

MUSKOKA/PARRY SOUND COORDINATED SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES

“HERSTORY”

Mission Statement:

We are a feminist organization dedicated to positively affecting societal attitudes in order to end sexual violence, by offering a creative range of services.

We recognize that sexual violence is a community issue – not solely a woman’s issue – and therefore strive to develop a strong community response.

We honour the experience of survivors, and include their voice in the creation of services.

Funding and Services:

MUSKOKA/PARRY SOUND SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES (MPSSAS) receives core funding from the MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (MAG) and is mandated to provide the following services:

- a 24-hour “Women’s Sexual Assault Help Line”
- counselling
- public education
- community development
- referral and advocacy
- accompaniment
- volunteer services

The SEXUAL ASSAULT INTERVENTION FOR LIVING (S.A.I.L.) program of MPSSAS receives its core funding from the NORTH EAST LOCAL HEALTH INTEGRATION NETWORK (NE LHIN) and provides the following services:

- individual therapy
- group therapy

Other Funding Sources:

Over the years, MPSSAS has sought supplementary funding on an annual basis through a variety of grants and foundations which support special events and projects. These include:

- CANADIAN WOMEN’S FOUNDATION
- ELEMENTARY TEACHERS’ FEDERATION OF ONTARIO
- GREY SISTERS
- ONTARIO MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND LONG-TERM CARE
- ONTARIO MINISTRY OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT, MINES, AND FORESTRY
- ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION
- ONTARIO WOMEN’S DIRECTORATE

Local service organizations (e.g., THE ROTARY CLUB OF PARRY SOUND, THE ROTARY CLUB OF BRACEBRIDGE, PARRY SOUND LION'S CLUB, ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE PARRY SOUND, SUNDRIDGE LION'S CLUB, CHALMERS UNITED CHURCH WOMEN) and other community partners (e.g., NEAR NORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD, CHALMER'S UNITED CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH MISSION SUPPORT, THE BLUE ROOF RESTAURANT in Sundridge, KAWARTHA CREDIT UNION, B & G VARIETY in Emsdale, SOUTH RIVER PHARMACY, STRONG LODGE NO. 423,) have also been generous in their financial, in-kind, and other support of many agency initiatives. Furthermore, many businesses in the Districts of Muskoka and Parry Sound have kindly served as locations for our "Tag Day" fundraisers.

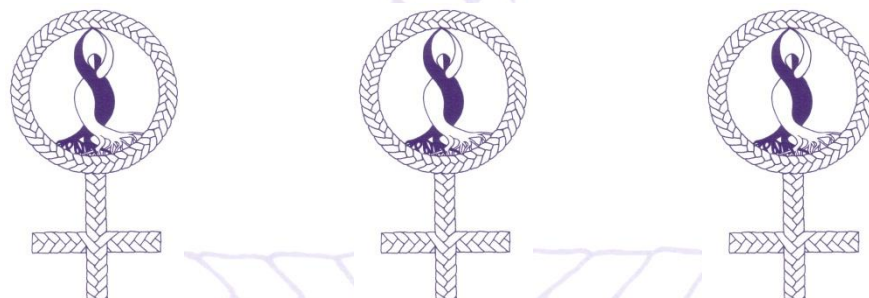
Numerous individuals have also contributed their time and expertise to MPSSAS – of particular note are the women who work on the Help Line.

In addition, several other fundraising strategies (e.g., the selling of pottery mugs which include the agency's logo and tickets for prize draws) and private donations provide some further financial support to enhance the scope of our services.

Who is Daphne?

In classical Greek mythology, Daphne was a hunter who dedicated herself to Artemis, goddess of the hunt. Like the goddess, Daphne refused to marry. The god, Apollo, fell in love with Daphne, and when she refused his advances, he pursued her through the woods. To escape, she transformed into a laurel tree.

In artistic depictions of this myth, Daphne's face is often outlined in the trunk and branches of the laurel tree. The image of a woman being incorporated into the structure of a tree is a very powerful one. It symbolizes Daphne's intelligence and strength in protecting herself, and serves as an inspiration to all women – especially in light of the struggles that they must confront in today's society.



The image of the deep roots, powerful limbs, and the longevity of Daphne's laurel tree were the inspiration for the logo of MUSKOKA/PARRY SOUND SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES. The tree roots symbolize grounding, while the trunk and limbs signify strength – all of which are elements of feminine power. The logo also reflects women's healing journeys, which have persevered and remained resilient, despite numerous challenges and obstacles.

A tribute to First Nation communities is depicted, as well, by the sweet-grass braids which surround the central image. Traditionally, sweet-grass is braided and lit (or placed on hot coals) and burned as an offering or for purification during many gatherings and activities.

The following “Herstory” provides a timeline of the development of our agency since its inception in 1993.

1993

- Ontario’s “Solicitor General” decides to create 21 sexual assault centres across the province
- Muskoka identified as one area in which one of these sexual assault centres would be located (N.B., Parry Sound included with Muskoka)
- committee formed to begin consultation and strategic planning, and a full year of consultation begins
- funding confirmed by the Solicitor General’s office as a result of a proposal submitted by the MUSKOKA WOMEN’S ADVOCACY GROUP (MWAG)
- incorporation of MUSKOKA/PARRY SOUND COORDINATED SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES
- four staff members hired – two for the District of Muskoka and two for the District of Parry Sound (May)
- part-time “Muskoka Coordinator” and “Administrative Coordinator” hired in Huntsville
- part-time “East Parry Sound (EPS) Area Coordinator” hired
- part-time “West Parry Sound (WPS) Area Coordinator” hired in Parry Sound
- Parry Sound office located in ESPRIT PLACE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE (ESPRIT PLACE) women and children’s shelter
- MPSSAS operates under MWAG board of directors until incorporation occurs
- original board members signed the “Letters of Incorporation” (November)
- Help Line and other agency services begin (November)
- MPSSAS first operates using a “collective” model of governance (i.e., where the board of directors and staff members operate as a single team when making decisions about the governance and the work of the organization, and staff members attended all board meetings)
- MPSSAS also utilizes “consensus model” in decision-making processes

1994

- first volunteer training sessions for the “Women’s Sexual Assault Help Line” held in Huntsville
- board of directors completes “Personnel Policies and Procedures” section of MPSSAS “Policy Manual”
- MPSSAS begins membership with ONTARIO COALITION OF RAPE CRISIS CENTRES (OCRCC)
- partnership opportunities with ESPRIT PLACE in Parry Sound include: co-facilitation of survivor groups; AUX FAUX THEATRE GROUP presentation about date rape for students at PARRY SOUND HIGH SCHOOL; ten-part series on family violence for grade 7 and 8 students at WILLIAM BEATTY PUBLIC SCHOOL
- sexual-assault prevention project implemented at PARRY SOUND HIGH SCHOOL
- MPSSAS is a member of the local “Community Advisory Committee” in Parry Sound (a multi-agency committee formed for the purpose of exchanging information, discussing concerns about services, networking, and implementing educational projects)
- MPSSAS is a member of the EAST PARRY SOUND VIOLENCE PREVENTION COORDINATING COMMITTEE (a multi-agency committee dedicated to issues of violence against women)
- MPSSAS staff in Muskoka networking through participation in activities with the “Community Planning and Development Committee”, the “Youth Services Committee”, and the “Sexual Assault Intervention for Living” (S.A.I.L.) program planning committee
- in partnership with MUSKOKA INTERVAL HOUSE and the MUSKOKA BOARD OF EDUCATION, staff provided educational programs to elementary and secondary-school students; topics – “Effects of Sexual Assault”, “Dating Violence”, “Healthy Relationships”, and “Power and Control”
- MPSSAS provides support to women’s self-help groups in Muskoka
- in conjunction with artist, Debbie Jackson, connections are made with First Nation communities in the District of Parry Sound; sale of Debbie’s artwork was a fundraising opportunity for MPSSAS
- “Healthy Communities Grant” (from the MINISTRY OF HEALTH) enabled the production of a play on violence against women (“Educating Rita”); 430 people attended performances in the EPS communities of Commanda, Kearney, Magnetawan, and Sundridge
- December 6th memorials in South River, Huntsville, and Parry Sound (with assistance from the students of PARRY SOUND HIGH SCHOOL)

