

# Huron House Boys' Home CHRISTMAS BULLETIN 2008

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### *A message from the Executive Director . . .*

Perhaps like your own home, everyone at Huron House has returned to the structure and routine that seems to come with autumn. Although the boys had a good summer, there is something to be said for the challenges and opportunities for success that comes with returning to school. Staff continually provide the guidance and support to help the boys realize that with effort, comes success - that with good choices, come good outcomes.

Speaking of effort creating success, we have much to be proud of! Check out this bulletin for great news about a **former resident's accomplishment**, the **2008 Run/Walk/Skate/Bike**, and the **2008 Donner Canadian Foundation Awards**.

It is important that you know that *our success is your success also*. Without you, this valuable program would be jeopardized. The Christmas season is a perfect time to express our gratitude to you for your ongoing support. You have made a difference in the lives of the boys of Huron House, and for that, we send you a heartfelt 'thank you'. On behalf of the boys, staff, and board of directors, I wish you and your loved ones a very merry Christmas.

With gratitude,  
**Ken Akers**

### Former Resident Wins Award



*Former resident, Aaron, has been awarded the **Norma and Edward Cox Secondary School Volunteer Award**. This award provides a \$4,000 scholarship in recognition of volunteer time with local charitable organizations and non-profit groups. Aaron attends Lambton College. Aaron lived at Huron House for a number of years, and now successfully lives independently. Aaron volunteers because he wants to pay back the community that made a difference in his life, and he finds it very rewarding. Aaron returns to volunteer at Huron House events such as in the above picture at the 2008 Run/Walk.*

**Congratulations, Aaron!**  
**We're proud of you!**

*A hundred years from now, it will not matter what my bank account was,  
the sort of house I lived in, or what kind of car I drove.  
But the world may be different because I was important in the life of a boy.  
- Forest E. Witcraft, from Within My Power*

**It's easy to smile when someone cares!**

### *Huron House Named As Donner Awards Finalist. . . . . Again!*

We are proud to be named as a finalist in the Counselling Services category for the **2008 Donner Canadian Foundation Awards for Excellence in the Delivery of Social Services**. This is the second year we have achieved this honour and recognition. From more than 600 applications from non-profit agencies across Canada, twenty-seven agencies have been identified as being the best run in the country. Huron House was named as one of three finalists in our category. At press time, we do not yet know who the winners are. Winners will be announced at the Donner Awards' Celebration Event in Toronto on November 19th. Visit our website at [www.hhbh.ca](http://www.hhbh.ca) for the final outcome.

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 win a \$5,000 award. Regardless whether we win, 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](http://www.donnerawards.org)



*Boys and staff relax after the run.*



*The new tech shirts were a hit with runners!*



Former resident, Jeremy, stopped in for a visit. He and his former primary worker, Jim Scherer, had a great time catching up with each other. Jeremy was discharged more than 5 years ago and now lives in New Brunswick, and attends college to become a Child and Youth Worker. He has matured into a responsible young adult, and credits the guidance, structure, and support he received from the staff of Huron House with helping him become the man he is today.

### **2008 Run/Walk/Skate/Bike**

Generous sponsors, perfect weather, and improvements made this annual Father's Day event another great success in 2008! Lambton Financial Credit Union not only was our title sponsor, but put out the High School Challenge which was a huge success at raising pledge money.

**Did you know?** We have posted hundreds of Run/Walk photos online at [www.hhbh.ca](http://www.hhbh.ca). Follow the link to this year's Run/Walk results, and click on '**Look for your picture**'.

There is a literal army of people that work to make this event happen - including all Huron House staff, the boys, and hundreds of volunteers. Thanks to every one of you - we simply could not do it without you!

**It's easy to smile when someone cares!**





*We try to give the boys some memorable experiences each summer. For some boys, this may be the only vacation experience of their youth, so we encourage the good behaviour that warrants a trip. This year, staff took smaller groups of boys on a few day trips or short vacations. Left: Huron House boys and staff at a Blue Jays game in Toronto. The group also enjoyed a stop at Playdium's giant indoor game centre in Mississauga. Right: Warton Willy welcomed four of the boys who were taken camping by staff Andrew and Dan (not shown). Although the weather could have been better, they still enjoyed campfires, fishing, and a boat cruise in Owen Sound.*



*Olympic Day is our annual end of summer fun organized by our summer students. Sample events were the Boys' Home 500 with go-cart laps of the building, water balloon toss (shown above), and a blindfolded, hands-free search for gummy worms in a huge bowl of chocolate pudding. Somehow, the more mess involved, the more fun everyone has. Many thanks to our summer students, Aron and Colin, for their great work with this Huron House tradition!*

### ***Leaving a Legacy***

***For information on how you can leave a legacy, call: 519-381-3776, or visit: [www.leavealegacy.net](http://www.leavealegacy.net)***

### **Chores! Chores! Chores!**

No matter what season it is, the boys are never far from some sort of outdoor tool! Winter brings out the snow shovels. (*Have you seen how long our driveway is?*) Summer means the lawn mowers are going non-stop. (*With 12 acres, there's always grass to cut!*) Spring and fall sees lots of rakes. (*Beautiful, mature trees create lots of work.*) Here, Tyler is making quick work of raking the leaves on the front lawn.



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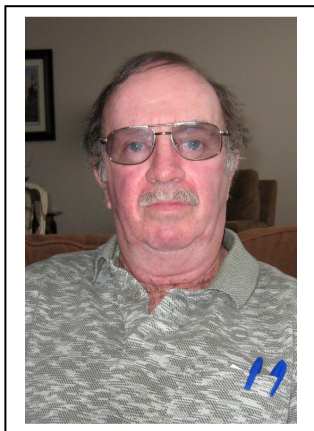
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## FRONTLINE SPOTLIGHT

### Wayne Small - Residential Counsellor

Wayne reached a milestone this year - he has worked at Huron House for 25 years! He's seen many changes, but one thing remains constant: his belief that every boy deserves a chance to make his life better.

Wayne has a B.A. in Political Science and History from Brown University, and a Master's in Chinese Communist Studies and International Affairs from Carleton University. Quite the hockey player, he has even scored on Ken Dryden in university. Wayne then played professional hockey for 10 years in Switzerland with the ZSC hockey team.

His fondest Huron House memory is the very first camping trip, on which he was the cook. Wayne is also very involved with the Run/Walk/Skate/Bike.

He and his wife have a son who is in his first year of university. In his spare time, Wayne works at Bean'Stock, and enjoys surfing the web.

**New Online Donations!** You can now make donations online at our website, [www.hhbh.ca](http://www.hhbh.ca). Just click on 'Donate' and you will be re-directed to our donation page where you can make your *secure payment with a credit card*.

Since 1970... a Home and Future for Boys

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