

When **violence** becomes **entertaining**

Recapturing childhood and adolescence from the toxic influence of media

October 20 – 21, 2011 London, ON

Faculty of Education, University of Western Ontario



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We are all bombarded by media at home, at school, at work, in the car... Media is pervasive and a team approach is clearly the best strategy to help young people be critical of what they see and hear and help them make choices which are appropriate.

When Violence Becomes Entertaining is a forum that will provide opportunities for educators, school resource staff, trustees, parents and community professionals focused on children's well-being to learn more about the impact of violent media on children and adolescents and effective awareness and prevention strategies.

We would like to thank the following sponsors and supporters who have made this conference possible:



Association of Local Public Health Agencies

Agenda

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20

7:00 – 9:00 pm

Violence in Sports: Promotion in the Media

Peter Jaffe, Faculty of Education, University of Western Ontario.
Charles Tator, University of Toronto and Toronto Western Hospital
Ron Wicks, Former NHL referee
Roy MacGregor, Journalist and author

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21

8:00 – 8:45 am

Breakfast and Registration

8:45 – 9:00 am

Welcome and Introduction

Peter Jaffe, Faculty of Education, University of Western Ontario
Ray Hughes, CAMH - Centre for Prevention Science

9:00 – 10:15 am

Setting the Context:

Katie Cole, Media Violence Educator, Thames Valley District School Board

10:15 – 10:30 am

Break

10:30 – 12:00 pm

Forum Theatre Presentation: Tuned Out

Panel Discussion on play to follow
Toni Wilson, Educator, Thames Valley District School Board
Ray Hughes, CAMH - Centre for Prevention Science
Robyn MacEachern, OPP S/Sgt
Linda Steel, Trustee, London District Catholic School Board
Arlene Morrell, Past Chair, Parent Involvement Committee, Thames Valley District School Board

12:00 – 1:00 pm

Lunch and presentation – Violence and Interactive Media

Robyn MacEachern, OPP S/Sgt and A.R. (victim of internet violence)

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Violent Video Game Effects on Children and Adolescents

Craig Anderson, Distinguished Professor of Psychology at Iowa State University

2:30 – 2:45 pm

Break

2:45 – 3:45 pm

SMALL GROUP WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP A

Room #1234

Teach Don't Protect – Helping Children to Develop the Skills to Understand, Interpret and Ask Questions About the Media they Consume

Linda Millar, *Concerned Children's Advertisers*

WORKSHOP B

Room #1234

Addressing Healthy Relationships through English, Media and Language Arts

Connie Bray, *Educator*

Toni Wilson, *Educator*

WORKSHOP C

Room #1234

Media Literacy in the Early Years

Ken Pettigrew, *Educator*

WORKSHOP D

Room #1234

Media Violence Resource for Secondary Students

Katie Cole, *Educator*

Heather Jakobi, *Educator*

WORKSHOP E

Room #1234

Positive Use of Technology in the Classroom

Chad Downes, *Educator*

WORKSHOP F

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On-line Threats/Risks: Helping kids to recognize and act on potentially violent or suicidal situations

Mark Allen, *Safe Schools Consultant*

WORKSHOP G

Room #1234

A Restorative Solution to Address Harm Caused by Media Violence

Angie Dornai, *Educator*

WORKSHOP H

Room #1234

Digital Parenting: Kids... "think before you ink!"

Amie Donais, *Educator*

Kenji Takahashi, *Educator*

WORKSHOP I

Room #1234

Media Violence – What Parents Can do?

Cathy Hird, *Educator*

WORKSHOP J

Room #1234

The Shrug Factor

Karen Horsman, *Freelance Journalist*

3:45 – 4:15 pm

Where do we go from here?

Peter Jaffe, Faculty of Education, University of Western Ontario

Keynote Speakers

October 20, 2011

Violence in Sports: Promotion in the Media

Sports can, and often is, an important and positive part of child and adolescent development. Through sport, many critical life skills can be learned, such as fairness, respect for opponents and team work. The media promotes sports as a form of entertainment now more than ever. Indeed, young people often look to sports for role models outside their family. However, not all role models are positive ones and the increasing level of violence in sports is being recognized as detrimental. Panelists will discuss some of the current thinking about this negative aspect of sports by examining topics such as head injuries in hockey and the proper enforcement of rules by officials, players, parents and leagues.

