



Huron House Boys' Home SPRING BULLETIN 2020

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Making a Difference Since 1970



Some of the boys enjoy an evening walk down to the lake

As our 50th year of serving the youth of Lambton County begins, there has been a lot going on at Huron House, and the staff and boys have been busy. The year started with many fun activities including a chance to attend a Sarnia Sting game in February thanks to a generous donor who offered their tickets in the community box. All the staff and youth had a great time. At a game later that week one of our residents was given the opportunity to drop the puck after an invitation from Home Depot Sarnia.

Plans were in the works to kick off a great March Break when all of a sudden life changed due to COVID-19. Staff stepped in with some creative and entertaining substitutes including a drive-in movie in homemade

cardboard cars, learning how to geocache, making St. Patrick's Day tie dyed t-shirts, karaoke and more.

Life at Huron House continues as it is in most households, similar in some ways but different in many others, and with lots of handwashing and disinfecting. The boys have two blocks of school each day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, and have been successfully completing their assigned work with the support of staff members and virtually connected teachers. Evening programming stays the same as usual with recreation, art and therapeutic activities which right now are focusing on teamwork and communication. Included in every day is electronic connection with families since home visits have had to be paused for the time being. There is also lots of time worked in the schedule for fun activities of the boys' choice.

Despite the challenges, the boys have been showing how resilient they are and have been handling the adjustments well. Our front line staff have been doing an excellent job of leading the way and giving them the support they need to navigate something that isn't easy for anyone right now. This certainly isn't how any of us saw our 50th year starting but we're all making the best of it until life returns to normal.

HAPPY RETIREMENT!

We would like to extend our congratulations and heartfelt appreciation to Mick Mullen, Paul Kern and Linda MacDougall who have all recently retired from Huron House. Mick and Paul retired in April after decades of service and we thank them for their tremendous commitment and the undoubtable impact they've had during their years with us. Linda was our cook and retired in February after over 10 years of great food and caring for the boys and staff. Their dedication to Huron House made it evident that "It's easy to smile when someone cares". Thank you!



Mick (L), Paul (R), and a former resident in 2018

Message from the Executive Director



What a different world!

As an essential service, we continue to provide service to our youth. The boys have been so resilient during these weird times and the staff have been amazing!! The boys actually have a great academic program,

thanks to our staff and partners at both school boards. Therapeutic groups continue, as does counselling. Because the boys are here, they can have a basketball game with peers and do other activities together. Life has changed but our service continues. I feel that it will take a lot longer to get out of this situation than it took to get into it. Time will tell.

Speaking of time, I want to SHOUT OUT to Mick Mullen and Paul Kern. Both of these gentlemen retired April 10, under circumstances, because of COVID, that were not ideal. Between them they have worked at Huron House for 79 years! There is no way Huron House would be the

great facility it is without their lengthy investment, energy, attitude and commitment to our boys, staff, families and our community. Thank you both SO MUCH! When we are back to socializing, we will have the opportunity to properly recognize them.

Funding is always an issue for us. The recognition, because of COVID, for the work all essential services provide makes me optimistic that the perception by government will help in future allocations to us and all other needed service providers. The Social Service agencies in this community have always collaborated well, but in these times, they have been amazing.

Additionally, Huron House is celebrating its 50th year in 2020, a HUGE milestone. We couldn't have done this without the great support from our community.

We wish everyone health and safety. Wash your hands!

- Don Adam

Thank you

Huron House continues to receive fantastic support from Sarnia-Lambton and we want to thank you all!

- The Run/Walk/Skate/Bike sponsors who are still providing their support despite the events' cancellation - **Steeves & Rozema, Scotiabank, Sarnia Truck Centre** and **Sandrin**.
- **United Way of Sarnia-Lambton** for their Compassion Fund grant to help address our increased expenses during this time.
- **Progressive Auto Sales**, who has committed a portion of their sales for the year to Huron House and four other local organizations.
- **RDM Trivia Events** and **Twisted Arm Bar & Grill** who held a trivia night in February with proceeds donated to Huron House.
- **Noelle's Gift** who are contributing to cover some of our grocery costs during this time.
- The donors who have supported us but are choosing to remain anonymous, including a significant legacy donation that will have a long lasting impact.
- The many individuals and our long time supporters at **Shell**, who responded to our call for funds for two new riding lawnmowers and two new barbecues to replacing our aging ones.



