



(Be the) PEACE TALKS

January 2014

www.bethepeace.ca

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Contact Us

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www.facebook.com/bethepeacemakeachange

Links to Explore*

www.bethepeace.ca

[@bethepeace1](https://twitter.com/bethepeace1)



www.onebillionrising.org

www.secondstory.com

www.harbourhousebw.com

*Please note that we would welcome suggestions (and consent to post) added links to this list.

Dear Peace Makers:

Welcome to 2014! We are addressing you as peacemakers because we believe that each of us has the capacity to wage peace -- in our own ways and in our own circles. And for your efforts, whether you have been part of Be the Peace or not, we thank you. We are humbled to be able to do this work in our community with so many brave and devoted people. We continue to be inspired by your stories of courage, strength, perseverance and compassion.

When we reflect on 2013, we realize how many conversations have been stimulated, partnerships developed around common goals, and initiatives begun. Together with men and boys, we are working to connect and integrate efforts to create safer relationships, communities, and systems for women and girls. For more about our accomplishments in 2013, check our website in the next two weeks!

We hope that you find this Newsletter useful - please share with colleagues, friends, and family members, and "like" our facebook page and follow us on [twitter..@bethepeace1](https://twitter.com/bethepeace1).

Happy New Year to you and yours!

Our Best,
Sue and Helen

Events to Consider

- **One Billion Rising for Justice: March 6, 2014** at the Lunenburg Farmer's Market (10 am) and **March 7, 2014** at the Bridgewater Mall (12:30 pm). This 2nd annual event is part of the V-Day Global movement (www.onebillionrising.org) to end violence against women and girls. Contact Helen if you are interested in being involved: helen@bethepeace.ca.
- **Promising Practices – Responses to Pornography, Sexuality and Sexualized Violence – January 22nd 1:30 – 4:30 pm**, at the Bridgewater Superstore Community Room. **RSVP** to info@secstory.com or 640-3044.
- **Empathic Communication Skills - January 30th 1:00 -3:00 pm** at Second Story Women's Centre presented by Casey Vaasjo - Overview of Empathy and Non-Violent Communication-empowered self-expression and conflict resolution
- **See a list of dates for January Working Group meetings below!**

Upcoming in 2014

In 2014, we will continue to work at raising community discourse and awareness, preventing relationship violence, sharing resources and knowledge, while working collaboratively to improve services, close gaps and respond effectively and humanely to those affected by relationship violence.

Some things we are looking forward to:

- Engaging the business community in building awareness and responses to relationship violence in workplaces, and also developing a Youth Initiatives Fund to support youth programming and around violence prevention and promoting healthy relationships.
- A South Shore Youth Forum in October 2014, with youth from Lunenburg/Queens Counties exploring and learning together with supportive adults about youth culture/music/media and the impact on relationships, intimacy, sexualized violence, gender roles and stereotypes, and supporting youth-led initiatives throughout County schools and communities. We are currently making plans with SS Regional School Board, Schools Plus, LOT (Leaders of Today) conferences, Heartwood Centre for Community Youth Development and others to develop this event.
- Expanding the Healthy Relationships for Youth Grade 9 curriculum into more schools and potentially more grades.
- One Billion Rising for Justice in March 2014. This year we will host safe and intimate "Rise and Release" Cafes to give women an opportunity to share their experiences of violence. If you are interested in sharing or listening, please let Helen know at helen@bethepeace.ca. Dates and venues will be released soon. As well, two public events are scheduled – one at the **Lunenburg Farmers' Market on March 6** and at **Bridgewater Mall on March 7**. And yes, there will be dancing!
- Hosting Parent Cafes as a new way to engage "parents as partners" with schools for the best success for all our young people. Collaborative efforts between parents and schools have never been so important to guiding, educating and supporting young people in navigating the maze of complex and sometimes dangerous challenges they face.
- Continuing to advocate for services and safety for victims of violence and appropriate intervention for perpetrators of violence
- Continuing our work with the Restorative Justice Working Group
- Engaging men in the work to end violence against women and girls and providing opportunities for women and men together to explore gender issues
- As we have only a bit over a year left in the Be the Peace project, we are exploring a community-based structure with our Strategic Thinking partners that can continue the work of collaboration to prevent gender based violence and promote peaceful relationships, schools, workplaces and communities when our funding ends.

What Can You Do?

Anyone who wishes to can have a role with us:

- Send us feedback/ideas on this message: sue@bethepeace.ca or helen@bethepeace.ca.
- Come to any of our working groups, all are welcome! **(January dates below).**
- Volunteer for One Billion Rising events
- Connect us with other people who'd like to be involved.
- Forward this message to friends, family, co-workers so they can subscribe.
- Continue to 'be the peace' that we all yearn for. Wage peace in your own heart, among your family and friends, at home, at work, in school, wherever you are!
- Refer someone in need to Second Story Women's Centre, 543-1315 or 640-3044 or Harbour House Transition House 1-888-543-3999 (24 hrs.) or Alternatives Institute (Men's Intervention), 543-7444. We will help them find the services they need.

Be the Peace is always open to new members and anyone who wishes to contribute or be involved in the conversations and action initiatives. Please contact us at any time if you would like to find out about our Working Groups or if you would like to become involved in any way. Here are the meeting dates for January:

January Dates:

January 21st - 6:30- 8:30 pm: Gather the People @ Mahone Bay Centre, Community Room, 45 School Street, Mahone Bay

January 22nd - 1:30- 4:30 pm: Promising Practices: Responses to Pornography, Sexuality and Sexualized Violence @ Superstore Community Rm, Bridgewater. Light lunch provided.

January 23rd - 8:00- 10:00 am: Strategic Thinking Group @ Mahone Bay Centre Community Room, 45 School Street, Mahone Bay

January 27th - 12:30- 2:00 pm: Sexual Assault Services Working Group @ Second Story Women's Centre, 18 Dufferin St., Lunenburg

January 28th - 4:00- 5:30 pm: Engaging Boys Working Group @ Forest Heights School

For RSVP's and weather cancellations, please contact us.

Online Resources ~ New Links

1. **Resources for Educators:** <http://peacefulschoolsinternational.org/psi-resources/free-online-resources>
2. **Banding together to help boys into manhood**
http://thetyee.ca/News/2013/12/20/Vancouver-Young-Mens-School/?utm_source=mondayheadlines&utm_
3. **What happens when someone steps in? What if no one does? Watch this:**

<http://www.upworthy.com/most-of-these-people-do-the-right-thing-but-the-guys-at-the-end-i-wish-i-could-yell-at-them-4>

4. **For women with young children** - <http://www.childdevelop.ca/mothersinmind>
5. **Do you have a teenager in college or university?** You may want them to download this free app: http://www.loveisrespect.org/pdf/SafetyPlan_College_Students.pdf
It's from the One Love Foundation: <http://www.joinonelove.org/resources-help>
See their public service announcement at the bottom of the page.
6. **Tackling Sex Assault- Chronicle Herald, Jan 14, 2014**
<http://thechronicleherald.ca/novascotia/1179403-tackling-sex-assault>

“When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful.”

~ Malala Yousafzai