



County of Oxford

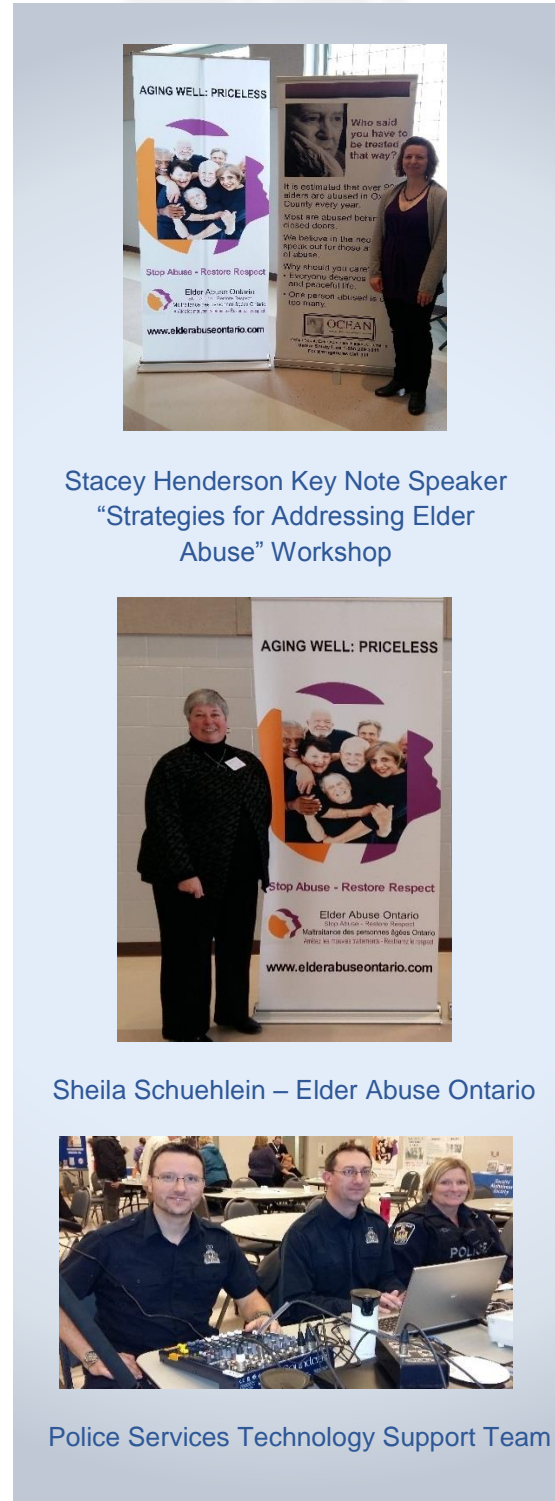
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[Edition 1, Volume 1]

# Welcome to the OCEAN Newsletter

## Oxford County Elder Abuse and Neglect Committee

OCEAN is a multi-disciplinarian, county-wide partnership of community organizations and community groups who advocate for the concerns of the elderly through ongoing education and awareness. OCEAN has been a local committee since 2001.



Stacey Henderson Key Note Speaker “Strategies for Addressing Elder Abuse” Workshop

## Oxford County Elder Abuse and Neglect Committee Members



## Recent Events

The committee had an active start to 2017 by hosting its first regional **Elder Abuse Awareness Community Forum** on February 9, 2017 at Goff Hall in Woodstock. The morning session was for Professional Staff and was entitled “Strategies for Addressing Elder Abuse”. The evening event was an open community forum intended as education and awareness for the general public which included a panel of experts in their field to address questions.

## OCEAN Chair Update

My name is Dominique Stanley and I currently work at Woodstock General Hospital as the Enhanced Psychogeriatric Resource Consultant (EPRC) with the BSO Geriatric Outreach Team. I have been a member of OCEAN since I started at the hospital in 2015 and I am familiar with all of the wonderful work that the network has done raising awareness and providing education on elder abuse.

I am passionate about advocating for the care of older adults and I look forward to continuing the wonderful efforts of OCEAN in the future. I would like to thank Anita Cole for her leadership of OCEAN for the past 13 years!

Please feel free to connect with me if you have any questions about OCEAN or if you are interested in joining the network! I can be reached at: 519-421-4233 ext. 2958; [dstanley@wgh.on.ca](mailto:dstanley@wgh.on.ca)



Sheila Schuehlein – Elder Abuse Ontario



Police Services Technology Support Team

## Ageing Well and Staying Safe



Research indicates having healthy and supportive relationships is the pillar for successful aging. Everyone has the right to be safe and free from abuse or neglect. Keeping socially connected as we age offers a multitude of health benefits such as decreased risk of loneliness and depression. Reduced stress and increased coping skills come through maintaining valuable, supportive networks. Social isolation is a significant risk factor for elder abuse.

It can be difficult to discuss sensitive matters with friends and family, for example: how might we bring up the subject of abuse with a friend who may be experiencing it? As we age, our roles, responsibilities and health may change, all of which may become difficult subjects to discuss with our families. It is important to model effective ways of communicating, to make sure that our wishes are clearly made known and our needs are met.

