

SPRING/SUMMER 2023

LCIHCS NEWS



Updates from Lanark County's Only Anti-Violence Organization



LCIHCS staff enjoyed an outing to The National Gallery of Canada in celebration of International Women's Day

A NOTE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ERIN LEE:

THE WORK IS ONGOING, BUT LCIHCS CONTINUES TO LEAD ALONGSIDE OTHERS

As you will read in the newsletter, there continues to be lots of activity across our county and our sector. As a result of the Lanark County declaration made in December 2022, many other municipalities are looking to our County for support as they make effort to forge ahead similarly.

We had the opportunity to meet with Minister Fullerton and Associate Minister Williams with our County Council at ROMA in January 2023. We shared our hopes and expectations as it relates to the Renfrew County Inquest. Despite the lack of Provincial response, we continue to be hopeful.

Our weekly radio work with Lake 88 that features a recommendation each week is a wonderful way for media to be engaged and for the recommendations to remain in the minds and thoughts of our community.

Talks, plans and discussions continue across the province and we are proud of the work of Lanark County. We look forward to the Spring and exciting opportunities with Neighbours, Friends and Family as well as the Ontario Domestic Violence Death Review Committee. *New beginnings and ongoing growth are just ahead of us.*



Lanark County Council, with LCIHCS Executive Director as the community representative, shared rural realities of VAW with Minister Fullerton and Associate Minister Williams at ROMA, the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association meeting, January 2023.

LANARK COUNTY COUNCIL MAKES HISTORIC RESOLUTION



LCIHCS Staff and Community Partners celebrate after the resolution was passed, Dec. 2022.

Thanks to the tireless advocacy work and strong community relations fostered by our Executive Director, Lanark County became the first county in Canada to pass a resolution declaring Intimate Partner Violence an epidemic, in accordance with the first jury recommendation presented by the Renfrew County Inquest. The resolution was unanimously passed and history was made!

Since the county declaration, four other counties and municipalities have passed their own resolutions declaring IPV an epidemic. Ottawa City Council became the fifth with a resolution passed on March 8.

LCIHCS HONOURED WITH OPP ACCOLADE AWARD

In March, we attended an award ceremony at the OPP headquarters in Orillia. We were honoured to receive an OPP Accolade Award for our Victim Advocate program!

The OPP Accolade Awards recognize exceptional service by uniform and civilian employees to policing, and to our communities. We are so honoured to have our program, the first of its kind in Ontario, be recognized. Not only that, but we are the first anti-violence agency to receive an accolade award!

Our Victim Advocate program is in its third year and is the only program of its kind offered in Ontario. The main role of the VA is to assist the victim in navigating the system and throughout the criminal justice process. Our advocate, Brianne, works with the Lanark County Ontario Provincial Police and community partners (Victim Services Lanark County, Perth & Smiths Falls District Hospital Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence program and Lanark County Victim Witness Assistance Program). We are proud of the work we have done to provide a creative approach to victim experience of policing in our county.



Executive Director Erin Lee and Victim Advocate Brianne Luckasavitch accept the Accolade Award,

Support LCIHCS While You Shop: Our Optimum Cards Are Back!

We are excited to announce we have all NEW PC Optimum Cards available after a technical difficulty out of our control made our cards unusable. These cards make a huge difference to our agency. Our annual gas and food bill is over \$50,000 so the Optimum points help us to alleviate some of these costs. Use your LCIHCS Card when you shop at any Loblaws-brand store. You don't need to swipe every time you shop - every point counts!

To get an LCIHCS Optimum Card, visit the As Good As New Store in Carleton Place, Red Brick Emporium in Perth, Beautiful Full Figure in Smiths Falls, Mill Street Books in Almonte or email cathie.mcormond@lcih.com!

INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST PROGRAM: SUIT YOURSELF

*DESIGNED TO EMPOWER WOMEN TO
SUCCESSFULLY RESTART THEIR LIFE.*

We are thrilled to announce our latest program, Suit Yourself. Housed in our existing space in our 33 Bridge St. building in Carleton Place, The Suit Yourself program provides complimentary work and professional attire while being a support for women in our community facing upcoming court appearances or job interviews. Similar programs exist outside of Lanark County but are inaccessible to our clients. To better accommodate women, and to reduce the transportation barrier, LCIHCS has designed the program to assist clients in our communities.

This program has been designed to provide women with a hand up, not a hand out. It recognizes everyone feels better and more confident when they look good. When you look good it helps alleviate some of the stress of a court appearance or a job interview.

Suit Yourself has three components: private, one-on-one styling sessions with trained consultants. These styling sessions assist clients to select professional clothing and accessories; assistance with resume preparation, conducting mock interviews and coaching; a series of information videos and handouts are available free of charge on our website. Videos include topics such as making a good first impression at court, job interview preparation, make up and hairstyling tips, creating a budget friendly work wardrobe, financial literacy 101 and mindfulness.



See It, Name It, Change It: Support LCIHCS in Style!

We still have LCIHCS swag available for sale! We have yoga mats, cozy blankets, toques, crew neck sweaters, hoodies and t-shirts, there is something to suit every taste!

