



Huron House Boys' Home SPRING BULLETIN 2010

Huron House Boys' Home, 2473 Lakeshore Rd, P.O. Box 260, Bright's Grove, ON N0N 1C0
Phone (519) 869-4000 Fax: (519) 869-6999 E-mail: info@hhbh.ca Website: www.hhbh.ca



Making a Difference, One Boy at a Time

Featuring Boys' Home Alumni

As a young boy I was adopted into a great home with two parents and thirteen children, but for some reason I was an angry child. Somehow having a birth mother who was unable to care for me haunted my whole childhood, making me wonder what was wrong with me. During my teenage years I found myself getting into real trouble – breaking down doors, getting into violent conflicts, and unable to control my anger. After I turned 16 I finally ended up at Huron House.

I was at Huron House for only a year, but that year actually changed the trajectory of my life. I got involved with the other boys in cutting grass, raking leaves and earning money, and I developed a lasting friendship with one of the greatest friends of Huron House, Dr. James Mackenzie.

Huron House had strict rules that expected boys to become responsible people in a world that has real consequences. I soon learned that boys who swore got fined

\$1, \$2 or \$5 depending on the language. I watched as guys ran away when they got themselves into difficult situations, and when they came back were limited in the amount of privileges they had. This taught me pretty quickly to control myself and I was soon living in the upstairs apartments with three or four other guys, away from the general population of the house – a gift granted to those who played by the rules.

In 2006 I received a B.A. from the University of Waterloo, and this May I will graduate from Victoria University at the University of Toronto with a Master of Divinity. I will be ordained a minister of the United Church of Canada on May 29. I am proud that I will become a colleague to Rev. Liz Mackenzie, Dr. Jim Mackenzie's daughter. Without the discipline at Huron House, without Jim Mackenzie, without being a part of the HHHB run team, I do not think the trajectory of my life would have led me down a path toward hope. Thanks Jim. Thanks Huron House.

Adam James Kilner

A Message from the Executive Director

2010 is a huge milestone for Huron House Boys' Home and this community. It marks our 40th anniversary supporting the youth and families of Sarnia-Lambton. During this time more than 1,000 boys have come through our doors and have now become strong, healthy, successful members of society. Much of what we focus on at the Boys' Home includes a strong work ethic, a solid educational background, giving back to the community, and supportive counselling. In a recent survey, we found that more than 85% of the boys we helped have graduated from college, university or an apprenticeship program. Ninety-five per cent stated the problems they had as a youth had improved significantly or no longer exist. Seventy-one per cent were married with children while 100% of the respondents stated that they now had significant relationships in their lives including strong relationships with their parents or siblings. What's more striking is that 60% stated that they continue to volunteer in their home communities. Finally, 92% stated that they now look at their time at the Boys' Home as being positive with only 8% claiming it was fair.

I think it is fair to say that although we may not claim there is a direct relationship between being at the Boys' Home and their success as an adult, we do believe we did play a significant role in the values they now have.

We are proud of all the achievements these men have accomplished over the years and congratulate people like Adam for achieving their dreams.

Ken Akers

It's easy to smile when someone cares!



A Gift of Opportunity

Dave Burrows wanted to do something special to celebrate his 40th birthday, so he had a party. Friends and guests each paid \$10 to join him on a Duc D'Orleans cruise for karaoke and camaraderie. In the spirit of goodwill and appreciation for the fine work Huron House does, and knowing what it's like to be a kid, Dave used the proceeds of the party to purchase rock climbing passes for the boys at Huron House.

Huron House youth and staff appreciate the donations of many of our supporters who provide event tickets and activity passes which allow our boys to enjoy recreational activities in the community.



Dan Butts of Rock to the Top, Dave Burrows, and Andrew Thomas of Huron House Boys' Home



Olympic Torch Comes to the Boys' Home

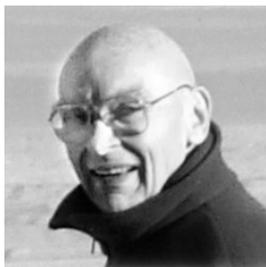
The recent Olympic Winter Games brought Canadians together like never before; touching ordinary citizens before it even began with the Olympic Torch being passed hand to hand across the country. It passed through Sarnia in December with philanthropist Norma Cox selected as one of the local torchbearers. Norma once again showed her thoughtfulness and generosity as she made a stop at Huron House shortly after the Games to include our youth in this memorable occasion.

