



# Algoma Public Health

## 2010 Report to the Community



## 2010 – The Building Year



**Dr. Allan Northan**  
Medical Officer of Health

All Algoma Public Health offices – Wawa, Sault Ste. Marie, Elliot Lake and Blind River are (being) renewed, renewed for the purpose of better engaging all citizens and communities in Algoma in wellness, their wellness.

All staff and the Board of Health have much more in mind than new facilities. The new facilities are the starting point of creating a more intense engagement of the Algoma community in the process of wellness, good health for all.

All of our offices will be supporting ‘wellness’, and our new Sault facility (on Willow Avenue beside Sault College) will be a focal point for Algoma. Our staff, members of many

local agencies, all students in Algoma, and everyone in our communities will interact to support a higher quality of life.

Over the next decades, our new buildings will support our staff and the community in a venture to make all aspects of living in Algoma more optimal. Over the next years and decades, the public will lead healthier lives as a consequence of the ‘building year’ investment of 2010.

In 2011, when all our new buildings are functional, the role of public health will be positioned to enhance Algoma as a community of choice, a desired place to raise families and locate sustainable businesses.

Healthy people, healthy economies—healthy economies, healthy people. Public health will support Algoma to be a healthy community of choice.



**Guido Caputo**  
Board Chair

As Algoma Public Health completed a successful H1N1 mass immunization program at the end of 2009, focus in 2010 was on infrastructure renewal.

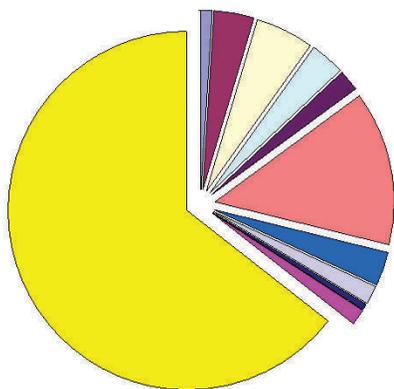
Although APH had opened a new office in Blind River 2 years ago, an ambitious campaign to renew all APH infrastructure came to a peak as the Elliot Lake office was relocated to within the Algo Mall, and the Wawa office commenced a full renovation and modernization. The Sault office was rising from the ground and growing within its new walls on the Sault College site on Willow Avenue.

The new offices are the Board’s attempt to engage the population of Algoma, all communities in Algoma, in a full pursuit of wellness. Good health (wellness) is an individual’s greatest asset and wellbeing throughout a community is reflected in quality living. This is what APH helps Algoma achieve. Poor health and disease are by contrast, an unwanted way of life and a very expensive cost to society.

I must congratulate all staff for their intense involvement in planning for and preparing to work in our new offices, with the health of our clients and communities at the forefront of their efforts.

2010 has been a great year, and please read the 2011 addendum to our annual report as we give you a brief description of APH new worksites coming to you this year.

## 2010 Program Expenses



- Brighter Futures for Children
- Infant Development
- Healthy Babies
- Healthy Children
- Preschool Speech/Communication
- Dental Health
- Community Mental Health
- Alcohol/Drug Assessment
- Genetics
- Early Years Programs
- Other Prevention Programs
- Public Health

## BOARD OF HEALTH

**Guido Caputo** (Chair)  
**Ron Rody** (Vice Chair)

City of Sault Ste Marie  
Municipality of Wawa, Townships of White River and Dubreuilville

**Marchy Bruni**  
**Karen Marinich**  
**Gordon Post**

City of Sault Ste Marie  
City of Sault Ste Marie  
Town of Bruce Mines, Village of Hilton Beach and the Townships of Hilton, Jocelyn, Johnson, Laird, MacDonald, Meredith and Aberdeen Additional, Plummer Additional, Prince, St. Joseph and Tarbutt and Tarbutt Additional

**John Currie**  
**Robert Ambeault**  
**Sandy Finamore**  
**Janet Blake**  
**Rosario Capillo**  
**Anthony Rossi**

Town of Thessalon, Municipality of Huron Shores  
Town of Blind River, Town of Spanish, Township of the North Shore  
City of Elliot Lake  
Province of Ontario  
Province of Ontario  
Province of Ontario

Trina Mount

Executive Assistant  
Secretary to the Board of Health



Significant scientific evidence supports banning the use of indoor tanning equipment for those under 18 years of age. Medical Officers of Health in the northeastern Ontario region strongly support the Skin Cancer Prevention Act 2010 currently before the Ontario legislature.

