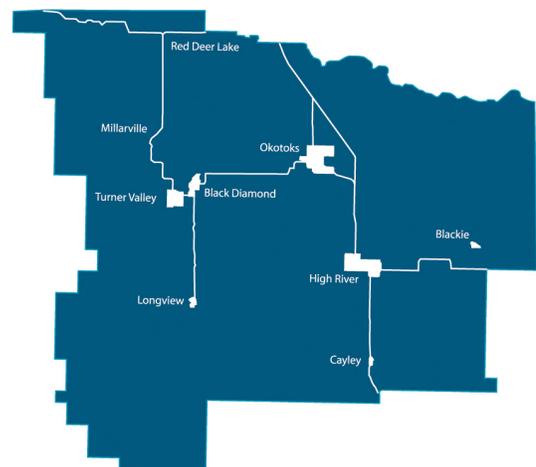




**D.A.R.E. Works
Foothills Society
2005—2006
ANNUAL REPORT**



D.A.R.E. WORKS FOOTHILLS SOCIETY 2005—2006

Drug Abuse Resistance Education
Works On Reinforcing Kids' Strengths

MISSION

In partnership with the RCMP, we work to empower and educate our children through structured programs that will help them make wise choices toward their own social development, that will further enhance their safety and well-being, and to have these choices reinforced and supported by the community.

2005-2006 BOARD MEMBERS

Wayne Meikle, President

Carol Robinson, Vice President

Jody Seeley, Treasurer

Pat Fream, Secretary

Pam MacDonald, Member

Stan Parker, Member

Jill Rea, Member

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STAFF

Geoff Carpenter, D.A.R.E. Coordinator

Al Gillis, D.A.R.E. Instructor

Laurie McCreary-Burke, Executive Director

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that the Society and its programs just seem to get better every year. In 2005-2006 the new 10-lesson grade six curriculum was fully implemented, the DARE Parent Program was launched and we established a community partnership with the Okotoks Oilers. Sadly, we lost some of our board members as well as losing Cst. Al Gillis, our grade six DARE Instructor.

Al left us at the end of the school year to finally retire. We will miss him greatly. In addition to teaching the DARE Program in nine schools, Al spent many volunteer hours in classrooms throughout the Foothills. Al's background in the RCMP and especially in criminal investigation made him a sought-after presenter by both teachers and students. We wish Al the best in his retirement.

The Society filled the vacant DARE Instructor position by hiring Greg Diebolt, a recently retired RCMP officer. Greg brings with him a tremendous enthusiasm for the DARE Program and we are looking forward to working with him.

Cst. Geoff Carpenter, our DARE Coordinator, continued to teach both grade six and grade eight classes as well as introducing the new DARE Parent Program. I congratulate Geoff on his very successful launch of the Parent Program. Geoff has a impressive ability to interact with adults and youth alike and is a great asset to our program. I thank Geoff, Al and Greg for a job well done.

I also would like to thank all past and present board members for their contributions. Board members spent numerous hours fundraising, attending meetings, grads etc. Your contributions are very appreciated by me and by the community. I would especially like to thank those who volunteered their time and thereby ensured the success of our casino, the silent auction and the golf tournament.

Laurie McCreary-Burke, our Executive Director, had a very busy year with both society business and the program within the schools. I would like to thank Laurie for a job well done and especially for helping to organize the various fundraisers.

On behalf of the board I would like to thank all our partners and sponsors for their help and donations this year. Without their support, the Society would not be able to deliver the DARE Program in our schools. I would also like to thank the other people who were involved with DARE. This includes all the representatives from the Okotoks Oilers who spoke so eloquently at our grade six grads, all the community volunteers who helped with our fundraising events, teachers who welcomed us into their classrooms and parents and families who allowed us the time to present the DARE program. Last I would like to thank the students who allowed us to be part of their lives in a very busy school year.

We are proud of our past and know we are facing numerous challenges in the future. As program costs increase, fundraising will continue to be our number one challenge. To meet this challenge, we need to ensure both continuity and renewal among our sponsors, board members and volunteers.

The expression "It takes a village to raise our children" emphasizes the importance of DARE in the community. DARE unites parents, schools, police, youth and the rest of the community to teach the life skills that our children need in a world where they receive so many negative messages.

Thank you again to everyone who has supported and helped sustain the DARE program in our community.

Wayne Meikle

D.A.R.E. COORDINATOR'S REPORT

“Change” was the buzz word for DARE instructors this year.

