

SPRING 2008

# ON THE **HOMEFRONT**

UNITED IN BREAKING THE CYCLE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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## In the News

HomeFront is pleased to welcome ARC Energy Trust as our Visionary Partner. Furthering their mandate to enhance the quality of life in communities, ARC's generous \$200,000 contribution over four years will provide HomeFront with sustainable funding to continue our work to free communities and their social relationships from domestic violence. "ARC's wellbeing as a corporation is dependent on healthy communities," says John Dielwart, CEO of ARC Energy Trust. "We are committed to sustaining healthy communities by giving back to families in critical situations because ultimately it is individuals of family units that become our employees and inhabit a community."



ARC's generous commitment will help support HomeFront's programs including the Early Intervention/Outreach and Partner Support Programs. HomeFront is honoured to partner with ARC Energy Trust and together, unite in breaking the cycle of domestic violence. HF

## Stop the Tears Gala - Oh What a Night



On Tuesday, September 16, 2008, HomeFront, in collaboration with philanthropists Gord & Eva Hoffman, will bring Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons to the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium for the **HomeFront Stop the Tears Gala**.

Many are familiar with The Four Seasons and their catchy top 40 hits

which span over five decades, but thanks to the current success of the Tony-award winning musical, *Jersey Boys*, (which chronicles the life and times of Frankie and his legendary group) such classic songs as “Oh What a Night,” “Walk Like a Man,” “Rag Doll,” and “Can’t Take My Eyes Off You” are all the rage all over again.

Perhaps one of The Four Seasons’ most memorable songs is “Big Girls Don’t Cry”. The song was written by long-time band member Bob Guido after watching the 1955 movie *Tennessee’s Partner* in which Rhonda Fleming’s character responded to a slap in the face by saying, “Big girls don’t cry.” Those words stuck with Guido.

The song is a segue into the **HomeFront Stop the Tears Gala**; an evening dedicated to breaking the cycle of domestic violence. Thanks to the support of HomeFront’s stakeholders and the corporate community, including

HomeFront’s Visionary Partner, ARC Energy Trust (see story), the gala hopes to raise significant funds for the domestic violence sector, in particular for HomeFront and Jewish Family Service Calgary - but not without some glitz and glamour.

As the evening begins, guests will enter a time warp celebration of the 1950s and 60s Rock ‘n’ Roll era. Adorned with juke boxes, roller girls and 45 rpm records, the Jubilee Auditorium Lobby will roll out the red carpet for those whose contribution and support of the event help to end domestic violence and stop the tears.

The gala includes a sampling of favourite dishes from local restaurants, signature drinks and a silent auction prior to what is anticipated to be a memorable concert. A limited number of tickets are available and can be purchased by contacting Shone Thistle at 206-2100 ext. 221 or online at [www.homefrontcalgary.com](http://www.homefrontcalgary.com). HF

## Teeing up for HomeFront



“Jerry started golfing when he was a teenager” says his wife Terry Selinger. “He wasn’t a serious golfer but enjoyed the social aspect....golfing with friends, family and colleagues.”

Besides swinging his favourite driver, Calgary’s former Chief Crown Prosecutor, Jerry Selinger was deeply interested in issues of social justice. With his positive

energy, integrity and courage, he played a major role in bringing the legal community together to address the issue of domestic violence and support organizations like HomeFront, before his passing in 2000.

Jerry’s passion for change and providing safety for victims of domestic violence is still honoured today by those who gather for the annual **Jerry Selinger HomeFront Invitational**. In its eighth year, HomeFront is gearing up for another successful golf tournament, aiming to increase attendance and reach new fundraising goals.

Join us on **June 17, 2008** at the majestic River Spirit Golf Club, located 25 minutes from downtown Calgary, nestled on the edge of the Rocky Mountains. A post-play banquet featuring both silent and live auctions provides golfers the opportunity to exercise their wallets as well as their backswings. Players will also have the opportunity to play beside local celebrities and “Walk the Range” with a pro prior to tee-off.

**Tournament Fee:** \$275 per person (includes lunch, 18 holes of golf, golf cart and banquet)

**Banquet only:** \$65 per person

Register your foursome online at [www.homefrontcalgary.com](http://www.homefrontcalgary.com) or contact Shone Thistle at 206-2100 x.221 for more information. HF

## Welcome to the Hi-5/10-11 Club



Working together with the Calgary Police Domestic Conflict Unit and the HomeFront Hi-5/10-11 Program, On The HomeFront recognizes the positive and dedicated work of Calgary's frontline officers. The officers are also recognized throughout their departments and districts, with exceptional service receiving the distinguished Star Award from the Calgary Police Service.

To maintain confidentiality, only the district in which the police officer works is noted.

### District 3

Recently, an officer in District 3 attained information that a woman was receiving harassing and threatening phone calls from a jilted suitor who she had stopped seeing over 10 years previously in another province. The officer further learned that another woman was similarly harassed by this man a few years prior.

The officer made extensive inquiries with telecommunications companies to determine where the calls originated and executed a search warrant that revealed the woman had received over 200 harassing calls. The officer utilized the assistance of a police department in another province to locate and arrest the suspect.

A search warrant was obtained and the suspect's home was searched, yielding additional evidence. The suspect was brought to Calgary where the officer interviewed him and obtained a confession. The suspect was charged with criminal harassment against both of the women he harassed over the years.

The DCU and HomeFront would like to recognize the officer's commitment to resolving this case. The officer demonstrated honourable service orientation, analytical thinking and outstanding communication & relationship building skills. Congratulations on a job well done! HF

## Alberta Votes

With the re-election of the Progressive Conservative Party, HomeFront has developed priorities that foster the provincial government's stance to "get tough on crime."

