



**The Arson Prevention Program for Children**

# ANNUAL REPORT

01.10.2004 to 30.09.2005

# Brant TAPP-C

“A child’s fascination  
with fire  
*begins at an early age’*”

**Participating Agencies**

- Brantford Fire Department
- Brant County O.P.P.
- Brant Haldimand-Norfolk Catholic District School Board
- Brantford Police Services
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
- Children’s Aid Society of Brant
- City of Brantford
- Contact Brant
- County of Brant Fire Department
- Grand Erie District School Board
- Ministry of Community and Social Services
- Ontario Fire Marshal’s Office
- St. Leonard’s Community Service
- Woodview Children’s Centre
- Ministry of Children’s & Youth Services -Probation Services



**Contents**

Introduction . . . . .	1
TAPP-C Across Ontario . . . . .	1
TAPP-C Evaluation . . . . .	2
2004 - 2005 Year in Review . . . . .	2
Statistics . . . . .	3
Referrals . . . . .	4
Conclusion . . . . .	4
Warning Signs . . . . .	5



## Introduction

Brant Arson Prevention Program for Children (Brant TAPP-C) was launched in October 2001 and now has completed four years of service to the citizens of Brantford and County of Brant. TAPP-C is a collaborative program that brings together fire service and mental health professionals to work with children, youth and their families to eliminate dangerous fire related behaviours

The goal of the Brant TAPP-C program is to reduce the risk of fire setting by children and youth in our community. TAPP-C is a program that brings together fire service and counselling professionals to help families deal effectively with children and teens involved in fire setting. In Brantford and Brant County, the County of Brant or the City of Brantford Fire Department and Woodview Children's Centre provide these services.

The fire service professionals educate children and their families about fire and how to develop good fire safety practices. Counselling professionals assess the risk of continued fire involvement and help children and their families deal with problems that may contribute to the fire setting. TAPP-C is free-of-charge and is available to children from 2 to 17 years of age.

The Brant TAPP-C Steering Committee was formed on April 25, 2001 bringing together representatives from local school boards, social service agencies, police and fire departments. This committee continues to meet quarterly, providing support and direction to the program.

## TAPP-C Across Ontario

The Ontario Fire Marshal's Office, the Toronto Fire Service and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health developed the TAPP-C program in 1991. It received a mandate to expand across the province and TAPP-C programs are now operating in approximately 50 communities across Ontario involving more than 115 Fire Services. Toronto TAPP-C also provides training, consultations, updates, and networking to these community sites. Three manuals have been developed and are now being used by local TAPP-C Committees. These manuals include the new TAPP-C: Clinician's Manual for Preventing and Treating Juvenile Fire Involvement, the revised TAPP-C Fire Service Educator's Manual and the new TAPP-C Community Implementation Manual. Training is provided to mental health professionals who provide services to children and youth.



## TAPP-C Evaluation

The role of the steering committee is to review the progress and effectiveness of the program. The logic model is used to guide the committee in evaluation of the program's efficiency, providing insight into areas that can be improved and modified. Changes are made to improve the process and the program. Families are contacted for follow-up after one year following completion of both components. There have not been any documented incidents of recidivism and the families were comfortable with the outcomes of both the fire education and the clinical assessment.

## 2004-2005 Year In Review

- Staff from Woodview Children's Centre participated in training on the latest assessment and treatment methods
- Fire Educators participated in training on the new Fire Education Components
- All three TAPP-C manuals are in use. This includes the new TAPP-C: Clinician's Manual for Preventing and Treating Juvenile Fire Involvement, the revised TAPP-C Fire Service Educator's Manual and the new TAPP-C Community Implementation Manual.
- Brant TAPP-C served as the model for the newly launched Haldimand and Norfolk TAPP-C.
- Clients who complete TAPP-C spend approximately 7-10 hours over 6 - 10 sessions with TAPP-C service providers
- At least one youth as been ordered by the Court to attend
- Evaluation forms to measure client satisfaction, partner satisfaction and service provider satisfaction were developed and implemented
- Referral sources report that the referral process is more than somewhat satisfactory
- The majority of TAPP-C Steering Committee members are very satisfied with collaboration
- Other mental health or children's services were recommended to some clients
- One incident resulted in 7 referrals



## Statistics

Following are reported numbers of participants by service provider:

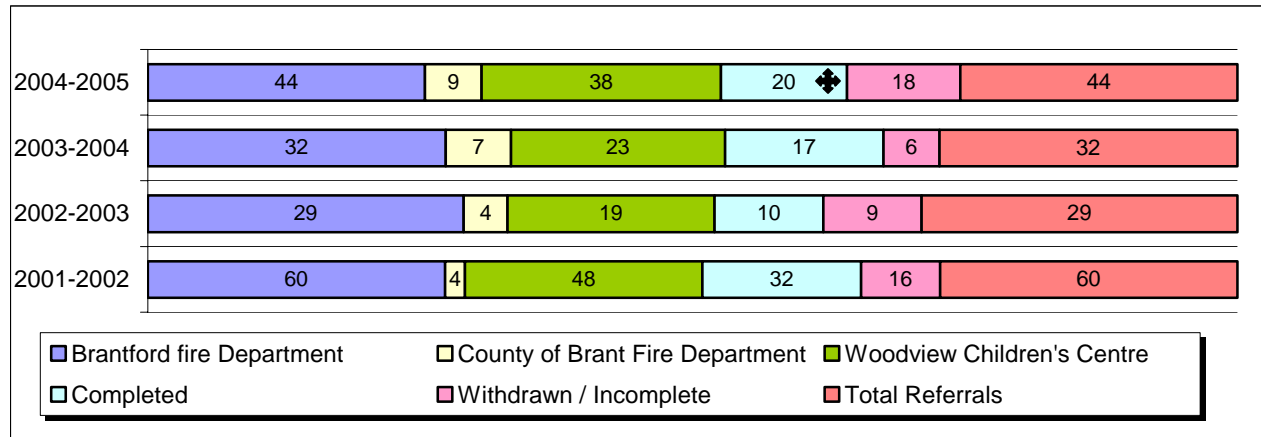
	<b>Brantford Fire Department</b>	<b>County of Brant Fire Department</b>	<b>Woodview Children's Centre</b>
<b>Referrals</b>	35	9	38
<b>Completed</b>	17	7	3
<b>Non admitted</b>	N/a	N/a	18 were non-admit
<b>Did not start/ Dropped out</b>	16 (3 moved from jurisdiction)	1	
<b>Presently receiving service</b>	2	1	17

### Observations from Current Statistics

- 44 total referrals were received by Fire Services
- 80% of combined referrals to Fire Services went on to contact Woodview Children's Centre (38)
- 55% of referrals to Brantford Fire Department completed the Fire Education Component
- 88% of referrals to County of Brant Fire Department completed the Fire Education Component
- 52% of referrals to Woodview Children's Centre completed this component
- Of the total referrals 5 In Service not completed
- 48% of the referrals chose not to participate in the clinical component of TAPP-C



## Referrals



◆ also includes receiving service at Sept 30/05 but not yet completed.

### Observations from 2002-2005 Statistics

- Total referrals have increased over 30% from 2003-2004 to 2004-2005
- After an almost 50% drop in Year Two, referrals have increased in Years Three and Four
- Approx. 50% of all referrals over the past 4 years have completed TAPP-C

### In conclusion

As the year drew to a close, changes and challenges were greeted with the opportunity to improve the TAPP-C program. On behalf of Co-chair Mary Newman, I would like to take this opportunity to express many heart felt thanks to the hard work and dedication of the staff of the Woodview Children's Centre, City of Brantford Fire Department and the County of Brant Fire Department.

The steering committee continues to review, revise and improve the program, addressing changes in program delivery and content. Committee members have been diligently providing input and opinions that have led to meaningful change that allows the program to remain current and effective.

The Brant TAPP-C program has now completed the third year of operation. As the program begins the fourth year, I look forward to working with the committee members to provide TAPP-C that protects the communities, children, youth and their families.

Respectfully submitted  
 Geoff Hayman  
 Fire Prevention Officer, County of Brant Fire Department  
 Brant TAPP-C Co-chair  
 2003 - 2005



## Warning Signs

The following is a list of "Red Flags" or indicators that your child may have a serious fire setting problem. If your child has been involved with one or more incidents of fire setting. You are encouraged to refer to the TAPP-C program. The following are signs that you may need to seek professional help:

- » Recent changes in behaviour
- » Attention deficits, temper tantrums, mood swings, impulsive behaviour or excessive anger
- » Sad, withdrawn appearance
- » Other troublesome behaviours such as stealing, lying, and drug or alcohol use
- » Daydreams about fire
- » Failed to get help to extinguish a fire
- » Aggressive behaviour toward people or animals
- » Recent losses due to health, divorce, loss of friendships, move, etc.
- » History of being abused or neglected
- » Problems at school, such as discipline, learning problems or unexplained absences
- » Poor self esteem and family stresses
- » Deliberate efforts to collect fire materials
- » Boasts about setting fires
- » Shows extreme curiosity about fire
- » Behaviours indicating he/she is a loner, a risk taker or a fighter
- » Fire set deliberately to harm others or to destroy property
- » Fire set out of anger or in response to a family problem

## Stop Juvenile Fire Setting Before It Starts

- Set a good example; make fire safety a family matter. Practice fire and burn prevention in your home.
- Supervise your child. Almost all fires start when children are unsupervised.
- Store matches and lighters in a locked cabinet, far away from curious fingers.
- Purchase only child resistant lighters. Even a 2- year old can work a cigarette lighter.
- Use a "Don't Touch!" approach with children under 5 years old. Teach older children to bring matches to you. Reward them with praise when they do.
- If an older child is curious about matches, demonstrate the proper and safe way to use them. Explain that it is important to use matches only when an adult is present.
- Check smoke detectors regularly and have a plan to get out of your home quickly in the event of a fire.
- Matches and lighters are tools for adults not toys for children.

