

HEPATITIS AFFECTS EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE.

World Hepatitis Day Events In Nova Scotia

Halifax

Free Starbucks Coffee and donuts

July 28 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Halifax North Memorial Public Library,
2285 Gottingen Street, Halifax

Hosted by HepNS

Sydney

Free coffee and sweets

July 28 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Charlotte Street

(next to the London Jewellers), Sydney

Hosted by AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton

Truro

Free Refreshment Hep Awareness Kick-off

July 25 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm

At NACS Office, 33 Pleasant Street

Awareness Raising BBQ

July 28 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Sobeys (Fundy Trail Mall on Robie St) Truro

**KNOW IT.
CONFRONT IT.
PROTECT YOURSELF.**

WORLD HEPATITIS DAY JULY 28: AWARENESS AND AVOIDANCE

World Hepatitis Day is coordinated by the World Hepatitis Alliance a non-governmental organisation that represents hepatitis B and hepatitis C patient groups from around the world.

Shockingly one in 12 people worldwide is living with either chronic hepatitis B or C. While this is far higher than the prevalence of HIV or any cancer, awareness is inexplicably low and the majority of those infected are unaware.

The World Hepatitis Alliance hopes that World Hepatitis Day will prompt people to think about the huge scale of viral hepatitis infection globally, about whether they may be at risk (and if so, to get tested) and also about how to avoid becoming infected. The long-term objective of the campaign is to prevent new infections and to deliver real improvements in health outcomes for people living with hepatitis B and C.

World Hepatitis Day is supported by patient groups across the globe. Together with governments, non-governmental organisations and associations, healthcare professionals, companies and thousands of individuals and patient groups coordinate World Hepatitis Day activities in over 75 countries.

See www.whdcanada.ca

for World Hepatitis Day activities across Canada.



HEPATITIS C IN NOVA SCOTIA: THE NUMBERS

- The fourth most common reportable disease in Nova Scotia – following Chlamydia, influenza and MRSA (Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, a bacterial infection that is highly resistant to some antibiotics).
- 275 Nova Scotians were diagnosed with hepatitis C in 2009, 14 people were diagnosed with HIV during the same period. Canada saw 11,357 new cases of hepatitis C in 2009.
- The eastern area of the province saw an infection rate almost double that of anywhere else in the province.
- Males are twice as likely to acquire HCV than females.
- Hepatitis C often goes undiagnosed for many years as it has few symptoms for the first ten years of infection.
- Over the past ten years, there have been 2,975 new cases of HCV infection reported in the province.
- In 2010, Halifax saw 82 people newly diagnosed with HCV, 298 cases across the province.

This is **hepatitis...**

ABOUT US

HepNS is a charitable organization that reduces the impact of hepatitis through support, information and education.

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Community Connections is a quarterly informative publication of the Hepatitis Outreach Society of Nova Scotia. We welcome your comments and contributions.

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COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP: HepNS AND DIRECTION 180

The Atlantic Interdisciplinary Research Network for Social and Behavioural Issues in Hepatitis C and HIV/AIDS (AIRN) is a network of over 200 individuals and organizations working in the area of HIV and HCV in the Atlantic region.

Two members of AIRN, HepNS and Direction 180, identified a need to provide more prevention and education materials to their client-base, staff and community partners. Direction 180, a low threshold methadone maintenance clinic, identified a need for more prevention and education around Hepatitis C, HIV, and co-infection with their clients. Currently, the clinic does not have the resources to develop education materials as they are operating under a limited budget, with a long wait list for services; staff do not have the time to devote to creating new materials.

AIRN, together with the Hepatitis Outreach Society of Nova Scotia, Direction 180 (with some support from the Canadian AIDS Treatment Information and Exchange) joined forces in the development of a new and innovative workshop guided by clients and staff at Direction 180. The half-day workshop is aimed at preventing new infections, where and how to access services related to HIV and HCV, and supporting those living with HIV, HCV, and co-infection.

AIRN, HepNS and Direction 180 gratefully acknowledge the Halifax Community Health Fund for supporting this new, exciting partnership and project.

Call for Volunteers:

HepNS is looking for someone with a naturopath background to join the Board of Directors and AIRN is looking for someone living with HCV to join its Advisory Committee. If you are interested in either of these volunteer positions, please email Director@HepatitisOutreach.com

Participate in Research: The BC Centre for Disease Control wants to interview people who are living with HCV, to find out why some people delay, defer or interrupt their care. They want to use the knowledge gained to develop resources for both consumers and service providers to encourage a care connection. To find out more call Colin at 902-420-1767, 1-800-521-0572 or email Director@HepatitisOutreach.com There is a \$40 honorarium for participation.

In upcoming issues of Community Connections:

- New Treatments: What are they and what are they supposed to do?
- Caffeine and Hepatitis—A Positive Link?
- HepNS Launch: Know the Risks, Know the Facts in junior high
- Words from a Caregiver

Join Team HepNS for the AIDS Walk for Life: Sunday September 24, 2010.

See www.HepatitisOutreach.com in August details.

Join Contribute Support

- Add your name, address or email address to our mailing list to receive the HepNS Quarterly Community Connections Newsletter.
- Share your story with us and other members through our website, facebook page and newsletter
- Find out how you as an individual, group or company can support the work of HepNS by visiting our Supporters page at www.HepatitisOutreach.com