



KAROLINSKA INSTITUTET
 Department of Public Health Sciences
 Division of Social Medicine



**WHO COLLABORATING
 CENTRE
 ON
 COMMUNITY SAFETY PROMOTION**

SAFE COMMUNITY WEEKLY NEWS

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***** LETTER FROM THE EDITOR*****

Welcome to the fourteenth issue of Safe Community Weekly News in 2004, the electronic Safe Community Weekly News is edited by the Norwegian Safety Promotion Centre- a WHO CC Affiliated Safe Community Support Centre on behalf of Safe Communities Network.

WHAT IS NEW AT SAFE COMMUNITIES?

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ORGANISATION: NGO Safe Community in Serbia

OBSERVATION: CDC Observes World Health Day: Family Road Safety, April 7, 2004

CONFERENCE: International Traffic Medicine Conference in South Africa

WALTER MORRISON MBE 1924-2004



Walter Morrison- the way we remember him

'It's like teaching a child to swim in a pool full of alligators,' was Walter Morrison's take on why it is that children in poor communities die in road and fire accidents between 5 and 15 times more frequently than children in posher places. Not for Walter the kind of health promotion that makes it children's own responsibility to keep themselves safe in unsafe places. Not for him the attempts to change the behaviour of children and parents (usually mothers) while ignoring the behaviour of motorists, road planners, architects and town planners. Just before he died, he produced an autobiographical pamphlet - Corkerhill - a Place worth Fighting for. Inside the front cover is reproduced Corkerhill's Safe Community agreement.

Walter Morrison who died in Glasgow on February 6th, 2004 was an important public health thinker and a public health activist who also made his mark, nationally and internationally. Every community has its share of lay public health experts, but Glasgow is surely especially fortunate in that respect, perhaps because of the starkness of the inequalities, and the resilience and humour of those who experience them.

Walter lived in Corkerhill, a former railway village, turned housing scheme, bounded on one side by the railway, another by a busy main road, but, until effectively cut off by the new motorway, backing on to the lovely Pollock Park. We first met him when he and his neighbours were fighting the effects of the endemic damp housing on their estate. Their houses had been sprayed with chemicals to deal with the effects of damp, and Walter was worried by the increase in respiratory problems. For the officials he contacted, there were two explanations for this. One was smoking, (admittedly high in the neighbourhood); the other that it was hysteria. Both as he dryly pointed out, were unlikely to have caused the health problems of the cats, dogs, and dead budgie whose illnesses co-incided with the damp problems.

Walter had been in the forces but was a member of CND; he protested against the building of the motorway cutting off the area from green space; he and his neighbours looked after the people who lived in the trees to try and stop them being cut down for the new road.

It was the efforts of Walter and others in his community, notably Janice Coia, Betty Campbell and Cathy Rice, that put Corkerhill on the WHO map as part of the world wide network of Safe Communities. The irony was not lost on him – Corkerhill hardly ranks high in the list of safe places – but the recognition was of a place and a group of people who were doing something about it. The flag will soon be flying again, above the sports arena Walter and his friends fought for at Nethercraigs.

He was hugely proud of his children, Lee and Grant. Although not a born feminist, Walter did understand how much the work of women in his community made a difference. Betty Campell, his feisty companion, survives him.

Walter was a bonny fighter. Was he ‘difficult’ ? You bet. Did that make him unpopular with some ? Yes. Did he get things done ? Yes, he did. He didn’t always win his battles, but he made sure that the voices of the experts who live with inequalities in health every day were heard.

Helen Roberts
Professor of Child Health, City University, London

Rodney Barker
Professor of Government
London School of Economics

Leif Svanström
Professor
Chairman WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion

Report from Conference Safe Community – Safe Industry, February 19-21, 2004.

In 2002 the Swedish Rescue Service Agency invited Skövde City to take part in the BSR INTERREG III Eurobaltic Project. The project will improve abilities in protecting human life and environment as well as cultural heritage. The project will support sustainable development of Safe Communities in the Baltic Sea Region and promote safe industrial development and cooperation on spatial planning and sustainable land use management, thereby also contributing to the mitigation of risk for cross border effect of accidents.

The Swedish Rescue Services Agency is lead partner of the EUROBALTIC project. The project has partners in Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Norway, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia and Poland.

