



# BOARD REPORT

Friday September 18, 2009



Medical Officer of Health

## REPORT TO THE BOARD

Friday September 18, 2009

### **Report on Public Health**

The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care released their first Report on Public Health in Ontario on August 21 2009. The report is prefaced with the following:

“The government of Ontario is committed to renewing and revitalizing Ontario's Public Health System. As part of this renewal, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is developing a performance management system for public health that will address local and provincial performance, accountability and sustainability.

As a first step towards the new performance management system, the Public Health Division has produced the *Initial Report on Public Health*. This report provides a snapshot of Ontario's public health sector; it provides an overview of the scope of public health and profiles the local operational context of public health program and service delivery. It is a beginning to understanding the current work of public health and will inform the development of a performance management system for public health.

While this report is not intended as a performance report, it does provide a status update on a range of indicators related to public health practice. The indicators in this report do not link directly with requirements or outcomes in the Ontario Public Health Standards.”

We are providing each board member with a CD containing the report and it is also easily accessed on line at:

[http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/pubhealth/init\\_report/index.html](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/pubhealth/init_report/index.html)

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is profiled and the indicators reported within the peer group of “mainly rural” Ontario health units. There are 11 health units in the group. The definition of the various peer groups was taken from Statistics Canada 2007 peer groups and are described in Appendix 1 on page 78 of the report.

We have done analysis for a few of the 'governance indicators' to see how we are doing in comparison with the peer group.

1. Board of Health Expenditures Per Capita

High	Low	Health Unit Average	Median
\$101/resident	\$58.30/resident	\$71.71/resident	\$66.70/resident

*Grey Bruce is the median health unit, of the 11 at \$66.70/resident.*

2. Population Per PHN

High	Low	Health Unit Average	Median
7008 residents/PHN	2465 residents/PHN	4354 residents/PHN	4177 residents/PHN

*Grey Bruce is at 4120 residents/PHN which is at the median.*

3. Population per PHI

High	Low	Median
28,461 residents/PHI	7,617 residents/PHI	10,118 residents/PHI

*Grey Bruce Health Unit is again at the median.*

Most of the population health indicators have been presented to the Board at various presentations and there are no surprises to us in the data that is presented in the report.

Eleven case studies have been included in the report to show how the 36 Ontario health units are dealing with different issues. Grey Bruce project "moving on" is included as case study 2 on page 33 of the report. A separate appendix is available on line with 163 additional submitted case studies from the Ontario Health Units. Grey Bruce has another 7 projects reported in that document. It can be found at the following link:

[http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/pubhealth/init\\_report/casestudies.html](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/pubhealth/init_report/casestudies.html)

Hazel Lynn

# PROGRAM REPORT SEPTEMBER 2009



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**OWEN SOUND**  
519-376-9420

30 Park Street, P.O. Box 248, Walkerton, ON N0G 2V0  
**WALKERTON**  
519-881-1920

WEBSITE: [www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca](http://www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca)

*Program Report* is issued on a monthly basis to inform our board and community partners of our activities.

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*The highlighted programs are featured in this issue...*

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**DIRECTOR, HEALTH PROMOTION: Maureen Handley**

**Lynda Bumstead**

Chronic Disease Prevention  
Early Detection of Cancer

**Sarah Ellis**

Healthy Babies  
Healthy Children

**Carrie Griffith**

Reproductive Health  
Child Health  
Oral Health Services

**Denna Leach**

Sexual Health  
Injury Prevention  
Substance Misuse Prevention

**Linda Davies**

Tobacco Projects  
Tobacco Control Act  
Tobacco By-law Enforcement

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**DIRECTOR, HEALTH PROTECTION: Chris Munn**

**Karen Sweiger**

Vaccine Preventable Diseases  
Rabies Control

**Andrew Barton**

Food Safety  
Health Hazard Investigation  
Emergency Planning

**Lou D'Alessandro**

Safe Water  
Environment

**Susan Shular**

Control of Infectious Diseases  
Pandemic Planning  
Vector Borne Diseases  
Tuberculosis Control

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## HEALTH HAZARDS

The recent well publicized increase in rattlesnake bites and subsequent shortfall of anti-venom in Ontario prompted a number of enquiries. As a result, we updated our website with the latest post-bite care information. The most useful advise we give is that these are not aggressive animals and, if left alone, unlikely to cause a problem.

More common and more likely to bite is the bedbug. It is well known to many following a couple of years of heightened activity. The number of complaints and enquiries has reduced significantly in the last quarter. However, this may not represent a reduction of the problem, but rather an increased level of knowledge on the part of those affected.

