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## **Healthy Relationships program waits for funding**

By Krista Cooney

*Staff reporter*

Teenage relationships are more often than not turbulent. And no wonder, they're just learning about love and sex, and the differences between males and females.

Occasionally, however, these relationships get to be more than turbulent. As society becomes more aware of the fact that instances of date rape, physical and emotional abuse among the young are fairly common, society is realising that they are unnecessary.

The Community Resource Centre of Goulbourn, Kanata and West Carleton recently received \$9,000 from the United Way to develop a Healthy Relationships Program. The program will be used to provide some insight to students about the importance of caring and healthy relationships.

Four main purposes are included in the program. The first helps students recognize the importance of communication and self-esteem in a relationship. The second teaches preventative measures against date rape. It deals with issues such as stereotyping between the sexes.

The third and fourth parts involve developing awareness of the differences between healthy and unhealthy relationships, and the community resources that are available to students.

The Healthy Relationships Program will be taught at the Grade 9 level, and will take place in all six area high schools that the Community Resource Centre services.

The program, although not the first of its kind in the area, is definitely the largest in magnitude that has reached Kanata.

Beginning "sometime in the new year", the Community Resource Centre is "waiting until we have sufficient funding in order to initiate the program", according to Nicki Collins of the Community Resource Centre.

The program was developed to meet the growing need for information and support for students.