

By Gillian Judkins

It is with deep regret that we announce the dormancy of our office in Alberta. Colette Mandin-Kossowan has worked diligently with CAVEAT since February of 1995 to bring attention to the issue of victims' rights in Alberta and across Canada. In 1991 Colette's brother, Maurice and her sister-in-law, Susan, were murdered by their 15-year-old son. Also murdered were Colette's nieces, Islay, 12 and Janelle, 10. The journey Colette and her family took through the Criminal Justice System led them to launch letter writing campaigns to the media and politicians in order to have them address issues of youth crime.

For our members in Alberta, we will continue to keep active and keep you informed. We hope that you will let us know of the issues that are affecting your local areas and changes you wish to see happen. We hope that through our new union with DARE Canada we will have our Alberta office active again soon. We appreciate the hard work that Colette has undertaken the past four years and wish her well in her future endeavours! Thank you for your dedication Colette!

The National Film Board, CAVEAT, and the Ontario Women's Directorate present

"A Love That Kills"
Sunday, October 3rd at the
'NO MORE FEAR' Conference, Hamilton Ontario

The film, "A Love That Kills" will be launched at CAVEAT's 'NO MORE FEAR' Conference on October 3rd. It will be the beginning of a cross Canada tour for Dawna Speers. In the film, Monica's mother, Dawna, tells her daughter's story so that others may understand and identify the power and control issues that underpin dysfunctional relationships. The warning signs in the film become a critical factor in addressing violence prevention.

For more information, contact Head Office

CAVEAT and The Office for Victims of Crime in partnership with the Victim Assistance Program of Grey/Owen Sound and Owen Sound Police Services present:

IMPACT OF VICTIMIZATION
WORKSHOP
OCTOBER 26-27, 1999
Royal Canadian Legion #6
1450 - 2ND Ave. West
Owen Sound, Ontario

For more information contact Johanne Cyr-Wright at Head Office (905) 632-1733, or via email at info@caveat.org

CAVEAT BC presents
'An Auction for Action'
The 6th Annual Evening with CAVEAT

Friday, October 22, 1999
Sunrise Golf & Country Club
5640-188th St. (at Hwy. 10)
Surrey, British Columbia

With Host Comedian Barry Kennedy!
Featuring Auctioneer Dean Fougere!

Do you have some items you wish to donate? Don't have your ticket yet? Call BC office today (604) 530-5829

The Entertainment 2000 Books are in!

CAVEAT has once again selected Entertainment Books as a fall fundraiser! How can you get involved? You simply purchase your book for the low price of \$32.00 and that's it! Inside your book, you will find hundreds of discounts from restaurants, merchants, theatre & sporting events, video rentals, travel, attractions and much more! You will also receive an Entertainment Card which you can show at local restaurants and attractions for savings all the time!

Books can be purchased and delivered (included in price) for areas throughout Canada as well as the United States. They make a great a Christmas or Birthday present! The book can be purchased by contacting Luisa Ellis at Head Office.

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Vanscoy/Even Case Update!

Mr. Justice Day has passed down a decision in the case against the government of Ontario put forward by Linda Marie Even and Karen Vanscoy. Day has ruled not to invalidate section 2(5) of the Act, which prevents victims from initiating lawsuits against the government.

The two women were trying to prove that Ontario's Act Respecting Victims of Crime was unenforceable and thus had no real meaning for victims in Ontario. This was clearly proven when the Crown stated that the Act does not contain rights but abstract principles upon which officials are not obligated to act. The case proved that victims of crime in Ontario still don't have any rights.

We applaud Karen and Linda's courage in bringing this issue to the public's attention.

A special thank you goes out to Alan Young who represented Karen and Linda.

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Merging Towards the Millenium

By Gillian Judkins

In an effort to expand and reach more Canadians, CAVEAT has joined together with DARE Canada with the purpose of becoming a more visible, national organization. DARE Canada, *Helping to Kids to Resist Drugs and Violence*, and CAVEAT will work in partnership across Canada to raise awareness of the issues of violence and drugs that kids face. The new organization will be a single corporate entity, with CAVEAT as an operating division, with its own identity.

