

Coast to Coast

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Bulletin de la Société St-Léonard du Canada
Newsletter of the St. Leonard's Society of Canada

SLSC's 2004 Award Winners



LEFT: Joanne Knox, sporting a sash reading "Mrs. St. Leonard's", was presented with the Luxton Award by SLSC Executive Director Elizabeth White. The Award honours Joanne's two decades of outstanding service to St. Leonard's.
RIGHT: The Cody Award was presented to William David Harrow, seen on the left with (l-r) Bill Sanderson, Executive Director of St. Leonard's Community Services; Rebecca Howse, Past President of SLSC and Chuck Anderson, President of St. Leonard's Community Services and SLSC Board Member.

Photos: David Whiteley



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Community-based Corrections Matters


by Elizabeth White

Community-based corrections matters because it fulfills two basic functions in a socially just approach to crime:

- citizens accept their collective responsibility and privilege to contribute to community safety, and
- people in conflict with the law can access services and programs within community.

For Jim and Jill on the street, the first point is important to their sense of well-being in Canada; the responsibility is to see what and how we all can do to create healthy neighbourhoods, and the privilege is to have a say and a role in making that happen.

For Jim and Jill who have broken the law, the second point demonstrates the tangible connection to the community that they are part of, and provides ways to establish supports and acquire skills so that they have the tools to be safely on the street.

The result is that community-based corrections brings real meaning to community integration which builds community safety. 

Elizabeth White is Executive Director of SLSC

Community-based Corrections Matters will look at some current challenges in the next issue

BOOK REVIEW

by Donald G. Evans

RESPONDING TO YOUTH CRIME IN CANADA

Anthony N. Doob and Carla Cesaroni. University of Toronto Press, 2004.

The question of how to respond to youth crime has been hotly debated in Canada. Now, with the first year of the new Youth Criminal Justice Act over, it is timely to have a new book appraising Canada's response to youth crime. Anthony N. Doob and Carla Cesaroni from the Centre of Criminology at the University of Toronto have produced a very thoughtful analysis of youthful offending and the state's subsequent response to the offenders.

In *Responding to Youth Crime in Canada*, published in 2004 by the University of Toronto Press, Doob and Cesaroni have covered the background to a separate youth justice system and the trends and patterns of youthful offending in eleven clearly written chapters. They challenge the tendency of government to adopt quick fix approaches to the youth crime problem. Policy and decision makers are in need of a clear-headed and thoughtful review of what is known and not known about youth crime and this book fulfills that need. The authors of this book attempt a broad based analysis of the response to youth crime in Canada that should go a long way to assisting Canadians in understanding what can and cannot be achieved by legislative means.

In the opening chapter, Doob and Cesaroni deal with the relationship between youth crime in the community and the youth justice system, and how it responds to apprehended young offenders. In response to the public's view that the Young Offenders Act was to blame for the increase in youth crime, they argue that the level of youth crime is not determined by the type or form of the youth justice system. The chapter examines youth offending and explanations of offending, including a look at the public's view of the youth justice system. The authors also present an overview of the different approaches to youth justice, from welfare to criminal justice models that have been developed in Canada in the past 100 years. Chapter Two provides an answer to the question: "Why have a separate justice system?" The next chapter follows closely on the arguments in Chapter Two and discusses the issue of youth justice and very young children, presenting an analysis of the age of responsibility boundary. They conclude that the major issue in responding to youth or children's offending "appears to be what is done and what services are available." In other words, say the authors, "it may be less important whether the law enabling intervention is criminal law created in Ottawa or child welfare law created in each province."

The authors also devote a chapter to a discussion of the nature of youth crime and conclude that there is no foolproof measure of youth crime. The majority of youth offending when self reported, tends to be minor in nature. Official police and court statistics measure the results of discretionary action on the part of youth criminal justice agents. When looking at victimization reports, it seems that youth tend to victimize those that are close to them in age. Chapter Six elaborates on this discussion by examining trends in youth offending and the authors conclude that crime in general and youth crime specifically are not on the increase. Nevertheless, the authors caution us not to become complacent, and they maintain that there is a need to press for im-

provements in the youth justice system and in responses to youth crime. Doob and Cesaroni devote a chapter to the special issues related to youth gangs, school violence and the problem of recidivists. They suggest that this is a very complex area and that we need to know what we are talking about before we draw conclusions on what is to be done.


