

Beyond Bars

AU-DELÀ DES BARREAUX



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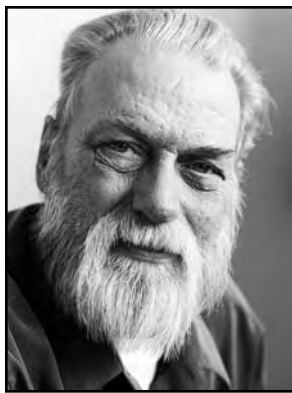
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Focus On CELEBRATING ST. LEONARD'S ACROSS CANADA



Daryl Clark. Photo: David Whiteley

St. Leonard's in Alberta

Last November, SLSC was awarded a contract to provide LifeLine™ In-Reach services in the province of Alberta. SLSC immediately engaged Daryl Clark (left) to begin service provision, and in May hired Art Winters (right) as a second In-Reach Worker for the province. We look forward to seeing this St. Leonard's presence in Alberta expand in the future.



Art Winters. Photo: Susan Haines

Launching SLS Winnipeg
*Finding the Road to
 Redemption, the Journey to
 Justice, the Path to Peace,
 the Walk to Well-Being, and
 Other Alliterative Analogies*
 By Graham Reddoch



There's a decidedly diverse cross-section of citizens working together in Winnipeg these days. Crime victims, former offenders, their families and supporters who desire to overcome

Continued on p. 8

**St. Leonard's House –
 Windsor Celebrates 45 Years
 of Challenge and Success**
 by Skip Graham

"It's obviously not the staggering cost of our savage penal system which bothers Canadians, or they'd do something about it. I've put my prayers and my mind to the problem for years and I still don't know how to touch the hearts of the Canadian public."

– Father Neil Libby, 1965

St. Leonard's staff and volunteers can relate to the frustration experienced by our founder who was dispirited by the lack of understanding and appreciation for his work. Yet, and even despite public apathy, he and a few dedicated volunteers revolutionized corrections by founding, in 1962, the first adult offender halfway house in Windsor, Ontario.

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Move beyond bars. Create second chances.

AGM 2007: Partnerships and Collaboration

By Elizabeth White

When St. Leonard's colleagues and friends came together in Hamilton at the beginning of June, it was all about "Partnerships and Collaboration." That was the theme of our public conference, Bolton Day 2007, and it was the style of the whole weekend's events and business.

On the Friday, we were in turns inspired and challenged by such eminent speakers as Dr. Gary Warner of McMaster University, Paul Johnson of Wesley Urban Ministries, Pauline Radley from Western University, Brian Sibley of GreenByte Enterprises, and MaryLynn West-Moynes of Mohawk College. Each

- Darrell Rowe, Executive Director of St. Leonard's Society of Peterborough received the Luxton Award for his long-standing and outstanding contribution to SLSC;
- Jonathon Bancroft Snell, gallery owner and philanthropist, was presented with the Cody Award for his significant support for youth programs to help kids at risk.
- Donald G. Evans, corrections expert, mentor, consultant and retired Ontario Assistant Deputy Minister Community Corrections, was presented with the John Braithwaite Award for his decades of support and inspiration to the goals and mission of SLSC.



AWARD WINNERS 2007

FAR LEFT: Jonathan Bancroft-Snell, Cody Award. LEFT: Darrell Rowe, Luxton Award. RIGHT: Don Evans, John Braithwaite Award (with l-r: Elizabeth White, previous Braithwaite recipient Wilma Douglas-Dungey and SLS Toronto Executive Director Sonya Spencer). Photos: David Whiteley




shared their perspective and reflected on strategies that they have found to be effective in the field. In opening and closing the day, G. Warner and ML. West-Moynes spoke from the broader context of societal interaction, network building and consolidation of endeavour. Our three panelists presented their views on the specific concerns of homelessness, employment, and mental health and how working together can make a difference in our capacity to respond and be proactive in meeting needs.

This active learning day brought together volunteers and professionals who met in issue specific sessions to build their own protocols for effective partnerships. The goal was to move from talking the talk of working together to actively pursuing new alliances and making them succeed. Based on the buzz in the rooms and the feedback received, the day created a positive opportunity for participants to do just that.

During our business meetings, we were delighted to honour this year's SLSC Awards recipients:

We are truly privileged to work with these committed individuals and to have their support for our vision.

National conferences give a once a year opportunity for the St. Leonard's group to build an agenda for the coming year, consolidate relationships, reflect on the successes of the year passed and, of course, to have some fun. This year we were so pleased to have a presentation by Graham Reddoch about our newest affiliate in Winnipeg (see article p. 6), and to welcome to our organization our two recently appointed In-Reach Workers from Alberta: Daryl Clark and Art Winters.