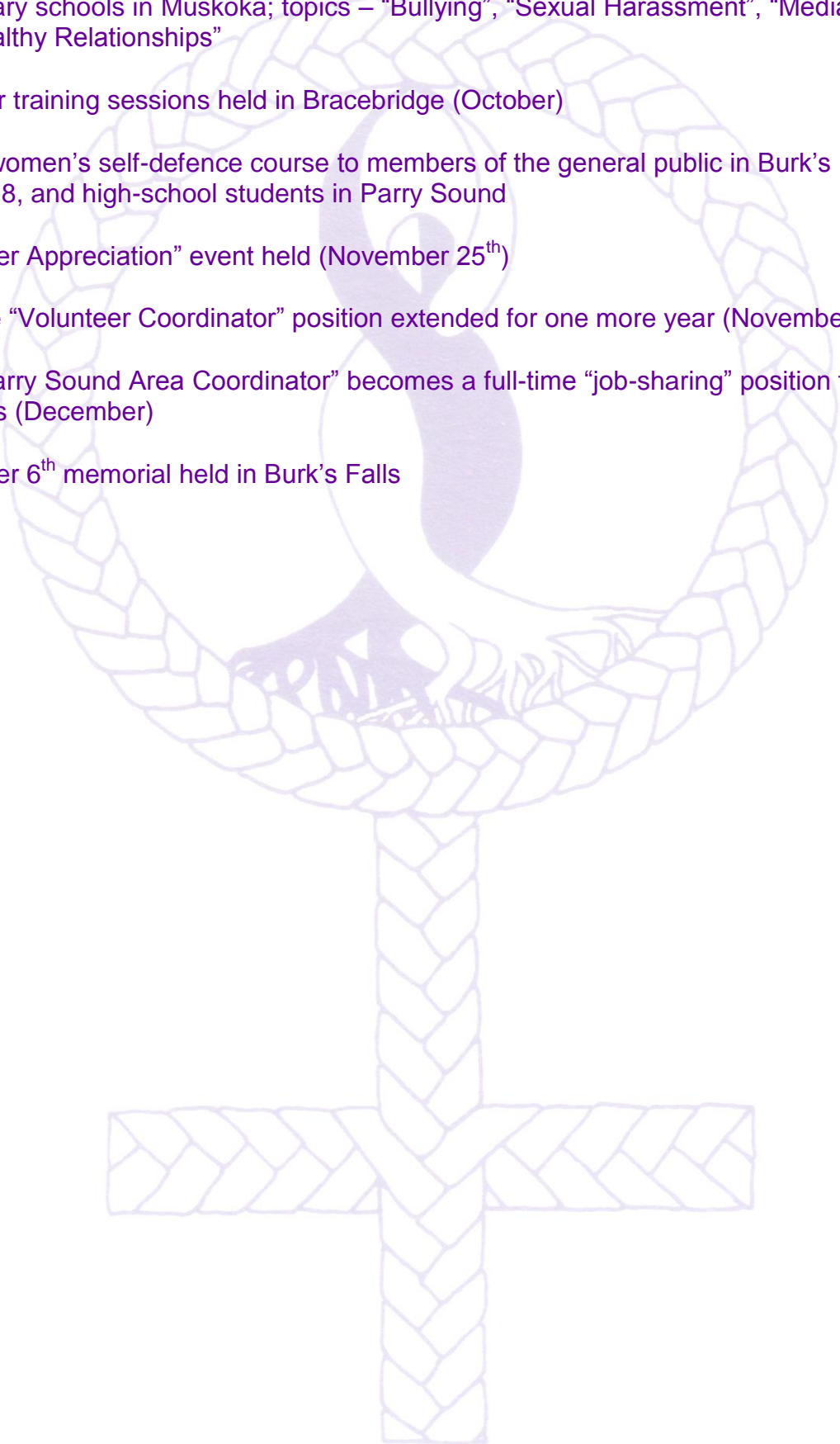
1995

- MPSSAS hosts 1st “Volunteer Appreciation” luncheon and educational workshop (January)
- volunteer training sessions for the “Women’s Sexual Assault Help Line” and volunteer recruitment for women interested in other organizational activities
- MPSSAS continues membership with the OCRCC
- series of workshops offered to grade 9 students at ALMAGUIN HIGHLANDS SECONDARY SCHOOL; topics – “Gender Equity”, “Assertiveness”, “Dating Violence”, “Communication Skills”, “Conflict Resolution”, and “Positive Self-Image” (February, April, and May)
- partnership with ESPRIT PLACE for “International Women’s Day” event, which included a display of artwork by local women, a potluck dinner, and listening to women speak about their achievements
- offered several self-defence workshops to: 240 women in Gravenhurst, Bracebridge, and Huntsville; 70 women in Trout Creek, Burk’s Falls, and Emsdale; and, 120 girls through a six-week course in an EPS senior, elementary school; learning approach was to offer lecture, physical demonstrations, and then practice (March)
- 15 agency volunteers participate in two-day intensive “LivingWorks” workshop on suicide intervention (April)
- “Healthy Communities Grant” (from the MINISTRY OF HEALTH) allowed for an eight-week workshop series on health issues for more than 300 women throughout the District of Muskoka
- collaboration with MUSKOKA INTERVAL HOUSE to complete the “Educating Health Professionals Project”, which involved working with health professionals to develop a hospital protocol for sexual assault survivors
- crisis support, short-term counselling, and client support groups offered
- partnered with MUSKOKA INTERVAL HOUSE to provide workshops in Muskoka schools for students in grades 4 to 8 (topics – “Bullying”, “Dating Violence”, and “Violence in the Media”) and for students in grade 9 (topics – “Healthy Relationships” and “Dating Violence”)
- inaugural edition of “Daphne’s Voice” volunteer newsletter published
- part-time “Volunteer Coordinator” hired in Huntsville for a one-year term (November)
- agency hosts a student from the co-op program at HUNTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

1996

- opening of the WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE in Bracebridge (in collaboration with the MUSKOKA YWCA) with funding provided by the ONTARIO WOMEN'S DIRECTORATE (OWD)
- MPSSAS continues membership with the OCRCC
- MPSSAS staff member appointed to position of OCRCC "Secretary-Treasurer"
- OCRCC speaks out in response to the "McGuire Report" – commissioned by the OWD – which warns of the potential for harm to violence-against-women initiatives resulting from Ontario's removal of "gender analysis" in decisions that are made by the Provincial Government regarding survivors of violence; focus will now be on a "gender-neutral" approach to working with "victims" of violence
- offered six training workshops for volunteers: topics – "Dissociation", "Suicide Ideation", "Self-Abuse", "Women's Global Status", "Mental Illnesses", "Keeping Women Safe", "Political and Legal Aspects of Sexual Assault" (January, February, and March)
- provided training on sexual assault issues to the ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE officers and social-service workers (March)
- continuing partnerships with First Nations and rural communities in the District of Parry Sound
- bookkeeper hired for one day/week
- collaboration with ESPRIT PLACE to provide a five-part educational series on family violence to grade 7 and 8 students in the District of Parry Sound (April)
- women's information evening (which included displays of women's services, a presentation, and dinner) held for 40 participants at the BRITT NURSING STATION
- MPSSAS participation in "First Nations Healing Conference" at SHAWANAGA FIRST NATION
- "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" activities in the Districts of Parry Sound and Muskoka (May)
- volunteer recruitment for various MPSSAS services in EPS (e.g., transportation network, court accompaniment, crisis intervention, support groups) through the "Women's Peer Support Program" (WPSP) (May)
- MPSSAS volunteers interviewed by "Volunteer Coordinator" regarding ideas for the agency, and provided input for the development of "Volunteer Policies and Procedures" and a "Help Line Volunteer Job Description" (July and August)
- crisis support, short-term counselling, and client support groups offered

- partnered with MUSKOKA INTERVAL HOUSE to provide workshops to 2700 children at 15 elementary schools in Muskoka; topics – “Bullying”, “Sexual Harassment”, “Media Violence”, and “Healthy Relationships”
- volunteer training sessions held in Bracebridge (October)
- offered women’s self-defence course to members of the general public in Burk’s Falls and to grade 7, 8, and high-school students in Parry Sound
- “Volunteer Appreciation” event held (November 25th)
- part-time “Volunteer Coordinator” position extended for one more year (November)
- “West Parry Sound Area Coordinator” becomes a full-time “job-sharing” position for two staff members (December)
- December 6th memorial held in Burk’s Falls



1997

- five-part, public-education initiative implemented as a project of the EPS VIOLENCE PREVENTION COORDINATING COMMITTEE: topics – “Women and Healthy Relationships”, “Women: Builders of the Community”; “Time Management”, “Images of Women in the Media”, and “Protecting our Children from Sexual Assault” (January)
- MPSSAS continues membership with the OCRCC
- volunteer training sessions held in Bracebridge and Parry Sound
- collaboration with MUSKOKA INTERVAL HOUSE, the “Crown Attorney”, the ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE (O.P.P.), LAKE COUNTRY COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINIC, and the “Sexual Assault Intervention for Living” program to develop a “Court Support Program” in Muskoka for survivors of domestic and sexual abuse
- “International Women’s Day” celebration held in Parry Sound; included potluck supper and presentation by Marion Lynn, delegate to the 1995 UNITED NATIONS “World Conference on Women” (March 8th)
- continuing partnerships with First Nations (e.g., development of “Crisis Response Team” at Magnetawan First Nation) and rural communities (e.g., “Women’s Health and Awareness Evenings” in Point au Baril, Britt, Restoule, McKellar, and Dunchurch) in the District of Parry Sound
- collaboration with ESPRIT PLACE to provide workshops for students from grades 5 to 8 in WPS schools: topics – “Family Violence” (grade 5s); “Conflict Resolution” (grade 6s); “Healthy Relationships” (grade 7s); and, “Dating Violence” (grade 8s)
- “collective” model of governance dissolved and replaced with a more traditional model that included a board of directors
- Muskoka office moved from Huntsville to Bracebridge (April)
- “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” activities in the Districts of Parry Sound and Muskoka (May)
- continuation of MPSSAS services in EPS through the WPSP (e.g., transportation network, court accompaniment, crisis intervention, support groups, public education)
- “Muskoka Area Coordinator” becomes a full-time “job-sharing” position for two staff members
- strategic planning session held in Bracebridge for staff and board members
- “West Parry Sound Area Coordinator” full-time position now filled by one staff member (July)
- “Daphne’s Drop-In” begins in Gravenhurst and Huntsville (Mondays – 9:30 a.m. to noon)

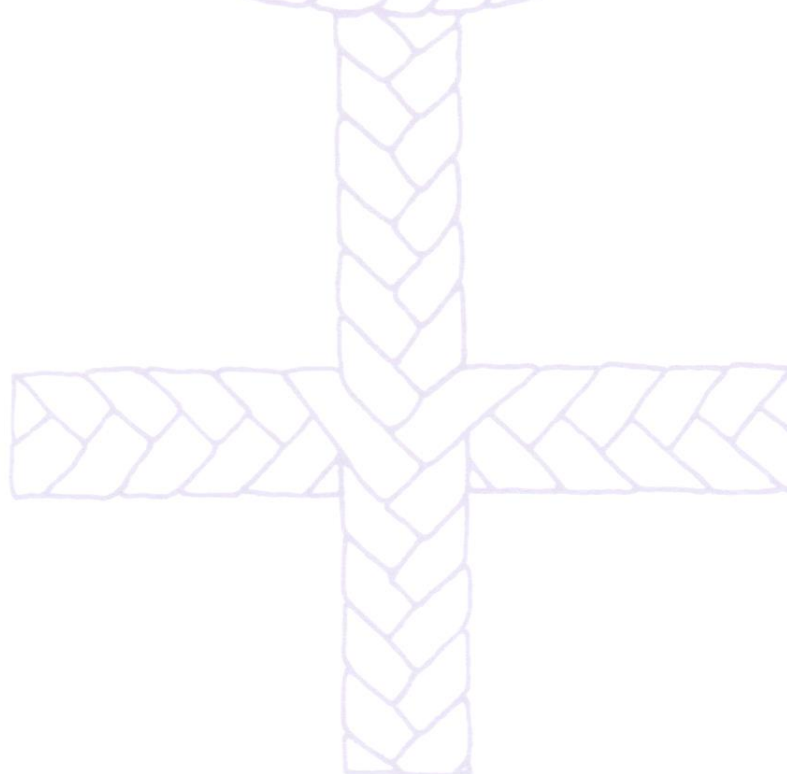
- crisis support, short-term counselling, and client support groups offered
- partnered with MUSKOKA INTERVAL HOUSE, the O.P.P., and SIMCOE MUSKOKA DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT to provide workshops to most grades in all 19 elementary schools in Muskoka: topics – “Bullying”, “Sexual Harassment”, “Boundaries”, and “Dating Violence/Healthy Relationships”
- provided workshops on “Bullying”, “Sexual Harassment”, and “Power and Control” to students in the unique classroom setting for Young Offenders at PROJECT D.A.R.E. in South River
- December 6th vigils held in South River and Bracebridge



