

TO: Board of Health

FROM: Dr. Lynn Noseworthy

SUBJECT: MOH Update

DATE: December 10, 2015

A. Personal Services Settings

Public Health Inspectors report an increase in the number of tattoo shops opening for business since the spring. Two shops in Bobcaygeon, one in Fenelon Falls and one in Minden have opened within a few months of each other. Public Health Inspectors in accordance with best practice inspect these shops without provincial legislation outlining legal requirements for infection control needs and operator responsibility.

Infection control practices are major components of the assessment of tattoo shops to reduce transmission risks of blood-borne disease. Invasive personal services settings (PSS) such as tattoo shops require extra attention and time for Public Health Inspectors to mitigate risk to the public by ensuring operators have adequate infection control practices in place.

Ontario has no legislation governing infection control practices in PSS. The Ontario Public Health Standards mandate one inspection per year similar to that of a hair salon. The Infection Prevention and Control in Personal Services Settings Protocol, 2015 outlines best infection control practices to guide inspector activities.

B. Emergency Preparedness Program

The Basic Emergency Management Course provides an overview of emergency management in Ontario including the systems and processes for preventing, mitigating, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies and disasters. HKPR staff learned about the key provisions of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* and had the opportunity to identify the roles and responsibilities of various levels of government and other key organizations involved in emergency management.

C. Kawartha Lakes Food Coalition Food Security Working Group

The Kawartha Lakes Food Coalition (KLFC) is a community-based collaboration that represents the City of Kawartha Lakes (CKL) community, individuals, organizations and stakeholders, with an interest in the food system - from production to processing and distribution, through to consumption. The goal of KLFC is to implement the Kawartha Lakes Food Charter and the Kawartha Lakes Food Strategy (supplement to the MOH Update), to build a just and sustainable food system for everyone in Kawartha Lakes. Three Working Groups (Food Security Working Group, Growth and Sustainability Working Group, and the Regulatory Hurdles Working Group) form the heart of the Coalition as they represent teams of community members who work on implementing initiatives to address identified issues. This year the following activities took place by members of the Food Security working group through the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's Healthy Communities Fund (\$12,000) obtained by the HKPR District Health Unit for the Coalition:

- 1) Plant a Row Grow a Row Program – This program promotes community and farmer donations (tax deductible) of fresh vegetables and fruit to Food Source and Food Banks to help increase access to healthy food in CKL. The Coalition supported the program through funds for promotion, which helped with the donation of 4,752 pounds of produce to families in need.
- 2) Hosted a series of seven training workshops on food preservation and gardening to enhance the community’s knowledge and skills.
 - a. Train the Trainer Advanced Food Preservation: This workshop was geared towards organizations that offer or plan to offer cooking skill development programs in CKL. Eight organizations that work with youth and clients with mental health issues and low income attended the session.
 - b. Spring Jamming Workshop: This workshop was designed for individuals living in a low income situation.
 - c. Preserve Your Harvest Workshop: This workshop was organized for community gardeners.
 - d. Holiday Canning: Organized for community gardeners and food bank clients.
 - e. Two Herb and Vegetable Gardening Workshops: For the community at large, offered in partnership with Lindsay Master Gardeners.
- 3) Supported the development of the Kirkfield Library “Food Culture” Garden. The goal of this project is to develop an edible and educational garden that will empower individuals to grow/harvest and manage their own food.
- 4) Developed a Community Garden Video to showcase CKL Community Gardens and benefits of community gardening:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_PvdNeu9waDU2tLVHBmRmxpTjA/view?pli=1
- 5) Developed a database of existing/new community gardens in CKL. Twenty five community gardens were identified in CKL, 19 of these gardens are run by community organizations and six gardens are at schools involving students, staff and parents.
- 6) Community/School Gardens Research Project: Fleming College students are conducting research to collect data on the current state of CKL community/school gardens,(i.e. demographics of gardeners; resources needed; reasons/benefits of community gardening; future plans; educational needs etc). The data collected can be used to advise Food Coalition/local decision makers on how to better support local community gardens. The research project is expected to be completed by December 2015.

This year the Coalition hosted the first Local Food Forum in CKL and through CKL Economic Development Department established a new web page
<http://www.advantagekawarthalakes.ca/en/keySectors/Kawartha-Lakes-Food-Coalition.asp>

C. Texting While Driving

In 2009, Ontario introduced a ban on the use of hand-held devices while driving. According to current collision trends from the Ministry of Transportation, fatalities related to distracted driving are forecasted to exceed those from drinking and driving by 2016.

To help inform strategies to address this serious issue, Public Health Ontario (PHO) conducted a study that examined the motives of texting while driving behaviour among 2,000 Ontario youth and young adults ages 16 to 24.

The research found, among other things, that over 90% of Ontarians aged 16 – 24 are aware of Ontario’s law banning texting while driving, yet 55% reported reading texts and 44% reported sending texts while driving.

The technical report can be found on PHO’s website -

http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/Texting_While_Driving_Technical_Report_2015.pdf

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Lynn Noseworthy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

A. Lynn Noseworthy
Medical Officer of Health