The Northeast Region Cancer Prevention and Screening Network and five area public health units including Algoma Public Health, support the Call to Action by the Canadian Cancer Society, the Ontario Medical Association and the Canadian Dermatology Association to ban the use of tanning equipment to individuals under the age of 18.

As a result, the “No Tan Is Worth Dying For” campaign was launched, including an advocacy and an awareness component regarding the dangers of indoor tanning. Signed postcards collected are forwarded to the Honourable Margaret Best, Minister of Health Promotion and Sport, and the Honourable David Oraziotti, MPP Algoma District.

## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Building on the successes of four youth-led health promotion committees across the Algoma district, Algoma Public Health has created a youth engagement and development strategy. This strategy will help build organizational capacity, cultivate community partnerships and increase meaningful opportunities for young people within our organization. Our goal is to maximize positive youth outcomes and strengthen our communities.



The STEALTH committee in Blind River has been challenging the harmful myths associated with mental illness and invite others to do their part in stopping the stigma.



The Teens in Action committee in Elliot Lake has been highlighting the importance of not “crossing the stupid line” by bringing to life the consequences of risk-taking behaviours associated with binge drinking.



As part of Mission Nutrition, the Teens in Motion committee in Wawa organized an interactive dinner and movie-style event, in which participants gained basic cooking skills and knowledge around healthy eating and food safety.



The Schools Without Borders committee in Sault Ste. Marie has been working in partnership with the Canadian Cancer Society to support a ban on indoor tanning under the age of 18. Action was taken through displays and collecting petitions and pledges, which MPP David Oraziotti brought to Parliament.

## YOUTH SUPPORT SMOKE-FREE PARKS & RECREATIONAL BYLAW



Schools Without Borders youth demonstrated support at local soccer fields by generating enthusiasm and letting spectators know about the new bylaw!



In addition to picking up cigarette butts, Teens in Action youth presented the City of Elliot Lake with cigarette disposal bins to place outside the bylaw smoke-free spaces.

## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT THEATRE (YET)



Algoma Public Health's peer education theatre initiative was launched in 2010 in recognition of the significant contribution youth can and do make in their communities. The use of theatre arts to confront health and social challenges has become a widely accepted tool in prevention education and conflict resolution.

The cast includes: Front row (l to r) Ariel Pezzotti, Laura Beach, Alana Palahnuk, (back row) Kelsey Wade, Patrick Evans and Zach Fraser. (Absent: Megan Leveille)

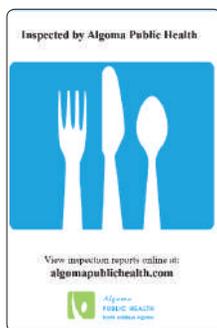
## urlife.ca



Floyd Ense (left) and Josh Walker (right) were the lucky winners of iPads in the urlife.ca contest. Over 500 youth entered the contest. The website urlife.ca provides health information geared to youth on sex, sexually transmitted infections, HIV, drug and substance abuse, and tattooing.

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

### Good Eats



Where do you like to go out for dinner? Our online food inspection reports had over 73,000 views in 2010.

Public health inspectors (PHI) conducted over 1131 inspections of food places last year. We also work with your children's school food programs to help them make safe and healthy food.

Look for our new window clings (shown above) at your favorite restaurant. These clings remind the public that restaurants are inspected by public health inspectors.

### Fresh Air

We worked with municipalities in Algoma to help enforce the bylaw for no smoking at outdoor parks. We inspected all tobacco vendors in Algoma to make sure they were not supplying tobacco to minors under 19 years of age. Youth trained as test shoppers accompanied tobacco enforcement officers. There were 10 charges issued for supplying tobacco to minors from a total of 273 store inspections. Remember, if a person looks under 25 they need to provide ID.



### Water shortages, air quality issues and other potential environmental health hazards

The potential water shortage in October reminded those in Sault Ste. Marie how important having water is. By working with our community partners we continue to plan and prepare for environmental hazards that may result in public health issues. We also participate in international exercises throughout the district of Algoma.

### Clean

PHIs inspected daycares, group homes and long-term care homes to help educate and support them in preventing the spread of disease. We also inspected personal service settings including hair salons, nail salons and tattoo parlours.

### Jaws and Claws

All animal bites, scratches and other reported exposures that present a risk to human health are investigated by public health inspectors. Last year we investigated 220 reports; 160 dogs, 43 cats and 17 other assorted animals. Post exposure rabies vaccine was released to only five people due to these incidents.



