



## **SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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#### **Superior-Greenstone DSB Anti-Bullying Awareness Prevention Week**

MARATHON, Ontario – Four of the five people in the following list do not know it, but they are all party to life-changing events in the fifth person's life. The list includes an NHL coach/former hockey player, a distinguished chiropractor, a minister's son, the daughter of a local entrepreneur and a 15-year-old female high school student who suffered a nervous break-down...way back in 1972.

The connection? The first four are a group of well-remembered bullies, the latter now a 56-year-old woman who was their victim. The experience of being bullied changes a person for life, but thankfully, even though the days of that breakdown were bleak and dark, Rose made it through and she did not end her life as sadly, far too many young and even not so young people feel intensely drawn to end the pain of being bullied.

Where is Rose now? She is OK, despite the bullies, she is happily married and has raised four children, all of whom are well-educated and self-supporting. She suffered in silence in 1972 and

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it took a generation for stories similar to hers to make front page news, but the victims do not have to cower anymore because it is now a shared responsibility to stand up to the bullies; talk about it and do something about it.

Superior-Greenstone DSB, as an institution of learning for over 1600 students and more than 350 employees is resolute in its ongoing commitment to promote safer schools, and a positive learning and work environment. This week it joins all of Ontario to acknowledge Bullying Awareness and Prevention week, (November 18-24), and encourages everyone to take an active part in the effort to eliminate this global blight.

Even if you are not personally involved in events that smack of bullying, you can still add your own bold stroke against the problem by visiting the board website at [www.sgdsb.on.ca](http://www.sgdsb.on.ca) to locate the Living the Pledge Campaign banner. The banner is on the home page; just click to make your mark and take the pledge to end bullying.

Living the Pledge, a campaign founded by a 2010 Director's Community Task Force on Anti-Bullying is 82,000 strong and growing. By going into the Living the Pledge site, you can join thousands all over Ontario who seek to raise the public consciousness about bullying – in school, at work and at home. The site contains not just a pledge which you can register; it is also a repository of helpful resources and stories about those bullied and happily, even the chronicles of reformed bullies.

Certainly there may still be times one has to stand alone against a bully, but together, the momentum and the impact we can have is huge. 82,000 pledges and growing is a loud noise and adding your voice to Living the Pledge is one less silent sufferer, leading to more Roses who make it, rather than Amanda Todd's who do not!

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Oh yes, what of the four bullies at the top of this story. One continues his NHL career, the chiropractor has a successful practice and married the entrepreneur's daughter; while the minister's son went to jail for manslaughter. And Rose, well she wrote this story.

The goal of The Pledge campaign is to reach members of the Superior-Greenstone District School Board community with the coordinated and consistent message that bullying is unacceptable in schools and anywhere in our community. Now it is time to Live the Pledge!

The Pledge for Children up to Grade 7: "I believe that everybody has the right to feel safe, included, valued and accepted. I pledge to respect others and to stand up against and report bullying whenever and wherever I see it."

Adults & children in Grade 7 and up: "I believe that everybody has the right to live in a community where they feel safe, included, valued and accepted regardless of differences. I pledge to be respectful of others and stand up against bullying whenever and wherever I see it."