

The Link

AIDS Committee of
Simcoe County

October 2009
Fall/Winter

Changes for the better...

The leaves are changing and so have things at ACSC!

ACSC is entering its 15th year of support to people living with, affected by and at risk of acquiring HIV/AIDS in Simcoe County. We remain active in advocating for the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, as well as active in providing services that respond to the needs of our clients.

What is new at ACSC is that we've been able to better serve the needs of our community by receiving funding for the position of Manager of Community Services and

the Sexual Health Educator Internet Resource.

The Manager of Community Services provides education/resources to the community about HIV/AIDS and related issues. This position also represents the ACSC on several community committees, and participates in community events.

The Sexual Health Educator Internet Resource provides information to the MSM community via online outreach.



www.acsc.ca

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We've been busy...

ACSC had a great time participating in community events over the past several months.

This photo is from the Barrie Dragonboat Festival where we placed 1st in the Copper Division Consolation Race...not bad for our first time!

Thanks to everyone who supported ACSC and our DragonAIDS Team!



Manager of Community Services

Greetings!

My name is Karyn Cooper and I am the Manager of Community Services.

Prior to moving to Simcoe County, I worked with the AIDS Committee of North Bay where I held positions including the

Hepatitis C Education and Support Coordinator and the HIV Education Coordinator.

Over the past several months I have focused on establishing new and strengthening existing community partnerships. I participate on several

community committees. I have also participated in some wonderful community events, such as Take Back the Night and Day of Compassion.

I look forward to continuing this great work and am thrilled to bring my experience to ACSC.

"It is bad enough that people are dying of AIDS, but no one should die of ignorance"- Elizabeth Taylor

Sexual Health Educator Internet Resource

Since the inception of the S.H.E.I.R.(Sexual Health Educator Internet Resource) program in March of 2009 ,we have had the opportunity to share information on HIV, Testing, Safe Sex Practices and the use of Condoms (Male/Female) with numerous MSM (men who have sex with men) on a gay social networking site.

The consensus seems to be that guys are taking note of our presence as we are identified by our logo and are feeling free to ask questions. All information is held in strictest confidence.

Just recently someone who made contact with us on the site came to our Barrie office to inquire on additional information and to pick some condoms up. We realize that the trust

element will take time in order for men to be more comfortable in approaching us on the site.

Our goals are threefold; 1) to bring HIV/AIDS Awareness & Prevention 2) to encourage the MSM population to get tested for HIV/STI's and 3) to discuss Safe Sex Practices." Contact: acscsheir@rogers.com

We're Evervwhere!

Along with the expansion of our staff, we have expanded our offices!

In April, we opened a satellite office in Orillia. We are located at 5 Coldwater St. E. (inside the S.O.S. building).

You can also now find us online at on Facebook (search AIDS Committee of Simcoe County) and Twitter at www.twitter.com/ACSC

On Facebook and

Twitter you will find regular updates on HIV/AIDS and what the ACSC is up to.

You can also continue to find us at our office at 80 Bradford St. in Barrie and www.acsc.ca.