



Huron House Boys' Home

WINTER BULLETIN 2020

INSIDE THIS EDITION

A brief look at the history of Huron House

Message from the Executive Director

What's been happening at Huron House

Thanks to our amazing community!

Run/Walk/Skate/Bike 2021

What your support means for us



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

(519) 869-4000

info@hhbh.ca

www.hhbh.ca



In their words: 50 years of change

As we reflect on half a century of supporting the youth of Sarnia-Lambton and beyond, we feel the best way to represent the impact of Huron House is through the words of those who have been part of it.

"At Huron House I found a sense of belonging and accomplishment. I learned values that are still part of my life today. I learned about an honest work ethic and goals. I learned to never give up and to ask for help, regardless of pride. Being able to grow physically and mentally are things I will always remember about Huron House. There I felt a part of something, and was never denied help or a listening ear."

- Mike

"Huron House gave me consistency, respect and caring. I learned to trust some people a little bit. The director at the time was like a father figure to me, and now he is still a good friend. In

fact, I made a few life-long friends during my five years as I learned how to get along with others. I remember a staff member took me home to join his family for Christmas one year."

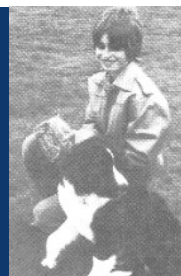
- Currie

"The Boys' Home gave me guidance and direction. It provided me with male role models and filled me with confidence and the feeling of self-worth. Without Huron House there is no doubt that I would not have this wonderful life I have today."

- Chuck

Did you know?

Over the years Huron House had several Newfoundland dogs donated by a local family. The longest tenured was JJ, who lived almost 15 years.



DEAR FRIENDS OF HURON HOUSE:

This first attempt at our "Boys Home Bulletin" is an effort on our part to keep you better informed of the many happenings at Huron House. You have demonstrated your interest in the Boys Home and we value your interest and friendship.

Huron House has been in operation now twelve years and many youngsters have found this program very beneficial. Young men often return to visit us and make us very proud of having been a part of their growing up. Some are married and a few with children of their own, while many are employed right here in the Sarnia/Lambton area. One has worked in Iraq, another in Fort McMurray, two are in the Canadian Armed Forces and two others are attending university. The family has really grown.

We hope to provide you with this Boys Home Bulletin perhaps twice a year to better inform you of the "results" of Huron House. Please let us know how you like it.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your family from all at Huron House.

Ken Stothers, Executive Director.

The message on the front of the first ever Bulletin, December 1982. The technology has changed but the sentiment remains the same.

It's easy to smile when someone cares



A brief history of Huron House

Things have changed since Huron House was founded in 1970. Our focus has shifted from being a group home for boys with behaviour and family issues to now being an accredited children's mental health centre.

In the earlier years, enrollment was by application and interest was so great that not all were accepted. Now, we have fewer residents and most boys arrive via referral from other mental health care organizations.

One thing that has not changed is our staff's commitment to excellence and to supporting the boys and their unique needs.

NOTABLE DATES IN HHBH HISTORY

1970 Huron House Boys' Home Established.

1972 12 member board formed and charitable status received. Property and building purchased after two years of leasing.

1982 First Bulletin published and distributed to supporters in Sarnia-Lambton.

1985 Huron House Boys' Home Foundation is established to secure the financial future of HHBH.

1987 First Run/Walk/Skate/Bike (then just a 10k run) held at Huron Oaks.

1998 First Men Who Cook dinner.

2007/8 Building expansion added a new and larger living room, games room, dining room and kitchen, plus three new offices.

2008 winner of the Donner Canadian Foundation Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Counselling Services.

2009 First accredited as a member of Children's Mental Health Ontario.



To commemorate our 50th Anniversary a quilt was made using past Run/Walk/Skate/Bike t-shirts.

We are so appreciative of volunteer Laverne Phills and Sewlutions in Wyoming for all the work they put in to bring it to life.

Help us celebrate this milestone and purchase a 50th Anniversary T-shirt!

Get yours at
hhbh.ca/donate



Message from the Executive Director



What a different world!

We have continued to serve our youth throughout the pandemic. Our great staff team

worked with Board of Education personnel and our kids to provide school from March to June and all of our youth did fantastic! Our therapeutic groups continue, as does counselling. We have restricted visitors but the boys are now back in school. Life has changed but our service continues.

We have been regularly tested for COVID, all negative. Thank you, Lambton Public Health!

Unfortunately, fundraising events have been significantly impacted! Our flagship Run/Walk/Skate/Bike event was cancelled for the first time in 33 years! We are celebrating 50 years of service but cannot really celebrate this the way we wanted to. We know our alumni are disappointed to not be getting together to celebrate, but we will do it in person when we can.