Starting with the sixth grade, the “new” DARE program was introduced with a facilitated style of instruction rather than an instructor driven concept. This allowed the students to share the learned information with each other. A new “Canadianized” work book was rolled out as part of that change. The new curriculum received much positive feedback from students and teachers.

The main focus of the curriculum is to teach decision making skills that can cover numerous areas throughout a teen’s life. Also with the new curriculum was a new definition given to the acronym DARE which when applied to the decision making model stands for Define, Assess, Respond and Evaluate. The students continually used this concept throughout the ten lessons.

The curriculum change did not affect the grade eight program this year; however, with the impending changes to next year’s curriculum, instructor upgrading was achieved in preparation of this change.

What was implemented this year into the final segment of the course was the students had to make an “advertisement” based on making good choices. The knowledge, creativity and thoughtfulness of these peer directed projects were outstanding and it appears that the majority of the students were “getting it” in terms of being responsible youth in our community.

Our greatest accomplishment this year was the introduction of the DARE Parent Program. The program was delivered in Okotoks and High River and, by the adult response and attendance, it would appear that this information was long overdue for the Foothills area. The classes took place over a three night period with the focus being on Communication/Parenting Skills, Current Drug Trends and Understanding Today’s Youth.

The success of this program has led to large demand for the fall months.

Finally, in an attempt to stay connected to the youth into their high school years, numerous visits were made to the high schools and to finish the year off a number of students were selected to attend a Student Police Academy held in conjunction with the Calgary Police Service. The response was most favourable.

Cst. Geoff Carpenter, Foothills Dare Coordinator

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The 2005—2006 fiscal year was tremendously successful and rewarding. The Society was fortunate to start the year with approximately \$30,000.00 in deferred revenue from a Wild Rose Foundation grant and a two-year donation from Cargill Foods. Early in the year we were pleased to accept a \$15,000.00 donation from the Okotoks Area Range Patrol.

Following-up on this great beginning to our annual fundraising activities, Board members diligently worked throughout the winter months to organize our second annual comedy night and silent auction fundraiser. Many hours were devoted to gathering auction donations and to organizing the event. Unfortunately, we were unable to sell enough tickets and, consequently, the comedy night had to be cancelled. With the permission of our donors, we instead held the auction in conjunction with the 2006 Okotoks/High River RCMP golf tournament. The success of this auction demonstrated to us that we should no longer attempt to host a spring fundraiser but should rather use the annual golf tournament as a venue for the auction.

After a three-and-a-half year hiatus, the Society was again able to host casino in late August 2006. We were very fortunate to have the assistance of volunteers from Victim Services, Citizens on Patrol and participants in the new D.A.R.E Parent program. Thank you to all who helped out. The revenue gained from this event will help to sustain the D.A.R.E. Program over the next two years.

In terms of programming, the Society once again expanded its services by adding a D.A.R.E. Parent program. This program was delivered by Constable Geoff Carpenter in both Okotoks and High River to over 50 adults. Initial feed-back indicates that the participants very much enjoyed the program and found it to be worthwhile.

This year, Constable Carpenter and Constable Gillis introduced the new 10 lesson curriculum for the D.A.R.E. grade six program. The new curriculum uses a facilitated style of delivery and engages students to research and find their own answers to problems posed. Judging by the reports delivered in the close-of-program graduation ceremonies, it appears that the students gained a much deeper understanding of the content than in the past.

One of the consequences of moving to the 10 lesson curriculum was the loss of high school mentors. The loss of this lesson was ameliorated by forming a partnership with the Okotoks Oilers who sent representatives to speak at each of the graduation ceremonies. These young men always spoke powerfully about the choices they made to get where they are.

I would like to thank Constable Al Gillis who retired at the close of the school year. Al has done a tremendous job over the past three years and has built wonderful rapport with grade six students across the MD. Although we will miss Al, we are very fortunate to have Constable Greg Diebolt take over the grade six D.A.R.E. Program. Greg has recently retired from the High River RCMP detachment. I look forward to working with Greg and welcome him to the position.

Finally, I would also like to thank parting Board members, Cathy Littler, Lori Sluth, Dean Anderson and Gary Sawatzky for their dedication and assistance. I would also like to say how much I enjoyed working with our new Board members, Pat Fream, Pam MacDonald, Stan Parker and Jill Rea. It has truly been a pleasure working with all Board members and staff and I am looking forward to continued success next year.