Having dealt with issues about youth crime, the authors turn their attention to an examination of the youth justice system. Chapters Seven through Ten look at the various elements of the system. There is discussion on how cases get to court, the issue of transfer of youth to adult courts, the sentencing options available and the impact of custody on youth. These chapters are very readable and give an excellent overview of the youth justice system.

This book concerns itself with the problem of youth crime and how to respond. The concluding chapter takes a look at what the authors call quick fixes that the state has introduced to respond to youth crime. They select three examples for discussion: the development of harsher sentences, boot camps and the use of curfews. The research cited indicates that these three examples are ineffective in dealing with youth crime. The authors note that "the major hurdle of the quick fix approaches to youthful offending is that these methods appear to be developed completely independently of what is known about youthful offending."

Returning to the major themes of the book, youth crime and the youth justice system, the authors remind us that we need to differentiate three phenomena:

- i) youth crime as it exists in our community,
- ii) the youth justice system and how it responds to those youth who are arrested, and
- iii) the causes of youth crime.

The first two phenomena were the subject of this book and were dealt with in a thorough and scholarly manner. The third was only mentioned in passing but the authors show that they understand and take seriously the need to consider more fully the causes of youth crime through their discussion of the need to focus on long-term prevention and by noting the characteristics of effective intervention programs. However, the response to the causes may not be totally within the ambit of the youth criminal justice system.

Given that the Youth Criminal Justice Act has had its one year anniversary, this book provides an essential aid to anyone interested in reflecting on how the government responds to youth crime. This book will be the means for informing the debate on what is to be done about youth crime in Canada and is a most welcome addition to the library of those working with youthful offenders or to anyone interested in justice for our youth. 

Donald G. Evans is President of the Canadian Training Institute, Toronto, Canada.



C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S !
Don Boudreau, SLS Nova Scotia's President,
(left) presented Dave MacKenzie with a Ten
Years of Service Award.

Dave MacKenzie: Congratulations...and Clarifications

LifeLine Inreach Worker Dave MacKenzie recently received a Ten Years of Service Award from St. Leonard's Society of Nova Scotia. SLSC joins SLS Nova Scotia in congratulating him on completing a first ten years.

In our feature interview with him last issue, we should have indicated that 165 representatives from various high schools came together at Toronto's Metro Hall for the "Banking on Youth" conference at which Dave spoke with Correctional Service of Canada Commissioner Lucie McClung. Incorrect information was given. We apologize for the error.

Dave also asked that we specify that the arts company mentioned in that article will assist families of offenders *through existing community agencies.*

News and Views

Conditions Necessary for Successful Policy Advocacy: Conclusions

by **Jessica A. DiZazzo**


I began my field placement with St. Leonard's Society of Canada in January, 2004, eager to delve into questions of how criminal justice and corrections looked from the "other side" of the policy debate, for those working outside the legislative and judiciary branches of government. Over the course of my placement and related research, I discovered that often voluntary sector organizations find themselves not only operating outside the "system," but outside the debate as well. This discovery sparked the major research endeavour of my placement, an exploratory piece outlining some of the conditions necessary for successful policy advocacy, obstacles to this success, and best practices in this area.

First, policy advocates must identify the issue to rally around. In the political culture this is not a simple exercise, as organizations must not only define and evaluate issues of concern, but must do so according to contemporary socio-political climate, with an awareness that policy-makers and citizens may define issues differently or have their definitions shaped by conflicting information. Thus NGO representatives must become experts on their agencies' focal issues in addition to other issues and opinions dominating political discourse. Possessing these resources, they become more desirable consultation partners.

