



LOT Network

LEADERS OF TODAY

LOT is a Provincial Network for Youth, Supportive Adults and Government

GOALS OF LOT:

- To **AMPLIFY YOUTH VOICE** in NS.
- To **inform the NS Child & Youth Strategy**
- To **create a place of intercultural learning between youth and government.**



The members of the Annapolis County LOT Crew (above): Back Row: Leah Marshall (SchoolsPlus Community Outreach Worker), Lorraine Ascott (Dept. of Community Services), Brandon Wrigley and Ruck Plehn (MRHS), Meaghan Bartlett (AWEC), Sarah Wellwood (AVRSB School Counsellor); Middle Row: Myra MacLean, Hannah Bruce and Sarah Roach (BRHS); Front Row: Angel Hamilton, Megan Swartman, and Abby Boudreau (AWEC). Behind the Camera: Sarah Patton (BRHS Teacher), Missing: Mariah Drever

THE ANNAPOLIS COUNTY LOT CREW

The Annapolis County LOT Crew started from a small group of five youth and three adults from Annapolis West Education Centre and Bridgetown Regional High School, who had attended the Provincial LOT Summit in October 2012 (photo to the left). This group returned to their communities and schools motivated by clear goals to move forward in making positive changes for youth in Annapolis County.

The main goals of this group were to enhance local youth engagement and leadership opportunities, and to host their own youth-led 'Regional LOT Conference' in Annapolis County.

The hope was that this conference would serve to amplify youth voices in Annapolis County and facilitate conversations that would better inform government and youth service providers of the needs and issues that were most important to youth. In turn, the goal was for youth to gain knowledge of resources and how to access them, and to increase the awareness of opportunities for youth locally. With this, youth could move forward in identifying needs and gaps in services, and work collaboratively within their communities with the support of their network to create an action plan for positive change.



The beginnings of 'Annapolis Co. LOT', Provincial LOT 7 Summit, Youth and Adult Participants from the AVRSB, Debert. NS. October 2012.

The Leaders of Today (LOT) Network is coordinated by Heartwood Centre for Community Development with the support of the Nova Scotia Child & Youth Strategy.

VALLEY LOT ISSUES OF INTEREST:

Some of the key issues identified by the youth and supportive adults that they wanted to address at this conference were: Safe Spaces & Safe Schools, Education, Mental Health, Sexual Health, Transportation, Youth Support Services & Access to Services for Youth (ie. Loss of Youth Health Centre Nurse), Youth Support . Since the Spring Provincial Summit, other issues of interest have emerged as well: Community Centres for youth & Physical Activities, Youth-Friendly Website, Creating Gender-Neutral Washrooms in Schools, among others.

THE ANNAPOLIS COUNTY LOT CONFERENCE

The First 'Regional LOT Conference' in NS!

The Annapolis County LOT Conference was held on Saturday March 2nd, 2013 at BRHS, and was a true success!! All the goals set forth by the youth were achieved and some surpassed!

In attendance: there a total of 22 youth and 18 adults from Middleton, Lawrencetown, Bridgetown & Annapolis Royal. This included local representatives from RCMP, Town Mayors, Annapolis Valley Health, Addictions Services, CAYAC Board, and the AVRSB RCH (Race, Culture & Human Rights) Division. (see details and important 'thank-you' at bottom right)

There was great support from the Provincial LOT Coordinator, Steve Gordon, and 3 other youth workers from the Halifax's Heartwood Centre for Community Youth Development in putting this conference together and in training our youth to join in facilitating and hosting this conference. This allowed this event to be truly youth-led.

The youth hosts and participants showed tremendous dedication and leadership, and demonstrated a clear passion for local community issues with a drive towards positive change! We were so pleased with the amount of productive work and worthwhile conversations, as well as the action-planning that took place!

Many of the youth participants from the AC LOT also came to the Provincial Spring Summit at Bayside Camp, March 22 -24th. There were a total of 14 youth from the AVRSB in attendance! A HUGE growth from the 5 youth who started out! Sarah Roach, of BRHS, also went on to be a 'host' and helped facilitate this recent Provincial Summit.



Participants in the Annapolis County LOT Conference at BRHS, March 2013

LOT IS ALREADY EXPANDING...

It is our hope with the continued support of Heartwood, and the Child and Youth Strategy, LOT will continue to **expa**n throughout the Valley and NS, and continue to work to amplify youth voice and promote positive change throughout our communities. Already LOT is growing in the AVRSB, inspired by the recent Sprint Summit, a new LOT Crew has started up recently in Hants Co. at Avon View High in Windsor; **LOT is growing every day!**

THANK YOU to...



Many thanks to the Heartwood Crew, including Steve Gordon, Provincial LOT Coordinator, Sam Kent, Andrew Jantzen and Bri Miller. Thanks for all your support and for helping to train our youth hosts!



Thanks as well to SchoolsPlus Annapolis and to Patty Cornwall & Leah Marshall for supporting the AC LOT Crew all along!

Annapolis County LOT would also like to thank the following local supporters who attended & contributed to the conference:

- Jude Gerrad, Mi'kmaq Specialist, AVRSB
- Kevin Bauer – AVH Community Health Board
- Steve Raftery – Bridgetown Recreation
- Lisa Miner, RCMP Constable
- Horace Hurlburt, Mayor of Bridgetown
- Calvin Eddy, Mayor of Middleton
- Barb Angers – AVH Sexual Health Nurse
- Jennifer Youden, AVH Addictions Services
- Russ Sanche – CAYAC Board, The Portal Youth Shelter, Kentville, NS
- Bridgetown Regional High School and Principal, Bill Reid for welcoming us to use the school for our meetings and Regional Conference. **THANKS A 'LOT'!!**

For More Info about LOT:

Annapolis County LOT: or Valley LOT:
Leah Marshall Sarah Wellwood
leah.marshall@avrsb.ca wellwoods@staff.ednet.ns.ca

OR JOIN the LOT FACEBOOK PAGES!