



Office Locations:

Fort Frances Office
(Main office)
240 First Street East, Suite 200
Fort Frances, Ontario P9A 1K5
Phone: (807) 274-7787
Fax: (807) 274-6646

Atikokan Office
211 Main Street
P.O. Box 2050
Atikokan, Ontario P0T 1C0
Phone: (807) 597-2700
Fax: (807) 597-6920

TOLL FREE NUMBER
1-800-465-7764

Feature Article

Atikokan Celebrates New Location

On September 22nd, staff at the Atikokan Branch Office hosted a Grand Opening of their new location in Atikokan. The event was very well attended, including local dignitaries, community partners, families, children, youth and staff from the Fort Frances office.

During his address to the attendees, Mayor Dennis Brown commended the Atikokan staff for their work in the community and stated that the new facility will enhance services to families and children in the Atikokan area.

On hand during the open house were scrapbooks and photo albums chronicling the history, events and staff at the Atikokan office. Many were surprised to learn that the Atikokan office is celebrating 50 years of service, and started out with one social worker!

A big thank you to all staff involved for all their hard work.



Official Ribbon Cutting.



Grand opening cake made by staff member Barb Wragg.



Jenny Billings-Atikokan Branch Manager, Sally Burns for MPP Bill Mauro, Atikokan Mayor Dennis Brown, Darryl Gannon-Atikokan Principal, MP John Rafferty and Vik Nowak-FACS.



FACS employees Linda Goose and Diana Ellieff present information on becoming foster parents.



Children enjoying the newly appointed play room.



FACS volunteer Randy Ricci barbecuing hamburgers and hot dogs.



Community Services & Quality Assurance

Project Safe Halloween 2009



Halloween 2003

This year will mark **seven** years of distributing glow sticks to children to keep them safe on Halloween night. We have ordered more glow sticks than ever to ensure we reach all children, including those at day care centres and nursery schools.

Wearing the glow sticks on Halloween night is just one way to keep children safe. It is very important that we teach our children pedestrian safety. The Ontario Provincial Police and the CN Police have provided the following tips:

1. Be visible-use reflective clothing or materials at night.
2. Use sidewalks where possible.
3. Stay in groups as this is good for visibility.
4. Stick to one side of the street vs. crossing back and forth.
5. Use controlled intersections.
6. When crossing the street, look left, right and left again. Younger children should always ask a parent before crossing a street.
7. Let your parents know where you are going and when you will be back.
8. Stay away from train tracks-use authorized crossings only (e.g. underpass in Fort Frances).

Rather than going door-to-door, it is even safer to attend a Halloween event. Tess's Kitchen will be hosting a Halloween party again this year at sun down (1123 Scott Street, Fort Frances).

Project Safe Halloween is possible through the generous assistance of the Rainy River Valley Safety Coalition. The OPP and CN Police have been instrumental in delivering both the safety message and glow sticks to the schools and preschool centres.

Betty-Anne MacKintosh
Manager of Community Services
and Quality Assurance
807-274-7787, ext. 228

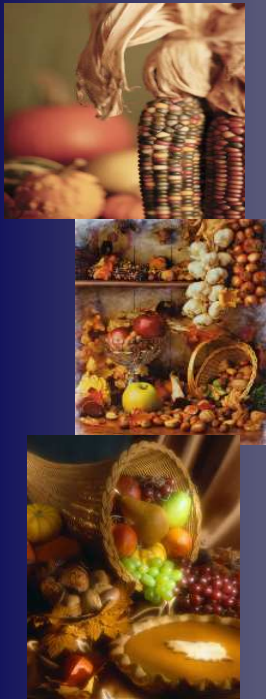


Halloween 2008

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically; or to provide feedback about the newsletter, please notify us by sending an e-mail to: Information@facsrr.ca

We are on the Web!
www.facsrr.ca

Please post
on your
bulletin
board!



Call your local
office of
Family & Children's
Services
24 Hours a day,
7 Days a week
Or visit us on the
web www.facsrr.ca



Developmental Services

Moffat Funding Great Help to FACS

This summer, the Developmental Services Program was very fortunate to receive funding through the Moffat Foundation. This funding allowed us to assist children at risk, or those that have a developmental disability ages 3 to 18 years, to participate and access recreational activities in the community.

We had a wonderful student, Heidi Friesen, that planned and implemented age appropriate activities that encouraged the children to use their gross and

fine motor skills, imagination, and to practice listening and sharing skills.

On Monday mornings, our student attended the Best Start Outreach Program to be available to provide activities with families. In addition, Heidi planned and organized several outings and activities. These included crafts in the park, an afternoon of scrapbooking, going to Morrish's farm, picking strawberries at Sunne's U-Pick, a play day for younger children, a day at the beach, and a trip to the museum for the older children.

Heidi also assisted the children to participate in community planned



activities such as swimming at the pool, playing in the park and golfing. The children were invited to attend a family day at Sunny Cove Camp offered through FACS as well.

Special thanks to Heidi for doing such an awesome job!

Carolyn Skirten
Manager of
Developmental Services

Children's Services



Foster Family Week

October 18-24, 2009 is Canadian Foster Family Week. This week is dedicated to honoring the difficult yet rewarding job done by foster families in the Rainy River District. Foster families are essential to the work that takes place at Family and Children's Services, and without the

constant care and commitment that these families provide we would not be able to offer the protection some children in our district desperately need. These families are meeting a need that is greater than ever before.

Being a foster parent can be an exciting opportunity to make a difference in the life of a child or adolescent. The role of a foster parent is challenging yet can be extremely rewarding. Many foster parents say the rewards of personal growth and the satisfaction of helping a child and his family when they really need it far outweigh all the effort and hard work that they put into this endeavor.

I would like to thank the dedicated foster parents and their families that give of themselves and their time to share what they have with children in need. These individuals are special and valued people that deserve recognition and thanks for the job they do. Family and Children's Services commends our foster families and recognizes the invaluable role they play in providing services to the children in our community.

Please contact Christa Little for more information on becoming a foster parent at (807) 274-7787 ext. 226.

Children's Mental Health Services

Childhood Sexual Abuse

I would like to discuss a difficult subject for this month's article. As the manager of Children's Mental Health, I see every request for mental health services.

One alarming trend that we have realized is in regard to the number of children who have recently experienced the trauma of sexual abuse right here in our "safe" district of Rainy River.

This is an issue that very few of us want to think about or acknowledge. However, by pretending it does not exist, we

become part of the problem as opposed to the solution.

We need to be talking to our children about healthy boundaries and healthy touches. We need to be vigilant and cautious with who we trust to be alone with our children.

To pretend that we live in an area safe from the danger of sexual abuse will actually lead to more children having to live the rest of their lives with the incredible trauma and scars that sexual abuse inflicts.

Do your children a favor by spending some time further educating yourself in regard to what you can do to prevent childhood sexual abuse.



Please visit this very helpful website to find out what you can do to protect the children you love, www.stopitnow.com

Troy Clink
Manager Children's
Mental Health

Child Protection Services

Purple Ribbon Campaign-Kids Shouldn't Have to Live With Abuse



Each October, Family and Children's Services joins other Children's Aid Societies (CAS's) in Ontario by participating in a province-wide Purple Ribbon Campaign to raise awareness on the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

All citizens are encouraged to participate in the activities associated with the campaign in addition to recognizing and supporting the needs of young children in our communities.

See <http://www.oacas.org/childwelfare/october.htm>