Mark Parlee, President of DARE Canada, brings with him experience as an undercover officer, understanding first hand the issues facing today's teens. Mark believes firmly that the emphasis for dealing with drug abuse should be prevention rather than enforcement through the court system. CAVEAT has worked tirelessly since our beginning in 1992 to develop preventative measures to help victims' of crime and believe that prevention is the key to changing society for the better. CAVEAT realizes that many offences are committed while under the influence of drugs and alcohol and therefore, we believe that preventing the abuse of drugs in our society may contribute to a reduction in victimization.

DARE is most famous for it's Drug Abuse Resistance Education prevention program for school-aged children. The program is designed

to equip students with the skills necessary to resist peer pressure. It was developed in 1983 by the Los Angeles Police Department in an effort to prevent substance abuse among children. DARE lessons focus on the following five points:

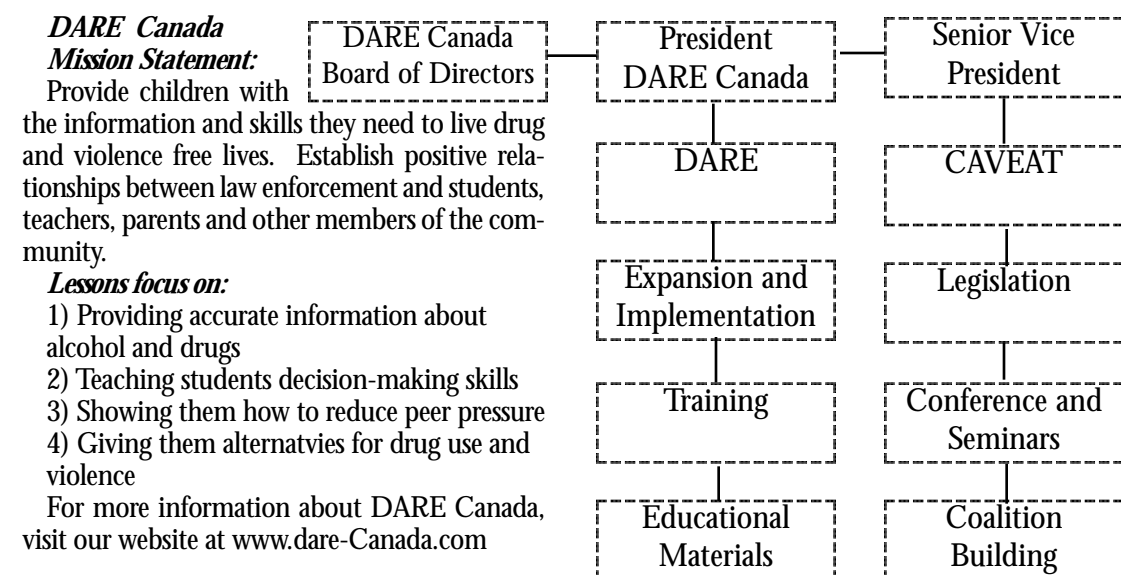
- 1) To provide the skills for recognizing and resisting social pressures to experiment with tobacco, alcohol and drugs.
- 2) To help enhance self-esteem
- 3) To teach positive alternatives to substance abuse
- 4) To develop skills in risk assessment and decision making
- 5) To build interpersonal and communication skills

Just how effective is the DARE program? Seventy-three percent of eleventh grade students who participated in either or both a junior high and senior high DARE program, were classified as low risk for drug abuse, seventeen percent as at moderate risk and only 10 percent were considered high risk. Eleventh graders who had never participated in a DARE program were most likely to be classified as high risk (15%). The study was conducted by two professors at Ohio State University who evaluated 3,150 eleventh graders from 34 different schools in the Ohio area.

The merger with DARE will be a welcome change for CAVEAT President, Priscilla de Villiers, making her Senior Vice-President of DARE, along with her current position as CAVEAT's President.

D.A.R.E. and CAVEAT will work in partnership across Canada to help raise awareness

DARE Canada at a Glance



Newsletter Contributions
Editing, layout and design by: Gillian Judkins

Articles contributed by:
Lillian Fuller
Priscilla de Villiers
Mark Parlee

Thank you to Zippy Print for the donation of the printing of this newsletter

If you have any comments, questions or ideas for future newsletters, please email us at: info@caveat.org

A Word From our President

By Lillian Fuller

In the spring of 1999, MP Albina Guarnieri put forward a Private Members Bill (C-251) to impose Consecutive Sentencing in the cases of crimes involving violence. This Bill received 3rd reading in the House of Commons on June 8, 1999. This is phenomenal as most Private Members Bills are dropped at the first reading. The Bill has passed first reading in the Senate. This is the first step in having this Bill passed into law by Royal Assent. The Senate was in recess for the summer and this Bill will be brought before them this month. If the Senate does not pass this Bill it will not become law and the status quo of concurrent sentencing will remain in place.