Celebrating the year's end at the thought-provoking and hospitable Warplane Museum while enjoying good music and hot bidding contests for our very successful Silent Auction rounded off the weekend's events. We left town with renewed enthusiasm for the challenges ahead and grateful thanks to our co-hosts at the St. Leonard's Society of Hamilton who made it all possible. 

Elizabeth White is the Executive Director of SLSC

Bolton Day 2007: Selected Abstracts

Full proceedings from our Bolton Day 2007 conference, "Partnerships and Collaboration: Models that Work!" will be made available through our website: www.stleonards.ca

From Dr. Gary Warner's Keynote Address

The parable of the prodigal son resonates today in situations as varied as the rehabilitation and reintegration of former child soldiers recruited to fight in civil wars in some countries in Africa and Asia and the rehabilitation and reintegration of former offenders charged under the Criminal Justice System here in Ontario. From the perspective of a community health model, the overall wellbeing of the community depends on the wellbeing of all segments of the community and on the synergistic impact of all sectors, including the health infrastructure, presence of social harmony, favourable economic conditions and employment opportunities, and a healthy environment. Various forms of social exclusion, such as poverty, racism and the NIMBY phenomenon, constitute one of the obstacles to overall community wellbeing. Building extensive partnerships instead of project-based silos has emerged as a key strategy in promoting community wellbeing that has been adopted by organizations such as the Strengthening Hamilton's Community Initiative and the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction. This partnership approach demands a different way of thinking that is more systemic and less project-based, more collaborative and less competitive. Inclusion, drawing on all the resources of our diverse community, remains one of the greatest challenges.

ATB



Dr. Gary Warner

From Paul Johnson's Presentation

For years, Hamilton shelters and emergency services have struggled with how to provide appropriate support for chronically homeless men and women with long-term addictions to alcohol. In 2002, Hamilton started a journey to learn more about best practices in harm reduction and management of alcohol programs. Service providers visited existing harm reduction programs in other cities and surveyed Hamilton's homeless population to better understand their needs.

Four years later (in the spring of 2006), Wesley Urban Ministries, in partnership with the McMaster School of Nursing and St. Joseph's Healthcare, opened the Claremont House: Special Care Unit. The overall goal of the Claremont House program is to demonstrate reduced alcohol related morbidity and mortality for chronic homeless alcoholics through timely, appropriate, and cost effective health interventions and housing. The program has shown promising results in terms of providing better outcomes for some of Hamilton's most marginalized individuals. The program has also highlighted the challenges and joys of a truly integrated model of service delivery that is bringing together health and social service professionals.

ATB

Paul Johnson is the Executive Director of Wesley Urban Ministries in Hamilton



Paul Johnson

Photos: David Whiteley

Principles to Practice: Residential Services for the 21st Century

In March of this year, SLSC published **Principles to Practice: Residential Services for the 21st Century**, a manual of good practices for Community Residential Facilities (CRFs). The following is a brief excerpt from the manual, describing its purpose along with some background information concerning the current political, social and economical context of CRFs.

Text by Carole Mallows

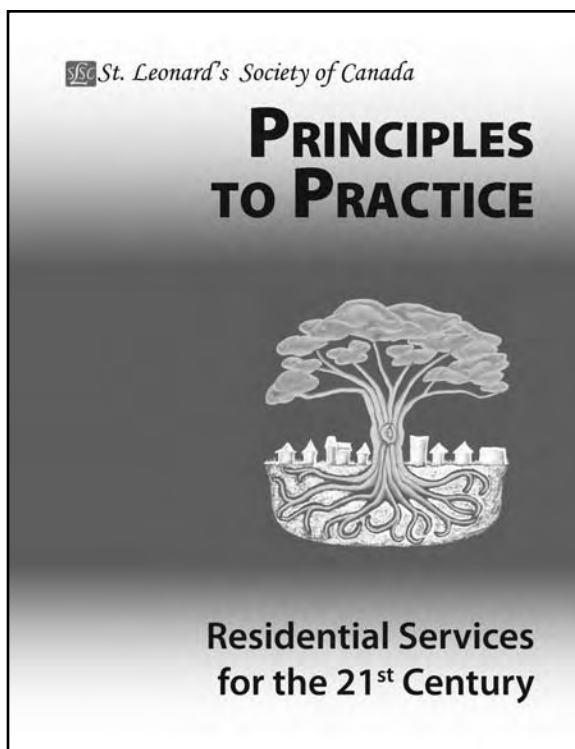
Excerpt prepared by Josée Tremblay

The evaluation of the effectiveness of CRFs is a focus of St. Leonard's Society of Canada. This is a formidable task and is being carried out in stages. This is a legitimate goal to pursue but it is difficult to sustain in practice when there are numerous external influences affecting halfway house functioning. These facilities do not exist in a vacuum. Halfway Houses are embedded in a research and political culture.

