



Huron House Boys' Home SPRING BULLETIN 2012

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Making a Difference One Boy at a Time

Featuring Boys' Home Alumni

Tom Bullock has come a long way since he sold corn door-to-door with his siblings and hid the money from his mom so it could be used for food instead of alcohol. One might think having life experiences like that, or being stricken with MS, or holding his wife as she died in his arms, might create some bitterness. But it didn't. Talking with Tom is like absorbing a lifetime dose of optimism. The bad things that happened have been powerful reality checks, but it's the good things and good people who have helped him along the way that inspire him. Thankfulness is the feeling he exudes.

He's thankful for all his life lessons, his good fortune in relationships, employment opportunities and the opportunities he has had to help others through his volunteer work with the Knights of Columbus, and as the longest serving Board member for the local food bank where he lives in Brampton.

And where does his experience at Huron House Boys' Home fit into his life history? The memories came pouring out like they were days ago instead of years ago. He remembers enthusiastically the camping trips, the counsellors (by name!), rafting on the Ottawa River, outings to ball games and movies. Actually, he hated it here at the time, but he wasn't far into college when he appreciated the values he had absorbed, and he carries them with him still. Maybe that's the real reason he has good fortune in relationships, employment, and opportunities. But he thinks the thing that made the greatest difference of all at Huron House was learning to read. Counsellors took time to work with him one on one, strengthen ability, and transform it from a fear into a pleasure.

Clearly the Boys' Home was a turning point. While here his physical abilities were encouraged through sports, where he excelled; his academic performance was encouraged and improved; and his self-worth, work ethic, and life philosophy took root. He even earned a good citizenship award while living at Huron House. Tom states openly, "Things started out rough. There were ruts in the road. But we broke the cycle. We're better people for it, and it had a lot to do with the Boys' Home".

A Message from the Executive Director

These are very difficult social and economic times we live in! Just as families can feel the pressure and stresses in their home, so do we at the Boys' Home. Like other families, we tighten our belts to meet the needs of our family. One area that we have become increasingly aware of the need for has been supports for the older youth in our care. To meet this need, we are launching a new program. The Transition Age Independent Living Program is geared to those older youth who will soon be moving out on their own. This can be both an exciting and a terrifying time for the boys. They need to learn a variety of life and social skills that will help them cope successfully with this transition and journey to independent adulthood. We are excited to be able to offer this kind of specialized support to our boys. Without the continual support we receive from our donors, volunteers, and community, we would not be able to provide this level of support to the youth in our care. Thank you for supporting the boys of Huron House! I hope you enjoy reading our bulletin.

Ken Akers

It's easy to smile when someone cares!



The Penny Project



One penny doesn't go a long way, but imagine what we could do with one million pennies! Help us reach this goal.

Wondering what you're going to do with all those pennies on your dresser or in those jars now that the government has stopped minting them? Why not pack them up and drop them off at the Boys' Home as a donation? We'll even count and roll them for you. AND, best of all, you will get a tax receipt for any amount over \$20.00. What a great idea!

***Men Who Cook*—Great Again!**



Once again *Men Who Cook* was an outstanding success. From the excellent auction items donated by supporters of all kinds, beautiful floral arrangements by Bill Bush to the dessert parade featuring Fancy Tarts The Pie Shop, and the very popular Freeze Frame Photo Booth, to the excellent cuisine of community leaders, our animated auctioneer John VanKlaveren, and music by JAGA, the night was non-stop pleasure. Even the volunteers had fun!



In keeping with a tradition of excellence, there was a wide variety of dishes and creative presentations. Competition for "People's Choice Award" was fun, and in the end everyone was a winner. Voting by highly competitive and enthusiastically biased guests resulted in two new recruits and a long-time participant on the pedestal of honour. Congratulations to winner Don Smith (Curried Chicken Quinoa Soup with Corn Bread), and runners up Bob Jackson (Scalloped Mushrooms) and John Ruffilli (Gyro

Sliders with Tzatziki Sauce). For links to winning recipes and photos from the evening, go to our website, www.hhbh.ca.

Thanks to our great cooks and to all who made it possible.



It's easy to smile when someone cares!



Father's Day Run/Walk/Skate/Bike News: The 5k fun run was a hit!

The 5k fun run was very popular! Thanks for letting us know what you wanted; keep it up and we will continue to respond.

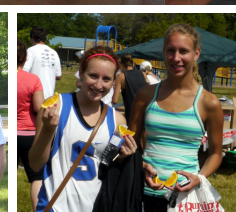
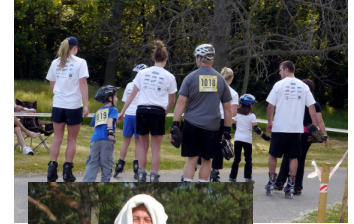
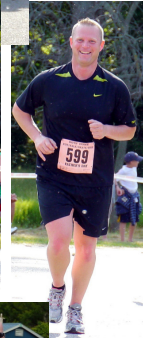
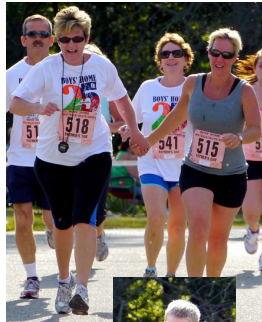
New this year are easy-to-read route signs made possible by community minded participants and supporters. We think you're going to love them!

Registration has begun with online registration on the www.runningroom.com website. Forms can be downloaded through the www.hhbh.ca website, and newly designed brochures are being distributed in the community.

Remember to submit pledges totaling \$150 or more to be eligible to win the grand prize, a trip by Via Rail to Best Western Centre-Ville Quebec City. As our major fundraising initiative for 26 years, we count on and appreciate your support.

A great event for:
...families
...competitors
...recreational athletes
...friends
...**EVERYONE**

**Join us on Sunday
June 17, 8 a.m.
Mike Weir Park**



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FRONTLINE SPOTLIGHT

Featuring Boys' Home Staff—Brian Clarke



When Brian was growing up he was the only kid on the street who would play with the boy with severe exceptionalities who lived next to his grandmother. With that image in mind it's not surprising that he chose Child and Youth Worker as a career. "I guess you could say it's in my blood to try and help others. It makes me feel good inside."

Huron House Boys' Home was first a college placement, then a summer contract, and for the past 15 years the place where he has been assisting boys with the difficulties they encounter as youth. It's a very difficult time of life for them, and Brian likes to

pass on what he has learned through his experiences.

His job as Residential Counsellor has both challenges and rewards. He dwells on the latter. "It's great when you can give a resident who is leaving our program a hug and a hand shake, and wish them well knowing that you have done the best you can to get them ready for the rest of their lives."

Away from work Brian spends lots of quality time with his younger son and daughter, particularly camping, swimming and 'anything outdoors'; and enjoys whatever time he can get with his eldest son who is studying music in college.

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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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