on Aug. 8, the first of its kind in the province, designed to "reduce the frequency, severity and impact of preventable injury in Ontario." The ministry says its strategy "represents our first steps to strengthen everyday efforts across sectors that are helping make Ontario a safer place." See [www.mph.gov.on.ca](http://www.mph.gov.on.ca) for information.

It will spend about \$2 million in 2007-2008 on initiatives including these:

- Ontario Safe Sport Helmet Initiative, partnering with ThinkFirst Foundation to provide helmets to low-income youth;
- Ontario Children's Rural Safety Program, partnering with Safe Kids Canada to help prevent farm-related injuries to children;
- Community-Based Injury Prevention Mobilization initiative, partnering with Safe Communities Canada to expand into communities at high risk of injury;
- Support will be given to the Ontario Public Health Association's injury prevention projects, including the Ontario Injury Prevention Resource Centre services provided by SMARTRISK.

## Free training available from Resource Centre

Ontario's injury prevention practitioners can choose from a variety of training opportunities this fall, all offered free of charge through the Ontario Injury Prevention Resource Centre.

- Ask about obtaining **customized one-day workshops** for your group of injury prevention practitioners. Workshop content will be tailored to the needs of participants. Topics might include evaluation issues, proposal writing, how to set injury priorities and best practices. For information about arranging an onsite workshop in your area, contact Kelly Cimek ([kcimek@smartrisk.ca](mailto:kcimek@smartrisk.ca); 416-596-2720).

- The **SMARTRISK Learning Series**, a teleconference series offered free to Ontario practitioners, will offer online registration at a new website this fall. There you will find resources, course materials and an easy registration process.

Watch for brochures arriving in health units announcing this year's curriculum sessions. For information, contact Nadja Gale ([learning@oninjuryresources.ca](mailto:learning@oninjuryresources.ca) or 416-596-2704).

- The **Canadian Falls Prevention**

**Curriculum** (CFPC) is a new two-day course being offered as a satellite session to the Canadian Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Conference in Toronto on Nov. 14-15, 2007. The course will increase knowledge and understanding of how to select, design, implement, and evaluate evidence-based, multisectoral falls prevention programs for seniors. This course is free to public health practitioners in Ontario. For more information, contact Kelly Cimek ([kcimek@smartrisk.ca](mailto:kcimek@smartrisk.ca); 416-596-2720).

- The **Canadian Injury Prevention and Control Curriculum** will be offered in two formats, also at the national conference in Toronto. The 2.5-day Nov. 9-11 workshop is for practitioners who have never taken the curriculum. The Nov. 14-15 workshop will train course graduates as curriculum facilitators. These courses are free to Ontario public health practitioners, but space is limited so register early. For information, contact Nadja Gale ([learning@oninjuryresources.ca](mailto:learning@oninjuryresources.ca) or 416-596-2704).

## Creating safer homes evaluated in Algoma

Algoma Public Health has released a detailed evaluation of its Creating Safer Homes Project. The project involved 69

households with children aged 0-6 years, who were part of the Healthy Babies Healthy Children long-term home visiting program. Families received home safety assessments and then had safety devices provided and installed for them, based on the assessment results.

The evaluation found that providing and installing these safety devices resulted in injury prevention benefits reported by home visitors and participating families. Specifically,

- There was a decrease in self-reported injuries by families at 12-month follow-up
- Families reported consistent use of the safety devices.
- Self reporting from families and home visitors indicated that the program increased interest in learning about injury prevention, reduced barriers to their addressing other needs, and increased opportunities for dialogue about supervision and injury prevention.

The research suggests that existing home visiting programs such as Healthy Babies Healthy Children offer a receptive vehicle for interested and eager families to participate in this kind of intervention. And the home visitor role carried out by family support workers was an ideal vehicle to