

Keynote Address & Panel Descriptions



when violence

becomes entertaining...

Recapturing childhood and
adolescence from the toxic
influence of media



October 15-16, 2010

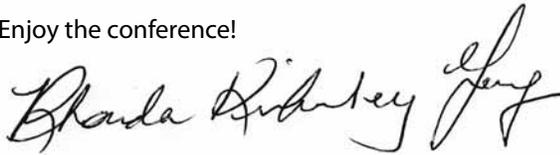
Doubletree by Hilton Toronto Airport
655 Dixon Road
Toronto, ON M9W 1J3

**THIS CONFERENCE IS PROUDLY
BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE:
Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF)**

The Ontario Teachers' Federation is delighted to offer this Media Violence Prevention conference with the assistance of funds provided by the Ministry of Education in support of teacher professional learning. We are very pleased with the caliber of speakers, panelists and workshop presenters we are bringing to you over the next two days. We are also pleased that this conference provides an opportunity for teachers to be joined by parents, trustees, administrators, police officers and others with a particular interest in the impact of violent media on children and adolescents. We are all bombarded by media—at home, at school, at work, in the car... Media is pervasive and a team approach is clearly the best strategy to help young people be critical of what they see and hear and help them make choices which are appropriate.

We would be remiss if we did not begin by recognizing the Ontario Public School Boards' Association. Several years ago, the OPSBA decided to tackle the issue of media violence by bringing together a coalition of representatives in education and beyond. The Coalition (made up of teacher Federation representatives, principal representatives, trustees, student trustees, parents' groups, victims' groups, police and experts in the field of media violence), is still going strong and has been one of the most constructive and collaborative groups with which I've had the pleasure to work. The Coalition's key goals have been to raise awareness of the issue of media violence, develop resources for teachers and parents alike to support critical media literacy and promote positive strategies to combat the impact violence has on young people when it is viewed as "entertainment." OTF appreciates the valuable input of the entire coalition in planning this conference and its efforts to engage its respective membership in this important issue.

Enjoy the conference!



Rhonda Kimberley-Young

OTF Secretary-Treasurer

Members of the Media Violence Coalition:

Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Canadian Centre for Abuse Awareness
Centre for Prevention Science, Fourth R Project, University of Western Ontario
Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario
Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association
Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association
Ontario Federation of Home & School Associations
Ontario Physical and Health Education Association
Ontario Principals' Council
Ontario Provincial Police, Crime Prevention Section
Ontario Public School Boards' Association
Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation
Ontario Student Trustees' Association
Ontario Teachers' Federation

Identifying the Problem: The Relationship Between Media Violence and Violent Crime

Lt. Col. Dave Grossman

This presentation addresses several diverse topics which are brought together by the author's experiences as: (1) a military and law enforcement trainer and psychologist, (2) a trainer of health professionals, law enforcement personnel, and first responders in the aftermath of the Jonesboro, Springfield, Littleton, Nickel Mines Amish School, and Virginia Tech school shootings, (3) a consultant in the Paducah school shootings and other major murder cases, and (4) a speaker to the annual conventions of the AMA, APA and AAP.

Lt. Col. Grossman will examine the magnitude of violent crime in the U.S. and around the world, the factors that all the school killers had in common, and the role of media violence as a new factor contributing to this phenomenon. He will then present powerful new data demonstrating the actual impact of media violence upon the brain (Indiana University Brain Scan Study) and a powerful new study demonstrating a significant reduction in violence and bullying through media reduction in children (the Stanford SMART Curriculum). Finally, he will address the role of violent visual imagery (in TV, movies and video games) in causing the current "virus of violence" in families, and in developed nations around the world.

Lt. Colonel Dave Grossman is one of the world's leading experts on interpersonal aggression and violence. He was a West Point Psychology Professor and an Army ranger. His books include the Pulitzer nominee, "On Killing: The Psychological Cost of Learning to Kill in War and Society" and "Stop Teaching Our Kids to Kill: A Call to Action Against TV, Movie and Video Game Violence. Colonel Grossman was a trainer of health professionals, police, and first responders, after the school shootings in: Jonesboro, Arkansas; Springfield, Oregon; Littleton, Colorado; West Nickel Mines Amish School, Pennsylvania; and Virginia Tech. He has also presented his findings to over 20 colleges and universities in North America and Europe; was invited to present to the annual conventions of the AMA, the American Psychiatric Association, and the American Psychological Association, and was called as an expert witness and consultant in the Timothy McVeigh, Oklahoma City bombing case and the Paducah school shooting case. He has testified before U.S. Senate and House committees and eight different state legislatures, and his research has been cited by the President of the United States in a national address.