Planning of the Conference



The Conference Safe Community – Safe Industry in Skövde in February 2004 is one essential part of the Eurobaltic Project. The planning of the Conference started in August 2003. The planning and organizing committee was a team from the City of Skövde, Skövde Safety and Risk Management Training College, Volvo Powertrain, Volvo Cars Corporation, The local Rescue Service and the local Police force. August and September was a very busy time in the planning process. The invitation to Conference were sent out to the network in the middle of October 2004.

Delegates

When the Conference started 29 delegates were on the list as accepted delegates. 3 from Estonia, 4 from Lithuania, 3 from Latvia, 1 from Russia, 3 from Poland and 9 from Sweden. 6 delegates from Nigeria never arrived to the Conference.

The Conference Day 1

The Conference started on February 19 with a lecture about Crisis Management in Sweden. Speaker was Mr Lars Hedstrom, Deputy Director of the Swedish Emergency Management Agency (SEMA). Afternoon of the first day the group went to the Volvo Plant where the delegates got a presentation of the security process at the Volvo Powertrain and the Volvo Cars Corporation. It was interesting to observe how much energy this great industry is spending in making the plant as safe as possible.

Conference Day 2

On the second day of the Conference there were three lectures before lunch and a debate in the afternoon. The lectures were about the Safe Community Concept, the Swedish model for preventing accidents and one lecture with a special focus on how to prevent chemical accidents. During the afternoon all the participating countries presented their model for accident and injury prevention. After the presentation there was a debate about accident prevention led by the Mr CG Carlsson, head of the College.

Conference Day 3

The day started with a theoretical simulation of a chemical accident in an Industrial Area. The simulation was followed by a discussion about how to handle the situation and changes in the planning process that might be the result of a severe accident. Before lunch there was some minutes for evaluation of the Conference and some time for handing over diplomas to the delegates. The official part of the Programme ended by lunch time day 3.

In the afternoon there was a social programme for the delegates who were travelling back home the next day (Sunday). The social programme was a visit to the Dahlénmuseum in Stenstorp. Dahlén was a famous Swedish inventor. In the evening we had a special dinner arranged by the organisations for immigrants in the part of the city where the College was located.

Comment

The evaluation of the Safe Community – Safe Industry Conference showed that the delegates appreciated to Conference very much and that they found it very well planned.

Håkan Elwér, Coordinator

NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION SAFE COMMUNITY WAS FOUNDED IN NOVI SAD

On March 24, 2004 in Novi Sad the non-governmental organization Safe Community was founded, an independent, non-profitable, voluntary association of citizens formed to promote safety and injury and disability prevention.

The founders of the Non-governmental organization Safe Community are renowned medicine doctors, professors, physiologists, engineers, advocates, lawyers, pedagogue, journalists and students of medicine and psychology. The Founders' Assembly has 26 members.

Chairing the Assembly is Mrs. Primarius Doctor of Medicine Mirjana Milankov. The honorary Chairman is the Academician Prof. Dr. Miroslav Radovanovic, member of the Serbian Academy of Science, Department in Novi Sad.



President NGO Safe Community Novi Sad,
Dr Mirjana Milankov



Honorary Chairman the Academician Prof. Dr. Miroslav Radovanovic,
member of the Serbian Academy of Science

All the citizens engaged in safety promotion, improving health, prevention of diseases, injuries and disability can be members of the Non-governmental organization Safe Community, as well as other citizens willing to engage in the above mentioned objectives.

The Non-governmental organization Safe Community operates in the Republic of Serbia territory and might be associated to different associations with similar goals home and abroad.

The Safe Community objectives are:

- **intersesectoral and interdisciplinary associations (local management bodies, healthcare institutions, non-healthcare institutions, mass media) to carry out the activities on improving health, injury and disability prevention,**
- **motivating the local authorities to build into their policy promotion of safety, injury and disability prevention,**
- **motivating the citizens to adopt the concept of safety and carry out prevention of injuries at the places they are living and working,**
- **supervising the factors of injury risks,**
- **creating and carrying out the injury prevention program for all the population groups and all forms of injuries by the place of origin,**
- **permanent and continuing education of the educators and population in the field of safety promotion and injuries prevention,**
- **informing the experts and citizens about the activities and results achieved in safety promotion and injury prevention,**
- **cooperating with the World Health Organization and assessing the Safe Community Project, complying with the project indicators and declaring local community a Safe Community,**
- **assessing and cooperating with the Safe Community European network,**
- **establishing national safe communities network,**
- **joining the Safe Community international network.**

The association funds resources are: membership fees, funds received on the grounds of sponsorship and donations, freewill offerings, gifts, legateses conforming to the law.