They're Back!

The *Men Who Cook* came back with a bang! They had zest! They had zeal! They had pizzazz! They had an array of delectable dishes to please any palate. Forty-eight of them, leaders in their fields and supporters of the Boys' Home, cooked up cuisine fit for royalty and entertained with class. Amid a festive atmosphere, beautiful décor and stunning floral arrangements guests dined, donated, danced and bid on excellent auction items, generating over \$25,000 in support of Huron House.

Newly recruited cook Jason Harris took home top honour with the "People's Choice" award for his Braided Salmon Plank. Runners up were Marty Raaymakers with Ginger Coconut Wonton Soup, and Reg Raes with Seafood Boats. To see these top three recipes as well as photos of the event, visit our website www.hhbh.ca and follow the fundraising link.

The buzz has already begun. *Men Who Cook* will be back on March 5, 2011 and is the new 'do not miss' event. Plan to attend!



Dr. James Mackenzie
1930 - 2009

Remembering a Friend

I came to know Dr. Mackenzie when I began cutting his grass through Huron House. I always liked cutting Dr. Mackenzie's lawn because he had a riding mower. Pretty soon he believed I was a good enough worker and we began tearing down a shed on his property and doing other maintenance. Then we began to build a new summer house where the shed had been. When I left Huron House I continued to work for Dr. Mackenzie and 10 years after we began building that summer house, it just had the electrical to be put into it when I received word that my great friend Jim had died. I was heartbroken and began to reflect on the meaning of my friendship with Jim. He was a retired surgeon and I am a preacher-in-training.

Though it's said that Jesus was a carpenter, both Jim and I were not very good at carpentry – just tell me, who takes 10 years to put up a shed-sized summer house? I think the building of this summer house wasn't really about the summer house. I miss you Jim.

Adam Kilner

It's easy to smile when someone cares!



**The Annual *Father's Day Run/Walk/Skate/Bike* is a June Highlight
Be there Sunday, June 20!**



Participants loved the early start time last year. So once again cyclists will start at 8:30 am, skaters at 8:33 am, Runners at 8:41 am and walkers at 8:44 am.

Online registration and pledge forms are available at www.runningroom.com.

PDF registration and pledge forms can be downloaded from www.hhbh.ca



Registration and pledge brochures are available throughout Sarnia.

- Join this excellent annual event:**
- ...Be a participant**
- ...Sponsor a participant**
- ...Be a volunteer**



Celebrating 40 Years on August 13 and 14

For forty years this community has generously supported Huron House Boys' Home. Boys have grown into men and have had children of their own. Our community has seen the difference a good home makes as many alumni have gone on to become teachers, tradesmen, elite athletes, chefs, law enforcement personnel, volunteers, family men and productive members of society. Many have shared stories of the difference Huron House made as they were diverted from a path of destructiveness to one of responsibility.

This August we will open our doors to the community for tours of our home. Supporters, alumni, former staff, volunteers and Board Members, and those curious to know more are invited to visit. Please join us:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Friday, August 13 | 1:00—3:00 open house and tours
2:00 cake ceremony |
| Saturday, August 14 | 12:00—2:00 open house, tours and barbeque
2:00—3:00 alumni activities |

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FRONTLINE SPOTLIGHT

Featuring Boys' Home Staff



Chad Williams

Chad has worked at Huron House Boys' Home since 1999, the same year his son was born and placed in the Stanley Cup that visited the Boys' Home with Pat Verbeek of the Dallas Stars. Three years later, in 2002, his million dollar family was complete with the birth of his daughter. He now plans on working at Huron House for another 50 years to pay for them!

A graduate of Fanshawe College in 1993, his journey has included working with troubled

youth for more than 17 years, and having numerous unique opportunities to bond with the boys at Huron House. As a Residential Counsellor his favourite memories include camping trips, white water rafting, running team road trips to Ann Arbor, and the several amusement park roller coaster screams.

It's easy to smile when someone cares, and easier to smile when a boy returns 10 years later as a man to say thanks!

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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 \$ _____

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

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