The reintegration ideology remains in Canada to this day. However, there have been criticisms of its tenets and the way that it has been implemented. It was argued that community corrections had little effect on the way penitentiaries were run; that the overall strategy within prisons remained punitive.

At present the Correctional Service of Canada still functions from a reintegration perspective alongside a public safety imperative. So whilst offenders may serve their sentence in the community, electronic monitoring may be used as a control method. While parole and probation officers encourage and support offenders in their attempts to reintegrate, they also act as surveillance officers. Halfway houses are also functioning in this dual role, which offers many challenges in all levels of practice.

At the time of writing, in Canada, the balance of the dual role is shifting towards public protection through greater surveillance and control methods.



Principles to Practice is available for purchase in print or electronic formats for \$25 (\$20 for members of SLSC). To place an order, call, fax or email us at... **tel: (613) 233-5170**
fax: (613) 233-5122
email: slsc@on.aibn.com

This seems to be following an international trend in which agencies equivalent to Community Residential Facilities are becoming more a part of the surveillance network and are losing their reintegration function.

Public safety is the prime directive of CRFs, yet it can only achieve sustained success by working in partnership with others and having the confidence, cooperation and contribution of the communities that they serve. Today, we are forming the history of tomorrow.

The manual was designed to give an overall picture of the field and to act as a starting point for further investigation. The names of various CRFs are included, not just as examples, but also to give interested readers the necessary information to enable them to follow up upon

any particular idea, procedure, or program.

The ultimate purpose of the manual is to acknowledge the diverse needs of the residents of CRFs and to make a contribution towards the fulfillment of those needs.

"In dealing with the dedicated work carried on by our pioneer penal reformers, it ("Halfway Home") puts responsibility back where it belongs: on the individual offender and the individual citizen... The self-examination of what is going on may lead to more humility, more cooperation and more success."

— W.T. McGarth, M.S.W.



Carole Mallows served as Project Manager for SLSC's Good Practices Manual Project

Josée Tremblay is the Project Assistant for SLSC

Des Principes à la Pratique : Des services résidentiels adaptés au 21^e siècle

En mars dernier, la SSLC a publié *Des principes à la pratique : des services résidentiels adaptés au 21^e siècle*, un recueil de pratiques efficaces à l'intention des établissements résidentiels communautaires (ERC). Voici un bref extrait du manuel qui décrit l'intention de celui-ci et le contexte dans lequel les ERC se trouvent à l'heure actuelle.

Texte de Carole Mallows
Extrait rédigé par Josée Tremblay

L'évaluation de l'efficacité des ERC est l'un des objectifs premier de la Société St-Léonard du Canada. Il s'agit d'une tâche imposante et qu'on s'y attaque étape par étape. Il s'agit là d'un but légitime, mais il est difficile de le conserver en pratique alors que tant de facteurs externes affectent le fonctionnement des maisons de transitions. Ces installations n'existent indépendamment du système. Ces maisons de transitions s'inscrivent dans un contexte de culture politique et de culture intellectuel.

L'idéologie concernant la réinsertion sociale est toujours présente au Canada. On a cependant critiqué certains principes sur lesquels elle s'appuie et la façon dont elle s'est appliquée. On a suggéré que les services correctionnels communautaires n'avaient que peu d'influence sur les méthodes de gestion des pénitenciers, et que, dans l'ensemble, l'approche globale des prisons demeurerait punitive.

À l'heure actuelle, le Service correctionnel du Canada (SCC) continue d'être guidé par une perspective de réinsertion sociale qui s'exprime en parallèle avec des impératifs de sécurité publique. Ainsi, même si un délinquant purge une peine en communauté, il se pourrait qu'on aille recourir à la surveillance électronique comme mesure de contrôle. Les agents de libération conditionnelle et de probation ont pour rôle d'encourager et de soutenir le délinquant dans ses efforts de réinsertion sociale, néanmoins ils exercent également un rôle de surveillance. Les maisons de transition sont aussi appelées à jouer ce double rôle, ce qui complique la situation.