Elder Abuse Ontario (EAO), in partnership with social service providers in the Kawartha Lakes, have developed the Tea & Talk Program. This toolkit is meant to inspire seniors groups, communities and supporting agencies, as well as to encourage informative workshops that engage older adults in starting conversations towards maintaining and creating healthy relationships. Topics for interactive discussion include:

- Communications in Healthy Relationships
- Increasing Self-Esteem
- Dating
- Age Discrimination
- Caregiving
- Protecting Finances
- a Closer Look at Elder Abuse and Sexual Harm

The toolkit can be found on EAO's website: <http://www.elderabuseontario.com/what-is-elder-abuse/help-for-seniors/educational-materials-for-seniors/>



## Elder Abuse Ontario - A Valuable New Resource for Service Providers



Safety Planning for Older Adults – Keeping Safe in Unhealthy Relationships is a new Elder Abuse Ontario (EAO) resource developed in collaboration with METRAC Action on Violence funded by The Law Foundation of Ontario. This toolkit was designed for agencies supporting older victims who are vulnerable, at-risk or experiencing abuse. Whether the individual is an older woman or man, the Safety Planning Toolkit provides important information about family and partner violence. It also provides suggestions and strategies to help protect older adults in situations of risk or danger and assists on how to maintain their safety and security. The Toolkit provides:

- Key facts and statistics on abuse and violence in later life
- Tips on how to recognize the warning signs of unhealthy relationships or abusive partners
- Action steps for an older adult's personal safety including making a personalized safety plan
- Contact information on programs and services

This resource was launched via an introductory webinar which can be accessed at:  
<http://www.elderabuseontario.com/training-education/training/webinars/>

The Toolkit is also available for download via this link.

Elder Abuse Ontario is a provincial, charitable, non-profit organization focused on supporting the implementation of The Ontario Strategy to Combat Elder Abuse since 2002.

The framework of the Strategy focuses on:

- Service coordination
- Building local capacity of front-line workers, caregivers, and community networks
- Providing elder abuse awareness, education and training to professionals/service providers and families of seniors.

Elder Abuse Ontario envisions an Ontario where seniors are free from abuse, have a strong voice and are safe and respected.

For more information about Elder Abuse Ontario please contact: Sheila Schuehlein, West Regional Consultant at 647-393-3891 or via email: [west@elderabuseontario.com](mailto:west@elderabuseontario.com)

## It's Not Right! Neighbours, Friends and Families for Older Adults

It's Not Right, a presentation on how to approach elder abuse was developed with the idea that anyone can make an impact: small actions can make a big difference.

It's Not Right offers cues to identify signs and risk factors to help recognize elder abuse. Ageism and victim-blaming is reviewed and the role they play in creating a potentially abusive situation. This opens the door to conversation if something is noted that may be of concern. Using the facts and avoiding subjective opinions, the concern can be named and the person supported while they come to a decision as to next steps. It is most important to reduce isolation and ensure the safety of the person at risk. Using genuine concern within a non-judgmental conversation can increase the likelihood of keeping that person safe.

This is a presentation that targets all ages and all professions; learning that one step can create a ripple effect and make a huge difference in one person's life.

**For more information about INR please visit <http://itsnotright.ca/> or email [west@elderabuseontario.com](mailto:west@elderabuseontario.com)**



## Resources

- **Ontario Information about Elder Abuse:** <https://www.ontario.ca/page/information-about-elder-abuse>
- **The Forum of Federal/Provincial/Territorial (F/P/T) Ministers Responsible for seniors** is an intergovernmental body established to share resources, information. Under the category, What Every Older Canadian Should Know About... they have resources on the following:
  - Power of attorney and joint bank accounts
  - Financial planning
  - Income and benefits from government programs
  - Managing and protecting their assets
  - Planning for possible loss of independence
  - Planning for their future housing needs
  - Having a will and making funeral plans
  - Financial abuse
  - Frauds and scams<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/seniors/forum.html>
- There are many resources available to individuals who may be feeling vulnerable or who want more information about senior safety:
  - The Healthline: [www.thehealthline.ca](http://www.thehealthline.ca)
  - Advocacy Centre for the Elderly: [www.ancelaw.ca](http://www.ancelaw.ca) or 416-598-2656
  - Retirement Home Regulatory Authority: 1-855-275-7472
  - Elder Abuse Ontario: [www.elderabuseontario.com](http://www.elderabuseontario.com)
  - Ministry of Health and Long Term Care Action line: 1-866-434-0144
  - Signs and Symptoms/Types of Elder Abuse can be accessed at: <http://www.seniors.gov.on.ca/en/safety/whatissea.php>

## World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – June 15, 2017

The global population of people aged 60 years and older will more than double, from 542 million in 1995 to about 1.2 billion in 2025. Around 4 - 6% of elderly people have experienced some form of maltreatment at home. Elder maltreatment can lead to serious physical injuries and long-term psychological consequences. The incidence of abuse towards older people is predicted to increase as many countries are experiencing rapidly ageing populations.

Elder abuse is a global social issue which affects the health and human rights of millions of older persons around the world, and an issue which deserves the attention of the international community.

In 2012, the United Nations General Assembly designated June 15 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD). It represents the one day in the year when the whole world voices its opposition to the abuse and suffering inflicted to some of our older generations.