Consecutive Sentencing is a major first step for truth in sentencing as the offender will serve all the time given for each offense. For example, if an offender has three charges and receives 7 years for each offense it will total 21 years in prison. Currently in Canada, an offender with three charges of 7 years each will only serve 7 years as the three charges are served together.

It is CAVEAT's stand that Consecutive Sentencing must be implemented. We are encouraging the public to make their views known to the Members of the Senate by writing to them. Many Canadians are unaware of the current system until it affects them directly. This is a great opportunity to correct a glaring flaw in the Criminal Justice System. Make your voice heard. Write to the Senators today. A list of BC Senators is available from the CAVEAT BC office.

Please call 604-530-5829 for this list or more information.

By Priscilla de Villiers

We have been extremely busy this past summer, planning our upcoming conference which we believe will be an informative event for all who attend. International guest speakers such as Marlene Young from NOVA (National Organization for Victim Assistance) will be speaking and the Honourable Anne McLellan is an invited guest.

We have had many inquiries recently about the dormancy of our office in Alberta. I am saddened that CAVEAT currently does not have this office in operation, however, we hope to have one up and running again in the near future. CAVEAT volunteers in Alberta have been extremely dedicated, however, with the lack of financial assistance, it is often difficult to keep an office running solely on the steam of volunteers.

I would personally like to extend my sincere appreciation to the chair of CAVEAT Alberta, Colette Mandin-Kossowan, for her extremely hard work over the years. She has come to be an important part of the CAVEAT family and will continue to be in the future.

I would like to now address the issue of our recent merger with DARE Canada. For the past eight years, we have worked diligently towards giving victims a place in the Canadian Criminal Justice System. CAVEAT has strived to create a

balance between the rights of the offender and the rights of the victim, ensuring that victims would have parity. The merging of CAVEAT with DARE Canada is a development which I believe will allow CAVEAT to expand to be able to educate and serve more Canadians, building on the accomplishments and lessons that come with eight years experience. The principles of prevention that DARE is based on, resonates with CAVEAT's holistic approach to victims' issues. I feel that through this endeavour, we will raise the issue of violence, and the often related drug abuse which accompanies acts of violence, to a new public level.

By joining together, I believe CAVEAT and DARE Canada will make a change in our schools, police forces and communities as a whole. As a team, we will be able to reach a national audience through the participation of multi-disciplinary experts on a variety of issues. Through exiting partnerships, and the development of new ones, we will be able to host conferences and workshops, creating programs that will result in an increased public awareness of the issues involved with the rights of victims and the perils of drug abuse. I have every confidence that CAVEAT and DARE Canada, under the leadership of myself and Mark Parlee will grow to be able to meet the needs of Canadians, representing them both nationally and internationally.

A Word from the President of DARE Canada

By Mark Parlee

The developing merger with CAVEAT and DARE Canada is one that I believe will have a positive effect on Canadian youth, parents, schools, and communities as a whole. Bringing to the program my twelve years experience as a police officer, I have experience dealing first-hand with teens facing difficult decisions related to drug use and peer pressure. I believe that through prevention education, we can teach young people the necessary skills to deal with peer pressure in a positive way, making the right decisions for themselves.

By merging with CAVEAT, I feel that we will be able to reach a broader community on both National and International levels. We will expand our role within the crime prevention communi-

we will be building on the accomplishments and lessons that come with eight years experience

There are 500 Canadian DARE officers that work closely with youth.

ty, strengthening relationships and building new alliances. The overall goal will be to encourage communities to support prevention programs for youth in an effort to decrease the use of drugs and violent behaviour.

Currently in Canada, there are 500 DARE officers that work closely with young people, providing them with the necessary skills to resist drugs and violence. Through various teaching activities, students become acquainted with the DARE officer assigned to their school. Over seventeen classroom sessions, the officer teaches them the basic facts about mind-altering drugs, the consequences of using them, how to identify nonviolent ways to deal with anger and how to resist gang and group violence. DARE is an excellent example of effective community policing, creating ties with youth while empowering them to make the right choices in life.

Beaucage Captured!