Des principes à la pratique est maintenant en vente au coût de 25\$ (20\$ seulement pour les membres de la SSLC). Pour le commander veuillez appeler, télécopier ou nous envoyer un courriel à... **tél. : (613) 233-5170**
télec. : (613) 233-5122
courriel : slsc@on.aibn.com
(aussi disponible en version électronique)

Au moment de la rédaction du manuel, on assiste au Canada à un changement de direction vers la protection du public par l'intermédiaire de la surveillance et des méthodes de contrôle plus restrictive. Cela semble correspondre à une tendance internationale en vertu de laquelle des organismes comparables à nos établissements correctionnels communautaires s'intègrent de plus en plus au réseau de surveillance, au détriment de leur rôle de réinsertion sociale.

Par conséquent, le maintien de la sécurité publique est la principale consigne des ERC. Toutefois, ils ne pourront s'y conformer qu'en travaillant en partenariat avec d'autres agences et organismes et en bénéficiant de la confiance, de la coopération et de la contribution des communautés qu'ils desservent.

Ce recueil présente alors une vue d'ensemble du secteur communautaire concernant les services offerts aux ex-détenu(e)s. Le

nom des divers ERC sont inclus, non pas comme simples exemples, mais aussi dans le but de fournir aux lecteurs les renseignements nécessaire qui lui permettront de se renseigner davantage sur idée, une procédure ou un programme qu'il l'intrigue. En bref, le but ultime de ce recueil est de mettre en lumière les besoins divers des résidents d'ERC et de contribuer à la satisfaction de ces besoins.

« In dealing with the dedicated work carried on by our pioneer penal reformers, it (« Halfway Home ») puts responsibility back where it belongs: on the individual offender and the individual citizen... The self-examination of what is going on may lead to more humility, more cooperation and more success. »

— W.T. McGarth, M.S.W.



Carole Mallows, gérante de projet
Josée Tremblay, assistante de projet, SSLC

The Criminalization of Offenders with Mental Health Problems

By Josée Tremblay

Recently, the Senate's Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology (May, 2006) produced a policy piece supporting current mental health consumers, providers and researchers' position regarding issue of mental health services in the community. More specifically, this report supports the campaign regarding the adverse effects of the deinstitutionalization of mental health services. There has been a continuous campaigning for the development of a more conscientious approach to mental health services that would include more effective collaboration between the primary mental health partners.


In the last forty years, empirically-based research has demonstrated the detrimental effect of the deinstitutionalization of mental health services in Canada (Rock, 2001; Brink, Doherty, & Boer, 2001). More specifically, the transfer of treatment programs from psychiatric institutions to community-based agencies has not been particularly successful. Research has shown that not only are most community programs inadequately funded, but also that the service providers and staff are ill-equipped to deal with this type of population (Kelly, 2001). Many community residential facilities (CRF's) and community correctional facilities (CCF's) do not accommodate offenders who have mental health issues, particularly if it is coupled with substance-related problems.

Rock (2001) also indicated that service providers, within the criminal justice network, do not appear to communicate with each other with regards to the transfer of services to other agencies, the specifics of the offender's treatment needs, and the development of an integrative treatment plan. Agencies dealing with mental health services and those dealing with substance abuse problems, for example, will not proceed in a dualistic fashion and develop common goals regarding the offender's treatment outcome (Rock 2001). Therefore, each agency is

left responsible for dealing with *one* of the many problems with which the offender is faced.

Additionally, "the question of 'what works' in community settings is mainly a question of the effectiveness of different statutory or professional arrangements in minimizing harmful behavior and promoting autonomous living." (Blackburn, 2004: 305) Predominantly, service providers are responsible for the surveillance and supervision of offenders released into the community, in an attempt to diminish the probability of future criminal activities (2004: 301). Hence, rehabilitation no longer seeks out treatment intervention strategies that would bring about social reintegration; instead it targets the reduction of future offending (2004: 301).

Consequently, mental health service providers must carry out the legal requirements, set out by the courts, and, simultaneously, provide the offender with sufficient and effective treatment. "A narrower interpretation of rehabilitation is that the primary goal is to prevent offending and protect society, and that offender-centered goals are simply a means to this end. Here, the goal is to restrict rather than enable, and individual benefit is not a primary consideration (2004: 301)."

The Bolton Day conference, which occurred in Hamilton on Friday June 1 2007, attempted to address and elaborate effective collaborative practices within the criminal justice network in order to develop a cross-sectoral approach to social services for the offender population. 

