

Huron House Boys' Home CHRISTMAS BULLETIN 2007

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A message from the Executive Director . . .

As always, it has been busy at the Boys' Home since our last bulletin. Our annual Run/Walk, held on Father's Day, was a great success! The event's new venue at Mike Weir Park made for a great morning. The boys had a busy, productive summer full of a healthy mixture of fun and work. Good behaviour, completed chores, and positive attitudes have good consequences year-round, and summer is no different.

The boys are well into the new school year, and seem to have settled in. Homework continues to be a nightly activity, with staff supervision and assistance. The boys are continuously encouraged to make use of the resources available to them to help them be successful in school. Again, it reiterates that important connection between good choices and good consequences.

Have you ever wondered if your donations to Huron House are a good use of your money? Be sure to read on page 2 about Huron House's success at being named as a finalist for the **2007 Donner Canadian Foundation Awards for Excellence in the Delivery of Social Services**. Finalists are selected from applicants across Canada, and we are extremely proud and honoured to have been named a finalist for this prestigious award. Achieving this status was a major accomplishment, and recognizes what we've always known to be true.....that Huron House's program *works*, and that the investment in the future of these boys is *important* and *worthwhile*. Equally important to us is that you know what a vital role our donors play in the success of the program, the future of these young men, and in our ability to continue this important work. Without you, this valuable program would be greatly jeopardized.

The Christmas season is a time when we often take stock of all that we have to be grateful for. As I look around the Boys' Home, I am acutely aware of how the boys in our care have benefited from your support, Huron House's program, and the hard work of the staff. We have much to be grateful for - and for that, we say 'thank you'. On behalf of the boys, staff, and board of directors of Huron House, I wish you and your loved ones a very merry Christmas.

With gratitude,
Ken Akers

It's easy to smile when someone cares!



Executive Director, Ken Akers (standing, far left), finalists, and winners at the 2007 Donner Awards' 10th Anniversary Gala held in Toronto on October 19, 2007.



More Success!

Matt is shown on his graduation day. An accomplishment made possible by his hard work and our support. Congratulations!

Huron House Named As Donner Awards Finalist

Huron House Boys' Home was named as a finalist in the Counselling Services category for the **2007 Donner Canadian Foundation Awards for Excellence in the Delivery of Social Services**. From more than 600 applications from non-profit agencies across Canada, twenty-eight agencies were identified as being the best run in the country. Huron House was named as one of four finalists in our category. Participating organizations are ranked on their performance in ten key areas, including management and governance, the use of staff and volunteers, innovations, program cost, and outcome monitoring. The Donner Awards is Canada's largest and most prestigious non-profit recognition program. Winners in each of the nine categories won a \$5,000 award. Though we were not chosen as a winner, being named as a finalist is an honour we are extremely proud of. Recognition such as this reaffirms that Huron House is an excellent investment in the future of the boys we care for. For more information, visit the Donner Award's website at:

www.donnerawards.org

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Staff and boys competed in our annual Run/Walk event in June.

Leaving a Legacy

Huron House is honoured to be the recipient of donations and bequests. We are forever grateful to the late **Dr. Alexander (Alan) Houston** for his desire to leave a legacy by remembering Huron House in his will.

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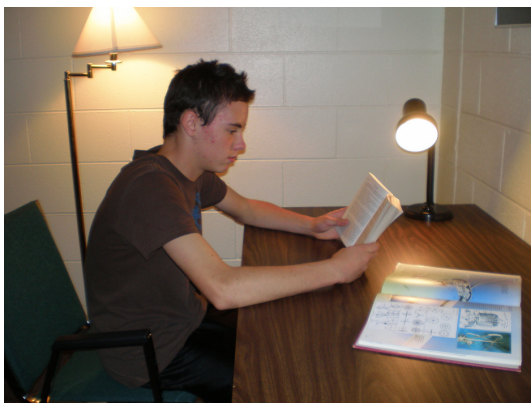
For information on how you can leave a legacy, call 519-381-3776 or visit www.leavealegacy.net.



The boys had great fun on a day trip to Cedar Point to finish out the summer.



The boys always enjoy the annual sailing night hosted by Sarnia Yacht Club.



The boys are now back to school. This means a healthy mixture of work and fun. Homework is mandatory, and boys are encouraged to be physically active, and often participate on school teams.

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FRONTLINE SPOTLIGHT

Each bulletin will spotlight one of our staff.
Our Christmas 2007 Bulletin highlights Mike Fawdry.

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Mike Fawdry Residential Counsellor

Mike has worked at the Boys' Home for 5 years and obtained his Social Service Worker diploma from Lambton College.

Family: Married, with 3 children.

Hobbies: Fishing, hunting, golfing.

Pets: Yellow Lab.

Favourite TV shows: Sports of any kind - basically anything on TSN.

Favourite vacation spot: Camping at Pinery Park.

Favourite comedian: Jerry Seinfeld

We make a living by what we earn; we make a life by what we give.

- Sir Winston Churchill

Since 1970... a Home and Future for Boys

Yes, I would like to make a difference in a boy's life! Please accept my gift to Huron House Boys' Home.

☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other \$ _____ ☐ Visa or MasterCard

Please make cheques payable to: *Huron House Boys' Home*

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