

HMS Gardiner Success Story Healthy Air Zones and Zombies Invade Gardiner

Each year costumed Trick or Treaters converge on Gardiner for a downtown event. This year they encountered Zones never before seen. Earlier in the day on behalf of the Gardiner Main Street Wellness Team, Healthy Communities of the Capital Area (HCCA), armed with a 20 foot string, posters and white duct tape, descended upon the unsuspecting city to create gorilla art with a message!

At the entrances to participating businesses the 20 foot string and chalk was used to draw an arc. The white tape spelled out ³Healthy Air Zone² and a poster was placed in the businesses window proclaiming ³20 Feet² and the message ³Public spaces & worksites need 20 feet of smoke-free air from windows, doors & vents. Maine State Law.² During the event HCCA employees and volunteers wandered the goblin filled streets with a clipboard proclaiming ³Ask me about the 20 feet².

It was gratifying to see people honoring the zones and stepping outside the arc line, the thumbs up, smiles and surprised looks when people saw what 20 feet from a doorway/vent is! As the event wound down, staff began removing the tape and posters, with some merchants asking that the poster remain for a while, they thought it a good idea to let people know about the 20 feet!

