



# Huron House Boys' Home SPRING BULLETIN 2016

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



Back: Carl Brennan, son James, daughter Grace and wife Lynette  
Front: daughter Ava, dad Gates, daughter Emily, sons Cayden and Traxon

## Making a Difference One Boy at a Time

As a preteen, Carl had been hanging around in a bad circle of friends, following the path of least resistance and making poor decisions. Mostly he was getting into trouble with the law for stealing change out of cars. He had just turned 12 when he arrived at Huron House, and although it was intended to be his home for less than a year, Carl was mature for his age and recognized it as a place of opportunity and 'just stayed'...for four years!

Huron House truly changed the direction of his life. Although the restrictions were not negotiable and the rules were strict, the availability of negative activities was replaced with opportunities for positive ones. He became

competitive on the tennis court, and remembers a whole summer when he and his buddy Jimmy couldn't be beat on the three-hole golf course in the back field.

Like boys at Huron House today, Carl also found solace in music. The first time he ever played in front of an audience was at a Boys' Home Open House, a packed-house affair. He felt like a rock star! His confidence grew and he was soon teaching others guitar and drum skills. He and his musical buddy, Dan, continued making music together. Now, 20 years later, they're planing to share their musical talent with current residents!

Carl gives credit to Huron House for turning his life around, but he knows his family also played a big role in his success; they instilled a foundation of right and wrong. Although he never went back to live with his parents, he is close with them and his large extended family. Carl is completely aware of the difference opportunity makes. He lives and works in London with his family, while the boys he was stealing change with as a preteen, who didn't have the benefit of support and guidance, are still in and out of trouble.



I have been part of Huron House Boys' Home and

## Message from the Executive Director

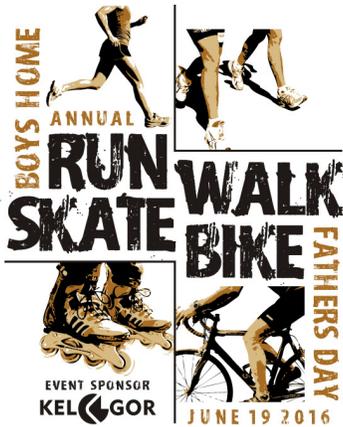
this community for three years now, and I love being here. This connection intensifies the concern I have about the many changes to the child welfare and children's mental health sectors that may SERIOUSLY affect the Boys' Home.

Philosophically I agree with a child welfare system that is trying to move as many kids as possible into family care vs. group care, but I am concerned about those youth who need residential services such as ours because of their individual situations. The Ministry of Child and Youth Services is looking at a new funding model for the children's mental health system and a new residential care model. Like many communities and agencies across the province, we are apprehensive that beds may be closed and/or youth may be relocated out of their home communities. Is this in the best interests of those youth?

The next few years will be significant in determining the direction of children's services. It will show what governments, agencies and service providers truly feel is the priority: children or dollars.

Huron House Boys' Home has been here for 45 years, despite government changes, because this community cares. We at Huron House will continue to support our boys and hope we can count on you to do the same. Don Adam

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



# Be Part of Something Great! Sunday, June 19 - Mike Weir Park



For 30 years good things have been happening on Father's Day: races, runs, rides, rolls, smiles, families, food and fun! Happiness is written all over the faces of the people who participate.

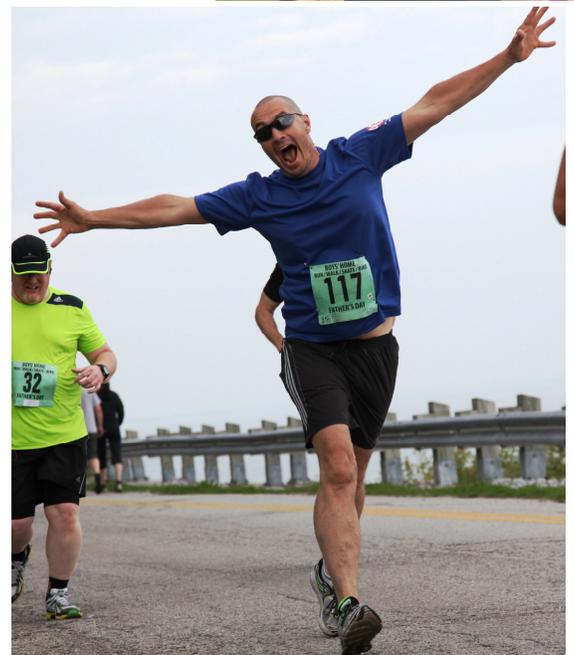
We're proud of our accomplishments and grateful to this community for outstanding support year after year.

