



# Brant TAPP-C

**The Arson Prevention Program for Children**

## ANNUAL REPORT

October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006



## *Participating Agencies*

Brantford Fire Department  
County of Brant Fire Department  
Woodview Children’s Centre  
Brantford Police Services  
City Of Brantford  
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health  
Children’s Aid Society of Brant  
Contact Brant  
Grand Erie District School Board  
Ministry of Community and Social Services  
Ontario Fire Marshal’s Office  
Ministry of Children’s & Youth Services-Probation Services  
St. Leonard’s Community Service



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## Introduction

Brant Arson Prevention Program for Children (Brant TAPP-C) was launched in October 2001 and now has completed five years of service to the citizens of Brantford and County of Brant. TAPP-C is a collaborative program that brings together fire service and mental health professionals to work with children, youth and their families to eliminate dangerous fire-related behaviours

The goal of the Brant TAPP-C program is to reduce the risk of fire setting by children and youth in our community. TAPP-C is a program that brings together fire service and counselling professionals to help families deal effectively with children and teens involved in fire setting. In this area, the Fire Departments from the County of Brant and the City of Brantford, and Woodview Children's Centre provide these services.

The fire service professionals educate children and their families about fire and how to develop good fire safety practices. Counselling professionals assess the risk of continued fire involvement and make recommendations to reduce risk and help children and their families deal with problems that may contribute to the fire setting. TAPP-C is free-of-charge and is available to children from 2 to 17 years of age.

The Brant TAPP-C Steering Committee was formed on April 25, 2001 bringing together representatives from local school boards, social service agencies, police and fire departments. This committee continues to meet quarterly, providing support and direction to the program.

## TAPP-C Across Ontario

The Ontario Fire Marshal's Office, the Toronto Fire Service and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health developed the TAPP-C program in 1991. It received a mandate to expand across the province and TAPP-C programs are now operating in approximately 50 communities across Ontario involving more than 115 Fire Services. Toronto TAPP-C also provides training, consultations, updates, and networking to these community sites. Three manuals have been developed and are now being used by local TAPP-C Committees. These manuals include the new TAPP-C: Clinician's Manual for Preventing and Treating Juvenile Fire Involvement, the revised TAPP-C Fire Service Educator's Manual and the new TAPP-C Community Implementation Manual. Training is provided to mental health professionals who provide services to children and youth.

## TAPP-C Steering Committee

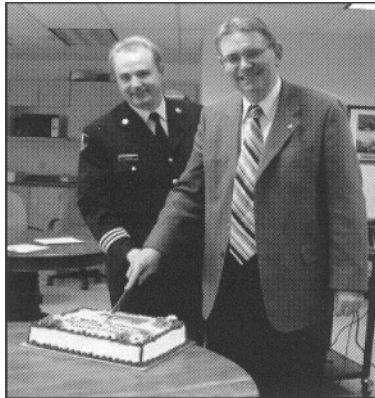
The role of the steering committee is to review the progress and effectiveness of the program. Changes are made as needed to improve the process and the program. Our long-term objective is to reduce the number of fires, injuries, and loss of life and property that is caused by juvenile fire setting. Families who agree to participate in follow-up are contacted after one year following completion of both components. There have not been any documented incidents of recidivism and the families report being comfortable with the outcomes of both the fire education and the clinical assessment.

## 2005-2006 Year In Review

- Woodview now has 7 trained staff to provide TAPP-C assessments, enabling us to complete them in a timely manner. This has helped improve our completion rate, which was an impressive 80%!
- We now have a power point presentation, thanks to the efforts of Bob Sproul, Gail Clare and Sharon Labonte-Jaques.
- Intake and referral forms were updated and distributed electronically, for easier usage.
- Letters were sent to both school board superintendents requesting notification of any fire events that take place on school property, including non-emergency fires. Brief forms were developed to make this process easier, and can be faxed. Kim Baker from CAMH did a presentation to support staff to explain our program and this process. We want to increase awareness of our program, and expedite not only TAPP-C referrals, but also red flag the need for fire services to go out to a school and speak to students for education and fire prevention.
- We celebrated 5 years of TAPP-C in Brant County (see article below).
- New committee members; Barb Ireland from Grand Erie District School Board, Jennifer Aubrey from Brant CAS, and Philip Minotti from Brantford Police Services were welcomed.
- Geoff Hayman met with the Paris Optimists and showed our new power point presentation.

# Brant County TAPP-C: a success story

BY GEOFF HAYMAN CFPO, COUNTY OF BRANT FIRE DEPARTMENT:



Chris Slosser, OFM and Mike Hancock, Mayor of Brantford cut a cake to celebrate TAPP-C's fifth year of operation in Brantford

The Brant TAPP-C program commemorated their fifth year of operation with a celebration attended by representatives from the Office of the Fire Marshal, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, local politicians, members of two fire departments as well as members of the steering committee and other local organizations.

Brant TAPP-C was originally launched on October 12, 2001 during Fire Prevention Week, and has been a resounding success since that time. The steering committee was formed in April 2001, and along with Sharon Labonte-Jacques from

CAMH and Rick Finnemore of the OFM, developed a working logic model to ensure an effective program was implemented. A collaborative effort between the City of Brantford and County of Brant Fire Departments along with Woodview Children's Centre, the program continues to meet the needs of the community in helping reduce fire setting behaviour in the two communities.

Mike Hancock, Mayor of Brantford, remarked on the importance of the program to the community in addressing juvenile fire setting, providing parents and caregivers a means to help youth deal with challenges in today's society. Mayor Hancock presented a certificate to Committee Co-Chairs Mary Newman of Woodview Children's Centre and Geoff Hayman of the County of Brant Fire Department on behalf of the City of Brantford.