Josée Tremblay is the Project Assistant for SLSC

La criminalisation des délinquants ayant des troubles de santé mentale

Par Josée Tremblay

Le comité sénatorial permanent des affaires sociales, des sciences et de la technologie (2006) a produit un rapport portant sur l'efficacité des programmes et services offerts aux individus ayant des troubles de santé. Les évaluations et recommandations indiquées dans ce rapport, concernant les services en santé mentale offerts en communauté, corroborent avec celles des chercheurs et des intervenants de première-ligne. Ce rapport souligne les difficultés rencontrées suite à la désinstitutionalisation des services de santé mentale. Par conséquent, on retrouve plusieurs tentatives de collaboration entre les principaux partenaires en santé mentale afin d'améliorer l'accès aux services.


Les conséquences catastrophiques de la désinstitutionalisation des services de santé mentale au Canada ont été révélées par un grand nombre d'étude empirique réalisée durant les quarante dernières années (Kelly, 2001; Rock, 2001; Brink, Doherty & Boer, 2001). Le transfert des services de santé mentale, préalablement gérés par les instituts psychiatriques, vers les agences communautaires n'a pas été un grand succès. Les fonds disponibles pour les programs offerts en communauté sont insuffisants et essentiellement négligés; en plus les intervenants de première-ligne et autres membres du personnel ne reçoivent pas la formation nécessaire pour travailler avec ce type de population (Kelly, 2001). Ainsi, certains d'établissements résidentiels communautaires (ERC) et de centres correctionnels communautaires préfèrent ne pas accueillir les délinquants ayant des troubles de santé mentale; spécialement lorsque celui-ci est accompagné de problème de drogue et/ou d'alcool.

D'après Marjorie Rock (2001), les intervenants de première ligne, qui œuvrent à l'intérieur du système de justice, ne communiquent pas entre eux lors du transfert d'un délinquant vers une autre agence, lors de l'identification des besoins et de l'élaboration du plan d'intervention. Les agences qui administrent les programmes de santé mentale

et celles qui administrent les programmes d'abus de drogue, par exemple, ne s'associent pas de façon à développer des objectifs communs qui seront favorables à la réintégration des délinquants (Rock, 2001). Or, les agences communautaires tentent de subvenir uniquement aux besoins qui s'alignent avec les programmes d'intervention qu'elles offrent.

Également, la question des pratiques efficaces (« What works? »), adoptées par les organismes communautaires, se concentre davantage sur l'efficacité des intervenants de première ligne à se souscrire simultanément à leur obligation juridique et à leur engagement éthique (Blackburn, 2004). Essentiellement, le rôle des intervenants de première ligne et autres membres du personnel est de superviser et surveiller les délinquants en communauté afin de prévenir la récidive. Par conséquent, l'objectif premier de la réhabilitation n'est pas de développer des programmes d'intervention voué à la réintégration sociale, mais au contraire, il vise la réduction du taux de récidive (Blackburn, 2004).

« Une définition plus précise de la réhabilitation, telle qu'elle en est aujourd'hui, représente celle-ci comme étant vouée à la réduction du taux de récidive et à la sécurité publique. L'évaluation des besoins du délinquant ne fait que partie du processus qui permet au succès de celle-ci. Ainsi, l'objectif de la réhabilitation n'est pas d'assurer la réintégration du délinquant, mais de le contrôler davantage (Blackburn, 2004 : 301). »

La conférence « Bolton Day », qui a eu lieu à Hamilton le vendredi 1^{er} juin 2007, a donc tentée d'adresser et de développer de meilleures pratiques de collaboration entre les agences communautaires afin de promouvoir une perspective interdisciplinaire. 

Josée Tremblay, assistante de projet, SSLC

Move beyond bars. Create second chances.

Launching SLS Winnipeg (cont. from p. 1)

the devastation of crime are struggling to achieve a shared definition and experience of justice. There's a sense that our current process stops short of redemption, healing, well-being, and peace – elements that should either be a part of, or the result of, a true justice process.

We've come together to chart a new course that we're calling the Journey to Justice, but there are many other alliterative analogies that might suit just as well: the Road to Redemption, the Path to Peace, the Walk to Well-being, or just Careening away from Crime! We're known as the St. Leonard's Society of Winnipeg, and we've recently incorporated with the blessing of St. Leonard's Canada.

St. Leonard's Society of Winnipeg assists victims, offenders, their families and supporters to achieve justice that heals by fostering dialogue, understanding and accountability for crime and its consequences.