1998

- several ventures implemented as projects of the EPS VIOLENCE PREVENTION COORDINATING COMMITTEE: “Women’s Wellness Day” (series of workshops on women’s health issues); “Care For Kids” (training day for professionals on the prevention of childhood sexual abuse); “Women’s Educational Series” (25-hour training for women); “Women’s Networking Dinner” (including guest speakers); and, “Care for Kids” kits which were distributed to local libraries
- MPSSAS continues membership with the OCRCC
- volunteer training sessions held in Parry Sound, South River, and Bracebridge
- “Court Support” pilot project offered in Muskoka
- EPS volunteers provides Internet link for MPSSAS through another website
- “International Women’s Day” celebration held in South River; included a viewing of the film “Paradise Road”, as well as desserts and coffee (March 8th)
- “International Women’s Day” celebration held in Parry Sound; included presentations, poetry readings, musical segments, displays, and a potluck supper, followed by a presentation of the NORTHERN LIGHTS THEATRE GROUP called “Nellie McClung, Herstory” (March 8th)
- “Administrative Coordinator” position converted to that of “Executive Director”
- MPSSAS head office now in South River in space shared with ESPRIT PLACE (June)
- “EPS Area Coordinator” position becomes a full-time “job-sharing” position for two staff members
- Bracebridge office moves to new location at 29 Manitoba Street, and shares office space with the MUSKOKA YWCA
- “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” activities in the Districts of Parry Sound and Muskoka (May)
- continuation of some MPSSAS services in EPS through the WPSP (e.g., transportation network, court accompaniment, crisis intervention, support groups, public education)
- in collaboration with ESPRIT PLACE (and with funding from the MINISTRY OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT AND MINES or MNDM “Violence Against Women Prevention Initiative”), offered a two-day workshop for women with disabilities and their caregivers; workshops delivered by the DISABLED WOMEN’S NETWORK (DAWN) on the first day, and followed by a series of consultations on the second day (June)
- “Daphne’s Drop-In” begins in Bracebridge during the summer months
- training for “Youth Drop-In” workers at high schools in South River, Huntsville, and Gravenhurst

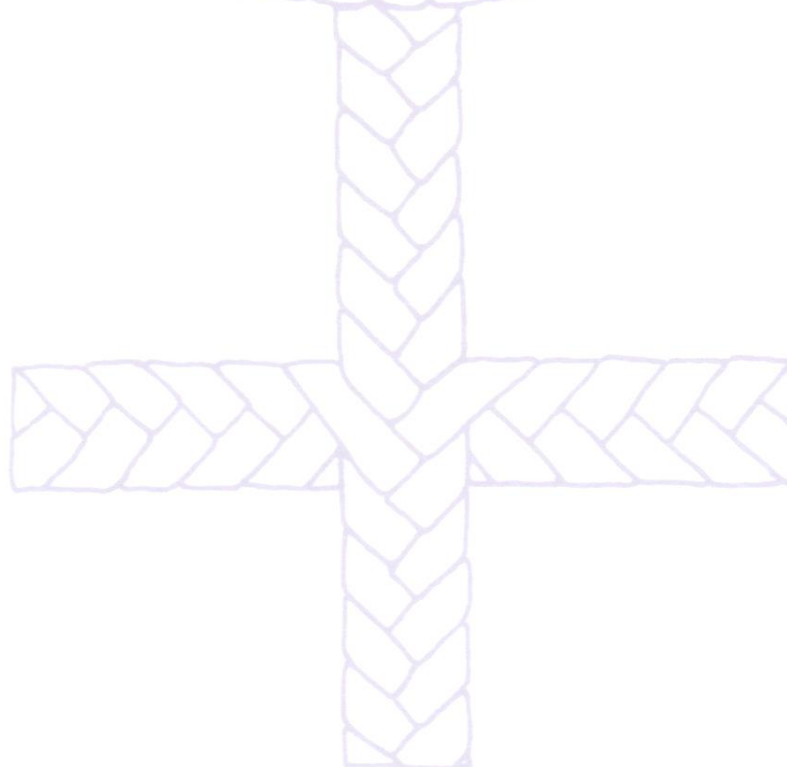
- continued collaboration with MUSKOKA INTERVAL HOUSE to over 400 students in 30 Muskoka schools: topics – “Sexual Harassment”, “Healthy Relationships”, and “Dating Violence”
- delivered “Care for Kids” curriculum (which deals with awareness and prevention of sexual abuse issues, and is oriented toward children and youth) for JK to grade 8 students at BALA PUBLIC SCHOOL
- in conjunction with ESPRIT PLACE, three-part series on “Violence” offered to all grade 7 and 8 students in EPS
- EPS staff involvement with: “The Focus Community Project (which has a mandate to reduce the number of injuries associated with the abuse of alcohol and other drugs); “Great Beginnings” program (which assists parents with children ages 0 to 6 months by providing information, resources, and food); and, the “Coalition for the Prevention of Violence” in Nipissing, Parry Sound, and Muskoka
- “Women’s Health and Awareness Evenings” hosted in EPS rural communities (Katrine, Kearney, Commanda, Loring, Sprucedale, and Magnetawan)
- crisis support, short-term counselling, and client support groups offered
- December 6th commemoration events held in Parry Sound, Bracebridge, Huntsville, and Gravehurst; Emsdale’s event included guest speakers, refreshments, and information stations (topics – “ Human Rights”, “Body Image”, and “Sexual Assault”)
- “Volunteer Appreciation” dinner held (December)



1999

- new location for the WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE in Bracebridge and continued partnerships with the MUSKOKA YWCA and the S.A.I.L. programs
- opening of the WOMEN'S OWN RESOURCE CENTRE in South River (WORC) due to the efforts of MPSSAS, ESPRIT PLACE, and the EPS VIOLENCE PREVENTION COORDINATING COMMITTEE
- MPSSAS continues membership with the OCRCC
- volunteer training sessions held in Parry Sound, South River, and Bracebridge
- "Women's Health Matters Drop-In" begins in Burk's Falls (February to June)
- eight-week "Women's Support Group" offered in Parry Sound (February and March)
- MPSSAS staff participate in "International Women's Day" panel (March 8th)
- continuation of partnerships with WPS First Nations, the PARRY SOUND FRIENDSHIP CENTRE, and NATIVE MENTAL HEALTH (e.g., through presentations on sexual assault to front-line workers, participation in women's evenings at MAGNETAWAN FIRST NATION AND MOOSE DEER POINT FIRST NATION, "Mothers and Daughters" group at HENVEY INLET FIRST NATION and in Parry Sound, participation on the "Native Suicide Prevention and Awareness Team", and attending health fairs)
- "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" activities in the Districts of Parry Sound and Muskoka (May)
- "Women's Health and Awareness" evenings held in Trout Creek, Nipissing, and Burk's Falls
- advertising awareness campaign implemented with funding provided by the CANADIAN WOMEN'S FOUNDATION (CWF)
- one-day "Bridging an Understanding" workshop (focussing on sexual assault issues) for front-line workers in social-service agencies in Parry Sound; resulted in the formation of a "Race-Relations Committee" (May)
- Debbie Jackson provides more artwork for MPSSAS poster and brochure
- OWD grant provides MPSSAS with the opportunity to advertise the "Women's Sexual Assault Help Line" (e.g., through highway billboards in the Districts of Parry Sound and Muskoka), create community awareness about sexual assault issues, and promote agency programs and services
- continuation of some MPSSAS services in EPS through the WPSP (which now operates under the WORC, because the EPS VIOLENCE PREVENTION COORDINATING COMMITTEE is no longer operational)

- WSPS in EPS received a grant from the MNM for several initiatives (i.e., placing “Let’s Be A Caring Community” signs in three local arenas, “International Women’s Day” celebrations, volunteer training, and arranging for a speaker on sexual harassment for ALMAGUIN HIGHLANDS SECONDARY SCHOOL)
- “Daphne’s Drop-In” continues in Bracebridge
- in collaboration with ESPRIT PLACE, EPS staff made presentations on “Boundaries”, “Sexual Harassment”, and “Separation and Divorce” to all local grade 7 and 8 students, and on “Family Violence” and “Healthy Relationships” to grade 5 and 6 students
- EPS staff promote MPSSAS through the R.I.S.K. program (which works to reduce the number of injuries associated with the abuse of alcohol and other drugs)
- MPSSAS staff made presentations on “Western and Traditional Healing Approaches for Sexual Abuse Victims” at the “National Native Mental Health Conference” (September)
- collaboration with R.I.S.E. INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTRE staff on initiatives for women with disabilities (e.g., the “Freedom to Live” project committee, self-defence workshops, “Crime Prevention” forums, and series of workshops for young women) in Parry Sound and Bracebridge
- crisis support, short-term counselling, and client support groups offered
- December 6th commemoration events held in Parry Sound, Bracebridge, and South River
- “Volunteer Appreciation” dinner held in EPS (December)



2000

- new, part-time staff in the Bracebridge office include a “Volunteer Coordinator”, and “Coordinators” for the “Court Support Program” and the one-year “Date-Rape Awareness Project” (funded by the OWD)
- “Court Support Program” in Muskoka utilizes volunteers to assist women when attending bail hearings, remand court, and preliminary hearings, and attend monthly “Crown Attorney” meetings
- part-time “Project Coordinator” position created for the South River office (using an existing staff member); bookkeeper moves to South River office for one day per week
- part-time “Project Coordinator” hired in Parry Sound
- “visioning day” held for staff and board members (February)
- MPSSAS staff collaborates with the FRIENDSHIP CENTRE, NATIVE MENTAL HEALTH, and WASAUKSING FIRST NATION to plan and implement a “Women’s Health Fair” and evening program (with guest speakers) in Parry Sound (March 8th)
- “Peer Support Program” (which focusses on training students about issues of concern to teenagers, and on ways in which they can support their peers and refer them to appropriate community agencies) begins at BRACEBRIDGE AND MUSKOKA LAKES SECONDARY SCHOOL in Bracebridge
- MPSSAS worked with MUSKOKA INTERVAL HOUSE and MUSKOKA FAMILY AND YOUTH SERVICES to provide information and awareness to students about “Sexual Harassment”
- “Girlz Unplugged” event held in East Parry Sound
- in addition to working on the Help Line, volunteers in the Districts of Muskoka and Parry Sound also offering court support, providing transportation, selling raffle tickets, and assisting with office work and special events
- “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” activities in the Districts of Parry Sound and Muskoka (May)
- MNDM grant funds a second “Bridging an Understanding” workshop for service providers in Parry Sound
- grant from the “United Church Healing Fund” allows MPSSAS and NATIVE MENTAL HEALTH to host a two-day “Health and Wellness Conference” at WASAUKSING FIRST NATION
- Muskoka office receives a grant from the MNDM for several initiatives (i.e., training of volunteers for the Help Line and “Court Support Program”, and promoting the Help Line through radio and newspapers ads, and by placing signs in three local arenas)
- volunteer training sessions held in Parry Sound, South River, and Bracebridge