Violence – Interactive Media

A.R. and S/Sgt. Robyn MacEachern

The emerging media is online, interactive and limitless. This new media has been mastered by a young generation of users capable of navigating and “playing” with ease. Unfortunately, this same emerging media is often foreign to those responsible for the development and preparation of the new generation. The gap is widening in terms of the transfer of experiential knowledge and we are faced with new risks – risks which are unidentified and unanticipated, and for which there is little preparation or prevention underway. This presentation will be frank about the challenges facing us and discuss ways to increase our own knowledge in the battle against the new media.

As a young woman, A.R. was victimized by an online predator who manipulated interactive media to victimize hundreds of young people in what many perceived to be a harmless virtual world. A.R. will describe her encounters relating to the investigative, court and victim services processes that followed the online exploitation. She will provide insight for those working with youth to raise awareness of the impacts of interactive media and the online world.

S/Sgt. Robyn MacEachern has been a member of the Ontario Provincial Police since 1994. While working as the Youth Issues Coordinator in the Crime Prevention Section, Robyn was responsible for developing awareness and prevention programs relating to Cyber Risks in partnership with the OPP Electronic Crimes and Child Sexual Exploitation Sections. She has presented across Ontario on issues relating to the emerging trends of the cyber world and the impacts for youth and parents who are struggling to get ahead of the curve of risk. She is the author of a published children's book, Cyberbullying: Deal With It and Ctrl Alt Delete It. Currently, Robyn is Staff Sergeant with the OPP Aboriginal Policing Bureau.

Violence in Sports: Promotion in the Media

Dr. Peter Jaffe

Dr. Charles Tator, M.D.

Ron Wicks

Sports can, and often is, an important and positive part of child and adolescent development. Through sport, many critical life skills can be learned, such as fairness, respect for opponents and team work. The media promotes sports as a form of entertainment now more than ever. Indeed, young people often look to sports for role models outside their family. However, not all role models are positive ones and the increasing level of violence in sports is being recognized as detrimental. Panelists will discuss some of the current thinking about this negative aspect of sports by examining topics such as head injuries in hockey and the proper enforcement of rules by officials, players, parents and leagues. Sports can, and often is, an important and positive part of child and adolescent development. Through sport, many critical life skills can be learned, such as fairness, respect for opponents and team work. The media promotes sports as a form of entertainment now more than ever. Indeed, young people often look to sports for role models outside their family. However, not all role models are positive ones

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Peter Jaffe Ph.D., O.C. - *Dr. Jaffe is the Academic Director of the Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children and a Professor in the Faculty of Education, at the University of Western Ontario. He is also Director Emeritus of the London Family Court Clinic and has been working in the areas of domestic violence, child abuse, trauma, and with families involved with the courts for over thirty years. Dr. Jaffe's extensive publications include 10 books and over 80 articles on the effects of violence and abuse in the lives of children and families. Dr. Jaffe's real passion is violence prevention programs in schools and has played a leadership role in that area as a trustee for the Thames Valley District School Board for the past 30 years (formerly London Board). He was honoured to be named an Officer in the Order of Canada in July 2009.*

Dr. Charles Tator *is a professor of neurosurgery, at the University of Toronto, and a neurosurgeon at the Toronto Western Hospital. He has received MA and PhD degrees. He was Chair of Neurosurgery at the University of Toronto. He performs research in the epidemiology, prevention and treatment of acute brain and spinal cord injuries, and the University of Toronto Press recently published his book on "Catastrophic Injuries in Sports and Recreation, Causes and Prevention-a Canadian Study." He has held two research chairs at the University of Toronto. He has received the Order of Canada and was inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame. He founded ThinkFirst, Canada, a national brain and spinal cord injury foundation whose mission is to reduce the incidence of catastrophic injuries in Canada.*

Ron Wicks *was an NHL referee for more than 25 years, blowing the whistle in hockey games all over the United States, Canada and Europe. In all, Ron officiated 1,067 games as a referee and 375 as a linesman, with over 100 playoff games to his credit. Having rubbed shoulders with the best and the toughest in the games, Ron has a wealth of experience drawing the line between sport and violence. Currently a successful real estate broker, Ron recently published his first book, A Referee's Life, in which he chronicles a highly entertaining first-hand account of the evolution of hockey over the last few decades.*

Violent Video Game Effects on Children and Adolescents

Dr. Craig Anderson

(CAMH Centre for Prevention Science)

This address presents what is currently known about the short-term and long-term effects of playing violent video games. A comprehensive analysis of over 300 tests of violent video game effects shows that such games cause increases in the likelihood of: physically aggressive behavior, aggressive thinking, aggressive emotion, and emotional desensitization. Violent games also decrease empathy and helpful behavior. Other recent research suggests that excessive gaming: increases attention problems, impedes learning in school, and becomes addictive for about 8%. Similarities to research findings on TV/film violence effects will also be presented.