Laurie McCreary-Burke, Executive Director

PARENT PROGRAM SURVEY RESULTS

In the winter of 2006 the Society launched its new DARE Parent Program. The Program is delivered in three evening sessions of two hours each and has now been held twice in Okotoks and once in High River. A total of 68 adults have attended at least one session. Not all participants attended all three sessions.

Following the sessions held in Okotoks in the fall of 2006, we administered a survey to participants to get their feed-back on the program. A total of 20 surveys were distributed and 15 were returned. We also distributed 12 shorter-version surveys to participants who took the Parent Program in High River in the spring of 2006; three surveys were returned.

At the time the Parent Program was delivered in Okotoks, the grade six DARE program was concurrently delivered in three Okotoks elementary schools and the grade eight program was delivered in the junior high school. In the survey administered to Okotoks participants, we asked respondents to identify the grades of their children, their children's schools and whether or not their children had taken the D.A.R.E. Program. The results are as follows:

- All 15 of the respondents had children of school age and all children attended schools in Okotoks.
- 12/15 respondents had children in the public school system and 3/15 had children in the separate school system. (Note: the DARE Program is not delivered in the separate school system).
- The respondents reported a total of 30 children; eight of these were in grades K-5; 13 of them were in grades 6-8; and nine of them were in grades 9-12.
- 8/15 respondents had children who were concurrently taking the DARE Program; four of these respondents had children in grade six, one had a child in each grade six and grade eight, and three had children in grade eight.
- 9/15 respondents had children who had previously taken the DARE Program and, of these, seven had children who were also concurrently taking the DARE Program

The Parent Program delivered in Okotoks in the fall of 2006 was advertised in the local newspaper and on the local radio station. All Okotoks area schools were notified of the program, including the high school. Some of the schools then advertised the program in their newsletters and / or sent notice home with students.

Most of the participants in the Okotoks program had exposure to the DARE Program through their children. Almost half of these became aware of the Parent Program through the school newsletter and/or through a notice sent home with their children. Other participants whose children had taken DARE in the past became aware of the program through a newspaper advertisement. Participants whose children had never taken DARE were most likely to find out about the program through word of mouth. (See table 1 below)

TABLE 1

Children's Involvement in DARE	School System		How participant became aware of the program		
	Public School	Separate School	School Newsletter / Notice	Local Newspaper	Word of Mouth
1 child currently taking DARE	2/15		1/15	1/15	
2 children currently taking DARE	1/15		1/15		
1 child currently taking DARE, 1 child took DARE in the past	5/15		4/15	1/15	
2 or more children took DARE in the past	2/15			1/15	1/15
Children have never taken DARE	1/15	3/15			4/15
No answer	1/15		1/15		
TOTALS	12/15	3/15	7/15	3/15	5/15

The participants who completed a survey strongly endorsed the DARE Parent Program. In response to the question “*What were your expectations for learning prior to taking the program?*” the respondents identified that they were looking for up-to-date, local information. They wanted to know the signs and symptoms of teen drug/alcohol use/abuse, red flags and effects/side effects of drug use. They also wanted information on treatment and availability of community resources as well as information on peer pressure and bullying. Finally, they were looking for guidance on how to talk to their children about drugs and how to protect them from becoming involved.

In response to the question “*How well did the content of the program meet your expectations for learning?*” 17 of 18 respondents reported that the program met or exceeded their expectations. One respondent did not answer the question.

In response to the question “*Regarding the timing and length of program, how well did the program meet your needs?*” six respondents thought the program could be longer, nine respondents thought the program was the right length, one respondent thought the program could be delivered in two sessions and one respondent did not answer the question. Given that all participants were not able to attend all three sessions, it may be that more participants would prefer a shorter program and/or flexible dates.

A number of respondents suggested improvements that could be made to the program. Not including suggestions to make the program longer, respondents suggested that the information presented could be more in-depth, could address more about how various drugs work in the system and that videos / hand-outs need to be updated and Canadianized.

