



Sault Ste. Marie This Week (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)

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Free domestic violence awareness sessions available for groups

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Special to Sault This Week

A successful program to help community groups recognize the signs of domestic abuse and to offer intervention strategies is still very much alive in Sault Ste. Marie.

Sault This Week inaccurately reported in an early December article on domestic violence that the Neighbours, Friends and Families program, supported financially by the Ontario government, was cancelled because of lack of funding.

Connie Nadeau, the co-chair of Algoma Council on Domestic Violence, said that despite not having "a heck of a lot of money", they were managing to get the word out.

"The word out is that we all have a responsibility and obligation to try to understand domestic abuse and family violence, and to try to address it when we can," Nadeau said.

Nadeau said the program had recently hired Gayle Manley as a full time animator or facilitator to coordinate the program in the Sault.

Manley, a retired local elementary school teacher, said Monday she was excited to be involved in the community presentations.

She said that she hoped to expand the free sessions to more groups in the work place, service clubs, educational institutions and other community groups in fulfilling her

new role.

She added that she'd like to use her educational background to develop sessions that encourage more interaction with participants.

For information on how your can set up a free Neighbours, Friends and Families session, contact the Safe Communities Partnership at 759-2548, or e-mail the Algoma Council on Domestic Violence at ACDV@canada.com.

The Neighbours, Friends and Families program also maintain an excellent website with information and resource materials at: www.neighboursfriendsandfamilies.on.ca.



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