

Youth crime rate down despite high profile incidents 30% lower than in 1991

(NC)-The shock and bewilderment caused by events such as the Columbine High School shootings in the USA and recent school violence in Taber, Alberta and Orleans, Ontario are very real for those involved, and deeply troubling for the rest of us. Trying to put these events into a proper context is not easy.

Despite these high-profile incidents, data from the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics shows that youth crime is declining. The youth crime rate, measured by the number of youths charged with a Criminal Code offence per 100,000 youths, has been dropping every year since 1991, including a 4% drop in 1998, the most recent year for which complete data is available. The youth crime rate is now 30% lower than it was in 1991.

Of course, this type of data instantly provokes a response from critics. These numbers, they allege, are misleading because they do not take into account the numbers of youth in conflict with the law who are not "formally charged by the police." The statistics are also misleading, critics say, because they do not differentiate between property crimes and violent crimes, which are up dramatically. Are they right?

While it may be true that the youth violent crime rate is higher than it was a decade ago, the rate of youths charged with violent crimes fell in 1998 for the third year in a row. Are young offenders more violent than adults are? The evidence suggests that the answer is no. Violent crimes accounted

for only 20% of youth crime in 1998, compared to 29% of all crimes committed by adults. Are we facing an epidemic of teenage killers? Again, the answer is no. A total of 56 youths were charged with homicide in 1998, compared to an average

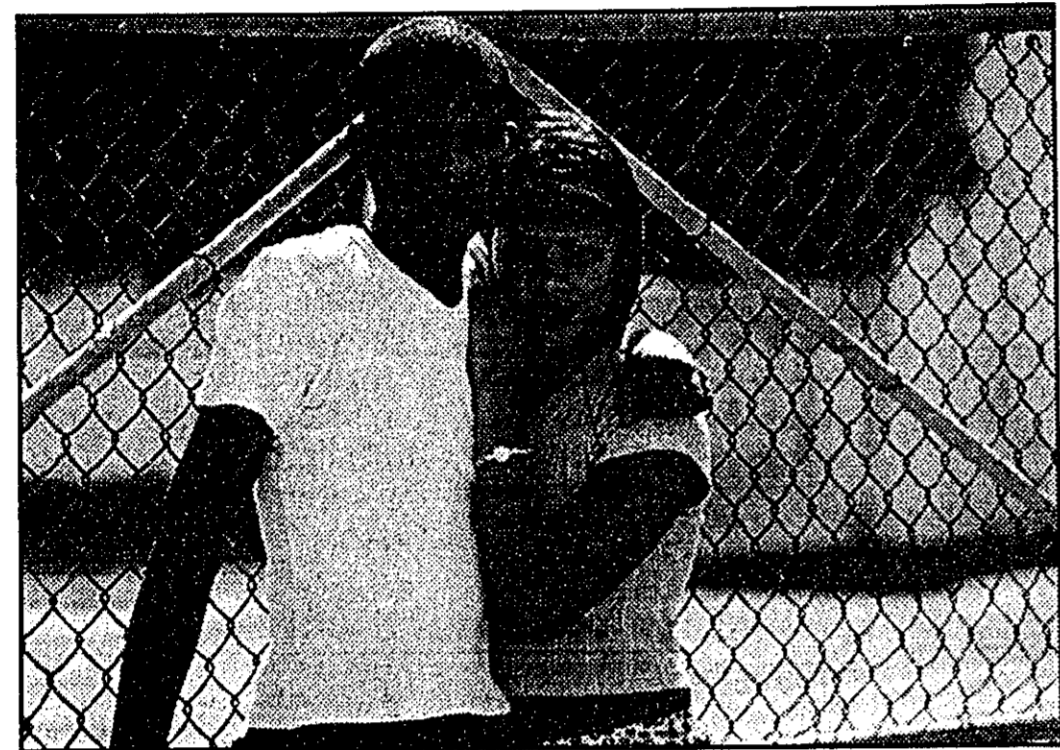
of 51 each year over the last decade.

The vast majority of our kids are doing just fine. They are healthy, they are doing well in school, and they have positive ideas and plans for the future. This, however, does not mean there is no

room for improvement. Problems do exist. The answer? An increasing amount of research suggests that prevention is the best solution. The costs of crime are enormous. If we can identify and change anti-social behaviour early in life, before it gathers steam and leads to crime, we can prevent huge amounts of suffering.

For information on how you can help prevent and deal with crime at school and in your community, visit www.crime-prevention.org on the Internet.

This article was adapted from a recent speech delivered by Barbara Hall, Executive Director of the National Crime Prevention Centre, to the Canadian Association of Principals.



Anita Neville, Liberal in Winnipeg South

Anita Neville is the Liberal candidate for Winnipeg South Centre in this month's federal election.

Born in the North End, Anita Neville was 10 years old when her parents moved the family to River Heights. It was in this community that she attended school, raised her own family of three daughters and continues to live today.

Stepping into the place of a representative like Lloyd Axworthy is a daunting prospect, but Anita Neville is a well-respected

Winnipegger in her own right. Over the years, people in Winnipeg have come to know Anita for her tenacious spirit and dedicated resolve. As she says, "I have learned to pick my issues and when there's something I feel very strong about, I will push it to the limit." In 1986 she was elected as a School Trustee for Winnipeg School Division No. 1. When important issues came up, Winnipeggers always heard Anita speak out for her community and for common sense. Anita's community

commitment and competence can be seen in her twenty-plus years of experience in public and educational administration and service:

Economic Development Consultant with the Manitoba Government, 1995-present

Executive Director - Employment and Training Program - Winnipeg Core Area Initiative

Winnipeg School Division Board Member - elected five terms and served as chair of the Board of Trustees and Chair of the Finance Committee, 1986-

present

Canadian School Board Association - Member for the National Pilot Project on Race Relations and Employment Equity

City of Winnipeg, Community and Race Relations Committee, Chair of the Coordinating Committee for Racial Harmony and Education Sub-Committee, 1990-1995

Winnipeg Jewish Child and Family Services

Women's Endowment Fund, Jewish Foundation of Manitoba

Canadian Delegation - Elections in Bosnia - International Observer, 1995

Rossbrook House - Executive and Member of the Board of Directors, 1983-1990

Volunteered for: Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities for Women, Health Sciences Centre - Child Protection Centre, United Way of Winnipeg, Children's House of Winnipeg and Parent Advisory Committees.