Delivered and ready to go to work. Thank you!

Want more information about Huron House Boys' Home?

To find out more about who we are and what we do, visit our website at <https://hhbh.ca>

Recent Events



The 34th annual Men Who Cook was held Saturday, March 7 at the Dante Club. This year the theme was "Celebrating 50 Years of Huron House". The evening included a hospitality hour featuring some of our cooks' amazing dishes and beer and wine sampling. Dinner featured more food and entertainment including a silent auction, games that got everybody up on their feet, and a live auction of some exciting and unique items.

Over 150 guests sampled the amazing dishes from local professional and amateur cooks and voted for their favourites. The cooks who took home top honours were:

1. Dr. Gabriel Ponce (Clearwater Family Dental) with Crème Brûlée
2. Jason Harris (BDO) with Marty's Famous Dutch Apple Pancakes
3. Dylan Boudreau (Fairwinds Lodge) with Cream of Truffled Cauliflower soup

We want to extend a huge thank you to our committee of volunteers for the time they put into making this event happen and to the sponsors whose support we would not be able to do it without. For more information including all this year's cooks and sponsors, as well as photos, visit hhbh.ca/events/menwhocook.



Photos by Lou Parry photography

Upcoming Events



After carefully reviewing all the options, we have made the difficult decision to cancel this year's Run/Walk/Skate/Bike. This was to be our 34th edition and while we are disappointed it will not happen this year, we are already looking forward to next year and hope to see you then!

50th Anniversary Open House

Saturday, September 19, 2020

Huron House Boys' Home
Time TBD

Come visit Huron House to learn more about what we do and celebrate our milestone 50th year serving the community.

**NEW
DATES**

Pasta Fest

Thursday, October 15, 2020

Dante Club
5pm-7pm

Tickets: \$15 for adults, \$10 ages 4-12, under 4 free
Support Huron House and have a great dinner at the same time. Eat in or takeout available.

For more information about these and other events, visit us at www.hhbh.ca/events/ or follow us on Facebook



Support Huron House

Huron House has been faced with increased expenses over the last few months while at the same time we have a decrease in revenue due to cancelled events and the challenging economic times we are all dealing with. Are you interested in helping? Here's what you can do:

- **Donate.** At this time we are not taking in-kind donations but will take cash donations any time on our website or via mail, just fill out the form below. Specific needs we currently have are two new laptops for staff to run our programs, and funds to repair our roof, with an estimated cost of over \$30,000.
- **Share this bulletin.** If you are not in a position to donate, we understand. Share this bulletin with friends and neighbours to help us raise awareness about the news and needs at Huron House.
- **Sign up for our electronic mailing list.** We will keep you up to date on all our news and you will be the first to know the details of our events when they resume. Find a link to the form on our homepage at hhbh.ca. If you would prefer to receive this bulletin electronically, you can sign up there as well.
- **Follow us on social media.** This is a great way for us to connect with our supporters and the more people we have sharing and liking our posts, the more the impact of Huron House gets out into the community. We are on Facebook at facebook.com/hhboyshome and Twitter [@Huron_House](https://twitter.com/Huron_House).
- **Come to our events when they resume.** We want to see your faces as soon as we can so consider attending a future Huron House event, especially if you haven't before. We would love to meet you!

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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. Tax receipts will be issued for all donations over \$20.

Yes, I would like to make a difference in a boy's life!

Please accept my gift to Huron House Boys' Home Foundation

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$_____

Please make cheques payable to: **Huron House Boys' Home**

Name: _____

Address: _____ City, Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

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☐ Please add me to the Huron House electronic mailing list for updates on news, events, and needs

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Donations can also be
made online at:
hhbh.ca/donate/