Through the Journey to Justice we are hoping to establish an oasis for victims of crime, known as Safe Justice House. It will serve as a safe, comfortable, friendly home where victims can connect with others who are on a journey toward healing, and who have stopped at this oasis for timely information, nourishment and encouragement along the way. We hope to form a victim coalition at the house that will interact with other concerned groups.

At the same time we hope to establish a Journey to Justice coalition among inmates at the Stony Mountain penitentiary. We believe that many people who have committed serious crimes desire to redeem themselves – or make amends for their actions – beyond sitting in a prison cell. While it is never possible to undo the harm caused, discovering and developing ways to serve victims and the broader community assists offenders to exhibit more selfless, caring attitudes and behaviors. Real hope for future redemption in society rests with an honest commitment to use talents and abilities for the betterment of the community, rather than squandering them.

Our desire is to begin the process in the Intake Unit, shortly after admission to SMI; continuing the journey through unit and work placements at SMI; through participation in a Journey to Justice Coalition in SMI; through release into a community

coalition; and formally ending the journey together at Warrant Expiry Date. If necessary and appropriate, inmates would participate in a Family Group Decision Making process, and reside at the House of Peace, a transitional house for journey participants.

When serious crime occurs, it creates a ripple effect on relationships. We contend that isolating and “treating” just the victim, or just the offender achieves far less satisfying outcomes than addressing the concerns of the larger related circles of those affected. We are also of the view that people make decisions, for better or worse, in the context of their relationships with those they esteem, be they family or gang members. Accordingly, we expect the proposed victim, offender, and community coalitions to play significant roles in their walks to well-being.

We would like to thank the St. Leonard's Society of Windsor for their thoughtful and practical contribution to our inception, and look forward to connecting with others in the St. Leonard's network as we begin our pilgrimage down the long and winding road that leads to the path of peace. (Is the sizzling summer heat getting to me, or is that just too corny...) 

Graham Reddoch is the Founding Executive Director of SLS Winnipeg

45 Years of Challenge and Success (cont. from p. 1)

Less than three years following the public declaration quoted above, Neil Libby founded St. Leonard's Society of Canada, igniting a halfway house movement across the country. Canada's “hoodlum priest” was opposed more often than supported, had more dedication than dollars and had the imagination and audacity to provoke his critics by saying “Why Not!”

This is our legacy: a rich heritage of achievement and advocacy in spite the intimidating opposition. Halfway houses didn't just turn up. All of St. Leonard's affiliates are indebted to these community advocates for their courage and refusal to accept defeat.

It is therefore appropriate that on this particular anniversary we look back and reflect upon our experience of challenges and successes. As Ken Bolton communicates in *Halfway Home*, “Neil Libby did not discount the need for punishment, but he insisted that it should be humane and purposive.”


Much has changed in the last 45 years; however, the determination to challenge the status quo and the drive to provide more human and effective corrections remains St. Leonard’s governing mission. St. Leonard’s intentions are not for the faint hearted.

In the early 1990’s the LifeLine™ program received the same hostility from public opinion reminiscent to that of the struggle faced by our founders in 1962. SLH Windsor’s Board of Directors, inspired by John Braithwaite, Lou Drouillard and Tom French, persevered and realized their dream of instating a dedicated residential program for life-sentenced offenders.

The recipe for implementing innovative community-based programs is, as it has been in the past: passionate leadership, partnership and the endurance to withstand the opposition.

Today, LifeLine is a national program recognized internationally as a best practice in corrections. Similar to what halfway houses represented 45 years ago, LifeLine is a great example of cutting-edge work implemented in the community. The use of paroled lifers may be viewed as a risk to public safety, yet St. Leonard’s experience and expertise has demonstrated how this venture is most valuable when attempting to ensure safe and successful community reintegration.

As a student of history, I have always been inspired by the stories relating to the origins of St. Leonard’s House – Windsor. The decision to open a halfway house was a \$500 cheque from Bishop Cody of London Ontario as a result of a suggestion from Robert Williams, who later founded St. Leonard’s House (Peel).

To honor this legacy, the Windsor Board, during the June Annual Meeting, decided to celebrate its 45th anniversary by donating to our newest affiliate, St. Leonard’s Society of Winnipeg. Their exciting restorative justice initiatives, which include Peace House, follow in the footsteps of St. Leonard’s long-established challenges: To dream! To dare! To deliver! 

