

Sonia McDonald and Scott Davis have teamed up creating a unique partnership to address internet safety, bullying, violence prevention and issues of safety. Their approach is truly a pro-active, all inclusive one. The goal is to generate a cohesive environment for learning by incorporating students, community members, police, schools and parents in the process.

We are Safe Futures Canada!

We will be writing a monthly column in SNAP and would like to take a moment to introduce ourselves. Sonia is a certified Child and Youth Worker with many years experience working with youth and parents in the community. Scott has been a police officer in Dufferin County for over twelve years. Both residents of this community, we share the goal of providing youth and parents the resources they need to thrive. We encourage you to watch for upcoming presentations on our website. We look forward to bring you a fresh outlook on current topics facing youth today.



This month, let's talk about ***Internet Safety***

Gone are the days of letter writing and land line phone calls. Today people are posting and broadcasting the details of their lives, keeping friends and colleagues more up to date that they might like to be. The most recent statistics in Canada show that 99% of teens have used the internet in some way. In addition, 83% of teens 13-17 have accessed or are frequent users of a social networking site such as facebook or myspace. Teens are not alone in the technological world. Six in 10 people in their 30's also visit these sites on a regular basis.

There are a few basic, safety tips to follow in order to stay safe on-line. Please keep in mind that there are many things to consider, and many new skills to learn...but here are a few:

- Don't do anything on-line that you wouldn't do off-line
- Learn as much as you can about computers, the internet and new tech-gadgets
- Keep a connected computer in a well used area of your home
- Create a family agreement on internet use outlining times, approved sites and appropriate netiquette
- Bookmark your sites so there is less 'surfing', and less chance of stumbling across inappropriate content
- Never give out personal information. Consider "what" info that could be (team names, popular hangouts, date you are leaving for vacation, school or work...)
- Use "the RED X". If something makes you feel uncomfortable in any way, simply close the screen

The world today is wired and it's time we all learn to keep up.

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### **Coming events:**

**Face the facts** \*explore the world of Facebook and discuss it's impact on society today. Learn new skills to navigate the hi-tech world, learn to stay safe and make good choices while on-line.

**Date:** March 19, 2008

**Location:** Westside

**Time:** 7pm to 9pm

**Cost:** 5\$

Please visit [www.safefuturescanada.ca](http://www.safefuturescanada.ca) for more information or book a presentation  
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