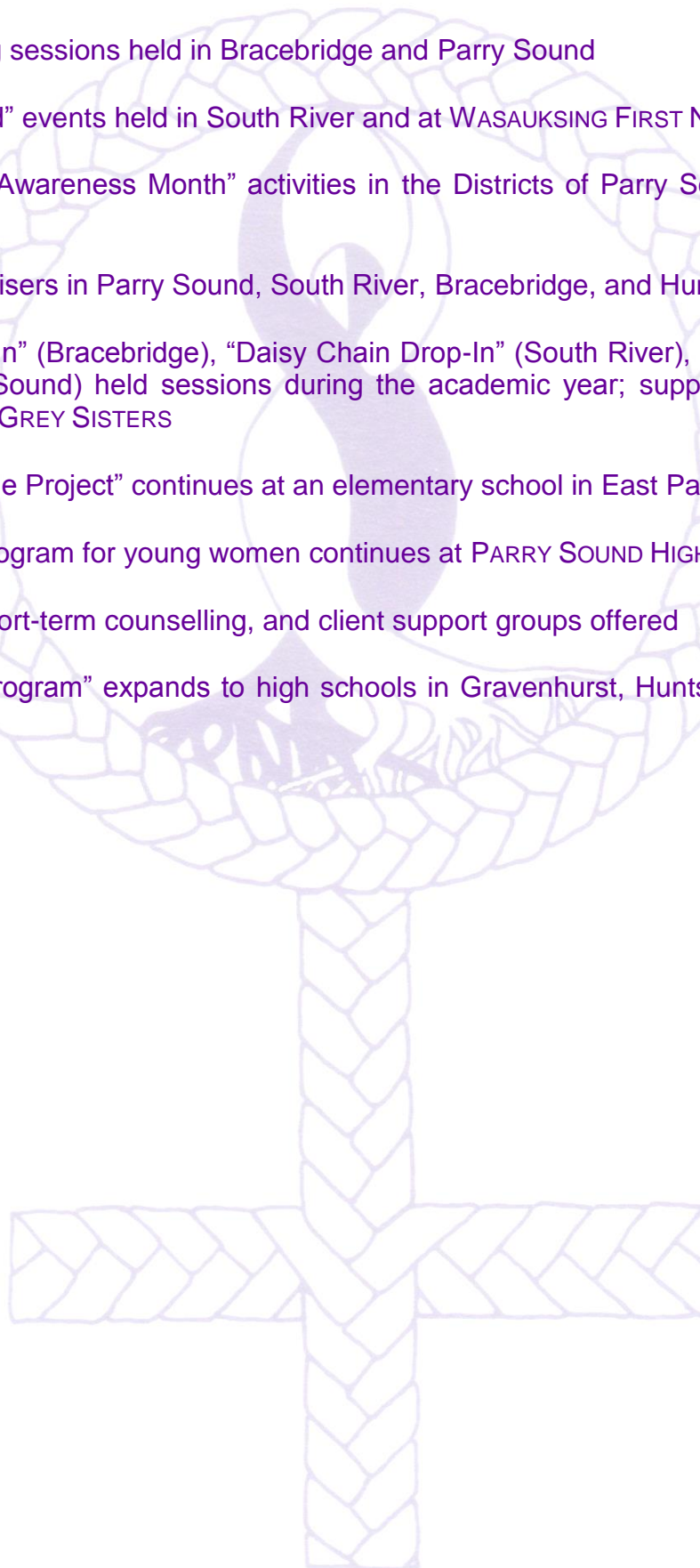
- “Daphne’s Drop-In” continues in Bracebridge
- “Daisy Chain Drop-In” begins in South River (Thursdays – 10:00 a.m. to noon)
- “Comfy Corner Drop-In” begins in Parry Sound (Tuesdays – 9:30 a.m. to noon)
- drop-in programs in South River, Parry Sound, and Bracebridge receive multi-year funding from the GREY SISTERS
- “Trailblazers” program (a monthly luncheon for young women that focussed on making healthy choices and exploring career options) was offered at ALMAGUIN HIGHLANDS SECONDARY SCHOOL
- EPS staff promote MPSSAS through the R.I.S.K. program (which works to reduce the number of injuries associated with the abuse of alcohol and other drugs)
- EPS initiatives included: the “Clothes Line Project” – a two-evening collaboration between area artists and survivors of sexual abuse; and, the “Opening Doors Project” – involving the purchase of books, videos, and audio tapes on topics related to violence against women, healing, and self-help that will be resources in a lending library at the South River office
- “Creative Adventures” after-school program (which focussed on enhancing self-esteem and leadership skills for girls aged 9 to 11: other topics – “Safety”, “Healthy Relationships”, “Boundaries”, and “Body Image”) held at eight elementary schools in Muskoka, with 75 girls attending weekly
- rural “Woman of the Year” award presented in EPS
- crisis support, short-term counselling, and client support groups offered
- Parry Sound staff collaborate with other community agencies on these initiatives: “Suicide Prevention and Awareness Team”; “Crime Prevention Team”; programs at the PARRY SOUND FRIENDSHIP CENTRE; projects at PARRY SOUND HIGH SCHOOL; and, the “Eating Disorders Working Group”
- December 6th commemoration events held in Parry Sound, Bracebridge, and South River

2001

- part-time “Project Coordinator” hired in Bracebridge
- “Sexual Assault Intervention for Living” (S.A.I.L.) program joins MPSSAS in Muskoka to provide a seamless model of support for women – from crisis intervention to longer-term therapy (March)
- “Girlz Unplugged” event held in East Parry Sound
- volunteer training sessions held in Parry Sound, South River, and Bracebridge
- “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” activities in the Districts of Parry Sound and Muskoka (May)
- “Tag Day” fundraisers in Parry Sound, South River, Bracebridge, and Huntsville (May)
- “Daphne’s Drop-In” (Bracebridge), “Daisy Chain Drop-In” (South River), and “Comfy Corner Drop-In” (Parry Sound) held sessions during the academic year; supported by multi-year funding from the GREY SISTERS
- 31-week “GirlZone Project” held at an elementary school in EPS
- “Check It Out” program for young women (which includes a series of activities designed to empower females, as well as workshops by professional women in the Parry Sound area) begins at PARRY SOUND HIGH SCHOOL
- crisis support, short-term counselling, and client support groups offered
- Muskoka hosts a MSW (“Master of Social Work”) placement student from WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY

2002

- volunteer training sessions held in Bracebridge and Parry Sound
- “Girlz Unplugged” events held in South River and at WASAUKSING FIRST NATION (April)
- “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” activities in the Districts of Parry Sound and Muskoka (May)
- “Tag Day” fundraisers in Parry Sound, South River, Bracebridge, and Huntsville (May)
- “Daphne’s Drop-In” (Bracebridge), “Daisy Chain Drop-In” (South River), and “Comfy Corner Drop-In” (Parry Sound) held sessions during the academic year; supported by multi-year funding from the GREY SISTERS
- 17-week “GirlZone Project” continues at an elementary school in East Parry Sound
- “Check It Out” program for young women continues at PARRY SOUND HIGH SCHOOL
- crisis support, short-term counselling, and client support groups offered
- “Peer Support Program” expands to high schools in Gravenhurst, Huntsville, Parry Sound, and South River



