

The Corporation of the
County of Prince Edward



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NEWS RELEASE

First Annual Health, Safety and Wellness Fair during NAOSH Week

Picton ON - During North American Occupational Safety and Health Week, which is recognized as May 5th to 10th, the County of Prince Edward is renewing its focus on health and safety and employee wellness. At the first Annual Health, Safety and Wellness Fair, held on May 7th, municipal employees were treated to a BBQ lunch along with exhibits from various community agencies and health and wellness providers. Mayor Leo Finnegan and members of Council were on hand to congratulate all employees for working over 275 days without a lost time injury. The H.J. McFarland Memorial Home has worked over 500 days without a lost time injury, which is a significant achievement in the field of Health and Long Term Care facilities.

An important enhancement to the health and safety of the community was announced at the May 7th event, being the installation of four Automated External Defibrillators at the Picton Legion, the Picton Fitness and Aquatic Centre, the Picton United Church and Shire Hall. These defibrillators were accessed by Hastings-Quinte EMS and funded by the Ministry of Health through the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario's Public Access Defibrillator Initiative for recreational and community facilities. The County has provided training for the staff at all locations.

The Municipality has dedicated resources over the past several years to ensure improvements in the health and safety of its employees. A significant focus has been placed on working safely with the development of several committees, training initiatives and a focus on identifying the causes of all incidents. The Human Resources department of the County will be working with all employees to focus on not only health and safety in the workplace, but health and wellness at home and in the community.

"Our employees deserve recognition and congratulations for their hard work and efforts in reducing workplace accidents, and we are certainly proud of their accomplishments." said Chief Administrative Officer Richard Shannon. "We are working with our Health and Safety committees to develop a workplace culture that provides not only a safe place to work, but a place to live that places value on health and well being of our municipal employees and indeed our community."

"This Council has made the health and safety of our employees a high priority," said Mayor Leo P. Finnegan. "Kevin Courneyea, our Health and Safety Officer, is working with council, administration and the committees to ensure that accidents are reduced and hopefully eliminated. During Health and Safety week, I would encourage all citizens to focus on health and safety, not only in the workplace, but at home."

The County wishes to remind both its employees and residents that North American Occupational Safety and Health Week is a time to focus on health and safety at home and work.

Visit www.naosh.ca for further information on North American Safety and Health Week.

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For further information, contact Mayor Finnegan at 613-476-2148.