

# Profile of the Week



## What We Do:

Safe City Mississauga began in 1992, as a partnership with the community, Peel Regional Police, Peel District School Board and Dufferin Peel District Catholic School Board to offer crime prevention education, programs and projects that community leaders had individually dedicated themselves to as early as the 1970's. Today, Safe City Mississauga, with support from the Mayor and Councillors of the City of Mississauga, continues to serve Mississauga through the creation of partnerships, policies and investments that will reduce crime and enhance community safety.

Safe City Mississauga is mandated to provide programs, services, and information that contribute to the reduction of crime in Mississauga and which help residents and visitors feel safe and secure.

**Crime prevention** in its purest form looks at people who are not involved in criminal activity and asks, "What can we do to make sure they never come into conflict with the law or disorderly behaviour?" It also looks at places and situations which are not yet troubled by much criminal activity and asks, "How can we make sure crime never becomes a significant problem here?"

**Crime reduction** starting point is people, places or situations already known for criminal activity. Crime reduction starts with assessing the current problem and developing strategies to decrease the amount of criminal activity, or minimize the harm it causes.

**Types of Crime Prevention:** Crime prevention can be broken down into people, place, and situation-oriented strategies. The people-oriented strategy is usually known as "crime prevention through social development," or CPSD. Place-oriented strategies are known as "crime prevention through environmental design," or CPTED. When combined with situational approaches, these strategies form a holistic and effective crime prevention package.

## Services Offered:

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH** groups began to spring up in Mississauga in 1978 and in 1992 it became one of the programmes first managed by this organization. It is still one of our main programs and continues to be a proven community crime prevention program. It's targeted to improve the quality of life in neighbourhoods

and local communities. We offer training and support to any group of neighbours who want to either take back their neighbourhood from criminal activity or to be proactive and keep their neighbourhood safe for all to enjoy.

**NEIGHBOURS NIGHT OUT** is a *city wide event*, which supports the concept of a safer community through a get-together and this can be held by or at any location where you want to build upon the sense of community. This event has been held throughout North America for over twenty-five years. Safe City Mississauga's annual Neighbours Night Out is the third Tuesday of June.

**CROSSROADS YOUTH ACADEMY** has engaged secondary school-aged youth to promote crime prevention through social development activities since 2003. Over an eight-week period, the following one hour topics are presented: *Introduction to Crime Prevention and Personal Safety, Internet Safety, Drug Education, Counterfeit Detection, Fraud and Gambling, Youth Employment Awareness, Staying Safe & Avoiding Trouble*. CPR is also offered as an elective. As we evaluate the local risk factors of crime we revise the deliverables. Crossroads Youth Academy motivates and empowers youth to avoid criminal activities, become informed about being a good citizen and gives them the knowledge to make healthy decisions when they find themselves at one of life's Crossroads. International Society of Crime Prevention Practitioners, 2005 Winner Community Crime Prevention Program.

**COUNTER-ACT ANTI-VANDALISM COMMITTEE** was formed in the mid-1970's by a group of community leaders concerned by the increase of vandalism in schools, private homes and commercial properties. In 1992, it became an integral part of the organization's activities. This program's focus is on elementary and feeder school-aged children and the founding presentation was a campaign against vandalism, theft and littering. This program also has a super-hero, Captain Counter-Act, first designed in 1983.

**ASPIRE** is a new pilot programme that allows Safe City Mississauga, as part of a Neighbourhood Capacity Support Strategy, to provide tutoring services in a specific at-risk neighbourhood for K-6<sup>th</sup> graders from 3-6pm, Monday through Friday. Local high school students are trained as tutors and acquire 40 volunteer hours for tutoring the children in the neighbourhood. We know that a good experience with schoolwork boosts confidence, social interaction and creates a foundation for hope. We also know that those qualities and attributes will counter youth crime and violence. Other components of this programme include a safe place to learn, a nutritious snack, guest speakers, leadership skills training, parent meetings and many other reinforcing measures.

### **Upcoming Events:**

Neighbours Night Out – June 15, 2010

Community Crime Prevention Conference – September 25, 2010

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