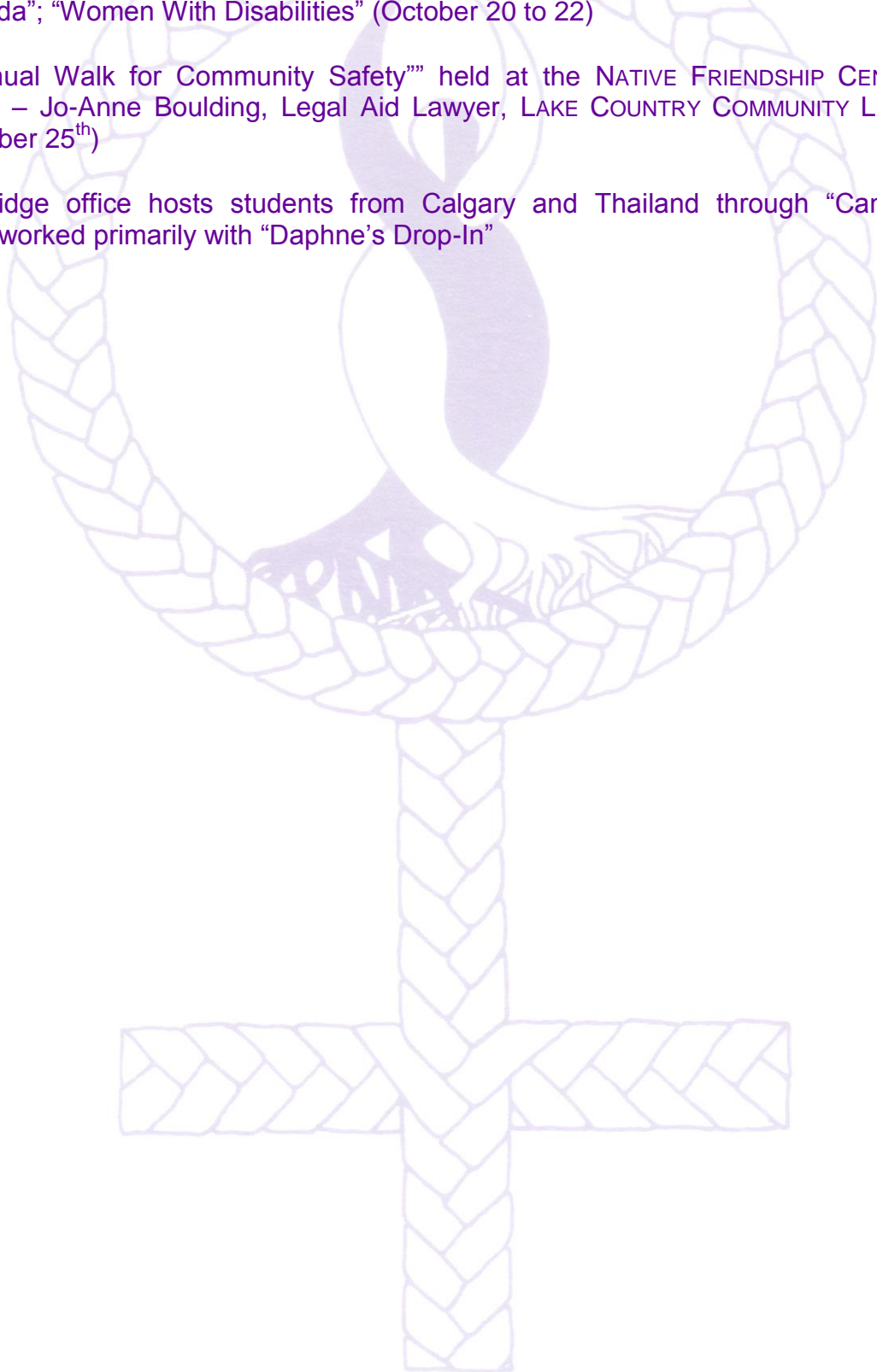
2003

- 10th anniversary of MPSSAS
- nominated for (and subsequently won) an ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION award for the “Date-Rape Awareness Project”
- “Vagina Monologues” presentation and fundraiser at the GRAVENHURST OPERA HOUSE (February)
- volunteer training sessions held in Parry Sound, Bracebridge, South River, and Port Sydney
- “Project Coordinator” hired for “Police-Linked Program”; involved providing information sessions on sexual assault issues to police detachments and First Nation front-line workers in Parry Sound and Muskoka (April)
- “Girlz Unplugged” events held at MAPLERIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOL in Powassan (April) and at WASAUKSING FIRST NATION; topics – “Peer Pressure”; “Girl Power”; “How to Deal With Bullying”; “Yoga/Creative Movement/Relaxation/Drama” (May)
- “Women in Art” fundraiser held in Port Carling to support “Daphne’s Drop-In” (included donated works of art, silent auction, entertainment, and a dinner)
- “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” activities in Parry Sound and Bracebridge (May)
- “Tag Day” fundraisers in Parry Sound, South River, Bracebridge, and Huntsville (May)
- “Peer Support Students” from ALMAGUIN HIGHLANDS SECONDARY SCHOOL and ST. DOMINIC CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL (with MPSSAS staff) produced two date-rape awareness commercials which aired on the A-Channel and MCTV News in the summer months (May)
- “Date-Rape Awareness”/“Bar Patrol Program” launched in Muskoka; involved summer students going to local bars and special events to raise awareness about sexual assault issues, date-rape drugs, and dating violence (June, July, and August)
- “Daphne’s Drop-In” (Bracebridge), “Daisy Chain Drop-In” (South River), and “Comfy Corner Drop-In” (Parry Sound) held sessions during the academic year; supported by multi-year funding from the GREY SISTERS
- “Peer Support Program” continues in high schools in Bracebridge, Parry Sound, and South River
- S.A.I.L. therapy group begins in Bracebridge
- staff training and development: topics – “Team Building”; “Dissociation” (October)
- “No Excuse for Abuse” mini-conference held at PARRY SOUND HIGH SCHOOL (December)

2004

- staff training and development: topics – “Team Building”; “Transference”; “Vicarious Trauma”; “No-Contact Orders”; “Criminal Harassment”; “Sexual Assault – Criminal Court and Other Legal Options” (January)
- “Project Coordinator” hired on a contract basis from February to June to assist in the implementation of the “Police-Linked Program” – to provide information on sexual assault (and related issues) to all O.P.P. officers in the District of Parry Sound and to front-line workers at the seven First Nations in the Districts of Muskoka and Parry Sound (February)
- Parry Sound office moves to new location within the town (February)
- “Vagina Monologues” presentation and fundraiser (February)
- volunteer training sessions held in Parry Sound, Bracebridge, South River, and Huntsville
- multi-year funding for the drop-in programs from the GREY SISTERS completed in March
- one-day “Peer Support Conference” held in Huntsville, with 250 area secondary school students attending; included several motivational speakers and performances on dating violence and healthy relationships by the NEW MOON THEATRE GROUP (April)
- “Girlz Unplugged” event held at NOBEL PUBLIC SCHOOL; topics – “Nutrition and Body Image”; “Fitness”; “Self-Esteem”; “Drug and Alcohol Abuse Information” (April)
- “Women in Art” fundraiser held in Port Carling to support “Daphne’s Drop-In”
- “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” activities in Parry Sound and Bracebridge (May)
- “Tag Day” fundraisers in Parry Sound, South River, Bracebridge, and Huntsville (May)
- satellite office closes in South River and is amalgamated with Parry Sound (June)
- new “Project Coordinator” hired on a contract basis from September to March (2005) to assist in the implementation of the “Police-Linked Program” (September)
- ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION provides multi-year financial support to drop-in programs in Bracebridge, Parry Sound, South River, and Huntsville
- “Daphne’s Drop-In” (Bracebridge), “Daisy Chain Drop-In” (South River), and “Comfy Corner Drop-In” (Parry Sound) held sessions during the academic year
- “Peer Support Program” continues in high schools in Bracebridge, Gravenhurst, Huntsville, Parry Sound, and South River
- S.A.I.L. therapy group offered in Bracebridge

- “Eliminating Violence Against Women and Children – We All Win” Conference held in Huntsville; keynote speakers were Linda McQuaig, Jane Doe, and Judy Rebick; workshop topics – “Economic Costs of Violence Against Women”; “Sexual Assault and the Criminal Justice System”; “A Community Response to Incest”; “Impacts Experienced By Children Who Witness Violence”; “Research on Violence Against Women”; “A Herstory of Feminism in Canada”; “Women With Disabilities” (October 20 to 22)
- 1st “Annual Walk for Community Safety” held at the NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE; guest speaker – Jo-Anne Boulding, Legal Aid Lawyer, LAKE COUNTRY COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINIC (November 25th)
- Bracebridge office hosts students from Calgary and Thailand through “Canada World Youth”; worked primarily with “Daphne’s Drop-In”



2005

- volunteer training sessions held in Parry Sound, Bracebridge, and South River
- opened the HUNTSVILLE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE in collaboration with the MUSKOKA YWCA and MUSKOKA INTERVAL HOUSE
- Muskoka D.A.R.T. (DOMESTIC ABUSE REVIEW TEAM) is created; MPSSAS staff members central to its development and implementation; purpose of committee is to track cases of domestic abuse, and to monitor (via discussion among participants) the handling of these cases within the system and intervention by various community agencies
- "Girlz Unplugged" event held at SOUTH RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL; topics – "Nutrition and Body Image"; "Getting StARTed" (artwork and creativity); "Yoga/Relaxation/Pilates"; "Understanding Differences" (April)
- "Women in Art" fundraiser held in Port Carling to support "Daphne's Drop-In"
- "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" activities in Parry Sound and Bracebridge (May)
- staff training and development: topics – "Team Building"; "Critical Thinking re: Women's Issues"; "Globalization and Women's Issues"; "Working With Difficult Clients"; "Cultural Awareness" (May)
- "Tag Day" fundraisers in Parry Sound, South River, Bracebridge, and Huntsville (May)
- "Daphne's Drop-In" (Bracebridge), "Daisy Chain Drop-In" (South River), and "Comfy Corner Drop-In" (Parry Sound) held sessions during the academic year
- "Womyn's Way Drop-In" begins in Huntsville (Tuesdays – 10:00 a.m. to noon)
- "Peer Support Program" continues in high schools in Bracebridge, Gravenhurst, Huntsville, Parry Sound, and South River
- 2nd "Annual Walk for Community Safety" held at the NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE; guest speaker – Glen Hodgson, Teacher, PARRY SOUND HIGH SCHOOL (October 26th)
- S.A.I.L. therapy group offered in Bracebridge
- "Grrls Night" group-intervention program begins in Bracebridge; includes a potluck supper with accompanying social time, then a focussed discussion period regarding questions the women survivors wish to pose to one another
- 1st "Kawabunga" event (an evening of art and performance in acknowledgment of women's strength in facing violence in their lives) held on December 6th at "Club One" in the RIVERWALK RESTAURANT in Bracebridge; approximately 90 people in attendance

2006

- volunteer training sessions held in Parry Sound, Bracebridge, and South River
- “Girlz Unplugged” events held at MCDOUGALL PUBLIC SCHOOL and SUNDRIDGE CENTENNIAL PUBLIC SCHOOL; topics – “Pieces of Me” and “3-D Art” (creative self-esteem activities); “Wish for World Wellness” (global thinking); “Creative Writing”; “Yoga and Pilates” (April)
- staff training and development: topics – “Team Building”; “Mental-Health Issues”; “Surviving the Reality of Sexual Assault” (May)
- “Peer Support Students” from ALMAGUIN HIGHLANDS SECONDARY SCHOOL and ST. DOMINIC CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL (with MPSSAS staff) produced two date-rape awareness commercials which aired on the A-Channel and MCTV News in the summer months (May)
- “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” activities in Parry Sound and Bracebridge (May)
- “Tag Day” fundraisers in Parry Sound, South River, Bracebridge, and Huntsville (May)
- MPSSAS website was launched: www.daphnewymn.com (June)
- “Date-Rape Awareness/Bar Patrol Program” implemented again in Muskoka with summer students going to local bars and special events (June, July, and August)
- “Daphne’s Drop-In” (Bracebridge), “Daisy Chain Drop-In” (South River), “Comfy Corner Drop-In” (Parry Sound), and “Womyn’s Way Drop-In” (Huntsville) held sessions during the academic year
- “Peer Support Program” continues in high schools in Bracebridge, Gravenhurst, Huntsville, Parry Sound, and South River
- S.A.I.L. therapy group offered in Bracebridge
- “Grrls Night” group-intervention program continues in Bracebridge
- 3rd “Annual Walk for Community Safety” held at the NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE; guest speakers – Jane Liddell, Teacher and Guidance Counsellor, PARRY SOUND HIGH SCHOOL (October 25th)
- two strategic-planning (“visioning”) days were held for staff and board members (on October 11 and November 23)
- staff successfully completed a one-week “Certificate in Trauma Counselling for Front-Line Workers – Level 1” with Natalie Zlodre from THE HINCKS-DELLCREST CENTRE (November)
- “Kawabunga” event held on December 6th at the RIVERWALK RESTAURANT in Bracebridge; commemorated the life of former Muskoka resident, Natalie Novak, who was murdered in Toronto by an ex-boyfriend earlier in the year