Another hot topic has been wind farms. Grey Bruce is home to a number of operational and planned wind farms. Concerns, including potential health effects as identified by a group of residents in the Ripley area, have been well documented in the media. The health unit is organizing two public forums set to run on October 1 and October 6, at which the prominent expert Dr. Ray Copes will present the issues from a public health perspective. Dr. Copes is the Director of Environmental and Occupational Health at the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion and the former Scientific Director of the National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health.

## CHLAMYDIA RATES CONTINUE TO RISE

Chlamydia remains the most commonly diagnosed and reported sexually transmitted infection (STI) in Canada, with rates increasing across the nation. The numbers for Grey Bruce are consistent with this trend. We are seeing a 25% increase (28 cases) in cases identified by mid-year 2009 compared to 2008.

Simplified testing methods may be contributing to the increases in cases being identified. Locally, campaigns targeting the at-risk population to seek testing by their health care providers are having an impact as we are seeing an increase in case finding by other health providers. The table illustrates the increasing trend in the proportion of cases identified by health care providers.

Year	Total positive Chlamydia	Positive Chlamydia tested by sexual clinics	Positive Chlamydia tested by other health care provider
2005	181	87	94
2006	137	49	88
2007	186	46	140
2008	234	76	158

Public health works cooperatively with health care providers to ensure contact tracing, counselling and treatment are provided for all reported cases. All family physicians, emergency room departments, nurse practitioners and midwives were given the new *Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections*. Over 600 pamphlets were distributed to health care providers explaining the follow up protocols.

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## SCHOOLS PREPARE FOR FALL FLU SEASON

Directors of the Bluewater District and the Bruce Grey Catholic District school boards met with Dr. Lynn and key health unit staff, August 11, to strategize how illness will be managed this fall within the schools in Grey Bruce. The goal is to work together to be prepared for what is anticipated to be a different flu season this year.

One major development is a more helpful and accurate surveillance of illness and resulting absenteeism in the schools. When a child is absent from school, parents will be asked to describe the symptoms. Two specific categories will be tracked; influenza-like illness symptoms and gastrointestinal symptoms. This information may provide early detection of outbreaks as outbreaks are often seen in the schools before spreading to the wider community.



The health unit will also be working with the school boards to provide timely and accurate information to families through school newsletters, take home flyers, etc.

The health unit has set up an H1N1 section on their web site and will post the most current information and resources as they become available.

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## SOURCE WATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Source Water Protection Committee has prepared a *Terms of Reference* for each of the Source Protection Areas outlining the steps to identify significant threats to drinking water and the course of action to protect these water sources. The *Terms of Reference* sets out who is responsible for carrying out the technical risk assessment and development of the initial *Risk Assessment Reports* and the final *Source Protection Plan*. It includes strategies to consult with potentially affected property owners, public involvement and dispute resolution.

Technical work for the *Risk Assessment Reports* is required by the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority, the lead Conservation Authority, by November 2009. Once the risks to drinking water sources are identified, the Committee will work with various groups to develop a *Source Protection Plan* to address these risks. Consultation will involve municipalities, conservation authorities, property owners, farmers, industry, businesses, community groups, public health officials, First Nations and the public. *Risk Assessment Reports* will be released for public consultation in the winter/spring of 2010.

The Ministry of the Environment has posted the *Source Protection Plans under the Clean Water Act, 2006: A Discussion Paper on Requirements for the Content and Preparation of Source Protection Plans* (reference document #010-6726) on the Environmental Bill of Rights website [www.ebr.gov.on.ca](http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca). The purpose is to stimulate discussion on source protection plans and how they will be developed. The Ministry will use the results of the discussion in developing the draft source protection plan regulations.




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## PARENTING EDUCATION

Dr. Charles Pascal, special advisor on early learning to Premier Dalton McGuinty, states that parents are “interested in the development of their children and [want] the skills to contribute to their children’s learning. . . research demonstrates that the most effective time to engage parents is when their children are young.” (*With Our Best Future in Mind: Implementing Early Learning in Ontario*, 2009)

Public health, along with other community partners, provides parenting education opportunities. So far in 2009, 305 individual consultations including telephone, email and office visits have occurred. Healthy Baby Centres, groups for families with babies 0-12 months, are offered in collaboration with the Ontario Early Year’s Centres in various locations; 727 parents have accessed these services this year.

Sixty-one parents have attended *Parents in Action* group sessions specifically designed to provide parenting skills and support. This program is offered jointly with Children’s Aid Society of Owen Sound and the County of Grey. Fall courses include a series at the Ontario Early Years Centre in Kincardine and a partnership with the Bruce Children’s Aid Society to provide a *Parents in Action* session.

