



Bruce-Grey MPP Bill Murdoch announces \$100,000 in provincial funding for E. coli victims at a press conference in Walkerton Friday. Behind Murdoch are, from left: Brockton Response Centre Co-ordinator Barb Fisher, Bruce-Grey MP Ovid Jackson and Brockton Mayor Dave Thomson.

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Catholic teachers help Walkerton citizens stricken with E. coli

Members of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association across the province opened their hearts and wallets after hearing about Walkerton's water crisis.

Bruce-Grey association representatives Bob Richards and Jim Zettel described the impact of the crisis at a recent meeting of presidents of the association.

"When Jim and I expressed some of the stories, a child dying in the hands of a parent, those are feelings that people start to relate to," Richards said. "We started to concentrate on the community and not the isola-

tion."

Recently, association vice-president Cathy McVean handed over \$51,000 from the Catholic teachers to a trust fund for Walkerton's E-coli victims.

She said the fundraising was unique because money came from association local units in "each and every community around the province", as well as the provincial organization.

"We didn't realize the extent of the problem until we heard those stories," McVean said. "It's a wake-up call for all of us, how much we take for granted and how much we have to take care of the environ-

ment."

Teachers requested the money go to Walkerton's children and youth by way of the trust fund established by the Walkerton Kinette club.

Kinette Cindy Ernewein said the donation brought that fund to \$200,000.

Over \$20,000 a week is being allocated to families of children in out-of-town hospitals.

"It will cover their cost of traveling, their food and lodging. It will also help after the children come home with extra expenses those families will have," Ernewein said about the Catholic teachers' donation.