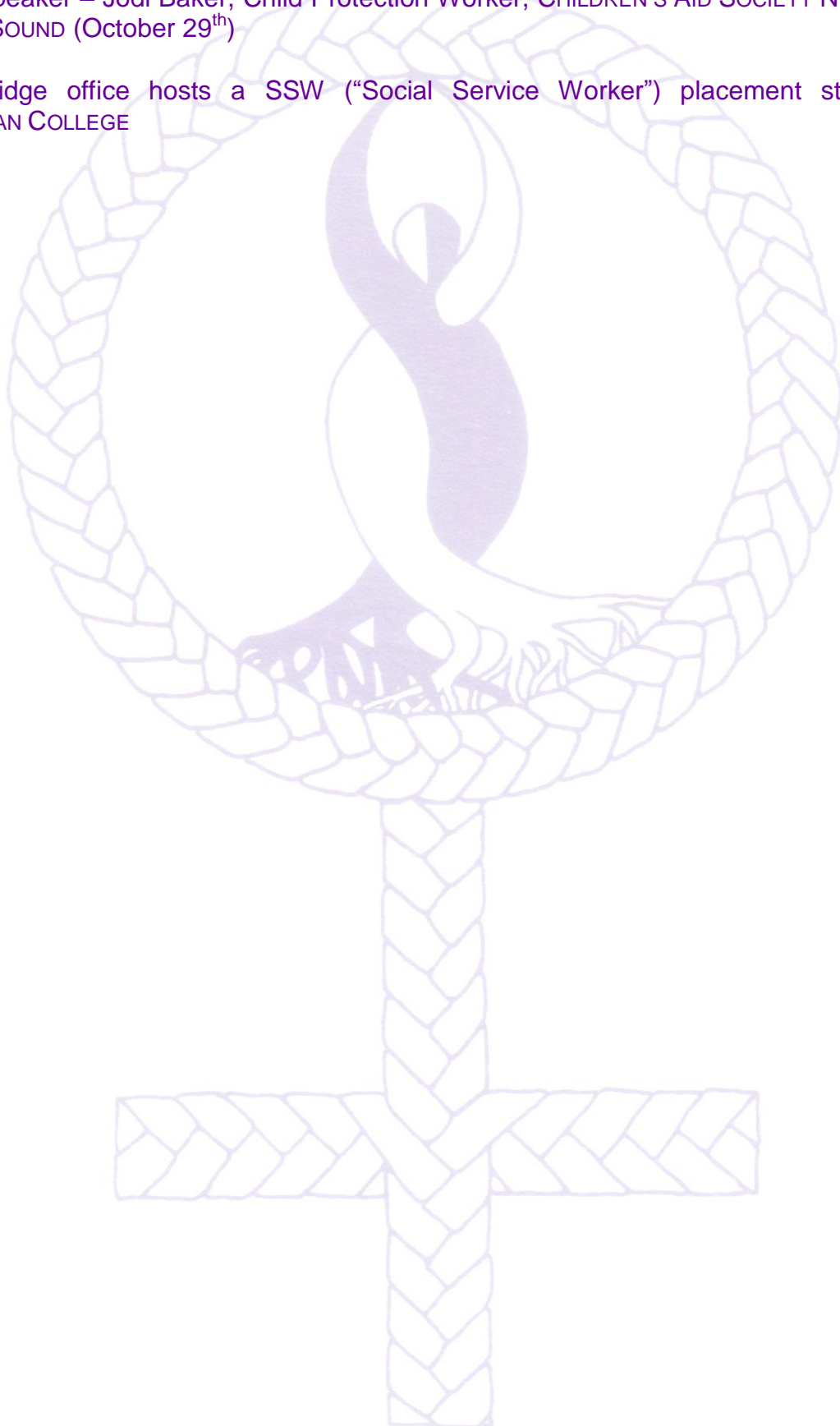
2007

- volunteer training sessions held in Parry Sound, Bracebridge, and South River
- ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION provided some financial support to drop-in programs in Bracebridge, Parry Sound, and South River
- inaugural meeting for the DISTRICT OF PARRY SOUND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE; MPSSAS staff members central to the development and implementation of the committee (March 19, 2007)
- two-day Muskoka D.A.R.T. (“Domestic Abuse Review Team”) conference in Port Carling: topics – “History of Muskoka D.A.R.T.”; “Danger Assessment”; “Violence Against Women and Children: Reflections on the Past, Present, and Future”; “Gender-Based Analysis in the Context of Violence Against Women”; “Enhancing Muskoka’s Response to Violence Against Women: Improving MUSKOKA D.A.R.T.”; “Domestic Violence Death Review Committee Recommendations and Muskoka’s Role” (March)
- MPSSAS staff begin to implement the “Partner Outreach Program” component of the “Partner Assault Response (PAR) Program”
- “Girlz Unplugged” events held at McDOUGALL PUBLIC SCHOOL and SUNDRIDGE CENTENNIAL PUBLIC SCHOOL; topics – “Dreamcatchers” (arts and crafts activity); “Dream Girlz” (self-esteem exercise); “Girlz in Motion” (yoga); “Nature Connections” (March and April)
- “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” activities in Parry Sound and Bracebridge (May)
- “Tag Day” fundraisers in Parry Sound, South River, Bracebridge, and Huntsville (May)
- “Daphne’s Drop-In” (Bracebridge), “Daisy Chain Drop-In” (South River), “Comfy Corner Drop-In” (Parry Sound), and “Womyn’s Way Drop-In” (Huntsville) held sessions during the academic year
- “Peer Support Program” continues in high schools in Bracebridge, Gravenhurst, Huntsville, Parry Sound, and South River
- S.A.I.L. therapy group offered in Bracebridge
- “Grrls Night” group-intervention program continues in Bracebridge
- staff training and development: topics – “Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder”; “Self-Care” (October)
- 4th “Annual Walk for Community Safety” held at the PARRY SOUND FRIENDSHIP CENTRE; guest speaker – Eileen Morrow, Coordinator, ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF INTERVAL AND TRANSITION HOUSES (October 17th)
- “Kawabunga” event held on December 6th at the RIVERWALK RESTAURANT in Bracebridge

2008

- staff training and development: topics – “Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and Trauma”; “Engaging Clients Who Minimize, Disconnect, and Avoid Trauma Reactions in Treatment” (January)
- volunteer training sessions held in Parry Sound, Bracebridge, and South River
- two-day Muskoka D.A.R.T. conference in Port Carling: topics – “Relationship Terrorism”; “Darfur ... On Our Watch”; “Attitudinal Changes in Participants of PARTNER ASSAULT RESPONSE Programs”; “I Am a Kind Man”; “Restraining Orders, Restraining Offenders, Restraining Ourselves: How Do We Limit the Violence?” (March)
- “Girlz Unplugged” events held at MCDUGALL PUBLIC SCHOOL and SUNDRIDGE CENTENNIAL PUBLIC SCHOOL; topics – “Girlfriendz” (friendship and communication); “Laughter Yoga” (stress-relief movements); “Macramé” (arts and crafts activity); “Hip Hop Dancing” (April)
- staff training and development: topic – “Client Scenarios” (May)
- “If You See It, Speak It” “Passport Project” starts in Muskoka high schools
- “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” activities in Parry Sound and Bracebridge (May)
- “Tag Day” fundraisers in Parry Sound, South River, Bracebridge, and Huntsville (May)
- “Bar Patrol Program” created awareness of date-rape drugs and dating violence in the District of Parry Sound; implemented by two summer staff members (June, July, August)
- television commercials developed by “Peer Support” students run during the summer months in Muskoka and Parry Sound
- “Daphne’s Drop-In” (Bracebridge), “Daisy Chain Drop-In” (South River), “Comfy Corner Drop-In” (Parry Sound), and “Womyn’s Way Drop-In” (Huntsville) held sessions during the academic year
- “Peer Support Program” implemented in high schools in Bracebridge, Parry Sound, and South River; online training also implemented as an option in all locations
- S.A.I.L. therapy group offered in Bracebridge
- S.A.I.L. program begins to provide a half-day service in Huntsville (using fundraised dollars for travel and donated space)
- “Grrls Night” group-intervention program continues in Bracebridge
- “Partners of Survivors” pilot group implemented for couples; participants discussed issues related to “living with a survivor”

- 5th “Annual Walk for Community Safety” held at the PARRY SOUND FRIENDSHIP CENTRE; guest speaker – Jodi Baker, Child Protection Worker, CHILDREN’S AID SOCIETY NIPISSING AND PARRY SOUND (October 29th)
- Bracebridge office hosts a SSW (“Social Service Worker”) placement student from GEORGIAN COLLEGE