Peter Jaffe, is the Academic Director of the Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children and a Professor in the Faculty of Education, at the University of Western Ontario. He is also Director Emeritus of the London Family Court Clinic and has been working in the areas of domestic violence, child abuse, trauma, and with families involved with the courts for over thirty years. Dr. Jaffe's extensive publications include 10 books and over 80 articles on the effects of violence and abuse in the lives of children and families. Dr. Jaffe's real passion is violence prevention programs in schools and has played a leadership role in that area as a trustee for the Thames Valley District School Board for the past 30 years (formerly London Board). He was honoured to be named an Officer in the Order of Canada in July 2009.

Charles Tator is a professor of neurosurgery, at the University of Toronto, and a neurosurgeon at the Toronto Western Hospital. He has received MA and PhD degrees. He was Chair of Neurosurgery at the University of Toronto. He performs research in the epidemiology, prevention and treatment of acute brain and spinal cord injuries, and the University of Toronto Press recently published his book on "Catastrophic Injuries in Sports and Recreation, Causes and Prevention-a Canadian Study." He has held two research chairs at the University of Toronto. He has received the Order of Canada and was inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame. He founded ThinkFirst, Canada, a national brain and spinal cord injury foundation whose mission is to reduce the incidence of catastrophic injuries in Canada.

Roy MacGregor has been a journalist for 37 years and has worked for a number of major Canadian publications, including Maclean's, the Toronto Star, Ottawa Citizen and, since 2002, the Globe and Mail. He has won every major journalism award in the country. He is the author of some 40 books, 23 of them in the internationally successful Screech Owls mystery series for young readers. His novel *The Last Season*, a study of hockey violence, was made into a CBC movie. His book on fathers and sons and hockey, *Home Team*, was nominated for the Governor-General's Award. His memoir about his father, *A Life in the Bush*, won numerous national awards and the prestigious U.S. Rutstrum Award, which is awarded every five years to the best book on the wilderness. His most recent works are *Canadians: A Portrait of the Country and Its People* and *Northern Light: The Enduring Mystery of Tom Thomson and the Woman Who Loved Him*. In 2005, he was named an Officer in the Order of Canada and is described in the citation as one of Canada's "most-gifted storytellers".

Ron Wicks was an NHL referee for more than 25 years, blowing the whistle in hockey games all over the United States, Canada and Europe. In all, Ron officiated 1,067 games as a referee and 375 as a linesman, with over 100 playoff games to his credit. Having rubbed shoulders with the best and the toughest in the games, Ron has a wealth of experience drawing the line between sport and violence. Currently a successful real estate broker, Ron recently published his first book, *A Referee's Life*, in which he chronicles a highly entertaining first-hand account of the evolution of hockey over the last few decades.

Keynote Speakers

October 21, 2011

Setting the Context

Popular Culture dictates through a variety of mediums what is cool, and, as targeted consumers, our kids tend to buy in to the buzz worthy. Whether it's rappers or riots, vampires or wizards, ebooks or facebook, apps or ipads, 3D or 4G, they are delving into the exciting yet sometimes dangerous and violent world of new media. The difficulty here for parents and educators is keeping up with the continuous ebb and flow of technology. Alternatively, the challenge for youth is to navigate through murky social media waters. This presentation will attempt to help you catch the trending wave and stay afloat as we surf both the good and bad of youth media culture.

Katie Cole is a Media Studies teacher with the Thames Valley District School Board and writer for the Ontario Media Violence Coalition. In 2010-11 she was awarded the Premier's Award, Teacher of The Year. Mrs. Cole has produced provincial curriculum for educators, parent resources, and workshop materials to raise awareness and promote critical media literacy in homes and classrooms.