### Thirsty?

Ontario Regulation (OR) 319 focuses on PHIs conducting risk assessments of all small drinking water systems that have public access (e.g., camp grounds or restaurants on a private well). This new program conducted 64 risk assessments with hundreds more to be completed in the next few years helping ensure safe public drinking water supplies.

### Splashes

There are 18 public beaches across the Algoma district. Half of the beaches are located on Lake Superior and Huron while the remainder are on smaller inland lakes. The bathing water quality in Algoma is excellent and was monitored during the summer season. It was necessary to post 13 public advisories at beaches due to water quality results exceeding the Provincial Protocol. This usually happens after heavy rainfalls or with wind that stirs up the bottom sediment.

All 21 recreational public pools and 15 public spas were inspected a total of 109 times for health and safety and for chemical standards and maintenance.



## TUBERCULOSIS AND HEPATITIS C

### TB Anywhere is TB Everywhere



Although Canada is a low incidence country for TB (Tuberculosis), the disease continues to be a significant global problem. APH screens many people for TB each year and follows all positive results to provide education and treatment for tuberculosis infections and disease. Occasionally, active cases are found and contact tracing is required to ensure the disease has not spread further in the community.

- 2 million people die from TB every year
- 70% of TB cases in Canada originate from outside the country
- TB is treatable

Hepatitis C is a significant viral disease in Algoma. Spread by bloodborne contact, those particularly at risk include drug users who share needles and other drug-related equipment, people who share razors or toothbrushes with someone who has Hepatitis C, people who get tattoos or a body piercing(s) with non-sterile needles and people who received blood transfusions or blood products before 1992. There is no vaccine for Hepatitis C so it is important to avoid these risky behaviours.

APH has concentrated efforts on examining Hepatitis C acquisition in the key risk area of IV drug use. Indicators have been established to aid in having local data to support our knowledge of how and why clients are becoming ill and will help Infection Control and other APH programs develop targeted health promotion to key risk groups.

## GENETIC COUNSELLING AND CLINIC SERVICES



Dr. Jack H. Jung

A major development this year in the Genetics Program was the launch of a new software program (SHIRE). Of the program's many benefits, the ability to quickly access electronic health records enhances many aspects of client care while strict adherence to the client's privacy and confidentiality is maintained. With this software each site within the Northern Regional Genetics Program will produce similar statistical reports to the Ministry, in an effort to increase visibility of the genetic counselling needs of our northern population.



*Algoma*  
**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
Santé publique Algoma

Announcing the opening of the new

# Algoma Public Health

building in Sault Ste. Marie



# New Algoma Public Health building in Sault Ste. Marie opens June 20, 2011.

## New building is a community hub.



The new Algoma Public Health office in Sault Ste. Marie is located on a 5.3 acre land/property to the west of Sault College. The new building is 70,000 sq feet, LEED (green) certified and will be a community hub for residents of Algoma.

The new single site building will also:

- Reduce access barriers to the public.
- Integrate all public health programs under one roof.
- Provide easy access for clients.
- Enhance the relationship between community and education.
- Create shared infrastructure between public health and Sault College.
- Heighten the importance of public health in the community.

### Main Lobby



A view of the main lobby from the second floor.

### Front Reception



A view of the front reception area.

### Community Closet



The community closet receives clothing donations from the community and the clothes are given to clients.

### Community Kitchen



Community kitchens offer opportunities to learn preparation of low cost nutritious meals and are a place for socialization.

# New Algoma Public Health building in Sault Ste. Marie opens June 20, 2011.

## Clinic Room



The new facility has 25 clinic rooms that will be shared by all programs.

## Shared Classrooms with Sault College



Not only is the new building on Sault College property but four conference rooms/classrooms will be shared between public health and the school.

Sault College Health Science students will benefit from onsite education. These rooms also allow the direct promotion of public health and community wellness.

In addition, 'the link' physically connects Algoma Public Health and Sault College.