Skip Graham is the Executive Director of St. Leonard’s House – Windsor


Society News

National

New Board and Executive for 2007-08

At the incoming Board meeting, officers were elected. We are thus pleased to present the new Board of SLSC:

Don Boudreau	President (V-P, Atlantic Region)
Merrickay Snelgrove.....	First Vice-President (V-P, Pacific Region) and Secretary
Mike Rutherford	Treasurer
Doug Caldwell	Vice-President, Ontario
John McDonough	Vice-President, Quebec
Ted Addie.....	Past President
Joe Barbaro.....	Director
Wilma Derksen	Director
J. Oliver Doyle	Director
Rebecca Howse	Director
Bruce McKinnon	Director
Joe Mell	Director
Barbara Nehiley	Director
Barry Turnbull	Director
Lynne Watts	Director

Many thanks to these dedicated individuals for volunteering their time to govern the Society. 

St. Leonard’s Society of Peterborough

SLSP Introduces a New House

By Jenni Macko

*Based on an interview with Darrell Rowe,
Executive Director of SLS Peterborough*

St. Leonard’s Society of Peterborough, who recently celebrated its 30th anniversary, has recently expanded with the addition of a new house. This new facility is intended to complement the existing 19-bed traditional community residential facility (CRF), and the 6-plex apartment facility. This new house is a two and a half storey, century-old building, which is a legal duplex.

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Pending National Parole Board decisions, the upper half of this building will become a residence for three men who will be assisted as they progressively reintegrate back into society. St. Leonard's Society of Peterborough's staff will occupy the lower half of the duplex where support will be provided to the residents.

The living area includes four bedrooms, a computer room and library, a full bathroom with tub and shower stall, laundry facilities, and a private entrance for residents. The residence is fully furnished, including new beds with linens, as well as dishes and utensils. Rent will depend on residents' income and is all-inclusive. Residents are invited, three times a week, to enjoy a meal at the main CRF, which is located a block away from the new house.

This facility is exclusively for graduates of the Peterborough CRF and it allows clients, who require additional support when leaving the CRF, to receive the assistance that is necessary to ensure a successful reintegration into society. It provides an alternative for men who are eligible for full parole but who, for various reasons such as mental health issues, may not have the necessary skills to succeed independently.

Many of these individuals are people who require support from the Ontario Disability Support Plan (ODSP), which only becomes available once they have left the CRF. On average, eight to twelve months are required before an individual starts receiving benefits. Therefore, this new facility allows men, who have or are in the process of applying for ODSP benefits, with affordable living accommodation and support.

Although the clients residing in this new facility are living "out of house", St. Leonard's Society of Peterborough continues to provide them with life skill training and any other necessary assistance.

We would like to extend our congratulations to St. Leonard's Society of Peterborough on their new house and wish them the best of luck with this new endeavor. 

Jenni Macko is a volunteer with SLSC



SLS PETERBOROUGH'S NEWHOUSE. ABOVE: Exterior. RIGHT and BELOW: Interiors, highlighting wood trims.

Photos: Daryl Rowe



St. Leonard's Society of Prince Albert

By Gerry Bissett

Prince Albert Connection

Prince Albert's Christmas at City Hall is an annual event which has been taking place for many years, thanks to Marge Nianaar, Prince Albert Multicultural Council Director, Jayne Remenda, Executive Director of The Down Town Improvement District and Lynn Brown of the Chamber of Commerce. Marge has been a volunteer for St. Leonard's Society of Prince Albert Inc. from the beginning. Her contribution has rendered St. Leonard's Society noticeable in the Prince Albert community.

I can recall Marge asking if it were possible for us to supply lunch for community members during a full week at City Hall. We accepted the challenge! It went very well. December 2005 was our first year. It was difficult to gather funds for this project, but Board members provided us with the necessary funds to buy supplies and food in order to make it happen. During our second year, 2006, it was a lot better. We had a better sense of what we were getting into. Similar to the previous year, we met at the Prince Albert Multicultural Council in the mornings and prepared our sandwiches and soup.

The work day usually began around 9 am and ended around 2 pm, which only included the community collaboration meeting. We also had to prepare for the next day. Once more our board members dedicated their time and money to make this event possible and successful.

The money from the sale of donated items enabled us to offer a hamper to The Prince Albert Children Haven. Bruce McKinnon, our president, presented it to Donna Soles, Director of the Prince Albert Children's Haven, on the last day this event. A stained glass elevator, donated by a lifer from Riverbend Institution, was also up for grabs through a raffle. Money from the sale of tickets was used to purchase items for the hamper. Bruce's grandson drew the winning ticket, which was done with enthusiasm, and our Mayor, Jim Scarrow, who was assigned to call on the winner, read out his wife's name. It was a good week for St. Leonard's Society of Prince Albert.