Forum Theatre

Forum Theatre is an interactive drama presentation that uses oppressive situations to help audience members develop and practice possible solutions. The play will be viewed twice. The first time the audience will thoughtfully view the play and consider the inappropriate behaviour related to media violence. The second time the audience will stop the play and try to effectively change a moment which will positively affect the outcome of the story as well as lead to positive change in our communities

Toni Wilson is a Learning Coordinator for Safe Schools for the Thames Valley District School Board. She has been a secondary school teacher of English and Dramatic Arts for 25 years and has been involved in violence prevention and forum theatre for the past 15 years. She has toured across Southwestern Ontario using interactive theatre as a vehicle for change encouraging people to make a difference.

Keynote Speakers October 21, 2011

Violence and Interactive Media

The emerging media is online, interactive and limitless. This new media has been mastered by a young generation of users capable of navigating and “playing” with ease. Unfortunately, this same emerging media is often foreign to those responsible for the development and preparation of the new generation. The gap is widening in terms of the transfer of experiential knowledge and we are faced with new risks – risks which are unidentified and unanticipated, and for which there is little preparation or prevention underway. This presentation will be frank about the challenges facing us and discuss ways to increase our own knowledge in the battle against the new media.

*As a young woman, **A.R.** was victimized by an online predator who manipulated interactive media to victimize hundreds of young people in what many perceived to be a harmless virtual world. A.R. will describe her encounters relating to the investigative, court and victim services processes that followed the online exploitation. She will provide insight for those working with youth to raise awareness of the impacts of interactive media and the online world.*

***S/Sgt. Robyn MacEachern** has been a member of the Ontario Provincial Police since 1994. While working as the Youth Issues Coordinator in the Crime Prevention Section, Robyn was responsible for developing awareness and prevention programs relating to Cyber Risks in partnership with the OPP Electronic Crimes and Child Sexual Exploitation Sections. She has presented across Ontario on issues relating to the emerging trends of the cyber world and the impacts for youth and parents who are struggling to get ahead of the curve of risk. She is the author of a published children’s book, *Cyberbullying: Deal With It and Ctrl Alt Delete It*. Currently, Robyn is Staff Sergeant with the OPP Aboriginal Policing Bureau.*

Violent Video Game Effects on Children and Adolescents

This address presents what is currently known about the short-term and long-term effects of playing violent video games. A comprehensive analysis of over 300 tests of violent video game effects shows that such games cause increases in the likelihood of: physically aggressive behavior, aggressive thinking, aggressive emotion, and emotional desensitization. Violent games also decrease empathy and helpful behavior. Other recent research suggests that excessive gaming: increases attention problems, impedes learning in school, and becomes addictive for about 8%. Similarities to research findings on TV/film violence effects will also be presented.

***Craig Anderson**, a 1980 Ph.D. from Stanford University, is a Distinguished Professor of Psychology at Iowa State University, a Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science and the American Psychological Association, and President of the International Society for Research on Aggression. Anderson’s 150+ publications span cognitive, developmental, social and personality psychology. His General Aggression Model and pioneering work on video-game violence leads to consultations with educators, government officials, child advocates, and news organizations worldwide. His 2007 book on *Violent Video Game Effects on Children and Adolescents* summarizes what has been learned from past studies on this important social issue.*

Workshops

WORKSHOP A – Room TBD

Teach Don't Protect – Helping Children to Develop the Skills to Understand, Interpret and Ask Questions About the Media they Consume

Linda Millar

Concerned Children's Advertisers

Today's children and youth are growing up in a digital world. Entirely at ease in this new reality, young people consume, create and distribute media for many hours every day. It is unavoidable that children will encounter media experiences and challenges that require them to ask questions, think critically and make informed choices. It is equally important for them to learn how to find the right balance in terms of time, content and intensity of their media use. By teaching children how to construct, deconstruct, analyze, interpret and manage their media, they can be empowered to make life and media choices that are right for them.