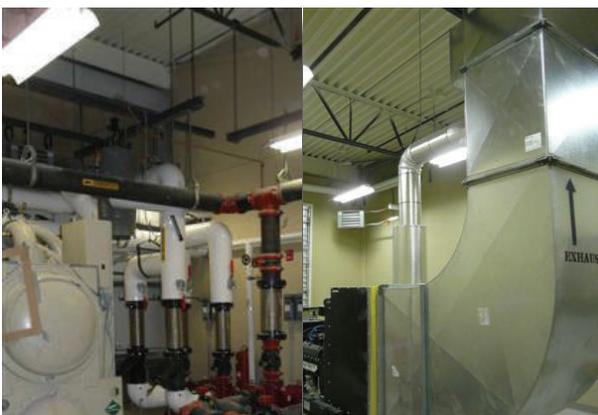
## 'The Link' to Sault College

## Smoke-free Property



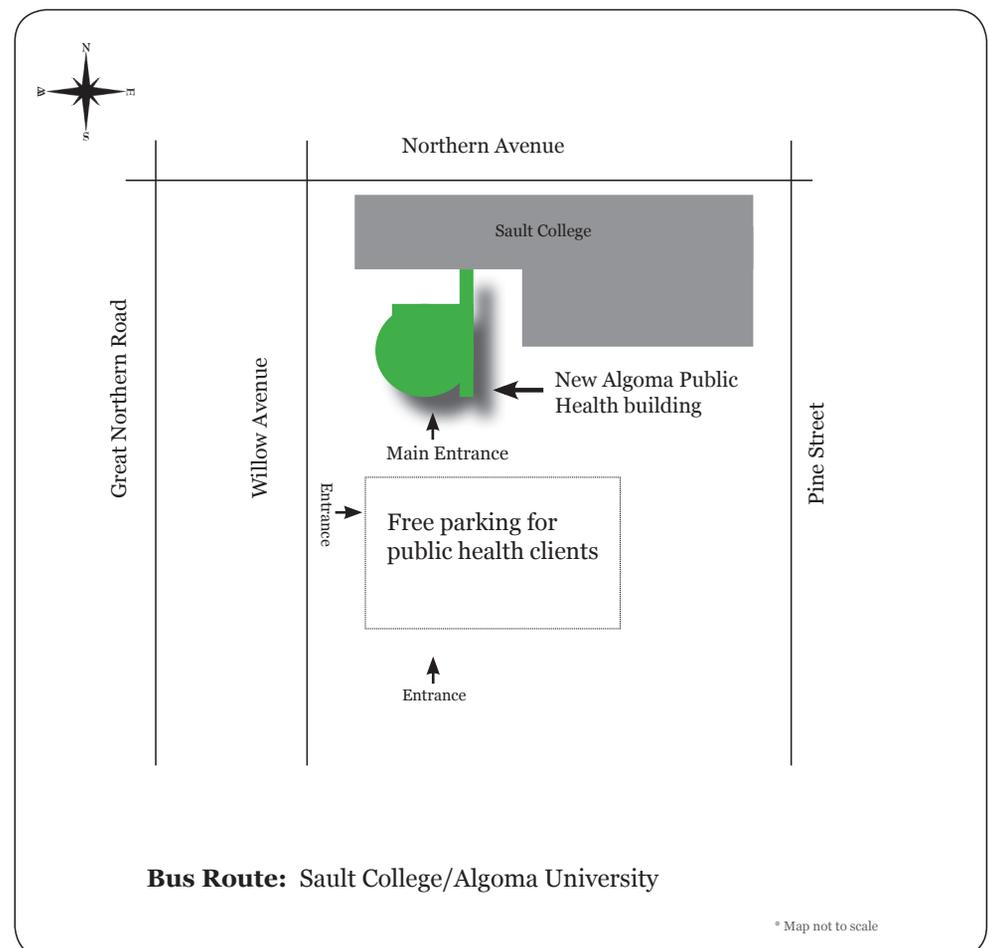
Smoking has been identified as a serious health hazard to both the smoker and the nonsmoker. APH prohibits smoking in all areas of the building, including our grounds and parking lots, as per the Smoke-Free Ontario Act and the Municipal bylaw of Sault Ste. Marie.

## LEED (green) Certified



LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability and recognizes performance in five key areas of human and environmental health:

- Sustainable site development
- Water efficiency
- Energy efficiency
- Materials selection
- Indoor environmental quality



## New Address

294 Willow Avenue  
Sault Ste. Marie, ON  
P6B 5B7

**General Phone Number:**  
**705-942-4646**  
(effective June 20, 2011)

## What you need to know about the move:

- All current offices will close at 4:30 p.m. on June 17, 2011.
- The new building will be open on June 20, 2011 at 8:30 a.m.
- The entire property that Algoma Public Health occupies is smoke-free.
- Parking for clients is free. The parking lot is gated. Once you leave your appointment, you will be given a token to exit.