2009

- “Women in Business” program collaboration with MUSKOKA YWCA; training classes in Bracebridge, Gravenhurst, and Huntsville on “healthy relationships” and how to recognize and assist someone who has been sexually assaulted (January)
- volunteer training sessions held in Parry Sound, Bracebridge, and South River
- two-day Muskoka D.A.R.T. conference in Port Carling: topics – “The War on Women”; “Safety Planning for Domestic Violence Victims”; “Threat Assessment and O.P.P. Response to Domestic Violence Calls”; “Best Practices from the Waterloo Family Violence Project”; “After She Leaves: A Model for Supporting Woman-Abuse Survivors During the Family Law Process”; “The Impact of Violence, Abuse, and Neglect on Children” (March)
- development and implementation of agency “Data Collection” forms; used to supplement data collected for the MAG and the NE LHIN (April)
- “Girlz Unplugged” events held at MCDUGALL PUBLIC SCHOOL and SUNDRIDGE CENTENNIAL PUBLIC SCHOOL; topics – “Yoga”; “Sewing With Suzette”; “Creative Writing on the Spot”; “Cooperative Games”(April)
- collaborated with the YWCA Muskoka to provide the “Power of Being a Girl” presentation at ST. DOMINIC CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL in Bracebridge
- “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” activities in Parry Sound and Bracebridge (May)
- “Tag Day” events in Parry Sound, Bracebridge, Gravenhurst, and Huntsville (May)
- staff training and development: topics – “Post-traumatic Stress: Solution-Focussed Interventions in Short-Term Therapy Work”; “Self-Care” (June)
- “Daphne’s Drop-In” (Bracebridge), “Daisy Chain Drop-In” (South River), and “Womyn’s Way Drop-In” (Huntsville) held sessions during the academic year
- “Comfy Corner Drop-In” on hiatus (beginning in September)
- “Peer Support Program” implemented in high schools in Bracebridge and South River, and through the online “Peer Learning Centre” in Parry Sound
- 6th “Annual Walk for Community Safety” held at the ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION and implemented by the DISTRICT OF PARRY SOUND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE (DPSDVCC); guest speakers – Dawn and Ed Novak and Alfredo Marroquin, Provincial Coordinator, “Neighbours, Friends, and Families” Campaign (October 29th)
- S.A.I.L. therapy group offered in Bracebridge
- S.A.I.L. program provides a half-day service in Huntsville
- “Grrls Night” group-intervention program continues in Bracebridge

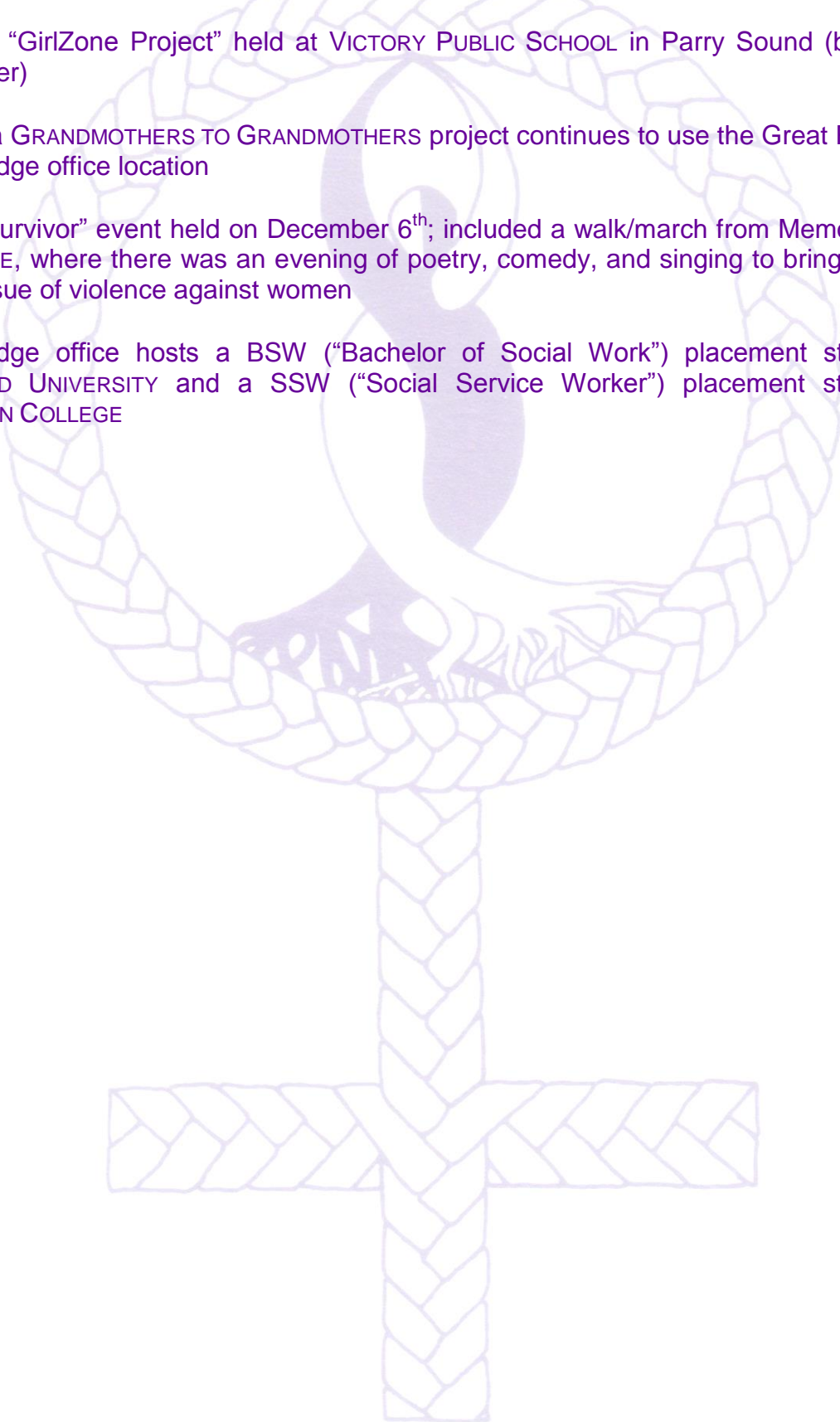
- “If You See It, Speak It” project (violence-prevention initiative for Grade 10 students that is implemented by members of the DPSDVCC; provides students with information about violence – particularly against females – and encourages them to speak up when they witness any type of abuse) held at PARRY SOUND HIGH SCHOOL (October 29th) and ALMAGUIN HIGHLANDS SECONDARY SCHOOL (November 12th)
- “Moving Forward: From Survivor to Thriver” two-day conference held at HIDDEN VALLEY RESORT in Huntsville (past and present S.A.I.L. clients, as well as clients from MPSSAS, INTERVAL HOUSE, CHRYSALIS, and ESPRIT PLACE); funding provided by the ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION; topics – “Charges Pending – Information on the Criminal-Justice System” panel; What Offenders are Thinking”; “Communication”; “Stress Management”; “Self-Care” (October)
- 12-week “GirlZone Project” (a series of enjoyable, educational, creative, and recreational activities which empower and educate young girls approaching their teenage years by addressing such topics as self-esteem, leadership, communication skills, sharing and generosity, teamwork, problem solving, bullying, body image, healthy lifestyle choices; and, critical thinking series of enjoyable, educational, creative, and recreational activities) held at VICTORY PUBLIC SCHOOL in Parry Sound (beginning in November)
- Muskoka GRANDMOTHERS TO GRANDMOTHERS (a project of the STEPHEN LEWIS FOUNDATION which assists grandmothers in Africa) began using the Great Room at the Bracebridge office location for meetings and workshops
- Bracebridge office hosts two MOT (“Master of Occupational Therapy”) placement students from QUEEN’S UNIVERSITY



2010

- volunteer training sessions held in Parry Sound (x 2), Bracebridge, and Powassan
- two-day Muskoka D.A.R.T. conference in Huntsville: topics – “The Rama First Nation Community Healing Model”; “SafetyNet – A Collaborative Strategy to Help Protect High-Risk Victims of Domestic Violence”; “The Criminal Justice System Panel Discussion”; “Strangulation – The Hidden Danger”; “Responding to Domestic Violence” Workshop by the VERMONT CRIMINAL-JUSTICE TRAINING COUNCIL (March)
- “Girlz Unplugged” event held at McDougall Public School; topics – “A Stitch in Time” (sewing project); “Body Image”; “Standing Up for Me” (how to be assertive); “Creative Dance” (April)
- “Women in Business” program collaboration with Muskoka YWCA; training classes in Bracebridge, Gravenhurst, and Huntsville on “healthy relationships” and how to recognize and assist someone who has been sexually assaulted (April)
- collaboration with Muskoka YWCA on a “Boys’ Conference” for male students at St. Dominic Catholic Secondary School (May)
- “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” activities in Parry Sound and Bracebridge (May)
- “Tag Day” events in Parry Sound, Bracebridge, Gravenhurst, and Huntsville (May)
- staff training and development: topics – “Trauma Recovery and Empowerment Model”; “Computer Skills”; “Self-Care” (June)
- completed significant revisions to the “Volunteer Training Manual” (August)
- “Daphne’s Drop-In” (Bracebridge), “Daisy Chain Drop-In” (South River), and “Womyn’s Way Drop-In” (Huntsville) held sessions during the academic year
- “Peer Support Program” implemented in high schools in Bracebridge, and through the online “Peer Learning Centre” in Parry Sound and South River
- 7th “Annual Walk for Community Safety” held at the Royal Canadian Legion and implemented by the District of Parry Sound Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee; guest speaker – Deborah Sinclair, Social Worker, Writer, Public Speaker, and Researcher (September 30th)
- “Fashion Free-for-All” fundraiser in Bracebridge (October)
- S.A.I.L. therapy group offered in Bracebridge
- S.A.I.L. program provides a half-day service in Huntsville
- “Grrls Night” group-intervention program continues in Bracebridge

- “If You See It, Speak It” project held at PARRY SOUND HIGH SCHOOL (November 2nd) and ALMAGUIN HIGHLANDS SECONDARY SCHOOL (November 16th)
- 12-week “GirlZone Project” held at VICTORY PUBLIC SCHOOL in Parry Sound (beginning in November)
- Muskoka GRANDMOTHERS TO GRANDMOTHERS project continues to use the Great Room at the Bracebridge office location
- “Sister Survivor” event held on December 6th; included a walk/march from Memorial Park to CLUB ONE, where there was an evening of poetry, comedy, and singing to bring awareness to the issue of violence against women
- Bracebridge office hosts a BSW (“Bachelor of Social Work”) placement student from LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY and a SSW (“Social Service Worker”) placement student from GEORGIAN COLLEGE



