



Huron House Boys' Home CHRISTMAS BULLETIN 2016

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Making a Difference One Boy at a Time

How does a youth who is in trouble with the law, was expelled from school, has a drinking problem, and is prone to fighting, become an upstanding citizen with his own successful business and a loving family? In the case of Don Campbell, it was by learning life's lessons the hard way, some guidance from the Boys' Home, and one special woman.

Don's company, Total Driveway Maintenance, was recently awarded the contract to repair the driveway and parking lots here at the Boys' Home, and we discovered that Don is a Boys' Home alumnus. We knew we had to share with you some of the things Don learned on his journey:

- ◆ Stealing, fighting, loud cursing, drinking, and belligerence will get you alienated from your family and expelled from school. Breaking and entering with friends who leave you to be caught in the act will get you arrested. The resulting opportunity for a 15 month stay at Huron House will help turn your life around.
- ◆ Fighting, cursing and belligerence at the Boys Home in 1985 cost you your allowance and led to restricted privileges. It also earned you time alone in your room, but it did not get you out of study time. This was a good thing because with daily study time your school grades can improve from 30% to 80%.
- ◆ The Boys' Home provides wonderful experiences (corvette day, whitewater rafting, run team), excellent lessons in self-discipline and real life consequences; but it's only one piece of the rehabilitation process.
- ◆ If you are very lucky, when you leave home at 15 years old you might be alone in a doughnut shop when a barn painter offers you a job that actually enables you to become self-supporting.
- ◆ A 19 year old high school drop-out can start his own business and be successful. But it is very, very hard, especially if you are still prone to drinking too much and getting into fights.
- ◆ When the judge who has twice sentenced you to five months in prison looks you in the eye and tells you it will be a much longer sentence if he ever sees you again, that is a good time to cut back on drinking and swear off fighting.
- ◆ Love at first sight does exist, and when one person loves you and sees the kindness inside of you the whole world becomes a better place. Jennifer has been Don's one person since they met 23 years ago.
- ◆ Devotion to family and work is hard...and worth the investment. It brings success to business and, for Don and Jennifer, four very well behaved, well-adjusted kids.

Huron House Boys' Home is proud to be part of Don's journey, and the feeling appears to be mutual.

From the Executive Director

Last spring I wrote about many changes coming to our sector. They continue to be 'works in progress' both at our home and within the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS). Here at Huron House Boys' Home the staff, with input from the boys, have implemented a new program aimed at creating more individualized care.

At the provincial level, the MCYS continues to look at residential care and funding allocation models. The role of lead agencies for Children's Mental Health Ontario (CMHO) also continues to evolve.

Continued on Page 2



It's easy to smile when someone cares!



At the Boys' Home

It has been busy since our bulletin in the spring! On the inside we had a freshening up, compliments of the United Way Day of Caring, with volunteers from five local businesses painting walls in many of our high traffic areas. On the outside, the driveway and parking lots were resurfaced, and the grounds got a sprucing up in preparation for use by wedding parties.

As for the boys, like boys everywhere they enjoyed a more relaxed pace during the summer, highlighted by the ever popular Olympic Day. Even so, they were glad of the routine that came with returning to school.



Growing boys, growing trees! Libro invests in Huron House

Volunteer Mike Blondin encouraged us to look at our back field in a different way, and after much consideration and consultation we concluded growing Christmas trees could become an embedded part of Huron House Boys' Home's unique programming. It seemed like the perfect opportunity to provide our boys with the chance to collaborate on a business plan, manage a business, work a farm, and interact with the community in meaningful ways. Boys grow, trees grow, business grows! Why, they could even make money!

We are delighted that the Libro Prosperity Fund directors truly understand what the Boys' Home is all about. They liked our proposal, with the potential it has to bring out the best in our youth and provide opportunities not normally available to them. They understand that the success of this project will have a benefit to the whole community and they chose us as a Prosperity Fund recipient. Over the next four years Libro will provide funding to get the project established, after which we expect it to be self-sustaining.

