

canoe.ca



Currently 2 °C | Ice pellets
Welland

THE TRIBUNE

MAKING A DIFFERENCE...DAILY

News Sports Business Arts/Life Multimedia Features Contact Us

Careers Classifieds Obituaries Wheels Digital Edition Shopping

SUBSCRIBE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2007

SUBMIT JOIN | SIGN-IN
Community Sports

Local News

Home News Local News Poverty puts children at risk of falling behind in school; Local politicians should consider Early Development Instrument results when making decisions, says medical officer of health

image = everything.
Make A Lasting Impression



Niagara's Web Design Team ICE

Articles & Blogs

St. Catharines Cribbage League - December 3 Scores
A WEEK 13 DEC 3/07 <br [...]>

Service Clubs go green for Christmas
By ALISON LANGLEY
Niagara Falls Review On a chilly winter afternoon, Gabe Marinelli proudly surveys his forest. "We only get top [...]>

Rent-a-Saint fundraiser RENT-A-SAINT On November 27, the Senate held its annual Rent-a-Saint Assembly to raise money for the United Way. The Assembly began with a [...]>

Stamford Kiwanis announce officers
Following are the 2007-08 officers for the Stamford Kiwanis Club. The club meets each Monday at the Fallsview Plaza Hotel (formerly the Fallsview Renaissance Hotel) [...]>

Stamford Kiwanis Club The Stamford Kiwanis Club meets each Monday at 6:30 p.m. at the Fallsview Plaza Hotel (formerly the Renaissance Fallsview Hotel). [...]>

Are Newspapers and Magazines Destined to Become Obsolete?
Newspapers and magazines will not face extinction for many years to come, if ever. They offer too many advantages over modern, fast-forward methods of communicating [...]>

Should Living Trees Be Cut Down for Christmas Trees?
Living trees are a precious commodity; they contribute oxygen to the air we breathe. They should not be cut down for Christmas trees. Even if [...]>

Open Letter from Stamford Kiwanis Club Letter to the Citizens of Niagara Falls THE KIWANIS CLUB OF STAMFORD INC. An open letter to the citizens of NIAGARA FALLS [...]>

John MacDonald Memorial MD Hockey Tournament
The John MacDonald MD Hockey Tournament Committee is excited to announce that we now have over 100 teams signed up for our tournament and we [...]>

Niagara Regional Literacy Council
Niagara Regional Literacy Council offers free, confidential, one-on-one tutoring for adults unable to read or write. We also offer basic math, computer and workplace skills. For [...]>

Poverty puts children at risk of falling behind in school; Local politicians should consider Early Development Instrument results when making decisions, says medical officer of health

Posted By SAMANTHA CRAGGS

Posted 12 days ago

Niagara preschoolers are above the national average when it comes to being ready for school, but we could always do better, early childhood officials say.

While kids up to age five are doing well compared with the rest of Canada, a closer look reveals pockets of poverty and other factors that put kids at risk of falling behind in school. That means we should not rest on our laurels, said Glory Ressler, co-ordinator of Niagara's Understanding the Early Years program, in a session with mayors and decision-makers Wednesday.

"Even if we're doing great, one in four kids (is) not prepared for school," Ressler said.

The forum examined regionwide results for the Early Development Instrument (EDI), which assesses how ready junior and senior kindergarten children are for Grade 1.

A closer look at last year's results shows anomalies in EDI results, Ressler said. Niagara-on-the-Lake, for example, has a higher average income than other areas, yet a higher percentage of preschoolers lacked the social ability to do well in school. Areas of urban St. Catharines, which have a higher percentage of families with low incomes and a first language other than English, are also red flagged as needing more attention.

Local politicians should consider EDI results when making decisions, said Dr. Robin Williams, Niagara's medical officer of health, who moderated the session.

"Overall, the Niagara story is a good news story," she said. "But one in four kids are not as ready as they could be. There's a lot of room to raise the bar higher."

The EDI assesses children in five categories: language and cognitive development, communication skills and general knowledge, social competence, emotional maturity and physical health and well-being. Tests include knowing some letters, counting to 20 and getting along with other children.