WORKSHOP B – Room TBD

Addressing Healthy Relationships through English, Media and Language Arts

Connie Bray, Educator

Toni Wilson, Educator

This workshop uses the Fourth R[®] framework to address ways in which teachers of English, Media, and Language Arts can address important Healthy Relationships topics with students through a wide range of texts, both current and traditional. Emphasis is on a critical literacy lens and specific classroom examples offer teachers practical strategies through which they can promote Healthy Relationships while addressing subject-specific knowledge and skills.

WORKSHOP C – Room TBD

Media Literacy in the Early Years

Ken Pettigrew, Educator

We are immersed in complex media messages each and every day. For our youngest learners, these messages can be particularly confusing and conflicting. In this workshop, participants will explore practical classroom strategies aimed at introducing young students (JK-3) to media education, and developing the critical thinking that is required to make sense of it all.

WORKSHOP D – Room TBD

Media Violence Resource for Secondary Students

Katie Cole, *Educator*

Heather Jakobi, *Educator*

New Media is transforming the world in which our youth live. As our students are creating, producing, consuming, gaming, broadcasting, blogging and more, teachers are asking themselves, "Can I play too?" This workshop gives teachers the tools to engage students with new media while helping students develop skills for the 21st century. Participants will be presented with new media violence lesson plans to help support critical media literacy. These lessons are aligned with the English Media Studies strand for Grades 9 to 12. Unit topics include: The Changing Face of Journalism, Pop Culture Icons and Celebrities, Teasers and Trailers, Active Audiences, and Cell Phone Savvy.

WORKSHOP E – Room TBD

Positive Use of Technology in the Classroom

Chad Downes, *Educator*

In today's media driven, multi-sensory overloaded way of life, students must be engaged in the classroom as they are in all other areas of a modern life— through technology. iPods are no longer a hand held media console, but rather an educational tool with potential for students never before seen in a classroom. In this seminar you will discover accessibility for all students as well as APPs and websites that touch on various content areas through curriculum expectations. Be prepared to be dazzled by the straightforward ways that students are searching, learning and creating in a 21st century classroom.

WORKSHOP F – Room TBD

On-line Threats/Risks: Helping kids to recognize and act on potentially violent or suicidal situation

Mark Allen

Safe Schools Consultant

Today more than ever, kids are immersed in the on-line world of social networking. They are seeing things adults do not see. It is virtually, an adult free zone. Kids are seeing on-line postings relating to potential high end violence and suicides. We must educate our kids to take action when they see on-line postings which raise concerns. They must understand that taking action is not "ratting" and may save the life of their classmates, best friend, favourite teacher, a sibling or perhaps their own life. Case studies will examine where this has failed and the consequences and why it is so important to create an on-line culture of safe and responsible reporting.

WORKSHOP G – Room TBD

A Restorative Solution to Address Harm Caused by Media Violence

Angie Dornai, *Educator*

A team approach is essential to helping us think critically about mass media. Exposure to media violence is desensitizing, and, over time, can reduce people's capacity for developing empathy. This workshop is designed to engage participants in a 'circle process' that addresses this significant concern. Meeting and conversing 'in circle' establishes a safe space for people to talk with one another about challenging issues, and is particularly useful when addressing issues related to cyber bullying, and media violence. All are welcome, to a maximum of 30 people.

WORKSHOP H – Room TBD

Digital Parenting: Kids... “think before you ink!”

Amie Donais, *Educator*

Kenji Takahashi, *Educator*

Parenting in a digital age can sometimes seem overwhelming. Today our kids are not simply consuming media but actually creating it. It is our responsibility to help them make good decisions and understand the implications when using this powerful technology. Join us as we explore concepts of online anonymity, privacy and permanency of their actions as well as their related consequences. Kids today really need to “think before they ink!” Let’s empower them with knowledge so they can act responsibly and respectfully while exploring themselves and truly soar with this wonderful new technology that is at their fingertips!

WORKSHOP I – Room TBD

Media Violence – What Parents Can do?

Cathy Hird, *Educator*

As today’s storytellers, the mass media ensures the stories our children see routinely involve violence as an acceptable way of resolving conflict and defining relationships. What messages are we giving our children about the personal value system and cultural worldview we wish to pass on to them? This session will provide practical strategies to reduce the amount of violent images in the lives of our children and opportunities for participants to discuss their concerns and efforts.