We know part of our success is from listening to you. That's why an event that started as one of the very few 10k road races in Lambton County has grown to include a 5k fun run, 7k rollerblade and bike routes, and a 5k walk.

We are still listening! That's why we've added a longer bike ride this year. For those who like a cycling challenge, you can now gear up for a 20k or 40k tour. Truly, we have something for everyone.

For routes, registration, and event information visit [www.hhbh.ca/events](http://www.hhbh.ca/events) or [www.raceroster.com/6966](http://www.raceroster.com/6966).

Please join us this year to celebrate 30 years of fundraising and helping us provide opportunities for boys to make positive changes in their lives.



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



Ron Free (first timer), Jason Harris (winner), Marty Raaymakers (past winner)



David Vanos (first timer), Jason McMichael (past winner)



Paul Haggerdy (past winner)



Brian White (first timer)

### Men Who Cook

We call it 'Men Who Cook', but these guys do much more than that! The men who devote time, energy and creativity to our event are community leaders, businessmen, fathers, husbands, and caring, engaged people. The men of Men Who Cook epitomize the best of their gender, and of humanity. We are honoured that they share their talent with Huron House Boys' Home, as we hope the boys in our care internalize some of the same qualities as these generous men.

This year's gala was our largest ever, with 250 guests and raising more than \$30,000! Thanks to all who supported Huron House through this event, and congratulations to our winners: Jason Harris and Sam Wallis (his first year!) in the amateur category, and Paresh Thakkar and Donald Traxler in the professional category.

### A New Tradition

After last year's successful pancake and sausage breakfast at the Sarnia Farmers' Market, it was easy to say, "Yes!" when asked to do it again this year. How many years before we can call it a tradition?

When the tummies were filled and the cleanup completed, about 1,000 pancakes and 50 pounds of sausage had been cooked and served by Huron House youth, and nearly \$1200 in donations collected.



### Fundraising Helps Boys

Community fundraising helps support our excellent, professionally directed therapeutic programs, as well as less glorious but still important things like maintenance and repairs.

Sometimes overlooked, however, are the added benefits for our boys. Involvement in community fundraising provides them with opportunities for social interactions, responsibility and learning new skills.

We thank you again for supporting our fundraising events.

### Coming Events



Quality Control Council of Canada annual Golf Bash presented by Mike Blondin on August 6 at Camlachie Golf and Country Club.



All Aboard! Please join us for our first ever 'Farewell to Summer' Duc d'Orleans cruise on Thursday, September 15 at 7:00 p.m. Entertainment provided by Dawg House. Tickets are \$25; call Travis at 519-869-4000 or email tbogaert@hhbh.ca and get yours before they sell out!



Gather your team of four, raise \$500 or more, and have a morning filled with creative team challenges at Race to Erase on Saturday, September 24. Visit www.racetoerase.ca for more information and to register.



Community response is a great motivator, and in response to positive reviews we're excited to host another Quarter Auction in The Grove, Friday November 4, 7 p.m. at Huron Oaks golf club.. Tickets will be available at Huron House and from vendors.

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



Support Staff SPOTLIGHT
Featuring Custodian Denise Trenouth

There are custodians who clean, and there are custodians who clean, watch, listen and pitch in wherever needed. Denise Trenouth is in the latter group. In almost ten years at Huron House she has been much more than a 'cleaning lady'.

Denise is both a sounding board and a quiet voice reminding boys to take a moment to think before they act. She is the one we turn to whenever an extra set of hands is needed, and the one we count on to coordinate staff social activities.

Being at the house from 7am to 3pm daily, Denise is a consistent presence for the boys before and after school. It's easy to see that a rapport has developed between them. It's evident in small but meaningful things like a wave as they leave or a reminder to pick up their lunch on their way to school, and a welcome smile when they return.

Denise's contributions aren't limited to what she does between seven and three. She is often involved in fundraising activities, including Run/Walk/Skate/Bike, Race to Erase and the November quarter auction.

In her personal life Denise enjoys boating in the summer and travelling to warmer climates in the winter. She and her husband Tom have one son, so you could say raising boys in a clean house is her specialty; and Huron House is grateful to have her.

Huron House Boys' Home Foundation Board of Directors

- Mike Raes, President
Jamie Carson, Vice President
Peter Norris, Treasurer
Linda Ryan, Board Liaison
Rob Longo
Carly Vanden Ende
Don Adam, Executive Director

Youth Services of Lambton County Board of Directors

- Bert Phills, President
Jim Foubister, Vice-President
Joseph Pagano, Treasurer
Helen Lane, Secretary
Linda Ryan, Board Liaison
Jim Crawford
David Elliott
Harry Chadwick
Terry Doyle
Sandra Perkins
André Morin
Linda Zoccano
Don Adam, Executive Director

\*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

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.



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.