

# Annual Report to the AGM of SWOVA October 21, 2014

by Lynda Laushway  
Executive Director



## INTRODUCTION

Over the past year we have been busy delivering vital, quality programs to youth in our communities. SWOVA continues to offer ground-breaking, vibrant programs to youth- Respectful Relationships (R+R), Pass It On, and The Salish Seas Girl's Leadership Project (SSGLP), and Peace Kids.

Recently we began our 15<sup>th</sup> year of delivery of the Respectful Relationships program (R+R) in our school district. Each year approximately 400 to 500 students in grades 7, 8, 9, and 10, receive 12 hours of healthy relationships education and skill-building. This year we will add a two-hour workshop for all grade 11 students on Internet Safety. To the best of my knowledge we are the only school district in Canada that has this level of consistent and comprehensive healthy relationships programming. The Pass It On program is also being delivered again this year, for the seventh year.

The pilot of the Salish Sea Girls Leadership project will be complete in November.

As always we are grateful at SWOVA to have the support of our community, the confidence of our funders and the commitment of our Board members to continue to forge groundbreaking work that makes our community and many other communities in British Columbia safer places for everyone to grow and flourish.

## **PROGRAMS**

### **Respectful Relationships (R+R) Program in School District #64**

Our 14<sup>th</sup> year of Respectful Relationships program (R+R) delivery in School District #64 went very well. Our Adult facilitators, Christina Antonick and Kevin Vowles delivered over 200 hours of healthy and respectful relationships education to youth in our community. The R+R Youth Team had 26 members who helped facilitate workshops to the grade 7 & 8 students.

The R+R workshops were delivered to whole classrooms of students in grades 7, 8, 9, and 10, 11 and 12 by a community-based team comprised of a male and female adult facilitator. This partnership is crucial in modeling respectful relationships in action between genders. In addition, some of the curriculum occurs in separate gender circles, necessitating the facilitation skills of both male and female facilitators.

Christina Antonick is away for a year and she is being replaced by Sharyn Carroll as female facilitator for the R+R program, 2014-15.

Internet Safety is the focus of the new Respectful Relationships (R+R) curricula created this summer for SWOVA by Christina Antonick and Kevin Vowles. Two new workshops for grade 11 and two new workshops for grade 12 on the very topical and important subject of internet safety are ready for delivery in our School District, as well as a Resource Guide for Parent's on Internet Safety. The grade 11 workshops will be pilot-tested this year and the grade 12 workshops next year.

This curricula was developed in response to a need expressed by youth, as well as in recognition of the exploitation and violence many Canadian youth experience in online communication. These new workshops were created to answer the question- what do healthy and respectful relationships look like in the online world? Netiquette, online pornography, sexting and cyber-bullying are among the topics that the workshops cover.

The grade 9 workshops have been made a part of a new course at GISS.

### **Pass It On: Women and Girls Working Together for Health and Safety**

The Pass It On Girls program completed its 6<sup>th</sup> year of delivery in May. Kate Maurice Mentored and supervised fifteen young women from the high school to mentor 15 grade 8 girls. The high school young women provide structured group and individual mentorship for the grade 8 girls throughout the school year. The mentorship builds relationships that will support the girls at this critical age as they prepare to enter high school. They form relationships that assist them in their immediate lives and also make their transition to high school easier. The issues being addressed are health and safety for girls and young women, providing support for grade 8 girls, and encouraging youth leadership.

Two workshops on body image and Internet safety were offered to all grade 8 girls.

### **Sexual Health Workshops and Faire**

On February 14<sup>th</sup>, in conjuncture with community healthcare professionals we delivered an afternoon of sexual health workshops to all grade 11 students at the high school and had a sexual health faire open to all high school students.

### **Salish Seas Girl's Leadership Project**

SSGLP had a tremendously successful year. Their participation in International Women's Day made the event so terrific. They also had another great booth at the Fall Fair on Salt Spring Island. Many of the young women now sit on a variety of community Boards such as Islands Trust, Capital Regional District (Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission), Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission, Salt Spring Island Community Economic Development Commission, Salt Spring Island Foundation, Options for Sexual Health, SWOVA, IWAV and Transitions Salt Spring. This has created an influential and sustainable legacy for the project.

At present there is only a very small amount of money to continue this program. We are doggedly attempting to secure more funding.

This is a youth-led project and it is coordinated by Andria Scanlon.

### **Peace Kid's Project**

The pilot test of the peace Kids project for children in grades 4, 5, and 6 was very successful last year. There unfortunately is no funding this year for Peace Kids workshops. There is one option for delivery of these workshops- if teachers want to apply to the Social Justice fund of the BCFF, they may receive funding for their classroom.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

SWOVA publishes a regular BLOG which is posted every other week. It contains news about our programs and other topics related to violence prevention and healthy

relationships education. If anyone would like to receive the BLOG posts by e-mail, please contact the SWOVA office ([info@swova.org](mailto:info@swova.org)) and ask to be placed on the distribution list.

We also have a Facebook page and an electronic newsletter. Our website is updated and is more interactive than ever with a number of short films on our work posted on the website at, [www.swova.org](http://www.swova.org) .

## **OUTREACH**



Kelda Logan receives her award from our MP Elizabeth May

International Women's Day, sponsored by SWOVA and IWAV was an overwhelming success. SSGLP project played an important role by ensuring youth presence in many facets of the organizing and delivery of the event. Elizabeth May was mistress of ceremonies.

In April, SWOVA carried out the *Yes, It Happens Here* campaign in conjunction with IWAV and Connecting generations. This was coordinated by Andria Scanlon. The campaign brought community attention to child abuse, family violence, missing and murdered Aboriginal women and bullying.

SWOVA participates in the VAWIR Committee (Violence Against Women in Relationships) along with IWAV, Victim Services and the RCMP. We recently participated in a public day of information at the SSI Library to inform the community about VAWIR and ICAT.

The Fall Fair once again had a great booth by SSGLP.

## **COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION**

On an ongoing basis, SWOVA offers a free lending service of print and video materials, as well as organizing community education events. We also offer a referral service for people seeking information or assistance with issues related to violence prevention.

Each year, we mark December 6<sup>th</sup> as a day of remembrance for prevention of violence against women, with a candlelight vigil in Ganges. This year it will be in Centennial Park, Ganges, at 6:00 pm on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. This is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the murder of 14 women at the Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal, Quebec. It will be led by the Respectful Relationships Youth Team.

Each year we carry the SWOVA banner- "Empowering Youth for a Better Tomorrow" in the local Pride Parade.

We have attended a number of workshops, webinars and seminars on fundraising and the changing role of non-profits in Canada.

## **CONCLUSION**

SWOVA continues to deliver quality programs to our local community and to work in partnership with communities in various locations in British Columbia. It is through the support of our members, our volunteer Board, and our community that we are able to carry out this important violence prevention work.

### **WE ARE GRATEFUL TO OUR CURRENT FUNDERS:**

The Canadian Women's Foundation  
BC Gaming  
Status of Women Canada  
The Koerner Foundation  
SD #64  
Coast Capital Foundation  
Salt Spring Island Foundation  
F.K. Morrow Foundation  
United Way of Greater Victoria  
Island Savings Credit Union  
Human Resources Development Canada  
Thrifty Foods  
Country Grocer