For up-to-date information on the building or to view a virtual tour of the main lobby, visit [www.algomapublichealth.com](http://www.algomapublichealth.com)



As part of our strategic plan we have also renovated our offices in Blind River, Elliot Lake and Wawa in the past 2 years. Blind River was completed in 2009, Elliot Lake in 2010 and Wawa in 2011.

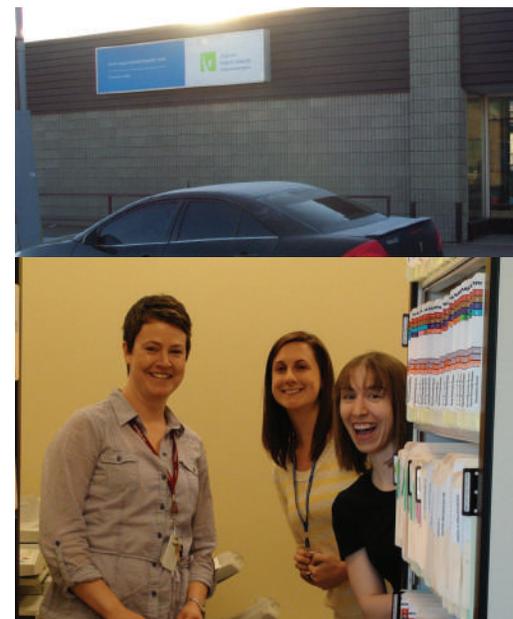
## BLIND RIVER



## ELLIOT LAKE



## WAWA



## DISTRICT

Staff in the District are actively involved and interact with their community partners. Without the help of community partners and volunteers, many programs and services would not be as successful as they are today. Much of the work and activity occurs out in our respective communities.

## Elliot Lake

Elliot Lake staff raised over \$1000 in the Algoma Public Health gift card campaign. This money was donated to two charities in the area: The Elliot Lake Community Food Share Garden and the Elliot Lake Food Bank.



Left to right: Connie Free (APH), Chuck Zeitsma (Elliot Lake Food Share Garden), Marie Giroux (APH) and Elizabeth Matheson (Elliot Lake Food Share Garden)



Left to right: Patricia Baker, Betty Trakas, Don McBean (Elliot Lake Food Bank), Connie Free (APH) and Ann Farrel (Elliot Lake Food Bank)



## Elliot Lake Flu Clinic Staff and Volunteers

Back row (l to r)- Marshall Chow, Clem Charest, Pat Wurster, Beth Emmerson, Pat Sullivan, Jenna Dicskon, Leslie Sancartier, Norma deBortoli. Front row- Diane Size, Judy Thrasher, Clea Sarich, Lucy Cywink. Missing: Doris Hannigan

## Blind River Flu Clinic Volunteers



Left to right: Karen Spence, Josie McMillan, Dorothy Funk, Sheila Milne and Ruth Tulloch

## Wawa

## Francophone Information Fair for Seniors in North Algoma

An information fair for francophone seniors was held in Wawa on October 27, 2010. Algoma Public Health, in partnership with the Fédération des aînés et des retraités francophones de l'Ontario and the Senior's Secretariat hosted the event. Guest speakers provided the participants with valuable information on fraud prevention, raised awareness about the abuse and neglect of older adults, and reminded those in attendance of the importance of humour and laughter in our lives. Local organizations were also present to inform seniors about useful programs and services in the community.



Left to right : Mihaela Dumitrascu (Senior's Secretariat), Josée Miljours (Ontario Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse), Renée Mellish (Algoma Public Health), Marcelline Beauvais and Raymond Genier (FAFO), Mariette Guillotte (guest speaker - humour), Nicole Proulx (FAFO), Huguette et Oliva Roy (guest speaker - prevention of fraud).

## ORAL HEALTH

A child's oral health has a significant impact on overall health. Oral health diseases are more prevalent among people with limited or no access to dental services, and children are the most vulnerable.



Healthy Smiles Ontario is a provincial initiative with the Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy in mind.

Eligibility to the Healthy Smiles Ontario program is assessed by local public health units and is available to families with net income levels of \$20,000 or less and who do not have access to any form of dental coverage. The program will provide children, ages 0-17, access to regular oral health examinations, preventive services, and treatment. It builds on the current Children In Need of Treatment (CINOT) program which provides for emergency treatment only.

## VOLUNTEERS

Our Volunteer Resource Program currently has 102 active volunteers throughout the District who assist in a wide variety of our program initiatives.

