

Winter 2005 Issue of a Quarterly

Cumberland County Chapter News Letter
Of the Schizophrenia Society of NS



This is the first of, hopefully, many quarterly news letters for us at the chapter level, here, in Cumberland County.

We have been operating as a chapter for about 5 years. Our mandate, is as stated on the national web site

The Schizophrenia Society of Canada (SSC) is a national registered charity. SSC works with 10 provincial societies and their over 100 chapters/branches, to alleviate the suffering caused by schizophrenia and related mental disorders. To this end, SSC and its provincial affiliates carry out public awareness & education, family support, advocacy and research funding initiatives and programs.

Our monthly meetings are always on the third Tuesday of every month, of the school year, at the Springhill All Saints Hospital at 7.00 PM. Any one that is afflicted or affected by the disease may come. We some times have scheduled speakers from, the Health Care community, legal or enforcement representatives, pharmaceutical concerns, ,and other relevant experts. We have many projects in the works. We have social events, support meetings, business meetings, and fund raising and education events. Like the walk for Schizophrenia rally

We have made many inroads in the past year. Starting with a previously won provincial grant to have a series of 5 Information works shops on mental illness, called "Cumberland County Connections on Schizophrenia" It went off well. Attendance was not as hoped, but was a good start.

The partnership program got of the ground with the Lions Club, in Amherst, and the Catholic Women's League, in Springhill presented to, first. The partnership program is a

basic model that is used to make presentations to organizations. We also made ground breaking visits to grade 9 and 10 students in Nova Scotia. We first visited the Hammond Plans Jr. High School, then Oxford, and Parrsboro. It was very well received indeed.

The Partnership Program is a public awareness program aimed at reducing the stigma and misconceptions attached to the biological illness of the brain called schizophrenia and to those directly affected

The client describes living and coping with the disease, and the family member describes the impact on the family unit when a loved one becomes stricken with the disease. The mental health professional provides a clinical overview of schizophrenia and covers the more technical areas of assessment, treatment and rehabilitation needs of those affected.

Web Site We got our new web site up and running. www.schizophreniasupport.info is its address on the web. It has many links to resources on the web, as well as many local links. There are displays of artist works, in our chapter, as well a mix of multimedia links, and downloadable documents. Some important links are

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• www.ssns.ca our provincial site.• www.schizophrenia.ca our National site	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• www.cmha.ca Canadian Mental health.• www.selfhelpconnection.ca A mental health advocacy agency based in Dartmouth
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We had a very successful year and hope to further our success in education, advocacy, and support. If you have any questions regarding our chapter and the Schizophrenia Society of Nova Scotia ,you can log onto www.schizophreniasupport.info or e-mail charlos1st@hotmail.com or call (902)694-0224.