Anita Neville is seeking the support of Winnipeg South Centre voters in the November 27th Federal Election. You can contact her campaign at her headquarters at 729 Corydon Avenue (phone 988-9170).



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AUTHORIZED BY NEIL DUBOFF OFFICIAL AGENT FOR ANITA NEVILLE

Create your own holiday greeting cards

(NC)-Creating personalized holiday cards with photos of you and your family is a lot easier than you might think. Personalized cards are sure to save you money, but better yet, they can be made in the comfort of your own home (letting you avoid the drizzle of winter weather). Just follow these simple steps:

Photo - Start by taking a photo of your family using a digital camera. You could also use an existing professional family portrait. Be creative - that underwater family photo from your trip to Florida is sure to make people smile. If you are using a traditional photograph, you'll need to get it into digital form by scanning it with your home scanner (photo labs also provide this service for a fee).

Card template - Add your photo to a plain card template in any word processing or desktop publishing program. Some publishing programs, such as Microsoft Publisher, have ready-made holiday templates that come complete with festive characters and borders. You can use clip art and your own festive borders to add pizzazz to any plain card template. To add your photo to the card, try your 'Insert' and 'Add picture from file' functions in your word processing program. Then, type in your holiday messages, personalizing each card as necessary.

Paper - Don't skimp on paper for this project. Most printer manufacturers offer supplies - such as greeting card paper in heavy stock or photo quality - to suit your system and give you the best output. Check the aisles of your local computer supplies shop for the full range of inkjet printer paper offerings; you'll be amazed by what's available.

Printer - Once you've got your greeting card paper lined up and loaded into the printer, you're ready to see the results. Using a photo-quality printer will ensure your cards look professional. Some printers have the flexibility of being able to handle different sized paper and special media - you can even print your addresses directly on the envelopes (saving you the extra hassle and cost involved with using labels).

Friends and family will surely be impressed with your creativity and flattered by your personal touch.

A Winnipeg Art Gallery membership - give the gift of art

Modern life can be pretty hectic with parents and kids always rushing off in different directions. Even when everyone is home, it's sometimes hard to do things together as a family. Membership in The Winnipeg Art Gallery gives you the chance to spend quality time with your children.

In a recent educational forum held at the Gallery, Dr. Phillip Hall, former Chair of the St. John's Ravenscourt School, called art an "antidote" to information overload, encouraging children to think and develop their own values, instilling them with wisdom, and encouraging them to think beyond boundaries. What an enriching gift to give your young family, something that will last them a lifetime!

WAG memberships are also wonderful gifts for grandparents, aunts, uncles - to give or to receive.

As WAG members you have free admission to the Gallery for an entire year. Tableau, the WAG's bi-monthly publication, is mailed to your door, keeping you up to date on all the upcoming exhibitions and activities. You'll receive invitations to special members' only events. Members get discounts on all the wonderful, one-of-a-kind items in the Gallery Shoppes and lower prices on WAG-sponsored concerts, films, and lec-

tures.

The WAG offers a wide selection of art classes and special workshops for all ages and skill levels. Of particular interest are the Parent and Child classes, developed for parents and pre-school children to share the fun of art-making. As a member, you not only receive a discount on class fees, you also have the privilege of early registration. Since many classes fill up very quickly, advance registration is a big plus!

Every spring the Gallery's exhibition, Through the Eyes of a Child, features work done by all the children and teens who took fall and winter art classes. It's hard to say who's prouder - the parents or the kids!

A one-year family membership at The Winnipeg Art Gallery is only \$50 for you and your dependent children. Individual memberships are \$35, student and senior memberships are \$20, and a senior couple membership is \$30. And if you live more than 50 kilometres outside Winnipeg, membership is only \$25.

Call 786-6641, ext. 214, for more information or send in the coupon on the WAG ad. You can also buy a membership on line at [HYPERLINK http://www.wag.mb.ca](http://www.wag.mb.ca)

WAG THE WINNIPEG ART GALLERY



above detail: GEORGE REID, *The Story*, 1890. Oil on canvas. Gift from the Hugh F. Osler Estate. G-47-164.

Give the Gift of Art!

Free general gallery admission for an entire year!
Discounts in the Gallery Shoppes, the rooftop restaurant, art classes, films, and exciting WAG events including Art & Soul, Jazz on the Rooftop, and much more!

Giving the gift of art is easy!

Just fill out the form below and mail to:

Membership, The Winnipeg Art Gallery, 300 Memorial Blvd., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1V1 or telephone our Membership Department at (204) 786-6641, ext. 214.

Please send a Winnipeg Art Gallery membership to:

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____ Phone _____

This Winnipeg Art Gallery membership is from:

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____ Phone _____

Category: Individual • \$35 Senior (60+) • \$20 Student • \$20 Senior Couple • \$30 Family • \$50

Out-Of-Town (min. 50km outside Winnipeg city limits) • \$25 Membership fees include GST. Membership is valid for one year.

Payment Method: Cheque (made payable to The Winnipeg Art Gallery) Visa Amex MasterCard

Card Number _____ Expiry Date _____

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