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Text and photo Miroslav Bakic

CDC Observes World Health Day: Family Road Safety, April 7, 2004

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and its partners are joining forces to promote road traffic safety on World Health Day, April 7, 2004. Sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO), this annual observance focuses attention on a leading public health problem that threatens the safety and health people worldwide; World Health Day 2004 focuses on road traffic safety. CDC's theme for U.S. events is **Family Road Safety: Protect the Ones You Love**.

Many of us in the United States consider having a vehicle essential for a happy and productive life. Nevertheless, this mobility has come at a price: 40,000 motor vehicle-related deaths each year and numerous people who are permanently disabled. Motor vehicle-related medical costs exceeded \$21 billion in 2000.

Motor vehicle-related deaths, injuries, and suffering can be prevented. Our country has made great strides in confronting the public health problems of road traffic deaths and injuries. There are wonderful successes—lives saved from increased seat belt and child restraint use and widespread adoption of the .08 Blood Alcohol Concentration limits for drivers. But there is still more work to be done to help prevent the 1.2 million deaths occurring worldwide each year from road traffic-related injuries.

CDC will participate in several national and international activities to help raise awareness about road traffic injuries:

- **National Satellite Broadcast and Webcast, March 26, 2004, 2 pm - 3 pm.** CDC joined with the University of North Carolina to present Public Health Grand Rounds - [On the Road Again: Promoting Safe Travel and the Public's Health](http://www.publichealthgrandrounds.unc.edu/) <http://www.publichealthgrandrounds.unc.edu/>, a national satellite broadcast and webcast. If you missed this event, you can view the [webcast archive](#).
- **WHO Report Release, April 7, 2004** WHO will release their report on global traffic safety in Paris. The report is a 5-year strategy for road traffic injury prevention; David Sleet, PhD, a contributor to the report, will attend on behalf of CDC.
- **PAHO Campaign Launch, April 7, 2004** The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the WHO Regional Office for the Americas, plans to issue the WHO report on traffic safety and to launch a campaign to reduce deaths and injuries from road crashes throughout the Americas at an event in Washington, DC. Claude Allen and Dr. Cristina Beato will represent Department of Health and Human Resources.
- **Presentation for Health in the Americas Week, April 8, 2004.** Health in the Americas Week kicks off with the observance of World Health Day. The events of the week are dedicated to promoting healthier environments for all children in the Americas and will focus on such topics as alcohol-related injuries, occupational drivers, and pedestrians and the disabled. Dr. Christine Branche will present on CDC's activities in alcohol and transportation safety at an event on April 8.

Information Kit Offers Road Safety Promotion Tools. In addition to activities, CDC has developed a free information kit that offers tools for promoting family road safety and World Health Day in communities across the country. The information kit includes a press release to customize for local media, a fact sheet, a list of prevention resources, and a CD-Rom of photos that model injury prevention techniques. The information kit is available for order or for download. To order, contact the Injury Center at 770-488-1506 or ohcinfo@cdc.com. To download, visit the [Injury Center website](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/whd2004/default.htm). <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/whd2004/default.htm>

***INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC MEDICINE CONFERENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA
FROM 27 - 29 SEPTEMBER 2004 AT CAESARS GAUTENG CONVENTION CENTRE***

Following this announcement, we invite you to visit the official website at www.confssa.co.za/itma2004 for registration, speaker application, media and marketing information.

Abstract submissions and early registration closes on 31 May 2004. Take this opportunity to participate in a highly relevant programme presented by world-renowned faculty.

At www.confssa.co.za/itma2004 you will find an invitation from the Conference Chairperson, Dr Francois Swanepoel, registration forms, abstract submission information, accommodation and travel advisories. Please note that special room rates have been negotiated at the two resident hotels at Caesars Gauteng for delegates. As rooms are limited, you are advised to take timely advantage of this opportunity.

Once registered we will send you information pertaining to conference logistics and social activities.

I look forward to receiving your registration for this exciting event and to meeting you at Caesars Gauteng, South Africa. For any enquiries, do not hesitate to contact me at any of the numbers below.

Sincerely yours

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