In 2010 our volunteer program contributed a recorded 2464.5 hours to help us fulfill our goal of 'supporting healthy communities in Algoma.'





# Parent Child SERVICES

## BABY FRIENDLY

On January 8, 2010, we became the fifth public health unit out of 36 health units in Ontario to receive the international Baby Friendly Initiative designation!

The Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI) is a global program of the World Health Organization and UNICEF which aims to promote, protect, and support breastfeeding.



In order to be designated, a three-day assessment of all our offices was completed. The assessment team interviewed staff and mothers, accompanied public health nurses on home visits and attended prenatal and parenting programs to assess how well we were putting our breastfeeding policies and practices into place.

“There’s an excellent rapport between public health and the community” states Kathy Venter, lead assessor with Breastfeeding Committee for Canada. “All staff were very positive and willing to participate in the assessment. Great team spirit and respect for the clients was evident.”

## HEALTHY BABIES HEALTHY CHILDREN



*“Healthy Babies Healthy Children provides me with so much support and is a valuable resource to me as a mom! I am very thankful for everything they have done for me!”*  
Dawn Gauthier

## PRENATAL/POSTPARTUM NURSE PRACTITIONER CLINIC

The nurse practitioner clinic provides primary health care services to children up to 5 years of age, and their mothers, who do not have a primary care provider.

Services include:

- Newborn, well baby and well child visits
- Immunizations
- Well woman visits
- Initial prenatal visit and referral for obstetrical care
- Episodic illness visits and chronic disease management

There are approximately 700 clients registered to the clinic.

### Overview of visits in 2010:

Total visits	1,514
Newborn visits	285
Well baby visits (7 weeks - 18 months)	560
Well child visits (19 months – 5 years)	145
Well adult visits	117
Illness visits	281
Prenatal visits	72

## PARENT CHILD INFORMATION CENTRE (PCIC)

In 2010, 1,090 visits were seen in PCIC and 489 visits came for breastfeeding support.

*“I had used the PCIC when I had my daughter Lilly 4 years ago and the public health nurses were a valuable resource then, but since the birth of my twins I have come to appreciate them on a whole new level. My husband also found our PCIC visits helpful because they suggested ways he could support and create a positive breastfeeding relationship, by letting him know how best to help me and bond with the babies. Motherhood is a journey and it is so wonderful to have educated and friendly guides along the way.”* Sarah Henriques Alton



## PARENT CHILD INFORMATION LINE (PCIL)

Parent Child Information Line: 705-541-7101 or 1-888-537-5741

Hours of operation are Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (closed on statutory holidays).

Intended for parents/caregivers and service providers of children birth to 6 years of age, as well as prenatal clients.

<b>Total number of phone calls in 2010</b>	2,333
--	-------

### Top 5 reasons for calls in 2010

Infant Child Health:	584
Maternal Health:	359
Parenting Concerns/Programs:	269
Breastfeeding:	273
Food and Nutrition:	252

## GROOVING AND MOVING WITH ENERGY (G.A.M.E.) PROGRAM

Grooving and Moving with Energy (G.A.M.E.) Program

Parents and their children, aged 2-6 years old, are Grooving and Moving with energy!

This new, fun program focuses on age appropriate physical activities and nutrition tips.



*Participant Jennifer Houser states her children enjoy the program and have said, “When do we go again?”*

## COMMUNITY CLOSET

The community closet has been a busy place over the past year. Our enthusiastic volunteer crew of ten ladies wash, mend and prepare donated baby and toddler clothes for our youngest clients to enjoy. As the seasons come and go the closet is decorated for each special time of year and clothing is displayed to celebrate each event.



Christmas in the Closet was highlighted this year on our local cable TV as a great resource for our community. Our great volunteer crew prepared over 150 outfits for our young clients and provided many decorative layettes for the newborns for our postnatal home visiting program.

This past fall, our two program leads Margaret Nowak and Carey Sauve (pictured above) were awarded special recognition as APH Volunteers of the Year at the annual 'Volunteer Sault Ste. Marie Appreciation Dinner and Awards Ceremony.' A big 'thank you' goes out to all of our volunteers for their commitment of time, energy and skills in support of the work that we do.