In response to the question “*Would you recommend the D.A.R.E. Parent Program to your friends and acquaintances and, if so, why or if not, why not?*” 18 of 18 respondents reported that they would recommend the program. Some of their comments were as follows:

- Good reminder what parenting is all about / how to protect your kids
- Yes I would recommend it, because the more knowledge a person has, the better.
- Yes, very informative
- I would recommend it to other parents as the more parents are aware of the dangers of drugs hopefully it would be a prevention
- Yes – good information / relevant
- Yes, knowledge is education. It takes a community to raise a child.
- Yes, how to communicate with your children was very good.
- Highly recommended. Every parent should take it.
- Absolutely - so much to learn!
- Yes, any info learned is a step in the right direction
- I would recommend the DARE Parent Program - the more support and influence we can provide to all our youth the better our community can be!
- Yes! I feel every parent should take this.
- Absolutely – I’ve told lots of friends about it. I’m going to sign some up.
- Yes, it is very informative, instructive and positive
- Yes, I will be recommending it.

Although it would be presumptuous to draw solid conclusions from this small survey, the preliminary data gathered will help the Society to better target its advertising and scheduling of program delivery. In future, we intend to offer the program in the Black Diamond / Turner Valley area as well as to continue to offer it in High River and Okotoks. It appears that the program is of most interest to parents whose children are currently taking the DARE program. The timing of Parent program delivery will most likely meet the needs of parents if it is offered concurrently with the elementary and / or junior high program.

We are grateful to all participants who returned the survey and are pleased that they found the program to be enlightening and helpful.

PARTNERSHIPS

The D.A.R.E. Works Foothills Society works in partnership with the RCMP Detachments of Okotoks, High River and Turner Valley. We thank the RCMP detachments for their continued support.



Special thanks go to the dedicated officers who taught the D.A.R.E. program to nearly 1,100 students in the MD of Foothills during the 2005/2006 school year:

Constable Geoff Carpenter — RCMP Officer, D.A.R.E. Coordinator and D.A.R.E. Instructor taught grade six classes at Strathcona Tweedsmuir School, Dr. Morris Gibson School —Okotoks, and taught grade eight classes at Okotoks Junior High, Senator Riley Junior High - High River and in Turner Valley, Black Diamond, Millarville, Longview, Red Deer Lake, Cayley and Blackie Schools.

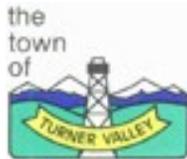
Constable Al Gillis — Retired RCMP Officer and Town of Okotoks Bylaw Officer and D.A.R.E. Instructor taught grade six classes at Big Rock and Percy Pegler Schools - Okotoks, Senator Riley School - High River, Blackie, Cayley, C. Ian Maclaren - Black Diamond, Turner Valley, Longview, and Red Deer Lake Schools.

Constable Stacey Deck — Full Time Active Member of the Turner Valley Detachment taught the grade six class at Millarville School.

Constable Krista Woods — Full Time Active Member of the Okotoks Detachment taught one of the grade six classes at Percy Pegler School.

Constable Rita Jones — Full Time Active Member of the High River Detachment taught one of the grade six classes at Senator Riley School in High River.

STAKEHOLDERS



D.A.R.E. Works Foothills Society gratefully acknowledges funding of the
D.A.R.E. Coordinator Position

**Strathcona-Tweedmuir School
Foothills School Division
Town of Black Diamond
Town of Turner Valley
Village of Longview
Town of High River
Town of Okotoks
M.D. of Foothills**



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Community grants and donations are essential for sustaining the D.A.R.E. Program in the Foothills. These funds go directly toward student materials, graduation costs, society administration and officer training.

The D.A.R.E. Works Foothills Society thanks the following organizations for funding support during the 2005-2006 school year:

ANONYMOUS DONOR

CARGILL FOODS HIGH RIVER

**CONSTRUCTION LABOUR RELATIONS
ASSOCIATION**

MD FCSS PROGRAM

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

OKOTOKS AREA RANGE PATROL

OKOTOKS FCSS PROGRAM

SQUARE BUTTE LADIES

WILD ROSE FOUNDATION



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

OKOTOKS/HIGH RIVER RCMP CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT SEPTEMBER 2005

We thank the Okotoks/High River RCMP for their donation of the proceeds from the annual charity golf tournament. We would also like to thank the following businesses and individuals who generously donated to the golf tournament:

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Altrek Industries Ltd.
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Contractors 4 U Inc.
Dee Alta Tires
GM Mechanical
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D'Arcy Ranch Golf Club
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Emerald Lawn Care
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Farmway Machinery

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Quigley Electric
Ranchland Ford
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Schultz Signs
Scotia Bank
Shoppers Drug Mart
Spirits 4 You
Super Drug Mart
Tim Hortons
Urban Edge Salon
Vision Hse Management
Walmart
Waves Car Wash
Wild Rose Jewelry
Wrinkles Autobody

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