

# Ontario Injury spotlight

*A newsletter for injury prevention practitioners in Ontario*

MAY - JUNE 2009

From the Centre

**Final Spotlight  
newsletter**

From the Field

**Being Visible, Safe,  
Alcohol liability**

Resources

**Posters, Resources  
Brain injury forum**

Our Partners in Action

**Helmet input,  
Safe Kids Week**

Ontario Injury Compass

**Pedestrians,  
Venomous plants**

Calendar

**Concussion seminar  
BIAC conference**

## From the Centre

### This is last issue of Spotlight newsletter

This is the final issue of the *Ontario Injury Spotlight*, due to a funding reduction. Information and updates from the Ontario Injury Prevention Resource Centre will be made available on the [Resource Centre website](http://www.oninjuryresources.ca).

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed information over the years for the Spotlight. Check the website regularly and feel free to get in touch with Resource Centre staff by email at [info@oninjuryresources.ca](mailto:info@oninjuryresources.ca) or call (416) 977-7350 or 1-888-537-7777.

## From the Field

### Injury prevention is "visible" in Halton

Under the theme of *Be Visible, Be Certified*, the Canadian Red Cross, Safe Communities Canada, Safe Kids Canada, SMARTRISK and ThinkFirst Canada, are bringing a variety of injury prevention activities to Halton Region during May. SMARTRISK presents Heroes over three weeks in Burlington, Oakville and Milton; Safe Communities is working with the Red Cross to cover the cost of first aid training for 100 youth; Safe Kids Week launches on May 25 (see article in this issue); and ThinkFirst will hold a concussion seminar (see Calendar).

### Be Safe, Be Seen in Oxford County

The Southwest Injury Prevention Network is launching an initiative in May through the region, urging people to ensure they can be seen by drivers when they are walking, cycling or engaged in other activities. The group notes that 156 pedestrians were treated in the London Health Sciences Centre over the last five years for severe injuries while walking to work, playing with friends, cycling and other healthy lifestyle choices.

The group wants people to continue to be active but encourages the use of appropriate gear, including helmets, light/brightly coloured clothes, reflective gear and appropriate lights. Each area of the southwest will incorporate *Be Safe Be Seen* in their own ways, including in physical activity promotions, at health fairs, with walking groups, seniors groups and the like, and by distributing reflective armbands.

For more information, contact SWIPN chair, Jane Harrington at 519-685-8500 ext. 56041 or email [Jane.Harrington@lhsc.on.ca](mailto:Jane.Harrington@lhsc.on.ca)

### Golf and rec centres learn about liability

A leading Canadian legal expert on alcohol liability notes that golf courses face a unique

challenge because golf carts are the only motorized vehicles people are permitted to drive while drinking, yet there are significant risks to doing so. That revelation came during an address by University of Western Ontario law professor and Director of Legal Policy for MADD Canada, Robert Solomon.

Prof. Solomon spoke to nearly 70 participants at a workshop organized by the Perth District Health Unit and the Huron County Health Unit, as a means to educate golf courses, recreational facilities and service clubs on the realities of alcohol sales and service. Attendees were reminded of their rights, powers and obligations under the Liquor Licence Act and educated on how a provider of alcohol or occupier of property can be faced with a civil suit. The many questions included how to best support front-line staff and how to deal with over-drinking at bachelor parties.

Professor Solomon presented risk minimization strategies, including the importance of creating policies that are consistently enforced and not just given "lip service." While designated driver programs can help to prevent impaired driving, businesses need to be aware that they are responsible for an intoxicated person until they become sober, not just until they arrive home.

Prof. Solomon summed up by noting that the main concern should be saving lives, not saving money. Thanks to Annette Hoyles of the Perth health unit ([ahoyles@pdhu.on.ca](mailto:ahoyles@pdhu.on.ca)) for this report.



Ontario Injury Prevention  
Resource Centre

790 Bay St.  
Suite 401  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5G 1N8

Tel: 416-977-7350  
Toll-free: 1-888-537-7777  
[info@oninjuryresources.ca](mailto:info@oninjuryresources.ca)  
[www.oninjuryresources.ca](http://www.oninjuryresources.ca)

## Resources

### Posters, cards for drink-driving change

In order to raise awareness of new drinking and driving “warn range” sanctions that come into effect in Ontario on May 1, the Ministry of Transportation has developed information cards and posters, which are being distributed through ServiceOntario.

Beginning May 1, drivers whose blood alcohol concentration registers from .05 to .08 on a roadside breath test will lose their driver’s licences for three to 30 days. Drivers caught more than once face mandatory alcohol education programs and ignition interlock. For more information, contact the Ministry’s Lenni Eubanks at 416-253-5118 or email [lenni.eubanks@ontario.ca](mailto:lenni.eubanks@ontario.ca). Also, visit the website at [www.ontario.ca/drivesober](http://www.ontario.ca/drivesober).