Every area of Niagara, including St. Catharines, was above the national average in last year's results. But the forum was to encourage decision-makers to dig deeper, Ressler said.

"We want to raise the understanding of the importance of investment in early years," she said.

Welland Mayor Damian Goulbourne could see where municipal investment corresponded with better results. For example, the Rose City neighbourhood with the best physical health results has the biggest park. An area red flagged has a park that has been neglected, Goulbourne said.

Search box with radio buttons for Past 7 days - FREE, Archive Service, UR Niagara, and a Search button.

Rossmans Fashions BY THE BRIDGE PORT COLBORNE 905-835-1173

Comfort INN 870 Niagara St. Welland 905-732-4811 1-866-295-5206

Lochness Links Summer logo with a dragon.

CONTINUE ... to discover

image = everything. Niagara's Web Design Team ICCEnterprises.ca

Thomas ELECTRONICS logo

Advertisement for Lochness Links and Swing restaurant. 289 Dalmier Parkway, Welland, Ontario L3B 6H2 905-346-2664

"I'm just starting to get it," he said. "It wasn't until this year that I actually understood the role of social services and how it ties in with everything else."

Ressler could only speculate why Niagara-on-the-Lake's results were not as high as expected. It may be because of a migrant population whose second language is not English or French, she said. It also has only one social service agency.

"We don't have the answers," Ressler said. "This is our invitation to them to do further study."

Attendees included St. Catharines Coun. Heather Foss, Niagara-on-the-Lake Lord Mayor Gary Burroughs and District School Board of Niagara trustees. There was an afternoon session for front-line social service workers.

Article ID# 796860

0 Votes - Be The First To Vote

Advertisement

Local News Articles:

- Gunman at large; Regional Police respond to call of a masked man armed with gun entering a king street apartment in welland
- Keeping alive his memory
- Welland post office closed for half-day
- Trickle-down effect; PART THREE: The consequences on the community of kids not getting all the help they need
- Still waiting for justice; Robert Pickton verdict little comfort to Diane Rock's family
- Protect the innocent; Conference looking at Internet crime against children
- Free parking in effect
- The spirit of Christmas coming to the stage
- Convicted in a 2000 stabbing death, man charged in attempted murder Sunday
- Charles Roy a less than truthful man, psychiatric assessment shows; Court-appointed psychiatrist testifies at dangerous offender hearing

[More Local News »](#)

Advertisement

Photos & Videos



Niagara Falls

Sign up for
the latest, breaking news, weather, sports and more
sent right to your inbox!

What are these icons?
 = Photo Gallery
[Click here for the icon legend](#)

Calendar

Today
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SONG BY PETE DOWAN NOW OUT

Jordan Adult sSating Club

NUTRITION SEMINAR - Healthy Lifestyle

NUTRITION SEMINAR - Healthy Lifestyle

Open House @ Agape Valley

Winter Safety Presentation

Dec. 12, 2007

@ ST. CATHARINES PUBLIC LIBRARY - CAROLLING IN THE FOYER

Lyndesfarne Theatre presents "Love Letters" by A. R. Gurney.

Dec. 13, 2007

@ ST. CATHARINES PUBLIC LIBRARY - CONNECT DIRECT

PENNY BINGO

Dec. 14, 2007

@ ST. CATHARINES PUBLIC LIBRARY - INTERNET III

FRIDAY NITE FISH FRY

Shopping Directory
Shop your Local Advertisers

Ontario Historic Inn
Elora Mill Meetings & Getaways Book Online - Packages Available
www.eloramill.com

Ontario Singles - Pics
Meet local singles for dating. Browse profiles. Free to register.
CanadianMatcher.com

Ontario Romantic Getaways
Enjoy a romantic getaway in our Historic Boutique Country Inns
www.benmiller.on.ca

Mississauga Home Search
Get Free Daily Updates of Homes For Sale complete with Pictures
MississaugaVipBuyers.com

Ads by Google