Our merchandise is now available on our website, www.lcih.org/shop. One hundred percent of the proceeds from sales support our shelter and programming so you can look AND feel great!

MAY IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH!

May is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. It is an opportunity to raise awareness about the devastating impact of this crime, to better understand its deep cultural and historical roots, to support victims and survivors and to work together to stop the violence. It's also an opportunity to highlight the strength and resilience of survivors, and to recognize the accomplishments of the individuals and organizations that are working to raise awareness of sexual assault, support victims and prosecute offenders.



Our banner hung in Perth in 2022

We are pleased to have joined once again with Women's Sexual Assault Centre of Renfrew County and their #WeStandWithSurvivors campaign. For the month of May, we will have a banner hanging in Smiths Falls. This banner shows survivors of sexual assault that we as a community believe them, hear them and stand with them. We encourage you to help change the culture! Believe survivors, respect boundaries and challenge victim blaming!

PEBBLE MOSAIC HONOURING VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE TO BE UNVEILED IN SMITHS FALLS

We are excited to have been able to work with ReDefine Arts once again to bring a third pebble mosaic to Lanark County. Last spring and summer, community members had the opportunity to design and build the mosaic which honours victims and survivors of gender-based violence; a hummingbird design was chosen. The mosaic will be installed in Town Square in Smiths Falls, between the public library and Town Hall.



The mosaic is part of the Countdown Project, an Ontario-wide arts initiative that engages communities to create monuments in public spaces to honour those affected by gender-based violence and to imagine, or count down to, a world without gender-based violence. Countdown was launched in 2016 following an invitation from the Women's Sexual Assault Centre of Renfrew County. Since then, over 4,000 people have gathered in large and small groups to imagine and build 13 pebble mosaics across Ontario.

All are welcome to join us on May 18 at 5:30 at Town Hall Square for the unveiling ceremony. There will be entertainment and light refreshments provided. More details are available on our social media and website, www.lcih.org/events. For more info on ReDefine Arts and the Countdown Project visit redefinearts.ca



*Left: LCIHCS Staff at the unveiling of the pebble mosaic in Almonte, September 2021.
Right: LCIHCS Staff and the ReDefine Arts team stand behind the under-construction mosaic in Smiths Falls, July 2022*

A CORNERSTONE OF THE AGENCY: OUR VOLUNTEERS

April 16-22 is Volunteer Appreciation Week! To accomplish our goals of protecting women and children, we at LCIHCS rely heavily on the help of our volunteers. Our volunteers work tirelessly and generously give their time helping in all aspects of the agency from shelter shift support to keeping our As Good As New Store running!

We couldn't do what we do without the help of our wonderful volunteers and we would like to give them each a HUGE thank you!

For more information on volunteering with us, please visit our website or email volunteer@lcih.com.

PUBLIC EDUCATION PRESENTATIONS ARE BACK!

Prevention, Education, and Awareness are key to ending the cycle of violence against women and children. We know that increasing the awareness of a community on the topic of domestic violence creates a safer community.

We offer free training and workshops for schools, service providers, and community groups as a way to break down barriers and create culture change. Topics Include: Healthy Relationships, Dating Violence, How Domestic Violence Affects Children, Gender and the Media, How Neighbours, Friends, and Families can help, and LCIHCS Programs & Services.

If you would like to book a public education presentation for your school, workplace, club or group please email Brianne at brianne@lcih.com.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS!

Extending our sincerest thanks to all of our donors and our fantastic community partners. This season, we would like to send a special thank you to some special people:

- Perth and District Community Fund
- Mattamy Homes and Jara Sweeping
- The Almonte Curling Club
- Bethel United Church
- Renewed with Love and Miss Penny's Closet
- Ever After Bridal
- Jeff Julian Desjardins Insurance Agent
- Lumentum



A warm thank you to Mitchell's Your Independent Grocer, Taste Blooms, Foundry Collective and Coffee Bar, Starbucks Carleton Place and Maverick's Donuts Carleton Place for supplying us with treats for the International Women's Day tea party we hosted for our residents!



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Upcoming Events

May 6th:

What Now Lanark County Women's Conference, Almonte Civitan Club

The theme of the conference is Imagine- Learn/Inspire/Act.

Participants will enjoy a panel of speakers on a range of topics relating to women's issues.

More information and tickets available at ticketsplease.ca for \$40. Includes lunch, snacks, tea and coffee

May 18th:

ReDefine Arts Pebble Mosaic Unveiling, Town Square in Smiths Falls 5:30 p.m.

All are welcome to join us for entertainment and refreshments as we unveil the latest pebble mosaic honouring victims and survivors of gender-based violence. Town Square is located between the Library and Town Hall in Smiths Falls. Free.

May 24:

Victims and Survivors of Crime Week Acknowledgement, Town Square in Smiths Falls 3-6 p.m.

Restorative practice circle discussions and event with service providers, students, educators, clients, community members and victims and survivors of gender-based violence. Refreshments provided. Please bring a lawn chair

June:

Lanark County Pride Events

Stay tuned to our website and social media for more details!

June 26-28:

Conference in Honour of One-Year since the Release of the Renfrew County Inquest Recommendations

This conference will be hosted by Luke's Place and will take place in Renfrew County. Please stay tuned for more details.