Guest speaker Chris Slosser, Acting Program Specialist for Public Education and Media

Relations section with the Office of the Fire Marshal, addressed the assembled group regarding the history of TAPP-C and the role of the Office of the Fire Marshal and CAMH in the province-wide implementation of the program. Slosser elaborated on how TAPP-C has spread across the country, with every province except Manitoba and Newfoundland using a version of the program. He stated there is growing interest in the program from the United Kingdom and the United States. He also congratulated the Brant TAPP-C committee on their successful program.

A certificate of appreciation and gift was presented to Jeff McCormick, a Fire Prevention Officer with the Brantford Fire Department. As a member and original founding Co-Chair of the Brant TAPP-C steering committee, McCormick was instrumental in the development of the program but stepped down from the committee following a change in his responsibilities with the Brantford Fire Department.

## Statistics

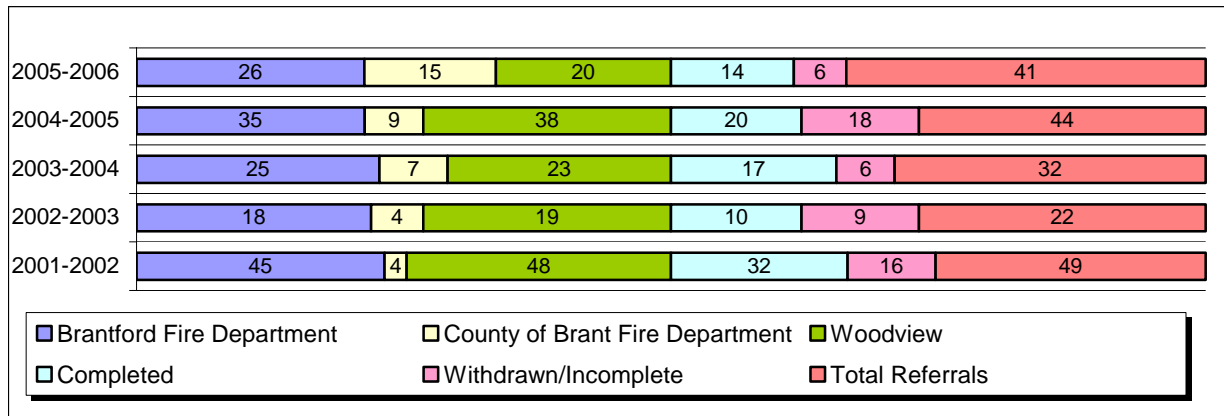
Following are reported numbers of participants by service provider:

	<b>Brantford Fire Department</b>	<b>County of Brant Fire Department</b>	<b>Woodview Children's Centre</b>
<b>Referrals</b>	26	15	20
<b>Completed</b>	13	5	14
<b>Non admit / did not complete</b>	11	8	4
<b>Presently receiving service</b>	2	2	2

### ✦ Observations from Current Statistics ✦

- 41 total referrals were received by Fire Services
- About half of the combined referrals to Fire Services went on to contact Woodview Children's Centre for the clinical component
- Over 50% of referrals to Brantford Fire Department completed or are completing the Fire Education Component
- Almost half of the referrals to County of Brant Fire Department completed or are in process of completing the Fire Education Component
- 80% of referrals to Woodview Children's Centre completed the assessment and treatment component

## Referrals



✦ Also includes receiving service at Sept 30/06 but not yet completed.

### Observations from 2002—2006 Statistics

- Referrals to the Brantford Fire department are down this year
- Referrals to the County Fire Department are up
- Total referrals are slightly down when compared to last year
- About half went on to Woodview for the clinical component, down from most years
- Approx. 50% of all referrals over the past 5 years have completed TAPP-C

### In conclusion

I would like to take this opportunity to express many heart felt thanks to the hard work and dedication by the staff of the City of Brantford Fire Department, the County of Brant Fire Department, and the Woodview Children's Centre.

The steering committee was pleased to celebrate five years of service in our community. We continue to review, revise and improve the program, addressing changes in program delivery and content. Committee members provide input that has led to meaningful change that allows the program to remain current and effective.

The Brant TAPP-C program has now completed the 5th year of operation. This is an important program that helps protect the children and youth in our community as well as their families.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Geoff Hayman  
 Chair, Brant TAPP-C  
 Fire Prevention Officer, County of Brant Fire Department  
 2005—2006

Mary Newman  
 Co-Chair Brant TAPP-C  
 Woodview Children's Centre

## What is the Picture?

- Children under 18 cause 16% of all fires in the province
- Fire setting is problem behaviour in 20% of outpatient children and 35% of inpatients
- Fire setting is a symptom of broader-based behaviour disorder

## Sample Characteristics

- 4 or more children living in the home
- CAS involvement
- Previous mental health involvement, often by age 5
- Previous police involvement, often before age 10
- Behaviour factors: attention difficulties, non-compliance, supervision factors

## Stop Juvenile Fire Setting Before It Starts

- Set a good example; make fire safety a family matter. Practice fire and burn prevention in your home.
- Supervise your child. Almost all fires start when children are unsupervised.
- Store matches and lighters in a locked cabinet, far away from curious fingers.
- Purchase only child-resistant lighters. Even a 2-year old can work a cigarette lighter.
- Use a “Don’t Touch!” approach with children under 5 years old. Teach older children to bring matches to you. Reward them with praise when they do.
- If an older child is curious about matches, demonstrate the proper and safe way to use them. Explain that it is important to use matches only when an adult is present.
- Check smoke detectors regularly and have a plan to get out of your home quickly in the event of a fire.
- Matches and lighters are tools for adults not toys for children.
- Candles should only be used by an adult, and extinguished before leaving the room.