

Committee aims to make Welland a safer place

By MAGGIE RIOPELLE
Senior Staff Reporter

Safety is an attitude, not an action. To that end, the Welland Safe Community Partnership is hoping the community will help promote safety by participating in two planned information sessions.

The partnership will hold the two sessions at the Rose City Seniors Centre, 145 Lincoln Street, to educate Welland's residents, businesses and community organizations.

Not only are the sessions designed to provide infor-

mation on this important initiative, but also as a way to encourage others to participate by becoming a member of the safety sub-committees.

"To date, there have been nearly 30 representatives from organizations across Welland involved in getting this initiative under way," said Rick Demers, vice chair.

"Now we're hoping to get the community at large involved in tackling the safety concerns of our seniors, neighbourhoods and workplaces."

The sessions will be held

on Tuesday, June 29 and Thursday, July 8 at 4:30 p.m. The steering committee will provide the same information at both sessions; so interested community members need only to attend one.

"There is a lot of concern out there about safety and in talking to residents of Ward 1, they understand the importance of safety. Mayor Damian Goulet took the initiative to start this partnership and he asked me if I was interested. So, we got together a number of players who expressed an interest about



Coun. Pat Chiochio, chair of the Welland Safe Community Partnership, and to the right, Rick Demers, vice-chair, are hoping people will help this initiative move forward by attending one of two upcoming information sessions.

safety," explained Coun. Pat Chiochio, chair.

Since forming, the steering committee has developed sub-committees including Seniors Safety, Safe Neighbourhoods, Wellness and Prevention, Workplace Safety, Emergency Planning, and Sponsorship.

"We have five people on each of the sub-committees, which is a good start," said Coun. Chiochio.

"We are still looking for more people. The Welland Safe Community Partnership vision is 'we work

together to make Welland the safest place... because we live, learn, work and play here.'" The purpose of these information sessions and of the partnership is to get everyone in the community working toward this common goal... to promote safety as an attitude, not an action."

The steering committee is currently working on its business plan, with plans to submit it to the Safe Communities Foundation in August.

As for the sub-commit-

tees, they will be determining objectives and goals.

"What the sub-committees will be doing is developing goals and objectives that are measurable and realistic," added Coun. Chiochio.

This initiative is a great way to make the community a safer place to live, work, and play for all citizens. As well, communities that have been designated as a Safe Community receive a reduction in WSIB premiums.

Once the city has been designated, it will be promoted to individuals such as doctors considering relocating to the community and potential investors interested in Welland.

For more information about how you can get involved with the Welland Safe Community Partnership or to RSVP for one of the information sessions, contact Laura Ip at (905) 735-1700 ext. 239 or email laura.ip@welland.ca.

As well, information on the Safe Communities Initiative can also be obtained by visiting www.safecomunities.ca.

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