



# Work against violence saluted

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*AWARDS: Area activists help children be the 'first line of defence' against violence*

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Two people who work with youth on violence and bullying prevention were honoured yesterday for their work.

Katie Cole, an English teacher at Medway high school in Arva, and Leroy Hibbert, a multicultural outreach co-ordinator at LUSO who visits schools in the Thames Valley District school board to talk to students about race relations, gang and bullying prevention, were honoured by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH).

Hibbert's workshops are important to get youth engaged in violence prevention and school safety, said David Wolfe, director of CAMH's Centre for Prevention Science.

"We want them (youth) to be the initiators, the ones that really drive home the message, because they're the ones that are on the scene and can stop bullying by knowing what to do or telling their friends what to do if someone's abusive," he said. "They're the first line of defence."

Guelph-Wellington MPP Liz Sandals, parliamentary assistant to Education Minister Kathleen Wynne, was also honoured for her work on the safe schools action team.

"That action team has been a really important conduit for us in terms of getting education in the schools around safety and violence prevention," Wolfe said.

The award is named after the Fourth R -- a school-based program designed to encourage students, teachers, parents and community members to reduce violence and risk behaviours.

"I'm just a very small part of what the Fourth R does and what the CAMH centre does and I'm very lucky to be part of the whole organization," said Cole, adding she was thrilled when she was told of the award.