



## NEWS RELEASE

May 24, 2013

Immediate Release

### **Safe Communities Woodstock announces new Chair**

Shifting public perception of organization's focus a priority

Safe Communities Woodstock Leadership Table member Kelly Farrell has been appointed as the new Chair for the local injury prevention organization effective June 1.

Farrell will replace current Co-Chairs Chief Rod Freeman, of the Woodstock Police Service, and Chief Scott Tegler, of the Woodstock Fire Department, who have reached the end of their two-year term. Reaffirming and maintaining the organization's mandate to reduce injuries will be the aim of the incoming Chair.

"Safe Communities is about preventing injuries and creating a community that you can live, learn, work and play safely. Let's do what we can to keep ourselves and our children out of the emergency room. Let's prevent that injury from happening," says Farrell.

Farrell is the First Aid Coordinator at the Canadian Red Cross and is also an active member of the Oxford County Injury Prevention Team. She brings a wealth of knowledge in the area of injury prevention and will bring fresh ideas to the table on how to make the City of Woodstock *a safe place to live, learn, work and play*.

Freeman and Tegler will remain on the Leadership Table and their respective injury priority sub-committees, while acting as past chairs in support of Farrell.

"While it has been a very rewarding experience to co-chair this exciting Safe Communities Woodstock Project over the last 2½ years, it is now an appropriate time to pass the torch on to Kelly Farrell," says Freeman. "While crime prevention is certainly one element to maintaining a safe community, the significant challenge of reducing preventable injuries due to falls, motor vehicle collisions and recreational sports is a large part of ensuring the continued personal safety of citizens of all ages within our community."

Under the chiefs' leadership, the 17-member committee achieved official designation as a Safe Community from Safe Communities Canada, now known as Parachute. A ceremony to celebrate the accreditation was held last fall as well as several events geared at promoting injury prevention in the City.

**Join us on May 28 at 10 a.m. at Woodstock Police Service boardroom to officially welcome Farrell as the new Chair of Safe Communities Woodstock. (Photo opportunity)**

Contact: Chief Rod Freeman, 519-421-2800 Ext. 2231