We want to thank many important people, including Marge Nianaar, without whom this project could not have such a great success. We would also like to thank




CHRISTMAS AT CITY HALL IN PRINCE ALBER. *From l-r: Gerry Bissett, Marge Nianaar, Bruce McKinnon.*

Linda McKinnon for helping out, during each day, even with her busy schedule. Rowan & Liam, for making us smile and teaching us that Christmas is a celebration for children. June Deluca, for helping out and baking almost 700 cookies, Steve Brewer and Shirley Penner for Santa's candy canes, Pennie Young for donating items for the Children's Haven hamper and Gary Gurtler for his donation of the Stained Glass elevator. Finally we would like to thank Bruce McKinnon, a top cook and bottle washer, for his dedication to this event, who definitely put in many hours. We are surrounded by a great group of people that believe in collaborating and creating excellent partnerships. Thank you!

Successful Community Forum

St. Leonard's Society of Prince Albert, Correctional Services of Canada, and the Citizens Advisory Committee held a Community Forum on the afternoon of March 21 at the John M. Cuelenaere Public Library, and it went off with out a hitch. Prominent members of our community, such as Prince Albert Mayor Jim Scarrow, Jason Hope Deputy Warden of Saskatchewan Penitentiary, Marge Nainaar Citizen Advisory Committee Chairman, Elizabeth White of SLSC, and many others shared the afternoon with residents of Prince Albert and Saskatoon talking about the safe reintegration of offenders to our community.

The efforts made by the guest speakers and concerned community members acknowledge the fact that offenders are released into our community, and by support and supervision increases the potential for safe and successful reintegration as well as safer communities.

SLS Prince Albert would like to thank all involved for their participation in a successful forum. 

Gerald Bissett is SLSC's Saskatchewan In-Reach Worker

ABOUT US . . .

St. Leonard's Society of Canada is a membership-based, charitable organization dedicated to community safety. The mission of SLSC is to promote a humane and informed justice policy and responsible leadership to foster safe communities.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Society or its members. Submissions, inquiries and comments are welcomed. Please contact us at:

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Your support helps us to do more. All donations will receive a tax receipt. Thank you.

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Last Words

Board and Staff 2007

Featured below are the Board and Staff of St. Leonard's Society of Canada, taken at the 40th Anniversary AGM luncheon of June 2, 2007, at the Hamilton Convention Centre. From left to right: J. Oliver Doyle, Rebecca Howse, David Whiteley, Daryl Clark, Gerry Bissett, Art Winters, Barbara Nehiley, Joe Barbaro, John McDonough, Josée Tremblay, Bruce McKinnon, Elizabeth White, Barry Turnbull, Joanne Knox, Lynn Watts, Ted Addie, Merrikay Snelgrove, Don Boudreau, Mike Rutherford, Doug Caldwell and Joe Mell.



Photo: Susan Haines

MissedUs?

Since our last issue, SLSC has had a lot on the go! We've:

- Started up a new LifeLine program in Alberta (see p. 1);
- Published a Good Practices Manual for CRFs (see pp. 4-5)
- Revamped our website (www.stleonards.ca);
- Launched a new project on mental health (for intro see pp. 6-7);
- Celebrated our 40th anniversary (coverage in next issue).

We hope you enjoy this special extended edition newsletter to get caught up!

Comings and Goings

See page 1 for a brief report on our two new In-Reach Workers for the province of Alberta, Daryl Clark and Art Winters.

Last winter and spring, SLSC was extremely lucky to benefit from the presence of Josée Tremblay as co-op placement student from the University of Ottawa's Criminology MA programme. Our good fortune continues as we were able to hire Josée through the summer as our Project Assistant. In this capacity, she has contributed enormously to advancing our new Mental Health project. We will be sorry to see her go when she heads off for continued studies and another co-op placement in the fall.

SLSC was also happy to welcome three new volunteers to its Head Office operations over the past few months. Many thanks to Jenni Macko, Christopher Hnain and Jaspreet Bhandal for their valuable support!

Annual Meetings are somewhat bittersweet as they are times of both arrivals and departures. This year, two fantastic volunteers ended terms on our Executive Committee and Board of Directors. Ted Addie and Michael James, our most recent Presidents, have moved on. We are extremely grateful for their generous contributions over the years of their time and talents, and their commitment to the best interests of social justice in Canada. Thankfully, both have agreed to stay in touch with the Society, so this à bientôt, not goodbye.

We welcome Wilma Derksen to our Board of Directors as a member-at-large. See page 9 for a complete list of SLSC's Board of Directors and Executive for 2007-2008.