2011

- “Womyn’s Way Drop-In” on hiatus (beginning in January)
- volunteer training sessions held in Parry Sound (x 2), Bracebridge, and South River
- two-day Muskoka D.A.R.T. conference in Port Carling: topics – “If Only ... Nat’s Story”; “The Process of Leaving an Abusive Relationship”; “Violence and Gender in the Canadian Context”; “The Batterer as Partner and Parent” (March)
- “Sexual Assault Therapy Program” (from ESPRIT PLACE in Parry Sound) joins the MPSSAS S.A.I.L. program to provide a seamless model of support for women (crisis intervention to longer-term therapy); program is offered four days/week in Parry Sound and one day/week in South River (April)
- “Girlz Unplugged” event held at McDOUGALL PUBLIC SCHOOL; topics – “Zumba” (Latin-inspired dance-fitness program); “Crafts with Suzette”; “Girl Power” (building self-esteem); “Spanish Girl” (a Spanish-language lesson) (April)
- “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” activities in Parry Sound and Bracebridge (May)
- “Tag Day” fundraisers held in Parry Sound, Bracebridge, South River, and Sundridge (May)
- “Victim Commemoration Ceremony” (which brings together victims of crime and their families, those who support these victims, and the general public) hosted by MPSSAS at the NIPISSING UNIVERSITY campus in Bracebridge with funding from the “Ontario Victim Services Secretariat” (June)
- MPSSAS staff member attends the provincial “Sexual Violence Forum” in Toronto, as part of Ontario’s “Sexual Violence Action Plan” (June)
- staff training and development: topics – “Violence and Abuse”; “Abuse Dynamics in a Gendered Society”; “The Politics of Disadvantage”; “Ethics of Protest”; “Restorative Practice”; “Targeting Intervention”; “Invitational Questioning”; “Identification of Shame Dynamics”; “Effective Tools for Communication and Assessment”; “Self-Reflection for Counselling” (June)
- “Daphne’s Drop-In” (Bracebridge) and “Daisy Chain Drop-In” (South River) held sessions during the academic year
- “Peer Support Program” implemented in high schools in Bracebridge, and through the online “Peer Learning Centre” in Parry Sound and South River
- 8th “Annual Walk for Community Safety” held at the ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION and implemented by the DISTRICT OF PARRY SOUND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE; guest speakers – Taylor McIntyre and Hillary Millar, Student Film Developers, ALMAGUIN HIGHLANDS SECONDARY SCHOOL (October 5th)

- launched website for the DISTRICT OF PARRY SOUND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE: www.dpsdvcc.ca (October)
- staff training and development: topics – “Human Trafficking”; “Aboriginal Cultural Awareness” (October)
- completed significant revisions to the “Peer Support Manual” (October)
- S.A.I.L. therapy group offered in Bracebridge
- S.A.I.L. program provides a half-day service in Huntsville
- “Grrls Group” intervention program continues on Wednesday afternoons in Bracebridge
- 8-week group for women survivors of sexual abuse offered in Parry Sound
- 11-week “GirlZone Project” held at VICTORY PUBLIC SCHOOL in Parry Sound (beginning in November)
- staff member attends a provincial Forum, and begins working on a committee to develop the “Building a Bigger Wave” (BBW) provincial Network of “Violence-Against-Women Coordinating Committees” (VAWCCs) (November)
- “If You See It, Speak It” project held at PARRY SOUND HIGH SCHOOL (November 24th) and ALMAGUIN HIGHLANDS SECONDARY SCHOOL (November 28th)
- Muskoka GRANDMOTHERS TO GRANDMOTHERS project continues to use the Great Room at the Bracebridge office location
- marked December 6th with a “Drum Circle” at the Bracebridge office (facilitated by Barry Hayward); over 80 people in attendance




2012

- volunteer training sessions held in Parry Sound (x 2), Bracebridge, and South River
- “Wonderful Women Week” fundraising events in Bracebridge (March)
- staff member selected to be part of a 20-person provincial working group to further develop the BBW provincial Network of VAWCCs; also named as newsletter editor for the provincial Network (March)
- two-day Muskoka D.A.R.T. conference in Port Carling: topics – “Dedicated Domestic Violence Courts”; “Honouring Ellen Pence” (creator of the “Duluth Model”); “Understanding Woman Abuse in Canada”; “Courageous Conversations – Considering How We Work With Men Who Abuse”; “Violence Against Aboriginal Women”; “Who Wears the Pants” short film by ALMAGUIN HIGHLANDS SECONDARY SCHOOL students (March)
- ONTARIO COMMON ASSESSMENT OF NEED (OCAN) system implemented for S.A.I.L. program; the new method for collecting, storing, and sharing clients’ personal health-care information
- “Girlz Unplugged” event held at McDOUGALL PUBLIC SCHOOL; topics – “Zumba” (Latin-inspired dance-fitness program); “Crafts with Suzette”; “Cooperative Games”; “Creative Writing” (April)
- staff member begins working with the “Ontario Woman Abuse Screening Project”, which encourages collaboration across mental health and addiction sectors to implement screening for woman abuse, sexual assault, and trauma
- Muskoka D.A.R.T. collaborates with Dawn Novak to present “If Only ... Nat’s Story” to students at BRACEBRIDGE AND MUSKOKA LAKES SECONDARY SCHOOL and ST. DOMINIC CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL in Bracebridge (May)
- “Moving Forward” survivor conferences held in May and October with funding provided through Ontario’s “Sexual Violence Action Plan”



- “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” activities in Parry Sound and Bracebridge (May)
- “Tag Day” fundraisers held in Parry Sound and Bracebridge (May)
- completed second round of revisions for the “Volunteer Training Manual” (August)

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- “Daphne’s Drop-In” (Bracebridge) and “Daisy Chain Drop-In” (South River) held sessions during the academic year
 - “Peer Support Program” implemented in high schools in Bracebridge, and through the online “Peer Learning Centre” in Parry Sound and South River
 - 9th “Annual Walk for Community Safety” held at the ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION and implemented by the DISTRICT OF PARRY SOUND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE; guest speaker – Kellie King, WASAUKSING FIRST NATION (October 10th)
 - staff training and development; topics – “Eating Disorders”; “Shifting Paradigms: Perception, Knowledge, and Understanding Cross-Cultural Clinical Work” (October)
 - S.A.I.L. therapy group offered in Bracebridge
 - S.A.I.L. program provides a half-day service in Huntsville
 - “Grrls Group” intervention program continues on Wednesday afternoons in Bracebridge
 - 8-week group for women survivors of sexual abuse offered in Parry Sound
 - group counselling provided for female staff members at a nursing home in Parry Sound who were experiencing inappropriate sexual behaviours by some Alzheimer’s patients; safety plans for all staff implemented
 - S.A.I.L. model of workshops and groups introduced to address long waiting list in Muskoka; training for this model provided to some other agencies
 - “If You See It, Speak It” project held at ALMAGUIN HIGHLANDS SECONDARY SCHOOL (October 25th) and PARRY SOUND HIGH SCHOOL (November 29th)
 - 11-week “GirlZone Project” held at NOBEL PUBLIC SCHOOL in Parry Sound (beginning in November)
 - Muskoka GRANDMOTHERS TO GRANDMOTHERS project continues to use the Great Room at the Bracebridge office location
 - marked December 6th with a “Drum Circle” at the Bracebridge office (facilitated by Barry Hayward); 37 people in attendance

2013

- 20th anniversary of MPSSAS
- Facebook page launched to connect with greater numbers of community members using social media (January)
- “Daphne’s Lassies” (from “Daphne’s Drop-In”) took part in the 5th annual “Alzheimer’s Society Walk” in Bracebridge and raised \$226.00 (January)



- “One Billion Rising” event held in collaboration with MUSKOKA YWCA and MWAG; concept created by Eve Ensler to encourage one billion people (representing the one in three women on the planet who will be raped or beaten in their lifetimes) to rise, dance, and speak out in an effort to end violence against women and girls; approximately 1,000 people participated (February 14th)
- volunteer training sessions held in Parry Sound and Bracebridge
- “Wonderful Women Week” fundraising events in Bracebridge (March)
- two-day Muskoka D.A.R.T. conference in Port Carling: topics – “Boys Will Be Boys, and Men Will Be Boys – The Problem of Pornography”; “Engaging Men in Change”; “Child Sexual Exploitation Investigations”; “Challenging Practices – Co-occurring Domestic Violence, Mental Health, and Substance Use” (March)
- “Girlz Unplugged” event held at McDOUGALL PUBLIC SCHOOL; topics – “Zumba” (Latin-inspired dance-fitness program); “Crafts with Suzette”; “Game Time” (individual and cooperative problem-solving activities); “What I Like About Me” (exploration of self-esteem) (April)
- Muskoka D.A.R.T. collaborates with Dawn Novak to present “If Only ... Nat’s Story” to NIPISSING UNIVERSITY students (Bracebridge campus)
- “Moving Forward” survivor conferences held in May and October with funding provided through Ontario’s “Sexual Violence Action Plan”
- “Executive Director” (ED) retires and Muskoka S.A.I.L. “Therapist” hired as new ED (May)
- “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” activities in Parry Sound and Bracebridge (May)

- “Tag Day” fundraisers held in Bracebridge (May) and Parry Sound (June)
- new “Therapist” hired for Muskoka S.A.I.L. program (June)
- “Daphne’s Drop-In” (Bracebridge) held during the summer months (July and August)
- “Daphne’s Drop-In” (Bracebridge) and “Daisy Chain Drop-In” (South River) held sessions during the academic year
- “Peer Support Program” implemented in high schools in Bracebridge, and through the online “Peer Learning Centre” in Parry Sound and South River
- 10th “Annual Walk for Community Safety” held at the ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION and implemented by the DISTRICT OF PARRY SOUND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE; guest speaker – Jamie McGarvey, Mayor of Parry Sound (October 2nd)
- staff training held in Parry Sound with funding from Ontario’s “Sexual Violence Action Plan”; topic – “Introduction to LGBT Needs” (October)
- S.A.I.L. therapy group offered in Bracebridge
- S.A.I.L. program provides a half-day service in Huntsville
- “Grrls Group” intervention program continues on Wednesday afternoons in Bracebridge
- 10-week “GirlZone Project” held at NOBEL PUBLIC SCHOOL in Parry Sound (beginning in November)
- “If You See It, Speak It” project held at PARRY SOUND HIGH SCHOOL (November 21st) and ALMAGUIN HIGHLANDS SECONDARY SCHOOL (December 5th)
- Parry Sound office moves to a new suite at the 7 William Street location
- Muskoka GRANDMOTHERS TO GRANDMOTHERS project continues to use the Great Room at the Bracebridge office location
- marked December 6th with the “Let There Be Sound” event (including performances by numerous musicians – in celebration of women’s strengths and working for peace) at the *Spirit Bear Bed and Breakfast* in Bracebridge; also commemorating the life of Lindsay Wilson – a student at the Muskoka campus of NIPISSING UNIVERSITY who was murdered in Bracebridge by an ex-boyfriend earlier in the year



- Bracebridge office hosts a SSW (“Social Service Worker”) placement student from GEORGIAN COLLEGE
- “Herstory” launched on the MPSSAS website on December 6th
- press release to local newspapers for December 6th – in recognition of the 20th anniversary of MPSSAS