WORKSHOP J – Room TBD

The Shrug Factor

Karen Horsman

Freelance Journalist

We are all exposed to so many images in this digital world. As parents, it’s easy not to think about what our children are exposed to and shrug it all away. The best way to break “the Shrug Factor” is to face the issues and ask questions. Participants will learn about current parenting trends and research and the impact parents have in helping their children navigate the digital world we live in. This dynamic, high energy presentation uses video clips, music and interactive exercises to encourage families to think critically about the media messages that surround us.

Workshop Speakers

Mark Allen Mark is a recently retired member of the OPP, having served close to 35 years. Mark worked in Simcoe County for many years, as the Detachment Commander at Nottawasaga Detachment. During that time, he was actively involved with school boards in the area of Safe Schools and Lockdown Planning.

During the last 5 ½ years of Mark's career with the OPP, he was the Manager of the OPP's Crime Prevention Section. Mark worked closely with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police to further promote Safe Schools in Ontario. Mark was the chair of the Provincial Lockdown Working Group, which developed and released the Provincial Lockdown Guidelines in 2009. More recently, Mark again worked with the two Ministries, and various other stakeholders in the update and re-write of the Provincial Model for a Local Police/School Board Protocol. Mark is a strong advocate for police working in schools, and building bridges with youth.

Mark is now assisting school boards in the area of safe schools and lockdown planning on a consulting basis, and is a National Trainer for the Canadian Centre for Threat Assessment & Trauma Response.

Connie Bray earned her B. Ed and M.Ed. degrees from the University of Western Ontario and graduated with an Ed.D. from OISE/UT. She began her teaching career in Oxford county more than 25 years ago and has been with the Thames Valley District School Board since its inception. With TVDSB, she has worked as a classroom teacher and department head, a system curriculum coordinator and a secondary school administrator. Connie has worked as part-time instructor and Assistant Professor at UWO and, most recently, as a part-time Associate Professor at OISE/UT where she taught a course on cooperative learning to Master's levels students. For the past several years, she has worked with the Fourth R through CAMH with a focus on English classroom and curriculum. Currently, Connie is principal of North Middlesex District High School in Parkhill, Ontario.

Ryan Broll

Ryan Broll is currently completing a PhD in Sociology at the University of Western Ontario and is a Research Assistant at the CAMH Centre for Prevention Science. Ryan's doctoral research focuses on the increasingly prevalent topic of cyber bullying. Among his other ongoing research projects, Ryan is examining the impact of expanding media markets on policing and the ways in which online communities engage in cyber vigilantism. He has presented his research findings internationally at academic conferences. At the CAMH Centre for Prevention Science Ryan regularly presents on topics including media violence, cyber bullying, and Internet safety.

Shanna Burns is an educator and researcher for the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Centre for Prevention Science in London, Ontario. She obtained her Bachelor of Education and Masters in Educational Psychology from the University of Western Ontario. Most of her work is in the area of Fourth R program development and implementation initiatives. Since she started at CAMH in 2004, Shanna has assisted with the Health, English, Aboriginal Perspectives, Alternative Education, and Media Literacy curricula. Shanna has consulted on and developed resources and presentations to address topics such as cyber bullying, school-based bullying, bullying in the workplace, media violence, homophobia, and cyber safety. Shanna is a Fourth R Master Trainer and is an occasional teacher with the Thames Valley District School Board.

Katie Cole is a Media Studies teacher with the Thames Valley District School Board and writer for the Ontario Media Violence Coalition. In 2010-11 she was awarded the Premier's Award, Teacher of The Year. Mrs. Cole has produced provincial curriculum for educators, parent resources, and workshop materials to raise awareness and promote critical media literacy in homes and classrooms.

Amie Donais is currently a Teacher Librarian at Jack Chambers Public School. In addition she is a Teacher on Special Assignment for Library and Media. In this role Ms. Donais works directly with other Teacher Librarians in our system assisting with training and professional development encouraging the use of technology to facilitate student learning. Over the past two years Amie has had responsibilities within the Thames Valley District School Board for Internet Safety and most recently updating the Board's webpage to create a comprehensive resource page for parents, students and teachers with excellent web links to tools, activities and detailed information.