Craig Anderson, *a 1980 Ph.D. from Stanford University, is a Distinguished Professor of Psychology at Iowa State University, a Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science and the American Psychological*

Association, and President of the International Society for Research on Aggression. Anderson's 150+ publications span cognitive, developmental, social and personality psychology. His General Aggression Model and pioneering work on video-game violence leads to consultations with educators, government officials, child advocates, and news organizations worldwide. His 2007 book on Violent Video Game Effects on Children and Adolescents summarizes what has been learned from past studies on this important social issue.

Panel Discussion: Learning from Other Professionals

Facilitated by Wendy Mesley, Broadcast Journalist

Panelists:

Valerie Smith (activist), Arlene Morel and Linda Steel (parent representatives), Sgt. Rob Geneja (OPP), Matt Reid (student), Katie Cole (educator), Craig Anderson (researcher)

The purpose of this panel discussion is to reinforce the idea that teachers and parents are not alone in dealing with the issues related to violence in the media. They can seek support, knowledge and expertise from other professionals and work together to find positive solutions to address Media Violence. Wendy Mesley will present the media perspective and invite each panelist to share their perspective as well. A moderated question and answer period will follow. Teachers and parents will leave encouraged in their efforts to engage students in media literacy as a life skill and co-learn the elements of safety and balance with our youth.

*Two-time Gemini winner **Wendy Mesley** is one of Canada's most respected broadcast journalists -- fiery, quick on her feet and recognized from coast to coast. With her customary humour and famously direct approach, she inspires audiences with her call to rebuild that essential human quality: trust. Issues of trust -- winning it, losing it, and abusing it -- have come up consistently through her career as a political reporter, host of the media savvy program Undercurrents, and the consumer advocacy show Marketplace. She is now back with a regular segment on CBC's The National.*

***Valerie Smith** has been an activist on the issue of media violence since 1990. She is the author of the Action Agenda: A Strategic Blueprint for Reducing Exposure to Media Violence in Canada, funded and published by Ontario's Office for Victims of Crime. Based in Toronto, she operates The Free Radical website (www.thefreeradical.ca) to provide information on media violence and strategies for trying to combat it.*

*With over 25 years combined educational advocacy experience at all levels, **Arlene Morell** and **Linda Steel** make a unique parent leadership team – recognized locally, regionally, and provincially. Both have chaired their respective Parent Involvement Committees (PICs) for many years. Linda is with the London District Catholic School Board. Arlene is with Thames Valley District School Board. Their shared vision for building stronger educational partnerships and communities has led them to jointly advocate for parent engagement, anti-violence/bullying initiatives, reducing media violence, children with special needs, mental health issues – and more. Their motto: "Together we are all stronger!"*

Sgt. Rob Geneja has been a member of the Ontario Provincial Police since 1995. In his current role as the Provincial Youth Issues Coordinator, in the Crime Prevention Section, he works in partnership with other police officers, school boards, and service agencies across the province to address youth related issues.

Matt Reid is currently in his second year of law school at the University of Ottawa. While in high school, he served as the Student Trustee for the Thames Valley District School Board and President of the Ontario Student Trustees' Association. Matt has served on many community boards including the London and Middlesex United Way, London and area St. John's Ambulance Board and the University of Western Ontario's Board of Governors.

Katie Cole, a teacher with the Thames Valley District School Board, is currently the English Department Head at Medway High School in Arva. Katie is a member, writer and consultant for the Media Violence coalition (formed by the Ontario Public School Boards' Association) and the Fourth R. As a result, Katie has produced curriculum for educators, parent resources, and workshop materials to raise awareness and encourage critical media literacy in homes and classrooms.

Craig Anderson, a 1980 Ph.D. from Stanford University, is a Distinguished Professor of Psychology at Iowa State University, a Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science and the American Psychological Association, and President of the International Society for Research on Aggression. Anderson's 150+ publications span cognitive, developmental, social and personality psychology. His General Aggression Model and pioneering work on video-game violence leads to consultations with educators, government officials, child advocates, and news organizations worldwide. His 2007 book on *Violent Video Game Effects on Children and Adolescents* summarizes what has been learned from past studies on this important social issue.



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