

External Committee Report

Senior Safety

April 2024

The last meeting was March 26th held by zoom at 1:30 p.m.

We are beginning to make plans for events to be held during the Spring/Summer season. Right now there are plans being made for Wills and Estates Seminars in Pugwash and Springhill. We are also looking at a Seniors Safety Academy for Amherst in the late summer or fall. These academies can continue through several weeks and not just a one day event. We are also looking at hosting a Senior's Expo in Amherst and the yearly World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in June.

The past year has been very busy. The Senior Safety Coordinator has seen an overall increase in the amount of phone calls, referrals and the amount of clients assisted in their own homes.

YTD: 87 phone calls from people in Amherst seeking assistance along with another 70 from seniors in the county. There were also 24 email referrals from other organizations. Plus 26 home visits in Amherst and another 26 in different parts of the county.

Events that were organized over the past year included five weeks of Senior Safety Academy in Amherst in May and June, plus World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in June. Other events that were attended by the coordinator and the board include: RCMP police week in Springhill with a table set up, Police Week in Amherst with another table set up and an Aging Well event at the Superstore.

We applied for a small \$1000 grant from an organization called Community Links to help seniors set up their bathrooms for safety (shower rails, raised toilet seats or handles that go around toilets and other safety needs).

We did not apply for a Town grant for this year. Most of the needs we applied for occur in the winter months and our last winter was not bad. So we still have a little money left to assist with snow shovelling walkways and emergency oil delivery. Over the last year there were only a couple of major snow events and we assisted two people with emergency oil deliveries. We thank the town for the assistance given last year and some of that money will carry over into this year.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 30th via zoom.