Thank you to those that have been donating to Huron House; both individuals and the great local

businesses that have stepped forward and made a huge impact. You are lifesavers!

A special shout-out to our staff team! They have been totally AWESOME in selflessly coming to work, investing in our boys, being totally flexible and providing excellent service in very difficult times.

We wish everyone health and safety, and please mask up and wash your hands! Stay positive, test negative!

Did you know?

We have had just three executive directors in our 50 years!



At the Boys' Home



After a fun summer, even if it didn't look quite the same as normal, the boys have settled into their new school routines and are doing well.

Our recreation, art, and therapeutic programming have been ongoing as usual, alongside safely managed activities away from the house. Favourite excursions over the summer

included tennis, golf - both the driving range and mini-putt, District Beta and the beach.

After starting with family visits on site at HHBH earlier in the summer, in August we were able to resume at-home visits, and welcome back the boys who had left to be with their families at the start of the pandemic.

A positive that has come during the pandemic is that the extra time spent together over the last several months has really helped the boys gel together as a group and with staff and feel more like a big family.



Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Day was recognized on September 9th with t-shirts from our friends at Pathways.

Did you know?

More than 1,500 youth have called Huron House home since 1970.

Community Support

We want to extend our most sincere appreciation to:

- Everyone who bought tickets for Pastafest at the Dante Club in October. It was a great success!
- District Beta, who have opened their doors during normally closed hours for the boys to have some fun.
- The Sarnia Community Foundation with an Emergency Community

Support grant that helped cover extra pandemic related expenses. An additional donor directed grant brought the total of their support in the last six months to almost \$20,000.

- Progressive Auto Sales for their generous \$25,000 donation!



HEROES

- Lowe's Sarnia for choosing us as the beneficiary of their Heroes Campaign in September. Funds were raised through donations at the checkout and matched by Lowe's for a total of over \$7,600.
- Various community groups who have donated their time and money in the last several months including: Sewers for Sarnia, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 62, Lambton College Child & Youth Care students, and Pedals for Purposes.

Events



More information will be announced in the coming weeks, but Run/Walk/Skate/Bike is happening in 2021! It will look different from past years as we can't all gather together, but we are excited to bring it back after a pause in 2020.

Details for other events in 2021 will be announced as they are confirmed.

Watch our [Facebook page](#) and website for event updates!

Join our electronic mailing list!

Get regular updates about what's happening at Huron House and how you can get involved. Sign up at hhbh.ca.



What does your support mean for us?

It means the counselling sessions a resident needs to work toward overcoming past trauma.

It means the purchase of art therapy materials and recreation equipment because both can be impactful tools for supporting mental health.

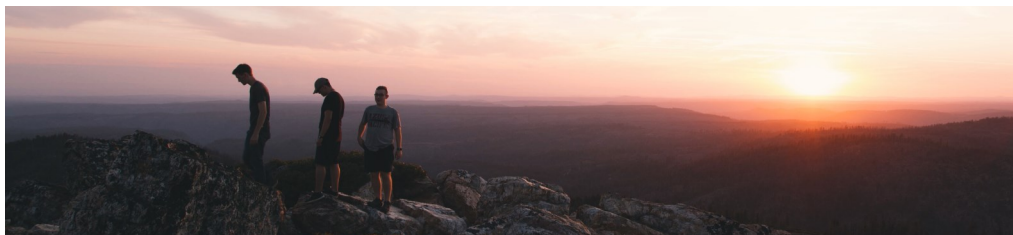
It means the group sessions that help a resident learn tools to manage their emotions.

It means some of our substantial grocery bill (our largest single expense outside of staff salaries) is covered. It takes a lot to feed teenage boys.

It means participants in our Independent Living Program learn the life skills they need to transition into their own housing and build independent lives.

It means bursaries for our alumni who are pursuing post-secondary education to shape a stronger future.

It means Huron House will continue to support youth for another 50 years.



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 VandenEnde
Don Adam, *Executive Director*

Youth Services of Lambton County Board of Directors

Bert Phills, *President*
Jim Foubister, *Vice President*
Joseph Pagano, *Treasurer*
Jim Crawford, *Secretary*
Linda Ryan, *Board Liaison*
Harry Chadwick
Terry Doyle
Andraya MacMillan
Stéphane Thiffeault
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 needed.

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

Yes, I would like to support Huron House's next 50 years!

Please accept my gift to Huron House Boys' Home Foundation in the amount of:

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

Name: _____

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

Email: _____ Phone: _____

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

For credit card donations:

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

Cardholder Name: _____

Card #: _____ Expires: _____

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

Credit card donations can
also be made
securely online at
hhbh.ca/donate or by
phone at 519-869-4000