Crime was not considered a major issue during this election (only seven per cent placed crime at the top of concerns among voters\*) however both the Tories and Liberals included the expansion of specialized diversion courts for domestic violence and drug offences within their party platforms. For most voters, the main focus for crime prevention this election centred on an increase in the number of police officers on the streets, responding to the 2006 Statistics Canada report which ranked Alberta among provinces with the fewest officer-to-citizen ratios.

Recognizing both the court expansion and increased number of police as effective measures against crime, Kevin McNichol, HomeFront's Executive Director notes "crime prevention and intervention can really only be effective in the context of a coordinated community response." Based on this mission and initiative, the

following are suggested areas of focus that compliment HomeFront's work and further our collective mandate.

- Improve collaboration among law enforcement, justice and community services in addressing domestic violence.
- Target high risk cases with specialized and intensive law enforcement and supervision practices designed to ensure the safety of the community.
- Continue to find ways to improve the efficiency of the justice process.
- Enhance communication and information sharing between the court systems (family, civil and criminal) to better ensure each court is able to make more fully informed decisions.
- Seek social change in attitudes toward domestic violence and engage all aspects of the community to broaden the issue from a women's issue to a societal issue, in which men in particular, play a substantial

role in preventing violence and abuse.

“By focussing on these priorities, our government and community can achieve tangible results increasing the public’s confidence in the justice system and its ability to address serious social concerns,” says McNichol. By working toward a more cohesive coordinated response to domestic violence, HomeFront believes the results would include a reduction in work loads currently experienced

by justice and justice serving agencies, which in turn would reduce costs, increase social productivity and ultimately create more efficient justice systems.

HomeFront looks forward to working with our government to ensure the issue of domestic violence remains a priority on the public agenda.

\* According to a Leger Marketing poll of 905 Albertans- January 2008 HF

## Grow With Us

HomeFront has a fresh new look as the organization moves toward an ambitious future.

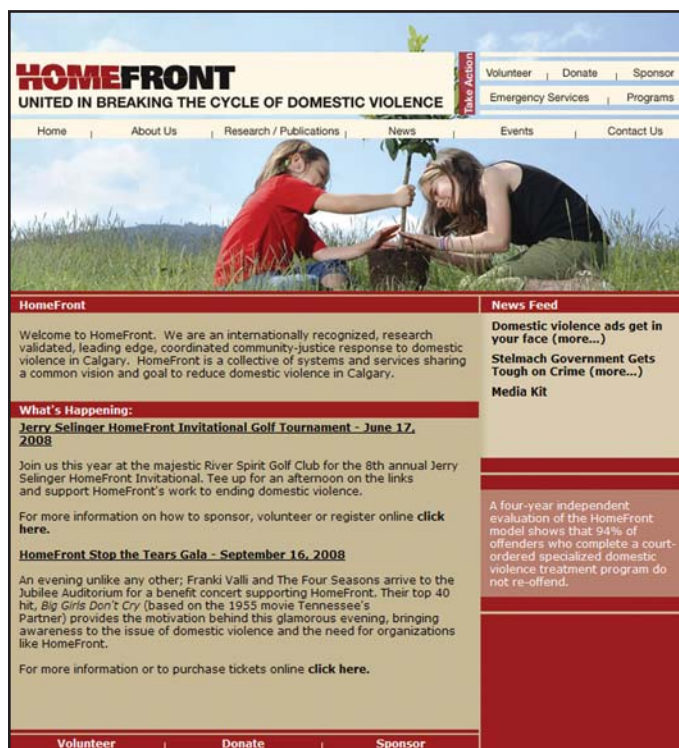
Launched in February, a new, user-friendly and welcoming website provides online visitors with information on domestic violence, listing community resources and publications. The site also provides the opportunity to participate in agency events or make on-line donations to support our work.

Coinciding with the new web design is an update to the logo tagline and all print material reflecting a more hopeful, optimistic HomeFront, and more appropriately acknowledging the collaborative nature of our work and tremendous successes over the past seven years.

“The new tagline, ‘United in Breaking the Cycle of Domestic Violence’ reflects the true nature of Calgary’s collaborative partnerships achieving concrete, significant results in reducing repeat domestic violence offences,” says Fund Development Manager, Isabel Piggott.

Recognizing and continually attracting HomeFront supporters is important to growing the organization. Interactive sponsorship and donation pages were incorporated and add to the natural flow of the website, designed to increase traffic and welcome the public.

Thanks to the efforts of event planner Margie Hope of Punch Event Productions and graphic designer Michell McDougall of Twisted Ink Design & Advertising, the functionality of the website and materials is balanced by calm images depicting the earth being uprooted, nurtured then sown to thrive and grow; a metaphor perhaps for the growth of the organization and those we have supported.



“Michell and I took a hard look at who needed to be drawn to HomeFront’s web site. We wanted to create an atmosphere of comfort and support. We also needed a forum to communicate the very important work HomeFront does with current stakeholders as well as the work they will do with future partners,” says Margie Hope.

HomeFront looks forward to growing as an organization and is excited to reveal a new look that compliments HomeFront’s positive work and dedication to support families through the difficult journey from domestic violence to stable and healthy lives.

Please take a moment to visit the redesigned website at [www.homefrontcalgary.com](http://www.homefrontcalgary.com). HF

HomeFront is funded by Alberta Children’s Services, Alberta Mental Health Board, ARC Energy Trust, The Calgary Foundation, City of Calgary Crime Prevention Investment Plan, Community Incentive Fund, The Prairieaction Foundation, United Way of Calgary and Area and the Victims of Crime Fund