## INFANT AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (ICDP)

In 2010, we:

- Provided intervention to over 565 children from 531 families
- Implemented a 'no wrong door' approach to accessing services for families. All of the Ministry of Child and Youth Services programs in Algoma will take a family's information and ensure the referral reaches the right program to keep families from having to make numerous phone calls to access the services they require. The appropriate agency then contacts the family within two working days.
- ICDP provides Psychological Assessments. These diagnostic assessments are critical in the early identification of special needs. For several years now, ICDP has provided universal screening for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Pervasive-Developmental Disorder - Not Otherwise Specified. The implementation of universal screening and then the diagnostic assessments often have more promising results for the child and family.

## SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM - ALGOMA

About 1 in 10 children needs help to develop communication skills. Without this help, it can be a struggle to listen and talk, to play with other children, and to learn to read.



In 2010:

- 264 children were referred, with an average age of referral of 31 months.
- 182 children, ranging from birth to 4 years 11 months, were seen for an initial speech and language assessment.

Children and their parents participated in one or more of the following interventions in a variety of locations:

- Parent training (e.g. It Takes Two to Talk® Hanen)
- Group therapy (e.g. Toddler Talk, early language groups, speech production groups)
- Individual therapy
- Caregiver consultation and home programming

## CANADA PRENATAL NUTRITION PROGRAM



The Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program celebrated its 15th year of providing support to pregnant women in financial need across Algoma. Public health nurses, dietitians and family support workers work with community partners to provide vulnerable pregnant women with prenatal, post-partum, breastfeeding education and support, referrals to community services, and assistance with milk and food.

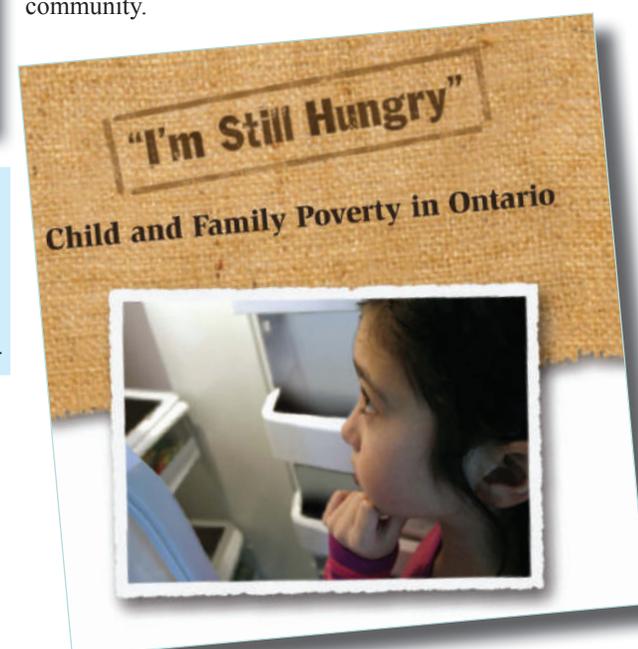
*"The Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program has made a difference in my life by providing food and milk during a time when I have no way of doing it myself. If it weren't for this program, we wouldn't have milk on a regular basis and the food bags are a great help too." Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program participant*

## CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY

Algoma Public Health facilitated a focus group entitled "Parents with Young Children who are Living in Poverty" in which 10 families from Sault Ste. Marie were able to have their voices heard.

The results were then used in a service provider manual "I'm Still Hungry: Children and Family Poverty in Ontario." Online at: [www.beststart.org/resources/anti\\_poverty/pdf/child\\_poverty\\_guide\\_rev.pdf](http://www.beststart.org/resources/anti_poverty/pdf/child_poverty_guide_rev.pdf)

Following the release of the manual, we hosted a Child Poverty Consultation from Best Start. Community partners gathered and discussed ways to improve services in our community. Algoma is committed to improving outcomes for children and their families who live in poverty in our community.



## YOUNG PARENTS CONNECTION



The goal of Young Parents Connection is to support young parents in improving the health and well being of their families. Participants are provided with information, skill building activities, and social support through a weekly event.

Young Parents Connection has been running successfully for five years and receives approximately 25 -30 clients on a weekly basis. The program runs in collaboration with many community agencies: Algoma Public Health, Red Cross, Child Care Algoma/Best Start Hub, NOG-DA-WIN-DA-MIN Family and Community Centre, Ontario Works, Sault College, Women in Crisis, YMCA, and The Pregnancy Centre.

## SMOKING CESSATION: Algoma wants to quit and we want to help



In September 2010 staff were inserviced on the 4 A's: Ask, Advise, Assist and Arrange. The 4 A's identify clients who smoke and assist them if they want to quit. A total of 148 referrals were made to our smoking cessation services.

