



Huron House Boys' Home

CHRISTMAS BULLETIN 2017

Huron House Boys' Home, 2473 Lakeshore Rd, P.O. Box 260, Bright's Grove, ON N0N 1C0
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Jeff at a community job (circa 1984)

Making a Difference One Boy at a Time

Jeff Clarke is mild mannered. He is kind and gentle. But in his core he has a determination that has served him well. It first became evident after he, his siblings and his mom spent a month at the Women's Interval Home. Once there, he refused to return with his mom to the man who abused her severely and regularly; where she too often turned to alcohol for temporary relief. His desperate firmness turned heads, and with help from his grandfather and the Women's Interval Home he gained admission to Huron House Boys' Home, a move that ultimately changed more than one life for the better.

Jeff may have had the longest involvement with Huron House Boys' Home of any of the youth who lived here. He was just 13 when he arrived and was able to stay, including time in the upstairs apartment, until his second year of college. He also lived in Alumni House, then owned by the Boys' Home, when he was out of work one year.

He may have been one of our most industrious boys too. When he arrived he already had a history of lawn cutting and newspaper routes. He thrived at the Boys' Home with opportunities to learn real life skills such as painting, basic mechanics, construction, simple electronics and even furniture refinishing. He remembers riding his bike from the Boys' Home into town to do multiple lawn cutting jobs. He respected the discipline and he valued the many excursions to camping, amusement parks and museums he would never have experienced with his pre-Boys' Home family. But what he appreciated the most, from the day he arrived, is that people here talked to him like he was a person, not a problem.

Jeff was young when he developed his simple and effective life philosophy: surround yourself with good people. The good people in Jeff's life include a grandfather who was an important influence throughout his life; the Chong, McKelvie, Butler and Haines Printing families; and the people at Central United Church where he is the evening caretaker. Jeff passes on the goodwill as benefactor, mentor and friend to Tyler, a flourishing young adult now, but once a youngster growing up without a dad.

Jeff, whose elementary school principal predicted would turn out 'no good', has beaten the odds. He works full time for Haines Printing, will fully own his home within a few months, and his life is filled with good people. Well done Jeff. We are proud to call you one of our boys.



Jeff during recent Boys' Home visit

It's easy to smile when someone cares!



People Who Care

There's a new plaque inside the front door of Huron House Boys' Home. It features the friendly faces of Marjorie Lillian Phillips (1920-2016) and her son Ronald Mitchell. Together they have created a legacy for Huron House Boys' Home.

Marjorie was a long-time resident of Bright's Grove and a philanthropist who saw value in a great organization right in her own neighbourhood. As she aged she collaborated with Ronald, her only heir, to

do what they could to have a positive impact on their community. Ronald began honouring his mother's wishes last November with a \$50,000 donation to the Boys' Home.

Marjorie lived a long and happy life and her goodness and her philosophy have been passed on to her son. Ronald is an active man who lives a simple life. He finds that his needs are well met, allowing him to include generous support of Huron House Boys' Home in his plans, just as his mom envisioned.

Our thanks to Marjorie and Ronald.



From the Executive Director

We are still grieving the passing of Board Member André Morin. We miss him dearly and our thoughts are with his wife Joanna. André was an excellent board member, city engineer, and a wonderful person who made a difference for good in his short lifetime.

This Christmas season, please consider this simple way you too can make a difference: Write to Premier Kathleen Wynn to advocate for children's mental health funding. It is easy and will only take five minutes. Go to <http://kidsmentalhealthcantwait.ca/> to send her a letter.

If both the federal and provincial governments don't address children's mental health, we are headed for a catastrophe. Recent data from the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) demonstrates that children and youth are seeking acute mental health care in hospitals at increasingly alarming rates. Children's Mental Health Ontario (CMHO) argues that investments in the community-based child and youth mental health sector have the potential to address these growing demands while saving the government \$175 million this year alone, and \$1 billion over the next five years.

I am not sure what your experience is but research says one in five youth will experience mental health issues and, if addressed with support, they can work towards recovering. It makes sense, not only as a business plan, that the government address these shortfalls, but also for our kids and the future.

Thank you for your continued support, Don Adam

Help Needed

There are some specific areas where we could use help and donations:

- Volunteer music teacher(s) - with guitar, keyboard and/or drum skills.
- We always appreciate the supplies donated by friends and neighbours. Clothing, groceries, work boots, toiletries and school supplies are the things that come to mind.

It's easy to smile when someone cares!



Day of Caring work team

At the Boys' Home

While many youth indulged in leisure activities during the September professional activities day, three of our boys spent the day planting 57 Christmas trees, bringing our healthy tree count up to 350. They (the trees) will rest for the winter and start growing again in the spring. Thanks to our volunteers Clive and Steve for keeping this project on track

All programming continues to evolve in response to the needs of the youth in our care, within the guidelines of the Ministry of Youth and Children's Services (MYCS). Group Therapeutic Program,

Independent Living Program, individualized motivators, art and music are all tools that help make a difference. Auditors from MYCS visited in October to review our practices and found that we do an excellent job.

Inside and outside, maintenance done this fall was appreciated. During the United Way Day of Caring, volunteers from Imperial and Suncor did a wonderful job of painting the gym (in colours chosen by the boys) and of sprucing up the yard. We were also happy to have a much needed new roof installed and we thank Tim and Ralph from Purdy's for restocking our pond.



Day of Caring work team



Run/Walk/Skate/Bike

June 17th

- **Family/group discounts** for groups of four or more registering together.
- **NEW!** Earn your t-shirt as a '**remote runner**' individually or as part of a team.
- Visit www.racerooster.com/13490 for details and online registration.

- **Register by January 31st** for early discounts.
- Registration is a **great Christmas present**.
- Gender-specific **t-shirt options** for those who register by Mothers Day (May 13th).

Men Who Cook

February 24th



Men Who Cook is an end of winter highlight; a culinary escape featuring exceptional cuisine and exceptional people.

Local men of influence cook and invite their friends, family or business associates to experience their party within our party.

There's no event like it, where casual atmosphere, elegant setting and inspired food come together.

To find out more about Men Who Cook, contact Sharon at the Boys' Home: scrowe@hbbh.ca; 519-869-4000.



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Andre Morin

IN MEMORY

Words cannot express the ache left in many hearts when Board member André Morin passed away suddenly in May. Nor can they describe the impact he had on all who were fortunate enough to be part of his life.

André lived and worked by a philosophy of honesty, integrity and truth. He believed he was here to do good. This surely is

what created the aura of positivity that surrounded him and drew people to him. It's the reason he cared enough to be a Big Brother, a Rotarian and on the Boys' Home Board of Directors. It's why his co-workers, in an unprecedented act of affection and respect, personally funded a memorial service in Centennial Park, including the planting of a tulip tree (his favourite) and the installation of a bench with a plaque in his memory.

An engineer by training, André did not fit the engineer stereotype. In contrast to most he was outgoing and socially active, but he found his greatest peace in the woods at his rustic Otter Lake cottage in Quebec. He spent as much time there as he could with his wife Joanna and dog Charlie, his constant, loving companions.

In a world where truly good people are a rare treasure, we have lost one of the best. Memories of André will inspire kindness and goodness in all who knew him.

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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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