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### TOBACCO ENFORCEMENT JANUARY – JUNE 2009

Tobacco enforcement efforts focused on educating, providing technical assistance for policy development and enforcement of infractions of the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* (SFOA) in workplaces. Certain sectors (taxi companies, building construction, trades) tend to generate the most complaints. An educational campaign designed to remind employers of their responsibilities was developed and implemented targeting high-risk employers, sector by sector. Packages are mailed or delivered in person to workplaces identified by complaints. We received and responded to 94 complaints from the public in this period.

Nature of Complaint	#
Smoking in enclosed workplace or public place	54
Tobacco vendor related	7
Smoking on school property	19
Other (drifting smoke in multi-unit dwellings; contraband, smoking at entrances to public buildings)	14

During this period, 47 warnings were issued and 52 charges brought under the SFOA. There were 25 cases before the courts resulting in 20 convictions (two tickets were quashed). Three young offenders are currently participating in our Informal Diversion Program and the charges will be withdrawn upon completion of their community service.



September 2009

Dear Board Member:

### **Building Healthy Communities**

Please accept this as your personal invitation to attend ***Building Healthy Communities***, a workshop looking at how the natural environment affects our health, the relationship between beautification and community identity and how to improve safety and security through environmental design. Feature speaker Dennis Wendland, greening consultant with the Evergreen Foundation of Canada, will talk about greening, naturalization, ecological restoration and beautification. Dennis will provide information on grant funding support for municipalities and strategies in engaging other community stakeholders. Ted Kitto from Owen Sound Police Services will discuss *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design* (CPTED), how design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in crime and improve the quality of life.

***Building Healthy Communities*** takes place Monday, October 19, at the Grey Bruce Health Unit, 101 17<sup>th</sup> Street East, Owen Sound.

A healthy community promotes optimal health and well-being. Residents' sense of belonging creates strong social networks vital for both individual and community growth. While each municipality has different characteristics and resources, building a healthy communities involves active participation of community members, elected officials, business leaders, school leaders and health representatives.

This workshop is designed to foster an understanding of how municipalities and public health can collectively create an environment that promotes optimum health for all residents.

Please see attached registration package, including a detailed agenda, for further information.

Dr. Hazel Lynn, Medical Officer of Health, Grey Bruce Health Unit

Ruth Lovell-Stanners, Mayor, City of Owen Sound

Bruce MacPherson, Superintendent, Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board

Mary Anne Alton, Superintendent, Bluewater District School Board



# *Building Healthy Communities*



*Monday, October 19, 2009  
Grey Bruce Health Unit  
101 17th Street East  
Owen Sound*

- 9:00 - 9:30      Registration
- 9:30 - 9:45      Opening Remarks - Dr. Lynn and Mayor Lovell Stanners
- 9:45 - 11:00     Keynote Speaker: Dennis Wendland - “What a Difference a Tree Makes”
- 11:00 - 11:15    Nutrition and Fitness Break
- 11:15 - 12:00    Police Presentation — Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
- 12:00 - 1:00     Lunch and Networking
- 1:00 - 2:00      Local Community Initiatives
- City of Owen Sound - Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
  - Town of the Blue Mountains—Shawn Everitt, Director of Recreation
  - Town of Hanover - Kathi Maskell, Mayor
  - Notre Dame Catholic School - Mike Bethune, Principal
- 2:00 - 2:45      Small Group Discussion
- 2:45 - 3:00      Closing Remarks and Evaluation

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## *Dennis Wendland—Evergreen School Ground Greening Consultant*

Currently, Dennis works as an Evergreen School Ground Greening Consultant, one of five in Ontario, working for Toyota/Evergreen Learning Grounds. Throughout his teaching career Dennis has been a classroom teacher, an Outdoor Education Resource teacher, an Environmental Studies Consultant and a Program and Instruction Coordinator. In the last six years, as an Evergreen Greening Design Consultant, Dennis has intensively supported over 60 school design plans and implemented \$1,000,000 worth of changes to local school grounds.

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# *Building Healthy Communities...*

*October 19, 2009*

*9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.*

*Building Healthy Communities*



## **Registration Form**

Complete and return this page by **OCTOBER 9th** to:

**Grey Bruce Health Unit**  
**101 17th Street East, Owen Sound ON N4K 0A5**  
**(519) 376-9420 ext 1237**  
**Email: [d.ruttan@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca](mailto:d.ruttan@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca)**  
**Fax: 519-376-6310**

*Name:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Title:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Organization:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Address:* \_\_\_\_\_

*City:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Province:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Postal Code:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Daytime Telephone:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Fax:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Email:* \_\_\_\_\_

*What is your field of work?* \_\_\_\_\_

*Special Dietary Requirements:* \_\_\_\_\_