Already two youths have been hired as co-managers and Sarnia Lambton Business Development Corporation is providing training. The Christmas Tree Farmers of Ontario have shown outstanding support, volunteer Clive Beckwith has agreed to oversee the project and Chris Abram has donated digging services. Fifty trees have now been planted. We're learning as we go, and we'll keep you posted about progress. It will be a while before the trees are big enough to harvest.

Don's Message

Continued from Page 1

Many residential agencies, including ours, are struggling. The Boys' Home receives funding from the MCYS for only six of the 28 beds we have available. Children's Aid Societies (CAS), which have been part of the child welfare reform over the last five years, have had budgets altered. The MCYS wants many CAS' to amalgamate but we are not sure what that will look like.



Communities are worried about what the new provincial funding model will do to children's mental health services. There may be similar consequences to children's mental health programs as there have been to child welfare. Parents are worried about the potential loss of residential beds for at-risk youth.

While all involved agree that the CMHO system transformation is a good thing in theory, it would be sad to see services reduced because of a lack of funding. Communities like ours need these services so at-risk boys can turn into successful men like our featured former resident, Don Campbell. Fortunately, we continue to operate and provide our services, largely because of the support of this wonderful community!

With best wishes for a happy holiday season, Don Adam

It's easy to smile when someone cares!



In the Community

Support abounds!

From the ongoing success of our Run/Walk/Skate/Bike, the Quality Control Council of Canada Golf Bash, Race to Erase, and Quarter Auction in the Grove, to exciting new events like Artsy Fartsy Crafts on the Farm, Duc d'Orlean's Farewell to Summer Cruise, and inclusion in the Lambton Mall's Behind Closed Doors event, we are grateful to this community!

Thanks to all of you who make our events a success, and to all who show support through donations and volunteering.



Golf Bash at Camlachie GC



Boys enjoy Race to Erase



Artsy Fartsy on the Farm



Jr. Adrenaline Trail at Run/Walk/Skate/Bike



Dawg House on Duc cruise



Get a head start on

Father's Day family fun and fitness with early registration discounts for our 31st annual Run/Walk/Skate/Bike on June 18, 2017.

For early bird rates until January 31st, or to give registration as a gift, visit www.racerooster.com/9712

Also, check out the cool t-shirt options for participants who register online by May 15th.

flickr

To see great photos from our Boys' Home community events visit:

www.flickr.com/photos/27733860@N06/albums.



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facebook.com/hhboyshome

Thanks to all of you who follow us on Twitter and Facebook. We love that you like and share our activities!

Men Who Cook Gala



Forty local men of influence will share their culinary delights at Men Who Cook, on Saturday, March 4th at the Dante Club.

The volunteer committee, ironically composed entirely of women, is excited about this year's changes. From the ground up they're revamping the layout, the entertainment and the auctions. Sarah Woodley and Rob Jenkins will be emcees for the evening, where food and fun will be the best available.

As always, guests will be impressed with this casually elegant evening, an annual fundraising highlight for friends, family, coworkers and associates.

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SUPPORT STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Featuring Boys' Home Staff - Sharon Crowe



Well look! It's the Bulletin-writer herself taking her turn to be noticed. That's quite a challenge for me, as I much prefer to be quietly in the background making sure details are in order and events run smoothly. Ah well, it's only fair that we who work here should step outside our comfort zones. After all, isn't that what we ask the boys to do as they make major life changes one step at a time?

As an introvert I never would have imagined becoming a fundraiser. But it seems I have a knack for coordinating activities and for drawing out the qualities volunteers like to share, so I think of myself as an event coordinator and don't worry about labels.

The Boys' Home has been my second home for eight years already. Where does the time go? Although I have none of the amazing skills of front-line staff, my cache of talents is continually coming into play and I get a wonderful glow inside when I realize that I too contribute to the success of the boys of Huron House.

Away from the Boys' Home I'm an avid cyclist, swimmer, backwoods canoeist, and a reader (it's a good thing I'm a part-time employee!). I'm married with three adult children and 2 1/2 perfect grandchildren. It is always my hope that boys from Huron House might enjoy something resembling the rich family life I have been fortunate enough to experience.

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*All donations are collected by the Huron House Boys' Home Foundation and provided to Youth Services of Lambton County (o/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**

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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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