

For Immediate Distribution

August 11, 2008

### Victim Services and Rural Crime Watch Get the Word Out

At the Bon Accord Harvest Days in Bon Accord, Alberta, Sturgeon Victim Services and Sturgeon Rural Crime Watch brought information to the community about crime prevention techniques that will help keep our communities the safe places they are. Both of these volunteer associations work hard to support the Safe and Caring Communities programs, although they have two very different approaches.

Sturgeon Rural Crime Watch members are vigilant in the community, both in the towns and in the rural areas and report suspicious activities or crimes to the police. They post Rural Crime Watch signs in the community to deter criminal activity and they receive automated telephone calls from the RCMP warning them of crimes or crime trends that are happening in the area.

Sturgeon Victim Services have two kinds of volunteers. The Board members meet monthly and oversee the administration and funding of the program. The volunteer Advocates have a more hands on approach as they work directly with victims of crime or tragedy and help these people as they manoeuvre through the criminal justice system. Victim Services help these families get their lives back on track with minimal trauma from the crime or tragedy that touched them.

Both of these worthwhile agencies have web sites that you can visit to find out how to join. Check out [www.sturgeonruralcrimewatch.org](http://www.sturgeonruralcrimewatch.org) or [www.sturgeonvictimservices.org](http://www.sturgeonvictimservices.org) to get involved in two really important community based crime prevention organizations in the Sturgeon Region.

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Attached are photos for release

3347 - Margaret - President of **Sturgeon Rural Crime Watch**.



3350 - Lisa - President of **Sturgeon Victim Services**.