The Tobacco Cessation Clinic service pilot in Sault Ste. Marie was also launched with services operating one day a week with two trained cessation specialists available to see clients. To date 35 individuals have been seen at the cessation clinic.

In October the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health's (CAMH) STOP on the Road study was secured by Algoma Public Health for Wawa, Sault Ste. Marie, and Blind River. The study had been previously offered two years ago in Wawa and Elliot Lake. The initiative was part of several ongoing studies by CAMH to determine the benefits of using pharmacological therapy to help smokers quit and its impact on their long-term success in remaining smoke-free. Study participants qualified for 5 weeks of NRT (Nicotine Replacement Therapy) at no cost. An overwhelming response was received in all three communities with over 300 inquiries and 134 participants

Algoma Public Health also began offering access to the Canadian Cancer Society's Smokers' Helpline fax back referral program. Participating clients receive a call directly from trained cessation staff at Smokers' Helpline who provide cessation support counselling over the phone.

## NORTHERN FRUIT & VEGETABLE PROGRAM



The Northern Fruit & Vegetable Program, which provides students with weekly servings of fresh vegetables and fruit, was delivered in 25 elementary schools from January to June.

In December, the Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport announced funding for the expansion of the program to include all elementary schools in Algoma for the same time period in 2011.

## COMMUNITY ALCOHOL/DRUG ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

The Community Alcohol/Drug Assessment Program in partnership with the Red Cross and the Soup Kitchen has provided community kitchens for individuals who enjoy menu planning, cooking and interacting with others with the same interests. In addition, individuals also work in the program's community garden which provided fresh vegetables and herbs for individuals to take home.

In 2009 Ontario brought into force amendments to its short-term administrative license suspension program for drivers with blood-alcohol concentrations of between 0.05% and 0.08%. The Community Alcohol/Drug Assessment Program provides the necessary Remedial Measures "Back on Track Program" courses required in order for individuals to fulfill their suspension requirements. Late in 2009 the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario completed an audit of the Methadone Maintenance Treatment Program. Subsequent to the audit, good news arrived announcing that the prescribing physician and the counselling team received a three-year exemption and commendations for a job well done

## INTRODUCING HAROLD, EDNA, BABY THOMAS AND JARED



L-R: Harold, Edna, Tim, Thomas and Jared

Algoma Public Health now combines entertainment and education in public health messaging using ventriloquism. With a cast of characters representing a cross-section of our client base, we've taken to the airwaves and the Internet to add a light-hearted touch to the serious business of public health.

### CONTACT US:

**BLIND RIVER:** 705-356-2551 or Toll Free 1-888-356-2551  
**ELLIOT LAKE:** 705-848-2314 or Toll Free 1-877-748-2314  
**SAULT STE. MARIE:** 705-942-4646 or Toll Free 1-866-892-0172  
**WAWA:** 705-856-7208 or Toll Free 1-888-211-8074

## COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

The Community Mental Health Program provides the following services throughout the Algoma District:

- Intensive Psychiatric Case Management
- Community Treatment Order Monitoring
- Rent Supplement Administration

The targeted population for these services is those individuals dealing with a Serious Mental Illness (SMI).

Over 470 individuals received intensive psychiatric case management services throughout Algoma. Community Mental Health has implemented use of the Ontario Common Assessment of Need (OCAN) which is completed with all our clients initially and then every 6 months. The assessment gives clients the opportunities to self identify their level of need for assistance across 24 areas of need (e.g., meaningful employment, accommodation, food security, psychiatric or addiction supports). Through the OCAN, Community Mental Health is better able to match our services to individual client needs.



Safe affordable housing is one of the key determinants of health. In assisting clients with their recovery processes, housing support is an integral part of

our service provision. Community Mental Health provided rent subsidy to 151 clients in 2010. Program staff provides intensive rehabilitative skills training to better assist clients in maintaining their housing. The program also works with other Algoma Public Health programs and many community partners on broader social housing initiatives.

During 2010, Community Mental Health offered a six-week Health and Wellness Group to Sault Ste. Marie program clients. The goal was to improve client knowledge of healthy lifestyles. The group presented information on a variety of health topics: smoking cessation, exercise, nutrition, health checks (eyes, dental, blood pressure clinic, foot care, and diabetes education). The group capitalized on synergies created with Sault College's Nursing Program, and utilized the broad health resources available through Algoma Public Health.



Accredited  
since 1996

