



TYPS EVENT : *Making It Count*

Merrickville, Ontario – July 13th 2006

On Thursday July 13, 2006 ,TYPS hosted an event with the region's Youth Centres. Our Guest Host was Max Keeping, the Executive Director of News for CTV/CJOH television, who has been a long-time supporter of youth initiatives and the community youth centres. This event recognized achievements by area youth centres and unveiled our new on-line program "Recordings," an invaluable tool for youth and youth organizations across the province. Over 70 people attended the event, representing fifteen regional youth centres as well as some from as far away as Essex to Sault Ste. Marie, project funders, community partners and supporters, and regional media.

Max Keeping started the event with a review of the important work being done through community youth centres and recognizing the contributions made by the youth and volunteers involved. Mr. Keeping also noted the important need for the government of Ontario to find ways to support the youth centres as an important part of their overall youth strategy. Mr. Keeping noted that there was some funding to be made available next year for Ontario cities but that the towns and rural areas also need and deserve support.

The 'Youth and TYPS on Tobacco' Project was an important initiative funded by the Tobacco Control Strategy, Health Canada, and the partnering of 65 youth centres. The fifteen Eastern Ontario youth centres involved in this project were presented with recognition plaques, followed up with a screening of the videos they produced. This project involved youth at each centre creating an anti-tobacco video with funds made available through TYPS and Health Canada's Tobacco Control Strategy.

The TYPS Recordings Program will contribute significantly in the need identified by youth to document the growth of their personal assets and community contributions. It will also provide an on-going research component on the value of community-supported youth centres/youth councils, and youth initiatives. Youth want to be recognized as citizens with rights and responsibilities who are able to make contributions through active community involvement, participation, partnerships, and meaningful decision-making that affect their lives. "Recordings" will youth to achieve to achieve those goals.

Although the day was so hot the air conditioning broke down, the event stayed on schedule and everyone enjoyed themselves. Thanks to the Canadian Recreational Canoe Association for allowing us the use of their building and internet. Also thanks to the youth centres of Merrickville, Kemptville, Smiths Falls, and Carleton Place who held open houses for guests. The new TYPS office in Merrickville was also open to visit, with thanks to Judith Moore of Burlco Damask Design Group for her advice and decorating suggestions. There were four area newspapers and CJOH News covering the event. The Premier's office sent a representative and Mayor D. Struthers of Merrickville-Wolford and Mayor B. Gooch of North Grenville attended to express their support.

Special thanks to Max Keeping for being our guest host/presenter for the event.

TYPS also would like to thank Integrating Solutions Inc. as a corporate sponsor, for their continued support and involvement, particularly in hosting all the project videos.

We particularly want to thank our funders for this past year which made the projects and our overall operations possible: Health Canada's Tobacco Control Strategy, National Crime Prevention Strategy, and The Ontario Trillium Foundation.



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"TYPS works to encourage, support, and provide information and training to youth and youth groups in rural areas, towns and small cities in Ontario."

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