



Huron House Boys' Home CHRISTMAS 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



Debbie and Ed Francoeur

Visiting Huron House Boys' Home for its 40th Anniversary brought back a flood of memories. It also gave me a chance to meet up with friends from long ago, a chance to see impressive changes, and a chance to meet some current residents. It was a day to remember.

It brought back memories of how I came to live at Huron House: friction with my parents put me wherever I could hang my hat and sometimes that was on the street. Appendicitis put me in the

hospital, but when I got better, home life was not right for me. Fortunately my parents listened to advice from their friends. Sending me to Huron House was the best thing they ever did for me. Apart from food, shelter, structure and stability, there was support and genuine compassion. It was a place where I made real friends and I met people who influenced my life.

Living at Huron House Boys' Home wasn't always easy: Sometimes we got teased at school, staff were very strict, and we didn't always understand or agree with the way things were done. Time proved it was the best place. Unlike my sister and three brothers, who have lived very unsettled lives, I've enjoyed a full life. I had a career as a registered nurse with the Armed Forces, a happy family life for the past 26 years, five beautiful children, and I don't owe anything on my home, my cars or my boat. I play hockey as a goalie regularly, I belong to the local Legion, and since retiring after a heart attack, I'm a handy man when I'm needed. And even though they weren't there for me, and for years I wouldn't even talk to them, I visit and help my parents out in any way that I can.

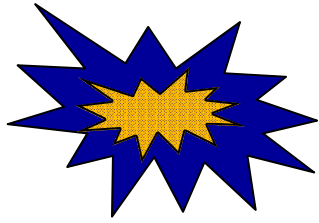
I see that some things have changed a lot at the Boys' Home. The old orange and brown wooden sign at the front entrance I helped build is long gone. So is my bedroom - Room 5. I was there before there were tennis courts, golf holes, or a ball diamond. In my day, we washed the dishes in the kitchen by hand, our beds were made to perfection daily and the upstairs apartment wasn't there. The ever-popular tuck shop is gone; replaced by a laundry room.

I also see that some things haven't changed - the boys, for example. They still need the care and compassion that has been a trademark from the beginning, and they still get it. They still have food, shelter, structure and stability. They're still learning a work ethic and taking responsibility for their actions. And I think just like me, they aren't always happy with, and don't always understand the reasons for, the way things are done. I told them "Stick it out. You'll be glad you did and will understand when you're older."

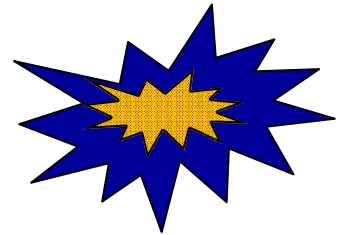
Huron House is still helping boys find a better path in life and I hope it will be there for boys for another 40 years. I'll be back for every open house as long as I am able. Thank you Huron House.

Ed Francoeur

It's easy to smile when someone cares!



SUCCESS at HH!



In connecting with past residents from the previous 40 years we found a lot of success stories and a lot of traits that identify us as having a major role in their success. Men are now living from Vancouver to Brookfield, Nova Scotia, and from the Yukon to Texas – literally across this great continent.

At the time of admission, many residents feel isolated from their family, have few or no significant positive relationships in their lives, or feel disconnected from their school, community and feel alone in the world.

Today this is what our alumni say...

57% have volunteered or continue to volunteer in their home community.

82% are either working or attending school.

84% have graduated from college, university or an apprenticeship program.

92% had a positive experience at Huron House Boys' Home; only 8% said their experience was fair, and no one said their experience was poor or negative.

95% state that the problems they had as a youth have either improved or no longer exist. Only 5% state their problems are ongoing, and no one stated their problems have gotten worse.

100% now have significant relationships in their lives; 71% were married or with a partner, 59% had children, and 59% have a strong relationship with their parents or siblings.

The reasons for admission to Huron House Boys' Home over the years appear to be very similar to the reasons boys are admitted today. The one exception to this is that almost all boys today have one or more significant mental health problems that have been diagnosed in addition to the behavioural, academic, aggressive or legal problems.

With this information at hand, we can begin to answer some basic questions. Although we cannot make a direct correlation between living at the Boys' Home and the person's success today, from their comments we can state with some assurance that Huron House Boys' Home played a significant role in helping young boys become responsible men, husbands and fathers in our community.