Chad Downes is currently employed with the Ministry of Education at London's Amethyst Provincial Demonstration School for students with severe learning disabilities. In his role as Assistive Technology Instructor he implements computer technology at both the elementary and secondary level to help students bridge their learning disabilities. Chad graduated from Media Information Technoculture at the University of Western Ontario prior to earning a Master's degree in Teaching at Griffith University in Australia. In the past two years he has played an instrumental role in integrating hand held devices (ie: iPods) and encouraging the use of social media in classrooms throughout the province.

Cathy Hird is currently a secondary teacher with the London District Catholic School Board and has introduced violence prevention initiatives in elementary and secondary schools for over twenty years in her capacity as a school social worker, classroom teacher, and curriculum resource teacher. She was involved in OECTA's anti-bullying initiative which included the development and implementation of half-day and full-day workshops for Catholic teachers across the province. She has presented on the topics of bullying prevention, social skills training, behaviour management, and emotional intelligence to parent groups, teachers, and administrators.

Karen Horsman was the CBC's National Parenting Columnist for nearly 10 years. Karen has covered over 500 topics dealing with the family and has interviewed parenting experts from around the world. She has also travelled to schools speaking with students and their teachers about the importance of media literacy and digital citizenship. Karen is the 2011 recipient of the Ontario Psychological Association award for journalism excellence. She was also honoured with a parent volunteer award from the Durham District School Board .

Linda Millar is a retired educator and presently holds the position of “Education Specialist” at Concerned Children’s Advertisers. An international writer and speaker, Linda has worked in the prevention field for over 30 years. Linda believes in the power of collaboration and the ingenuity and potential of children and youth. A mother of 2 grown boys, and a former “Teacher of the Year”, Ms. Millar understands the challenges facing today’s children, parents and communities and in this regard, she has authored many education and parent programs across Canada and beyond our borders.

Ken Pettigrew is a principal with the York Region District School Board. In his career, he has taught every grade from one through eight, served as a literacy consultant both locally and provincially, and has been an additional qualification instructor with both Queen’s and OISE/UT. He is an advocate for media literacy education, and has written and co-developed a variety of student and teacher resources on the subject, including “What’s the Message?” and “Literacy In Action 8: Heroes and Idols”.

Kenji Takahashi

Over the past 11 years, Kenji Takahashi has served within the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) as a secondary school teacher in science, health & physical education and the visual arts. Through video and media, he actively promoted the Increase the Peace Initiative against bullying and violence at Sir George Ross Secondary School. This included the production of "Angel", an anti-bullying video drawing attention to the critical role and action of the bystander. As a Tribes and 4th R Trainer for the TVDSB, Kenji has provided teachers with resources and strategies to establish safe and collaborative learning environments in the classroom. In his current role as a Learning Technology Coordinator, Kenji continues to promote the importance of community building and character development as it pertains to technology in the classroom and the differentiation of instruction.

Toni Wilson is a Learning Coordinator for Safe Schools for the Thames Valley District School Board. She has been a secondary school teacher of English and Dramatic Arts for 25 years and has been involved in violence prevention and forum theatre for the past 15 years. She has toured across Southwestern Ontario using interactive theatre as a vehicle for change encouraging people to make a difference.

Conference Planning Committee

Maria Callaghan, Conference Coordinator, Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women and Children

Evelyn Daley, Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation, D. 11 Thames Valley

Ray Hughes, CAMH- Centre for Prevention Science

Peter Jaffe, Faculty of Education, The University of Western Ontario

Frank McCavitt, Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario, Thames Valley Teacher Local

Arlene Morrell, Thames Valley District School Board Parent Involvement Committee

Graham Pollet, Middlesex London Health Unit

Barb Sonier, Thames Valley District School Board

Linda Steel, Trustee, London District Catholic School Board

Toni Wilson, Thames Valley District School Board