

## TORNADO TIPS

### Weather Watches and Warnings

Environment Canada issues weather watches and warnings when anticipated weather poses a threat to public safety. This information is relayed to the public by radio and television.

A severe weather watch is issued up to six hours in advance to alert the general public that, for a specified portion of Ontario, there is a high potential for dangerous thunderstorm weather, which may be accompanied by a tornado.

A severe weather warning is issued to alert the public that severe thunderstorms or tornadoes are imminent in the warning area -- ie, a severe thunderstorm is in progress or expected to occur within two hours.

### Tornado Safety Hints

A personal tornado awareness program should include:

- being aware of the weather, knowing the radio or television stations which broadcast up-to-the-minute weather information
- knowing the name by which Environment Canada refers to your forecast region when they issue weather forecasts
- reviewing your plans of action

### When a tornado threatens

1. Stay away from windows, doors and outside walls. Protect your head.
2. For maximum safety, go down to the basement or seek shelter under a stairway or sturdy table, or in a closet.
3. Try to reach the centre of the house or the side away from the storm.
4. Avoid buildings with large areas of unsupported roof, including arenas, barns or supermarkets. If caught in such a building, seek out the lowest floor, an inside hallway or small interior windowless room, or get under something sturdy.
5. If caught in the open, try to determine the tornado's direction of travel and move at right angles to it. If you cannot avoid the storm, find a ditch, ravine or other depression and lie flat. Do not remain in your car. Many people have been killed trying to ride out a tornado in their car.
6. If no shelter can be found, hang on to the base of a small tree or shrub.
7. Remember that damaged and weakened structures, fallen debris, downed hydro wires, and gas leaks are potential dangers after a storm has passed.

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### A Press Release on the North Leeds Abuse Task Force

The North Leeds Abuse Task Force is an informal group of community members and service providers, which focuses on issues of family violence, substance abuse, the relationship between those two and the effects these have on our North Leeds Community.

The Task Force met, at Guthrie House in Elgin, on March 20th for its monthly meeting. At the meeting many topics of public interest were discussed, some of which were as follows:

- A work shop entitled "Put the Child First", to be presented by Dale Pearson;
- The Kids Help-Line, which is meant to assist children and teenagers who need someone to talk to and direct them to services found in their area;
- A group of inmates from the prison in Bath are speaking out on the dangers of drinking and driving. More information about this group will be upcoming.

The next meeting of the North Leeds Abuse Task Force will be on April 17th.

At this time, Katherine Mephan will be discussing Community Action Groups (CAGs). New members are always welcome at meetings, which take place at 10:00 a.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at Guthrie House, are open to anyone living or working in North Leeds.



Both seniors and students enjoy a recent practice at Mill Bay Court

### SINGING A SONG-SIDE BY SIDE.

A large portion of the traditional generation gap wall will come tumbling down as the musical efforts of some area senior citizen's and children blend as never before.

For the past several months, 27 students from the Grade 3/4 class at Rideau Centennial School and 19 seniors from the Portland area have been blending their voices and enthusiasm in preparation for their public performance at 7:30p.m. on May 7th. in the Portland School Gymnasium. The Master of Ceremonies for the show will be CJOH-TV reporter Suhanna Meharchand.

The 46 choir members have been participating in a pilot project for the Leeds & Grenville County Board of Education. Project "INTERLINK", co-sponsored by the Board and the Canadian Mental Health Association, is a unique opportunity to unite the two generations through words and song while clearing up the misconceptions which usually exist between the young and old.

The May 7th. show will feature songs of friendship, warmth and dreams as they are linked together by the common thread of love. "Sunshine & Rainbows" "In Perfect Harmony", "Edelweiss" and "Side By Side" are but a few of the choir songs that are led by Rideau Centennial Music Director William Morris. The pianist for the show is Kathryn Powell, the energetic and fun loving United Church Minister from Delta and Toledo.

In addition to this Education Week performance in Portland, the Interlink Choir will also be singing on May 16th. at St. Lawrence Lodge in Brockville and at the regular meeting of the Leeds/Grenville Board of Education on May 27. This meeting is scheduled to be held in the gymnasium at Rideau District High School with a 7:00p.m. starting time.

The general public is encouraged to attend one or all of these performances. SEE YOU THERE!