



# Huron House Boys' Home CHRISTMAS BULLETIN 2015

Huron House Boys' Home, 2473 Lakeshore Rd, P.O. Box 260, Bright's Grove, ON N0N 1C0



## Making a Difference One Boy at a Time

A first impression of Eric is of a poised, well groomed young man in an attractive black on black outfit complete with vest and tie. Multiple face piercings are a bit of a surprise.

A conversation with him reveals that he is bright, articulate, focused and clear about priorities and values. He is motivated, and on the cusp of the next level of self-fulfillment. He's the proud father of a six-year old son who he is raising in a stable home with his girlfriend of eight years. It seems ideal. It makes one wonder how time at Huron House fit into his history. Clearly his life journey has not been straightforward.

Eric remembers struggling in elementary school and being a bullied misfit in grade nine. He had hoped things would improve in high school. When they didn't he reacted by refusing to take the prescription medications that were intended to curtail his problematic behaviour. He thinks years on those medications stifled his natural creativity and general responsiveness, including his ability to learn how to effectively manage adversity. When he stopped

taking the medications his negative behavior escalated. His parents looked for help, and found the Boys' Home.

Huron House, Eric recognizes in hindsight, was a good place. The other boys became like brothers to him. He remembers playing outdoors and having snowball fights, the way boys do. Some of his Huron House companions are still his friends. He praises the counsellors who helped guide him during those pivotal early high school years. Most significantly, it was at Huron House that he learned to take responsibility for his actions. It was then, when he stopped blaming others for his circumstances, that things really improved.

The pain caused by the unkindness and critical reactions of others ended up helping Eric crystallize what was important to him. Ultimately he embraced his personal identity and came to disregard popular trends. The strength of character he developed is an asset now. He has strong bonds with family and friends. He has the confidence to seek and accept parenting help for his own boy when needed. He knows he has valuable talents, and is building his reputation as he moves towards a career in art. He's excited and confident about the future, carrying with him the valuable experiences of Huron House.



## Message from the Executive Director

### **Huron House Boys' Home brings value to the Sarnia/Lambton Community!**

Over the past 45 years we have provided more than 750 years of individual care to more than 1100 boys, including many with multiple significant challenges, often including mental health issues. We are successful in helping boys grow to become well adjusted young men. We help them become productive members of society, and **we care for them**. We help graduates pursue post-secondary education and get jobs. We teach our boys to "give back" to the community.

This year assistance from our awesome supporters enabled us to develop a Music Program, an Art Program (not every young man is interested in sports) and we were able to upgrade computers for the boys. We are also grateful to the many friends and neighbours who dropped in with other generous donations.

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

Happy Holidays, Don Adam



Adrenaline Trail and Jr. Adrenaline Trail were hits at Run/Walk/Skate/Bike 2015



More great photos on flickr.com/photos/27733860@N06/

Once again this community demonstrated its support at our annual Father's Day event in June. Competitors and families return year after year for both traditional and new activities. We're excited about plans for adding 20k and 40k bike routes in 2016, and hope you will join us.



Golf Tournament

Golf is a good thing! Participants at the Quality Control Council of Canada 5th annual tournament in July enjoyed fun and camaraderie at the Camlachie Golf Club. They even had a ceremonial green jacket! Funds raised at the tournament are used specifically for the boys, as directed by event organizer Mike Blondin.



Open House

Visitors were enthusiastic and engaged at the Open House in October, celebrating our 45 years serving Sarnia-Lambton.

Friends, neighbours, past residents, educators, social service workers and donors all learned more about the Boys' Home. They viewed historical displays, and gained an increased understanding of how the community supports the Boys' Home and how we contribute to the community.

The Chrapko family donated the land now owned by the Boys' Home

Residents showed their pride and their interpersonal skills as they took guests on tours.

It's easy to smile when someone cares!



**Day of Caring**

In one very busy day this fall, employees from Imperial Oil, Suncor and OLG repainted walls in our bedrooms and corridors as part of the United Way Day of Caring. Thanks to the great volunteers for demonstrating the principles we teach: work ethic, caring, and contributing to the community. Thanks also to Dulux Paints for subsidizing the cost of paint.



**This Christmas  
Give the gift of  
Run/Walk/Skate/Bike!**

Get a head start on Father's Day family fun and fitness by taking advantage of early registration discounts for our 30th annual event, June 19, 2016. For early bird rates or to give registration as a gift, visit our online registration partner at [raceroster.com/6966](http://raceroster.com/6966).



**Men Who Cook Coming Up!**

**Saturday, February 27, 2016  
at the Dante Club**

Mark your calendars, and plan to be part of this excellent evening, where 40 local men of influence will impress you with their culinary talents. You'll also enjoy entertainment and good company. Tickets are \$85 and will be available at the Boys' Home in January.

**Huron House Boys' Home**

Accredited by Children's Mental Health Ontario

Remember the challenges, changes, influences and struggles that come with adolescence? The angst, the heightened emotion and the lack of experience needed to put things in perspective? Imagine adding a mental illness like depression, ADHD, schizophrenia, anxiety disorder or bipolar disorder to the mix!

Mental health is hard for adults to deal with, and even harder for children.

Huron House recognizes the need to play a role in helping teenage boys with mental health issues. We have been an accredited children's mental health treatment facility since 2010.

As a mental health facility our Social Worker, Psychologist, and front line staff have skills for counselling, recognizing, and responding appropriately to behavior influenced by factors beyond the control of a struggling teen.

**Children's Mental Health Matters**

Children's Mental Health Ontario tells us:

- One out of every five youth under 19 struggles with a diagnosable emotional, mental or behavioural disorder.
- Early intervention is critical to providing a hopeful and healthy future for children
- The onset of most mental illnesses occurs before the age of 18.
- Left undiagnosed and untreated, children often suffer needlessly and become a stress on their families, schools, other children and the community.
- Children in distress can turn to drugs, alcohol, become suicidal, drop out of school, become violent, or withdraw into silence and isolation.

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



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SUPPORT STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Featuring Boys' Home Staff - Marlon Lane



At Huron House Boys' Home a cook is more than a cook. With her kind heart and natural capacity for relationship building Marlon Lane finds herself providing nurturing to fragile egos and confused minds as well as to growing bodies.

With more than 28 years of making meals for boys, and listening, she loves to learn how former residents are doing in the wider world. It's gratifying when a boy comes back as a man and gives her a hug and a thanks.

Marlon has served with three Executive Directors, each with their own style and vision, and has watched many of the front line staff grow and develop too. It's the evolution of the Boys' Home, and a keen desire to be a part of the continuing success that keeps her motivated.

Marlon is also proud of her family (dad, husband, two kids, five grandchildren, two great grandchildren and a dog) as well as her volunteer work at Sumac Lodge and with Boxer Rescue.

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\*All donations are collected by the Huron House Boys' Home Foundation and provided to Youth Services of Lambton County (of a Huron House Boys' Home) as needs are approved.

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 Foundation\*

- \$50 \$75 \$100 \$250 Other \$

Please make cheque payable to: Huron House Boys' Home

Name: Address:

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To receive our bulletin by e-mail rather than regular mail, please e-mail Sharon at scrowe@hhbh.ca.



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