Ken Akers, Executive Director

**Help us to continue this great history by donating today!
Mail in the donor card or visit www.hhbh.ca and donate using our
secure online service. All donations receive a tax receipt.**

It's easy to smile when someone cares!

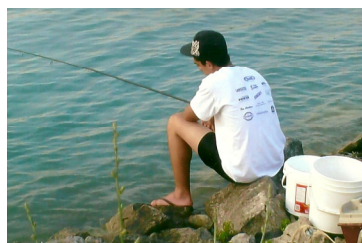


Spring and summer flew by this year at Huron House! In April the boys and staff joined up with the Golden K Kiwanis, the Retired Teachers Association, and other volunteers to fill and distribute more than 7,600 bags of compost blend soil at DeGroot's Nurseries. If anyone had suggested we could manually move 22 tons of soil, we would not have believed it. The labour involved was equalled only by the sense of accomplishment at the end of the project. Thanks to DeGroot's for the opportunity and to the community which showed its support with over \$15,000 in donations. Will we do it again? You bet we will!



In August we celebrated our 40th anniversary with an open house. Photos and memorabilia of the years were displayed for the many visitors who attended. Former residents, former staff, supporters, and curious community members came from far and near. Former residents in particular seemed to appreciate the opportunity to visit and see friends, and see the changes. We were honoured to have past residents come all the way from British Columbia and Alberta.

Along with chores and responsibilities, summers at Huron House include more light-hearted activities such as Corvette Day, Olympics Day, and quiet moments fishing.



Mark Your Calendars!

- **Men Who Cook, March 5, 2011** - this memorable event will be back, this year at the Lambton Inn.
- **Run/Walk/Skate/Bike, June 19, 2011** - our 25th annual, this year featuring a new 5k fun run.

It's easy to smile when someone cares!



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

FRONTLINE SPOTLIGHT

Featuring Boys' Home Staff



Since 1987, boys, staff, and visitors to Huron House Boys' Home have been greeted by Liz McAlpine. After 23 years of a job well done, Liz retired in August. As Administrative Assistant, Liz was often the 'hub' of the organization. If you needed to know something, find something, or have something done, Liz was the person to see. In addition to keeping the multitude of files organized, handling phones, doing reports, and ensuring Ministry requirements were met, Liz was also a key person on the Run/Walk/Skate/Bike organizing committee.

During her years at Huron House, she has seen many boys come through the front doors. She always enjoyed when a former resident would come back to visit as a young man with a bright and promising future before him. She has also worked with many employees through the years, and knows first-hand the commitment staff have to the boys residing at Huron House.

In her spare time, Liz enjoys getting together with friends, reading, boating, and a little golf. With more free time, she looks forward to opportunities to go flying with her husband, Jim, in his Piper Cub plane rather than just wave at him as he flies over the Boys' Home or the Run/Walk. Retirement will be filled with travel, spending time with family, and at the cottage on Gibson Lake.

Foundation Board of Directors

Carole Willis-Jackson, *President*
Don Cook, *Vice-President*
Vacant, *Treasurer*
Mike Raes, *Member-at-Large*
Jim Foubister, *Board Liaison*
Brian McKay, *Member-at-large*
Ken Akers, *Executive Director*

Operating Board of Directors

Bert Phills, *President*
Vic Dudek, *Vice-President*
Ron Van Dam, *Treasurer*
Hsiu-Yan Chan, *Secretary*

Members-at-Large

Jim Crawford
Helen Lane
Jim Foubister
Darryl Germain
Joe Pagano
Marion Watt
Vacant
Vacant
Ken Akers, *Executive Director*

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**

Name: _____ Address: _____

City, Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____ Phone #: _____

For credit card payment, please complete the following: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Cardholder name: _____ Signature: _____

Card #: _____ Expires: _____

Today's Date: _____

To receive our bulletin by e-mail rather than regular mail, please e-mail

Sharon at scrowe@hhbh.ca.

☐ Please send me information on giving through a bequest, life insurance, or stock.



Remember, you can make donations online at www.hhbh.ca. Just click on "Donate" and you will be re-directed to our secure donation page.

It's easy to smile when someone cares!