### Safe Kids Canada offers IP resources

Safe Kids Canada and the Ministry of Health Promotion announced that public health units now have access to a number of injury prevention resources, free of charge. The resources include a home safety guide; a booster seat resource; ages and stages fact sheets; farm safety resources, including tractor posters, a radio public service announcement and the North American Guidelines for Children’s Agricultural Tasks booklet; a pedestrian safety brochure; and a fact sheet on helmets.

To order resources, contact Christiane Mitchell at 1-888-SAFE-TIP or email [christiane.mitchell@sickkids.ca](mailto:christiane.mitchell@sickkids.ca).

### Online brain injury forum launched

A new brain injury virtual community has been launched, created by and for survivors of brain injury, their families and advocates. Based out of Ontario, the actively moderated forum aims to attract members from throughout Canada and around the world. The forum is designed to be used by survivors, family members, advocates and professionals as a way of holding a dialogue in a supportive environment and to share experiences to benefit others.

Join for free at [www.braininjuryforum.com](http://www.braininjuryforum.com)

## Our Partners in Action

### Health Canada seeks input on helmets

Health Canada is inviting input on its proposal to implement legally binding controls on the advertising, sale and import of ski and snowboarding helmets, based on the newly developed Canadian Standards Association standard. Currently, snow sport helmets are not regulated in Canada.

Health Canada notes that while it can mandate that helmets meet certain safety criteria, such as the new CSA standard, it has no jurisdiction to require that helmets be worn during recreational activities. Only municipalities or provinces can choose to pass legislation requiring helmets, although Health Canada adds it “intends to encourage these authorities, in addition to other stakeholders, such as ski hill operators, to require the use of these helmets when people participate in these sports.”

See the [letter from Health Canada](#) and submit comments by June 1. Also, see the [Consumer Product Safety](#) section of the Health Canada website to stay informed on this initiative.

### Product safety focus of Safe Kids Week

This year’s Safe Kids Week campaign, May 25-31, focuses on consumer product safety with a policy emphasis on promoting Bill C-6: *An Act Respecting the Safety of Consumer Products*.

Safe Kids Canada notes consumer product injuries are common, often serious and sometimes fatal. Yet most Canadians believe products for sale in Canada are safe or have been tested for safety. However, under the current Hazardous Product Act, many consumer products, including for kids, do not have to meet any standards or regulations. Health Canada can often only address consumer product safety concerns on a retroactive case-by-case basis, resulting in delays in removing dangerous products from the market. Due to a lack of recall powers, it is limited to issuing public warnings about dangerous products and trying to persuade manufacturers to take corrective actions.

Safe Kids Canada calls on people to write letters of support for Bill C-6 to their MPs. Template letters are available at its [website](#).

## Calendar

### SMARTRISK Learning Series: Alcohol and Violence: Raising the Bar Teleconference, May 5, 10 a.m.

Jointly facilitated by the Alcohol Policy Network and Ontario Injury Prevention Resource Centre and presented by Dr. Kathryn Graham of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

Register [online](#).

### Halton Concussion Seminar Burlington, May 9

Organized by Burlington Eagles Hockey Club and ThinkFirst Canada, for trainers, coaches, teachers, therapists, players and parents. Speakers include neurosurgeons, hockey coaches, a sports newscaster and a former professional hockey player.

Register with name, phone and email by May 2 to: [smokeater@sympatico.ca](mailto:smokeater@sympatico.ca)

### The Brain Injury Association of Canada, 6th Annual Conference, Pierrefonds, Que., July 10-12

Attend informative sessions by brain injury professionals and survivors who have walked the walk.

Details are at the [website](#).

### Highlights from the Ontario Injury Compass

#### March: Pedestrian injuries

Transport-related pedestrian injuries resulted in 6,708 emergency department visits and 967 hospitalizations in Ontario during 2005-2006. Teenagers 15-19 had the highest rates of emergency department visits, whereas adults over 70 years of age were most commonly hospitalized. Prevention strategies include traffic calming and safety education for pedestrians.

#### April: Venomous plants and animals

Injuries due to contact with venomous plants or animals led to 13,607 emergency department visits and 125 hospitalizations in Ontario during 2005-2006. The highest rate of emergency visits was in the southwest region of Ontario. Prevention tips include getting tested for bee sting allergies, avoiding strong scents and bright colours and keeping garbage away.

Each month, the Ontario Injury Compass provides statistics and prevention tips on specific injury topics to practitioners in Ontario. To subscribe to the Ontario Injury Compass electronically, or to read back issues, visit [www.oninjuryresources.ca](http://www.oninjuryresources.ca)