By Gillian Judkins

On February 22, 1994, Ms. Aileen O'Brien-Beaucage, was found stabbed to death in her car which had been left running for at least 4 hours at the SuperCentre parking lot in Burlington, Ontario. Her ex-husband, Grant Warren Beaucage was charged with 1st degree murder on June 11th, 1995 and Beaucage was granted bail in July. On June 11th of 1996, Beaucage appeared in court on a charge of failing to comply with his conditions of bail. On January 22, 1997, with his trial two weeks away, Beaucage left his two children with a neighbour and disappeared.

Beaucage's family had posted bail when he was first arrested and after he failed to comply with the conditions, they agreed to post bail once again. When Beaucage failed to appear before the court in February of 1997, Justice A.D. MacKenzie ordered the Crown to keep the initial \$25,000 that was deposited with the court back in 1995.

He also ordered each of the family members to pay another \$2,000 as part of their liability for the second \$25,000 surety.

This past week, almost three years after his disappearance, Beaucage was arrested in Las Vegas, Nevada, after being recognized by a casino employee. The employee had read an article in Reader's Digest, detailing Aileen's brutal murder and recognized Beaucage, who was arrested immediately thereafter. He claims to have been living in Nevada for the past two and a half years and was sharing a hotel room with another man at the time of his arrest.

CAVEAT believes firmly that those charged with violent offences should automatically forfeit bail if conditions are breached. We still stand firm in this belief, and hope that this time justice will be served and that Beaucage will be held, without bail, until his trial.

Three years after his disappearance, Beaucage was arrested in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Legal loophole to give convicted killer a new trial?

Seven years after the sexual assault and murder of 19 month old Samantha, her killer may be given a new trial

By Gillian Judkins

A legal loophole may give a man convicted of first degree murder the right to a new trial. In February of 1993, Fred Brooks was convicted of first degree murder in the brutal murder of 19 month old Samantha Johnings. Brooks had been living with Samantha, her mother and younger brother. On the morning of December 14, 1992, Samantha's mother found her daughter's lifeless body in her crib, covered in her own blood and vomit. She had been sexually assaulted while beaten about the head, dying as the result of acute brain injury. Unknown to Samantha's mother and family, Brooks had a long history of sexual and physical abuse on children, including his twin sisters.



Samantha Johnings
19 months old

During the summer of 1994, Samantha's family heard all the evidence presented against Brooks and was relieved to hear the judge pass a sentence 25 years with no possibility of parole. For the time being, Samantha's family felt they had some closure to the situation.

In the fall of that same year, Detective Sergeant Frank Harold contacted Samantha's mother to inform her that Brooks had tried to hire someone to kill her, not once but twice. Brooks was charged with conspiracy to commit murder only to have it plead down to uttering death threats.

And now, seven years after the brutal murder of Samantha, the family will find themselves in court once again. On October 3, 1997, Brooks was awarded a new trial on the grounds that Justice George Yates did not, in Brooks' original trial, caution the jury prior to hearing evidence presented by two jailhouse informants.

The family have been given an automatic appeal and will travel to Ottawa on October 8th to fight to keep Brooks in jail. If the Supreme Court decides that Brooks' right to a fair trial was hindered by the original judge's failure to caution the jury, Brooks could receive a new trial and Samantha's family will once again have their lives turn upside down. We will keep you updated as this story progresses.

Convicted murderer tries to take away family's rights



Loretta Postelnicu-Jacob
26 years of age, with her son

On August 14, 1996, Loretta Postelnicu-Jacob was murdered in Canmore, Alberta. She was 26 years old at the time. Her husband, Jean Marc, pleaded guilty to second degree murder in May of 1997. Sole custody of Loretta and Jean Marc's son, who was three when his mother was murdered, was given to Jean Marc's sister, Diane. Loretta's family, the Valdman's, were awarded generous access.

In accordance with court appointed visitations, the Valdman's would travel ten hours from Port Colborne, Ontario, to Diane's house in Quebec. The Valdman's, who are of Romanian descent, found communication extremely difficult with Diane who only speaks French. They were devastated to watch as Loretta's son began losing his ability to interact with them in English.

This past April, Jean Marc brought a motion to have the Valdman's' access rights terminated. If he is successful, the Valdman's' may never be able to see Loretta's son again. Loretta's son, at a very tender age, lost his mother. Now, three years later, he may lose all ties to the only people who can share with him stories of the mother he hardly knew.