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**The Chatham-Kent
Children's Safety
Village**

Press Release

Local Child Heroes Recognized at the 3rd Annual Sparky, Elmer & Andy Safety Awards

Chatham-Kent Children's Safety Village, May 28, 2011: A special awards ceremony was held Saturday, May 28th, 2011 at the Children's Safety Village, located in the C.M. Wilson Conservation Area.

Lynn McGeachy-Schultz; Director, Strategic Planning & College Advancement of St. Clair College was at the ceremony to recognize and award 3 local kids with St. Clair College scholarships for their heroic and life saving efforts.

- 11 year old Lauren Fuoco was choking on a piece of steak while out for dinner with her family. She alerted her parents with the sign for choking, but took matters into her own hands and remembered what she had learned at the Safety Village. She plugged her nose and coughed it out. Paramedic and instructor at the Children's Safety Village; Amanda Atkinson was there to help present the award to Lauren.
- 13 year old Meghan Domony immediately called 911 when her mother collapsed at their home. Her heroic efforts led to a later diagnosis of "sick sinus syndrome" whereby her mother's heart would stop for no reason or warning. Her mother received a pace maker to ensure that her heart continues to beat regularly. Sergeant Paul Pomajba of the C-K Police Department was there to help present the award to Meagan.
- 6 year old Madison Schatz who discovered her mother was having a seizure in the bathtub Madison desperately tried to pull her mother out of the bathtub, but it was too difficult. She quickly decided to run out and get help from a neighbour who was driving by and noticed Madison waving her down for help. She told her that her Mom was hurt. The neighbour ran in to pull Madison's mom out of the tub, while Madison quickly ran to her babysitter's house, where they called 911. Assistant Fire Chief; Ray Stone was there to help present the award to Madison.

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Kent Willmore; Business Advisor, and an owner of Pure Dance Music Drama-*Academy of the Performing Arts* also attended the ceremony to present 6 year old Madison Schatz with a \$250 dance scholarship for her heroic behaviour and helped sponsor the event.

Judy Serruys, Branch Manager and Lynda McFadden of RBC-Staff ROYAL BANK – WALLACEBURG attended and presented Spencer Laevens aged 8, Tyler Laevens age 4 & Parker Laevens age 6 with a bravery award recognizing their heroic efforts for standing up to bullies while on vacation with their family. These young boys witnessed two little girls getting hurt by bullies. They ran to get help for the girls but when they came back with help the bullies were gone. Later, the girls' mother then came to find Spencer, Parker & Tyler to help identify these bully boys with The State Police.

The family of the bully boys was evicted from this State Park and any other State Parks across the U.S.A. There was a restraining order put on the boys to never go near these girls ever again. These two boys could have been charged with assault, but the mothers choose not to charge them.

The mother came to find Spencer, Parker & Tyler to tell them that they were very brave to stand up for the two girls and to help identify the two bullies.

The Chatham-Kent Children's Safety Village presented Owen Ripley & Alex Waddick with an award recognizing their heroic efforts of the day when their bus left the road and flipped on its side.

Owen Ripley age 13 and Alex Waddick age 11 immediately made sure that everyone was okay and then went to assist the driver who remained hung up in his seatbelt, unable to free himself. Alex Waddick used the bus' seatbelt cutter and freed the driver. Everyone then escaped out the emergency hatch to safety.

Both Owen and Alex, realizing this situation they were in, remained calm and ensured all the students were not seriously injured. Their subsequent efforts to free the driver demonstrated composure far beyond their years. Sergeant Paul Pomajba of the C-K Police Department was there to help present the award to Owen & Alex.

The celebration was followed by pictures with sponsors, award recipients, Sparky and Elmer and lunch provided by Chez Denise Bistro & Café.

Special thanks to the sponsors of this event:

St. Clair College

Pure Dance Music Drama -*Academy of the Performing Arts*

RBC-Staff -ROYAL BANK – WALLACEBURG

Chez Denise Bistro & Cafe

Special thanks to our partners in safety:

Chatham-Kent Fire Department

Chatham-Kent Police Service

Chatham-Kent Paramedics Association

Sun Parlour Emergency Services Chatham-Kent