Second, NGOs must establish visibility for both their focal issues and the agency. Unfortunately, the Canadian government's consultation agenda does not always translate into positive practice and policy makers often consider meeting with selected NGOs as an open consultation with the NGO sector when, in fact, several NGOs feel excluded from the discourse. In addition to dialoguing with government, advocates must consider a second major audience. Direct influence on policy makers is valuable, but so is a strong public support base. However, finding or fostering public support for the agency and designated issues constitutes another challenge, especially in the current culture of fear and control. NGOs may elect to use different strategies to address visibility concerns. Some elect to "sell" their proposed policies or programs to "crime-tough" audiences by framing them in the dominant language of

"what works." Others, predicting the government and/or public's rejection of their causes, avoid the public forum, investing instead in influencing policy makers.

Finally, establishing and maintaining strategic relationships with policy-makers, politicians, and other NGOs constitutes an essential part of policy advocacy, as both an independent condition for success as well as a tool for advancing the aforementioned conditions. This is perhaps the most difficult task. Policy advocates must be mindful of the government-NGO relationship's potential for exploitation, co-option, and abuse. Breaking into the consultation , elite is not enough, advocates must also ensure that their work remains in some way "theirs," rather than permitting their work to be corrupted into something antithetical to their goals. In order to maximize these relationships, participants must assuage partners' fears of criticism and loss of autonomy by basing relationships on accountability, respect, openness, mutuality, and shared goals. Parties can – and should – be critical of each other, but also recognize their partners' positive contributions or risk becoming irrelevant or ignored.

While there are many objective conditions that NGOs have power to determine, others remain largely outside their sphere of influence. Much policy advocacy success or failure lies in responsiveness of policy-makers and citizens to NGOs' missions and work. In my view, NGO representatives should be neither complacent nor discouraged but, rather, meet this challenge, for their influence is great and growing. Now, as they build relationships with new government partners, there is potential for even greater impact. 

Jessica DiZazzo is SLSC's Research and Policy Assistant

This article is an overview of a paper by Jessica DiZazzo entitled "An Examination of The Role of the Voluntary Sector in Criminal Justice and Corrections and the Conditions Necessary for Successful Policy Advocacy."

Our Mission

We want to hear from you!

St. Leonard's Society of Canada is in the middle of Strategic Planning, and part of that process has been to define a new Mission Statement. We have recently reached the stage where we have a new Draft Mission Statement ready for review, divided into a description of SLSC and the Mission Statement

proper. Before we adopt a new statement, we are inviting feedback on the current draft from both members and people outside of St. Leonard's. We want to be sure that everyone has an opportunity to share their opinion. Does this statement reflect the orientation you want to see St. Leonard's Society of Canada take? Do you feel that it effectively communicates this orientation?

You'll find the Draft Mission Statement below, followed by our previous Mission Statement for comparison. Please send your comments to SLSC's Head Office, by whatever means you prefer. All of our contact information appears on page 8.

Draft Mission Statement

Description:

St. Leonard's Society of Canada is a membership-based, charitable organization dedicated to community safety.

Mission Statement:

The mission of SLSC is to promote a humane vision and responsible leadership to foster safe communities and informed justice policy for all Canadians. It:

- i) endorses evidence-based approaches to criminal and social justice;
- ii) conducts research and develops policy;
- iii) supports its member affiliates; and
- iv) advances collaborative relationships and communication among individuals and organizations dedicated to social justice.

Énoncé de mission – ébauche

Description:

La Société St-Léonard du Canada est un organisme de bienfaisance constitué de membres et voué à la sécurité de la collectivité.

Énoncé de mission:

La mission de la SSLC est de promouvoir une vision compatissante et un leadership responsable qui contribueront à des collectivités plus sûres et à la formulation de politiques éclairées en matière de justice qui profiteront à l'ensemble des Canadiennes et des Canadiens. La Société:

- i) endosse les approches de justice pénale et sociale reposant sur des données concluantes;
- ii) oeuvre dans les domaines de la recherche et de l'élaboration des politiques;
- iii) offre un soutien à ses membres affiliés;
- iv) s'applique à créer des liens de collaboration et de communication entre les personnes et les organismes voués à la justice sociale.

Previous Mission Statement (for comparison)

The St. Leonard's Society of Canada is a national affiliation of non-profit organizations and individuals committed to the prevention of crime through programs which promote responsible community living and safer communities.

Ancien énoncé de mission (à comparer)

La Société St-Léonard du Canada est une association nationale de particuliers et d'organismes à but non lucratif qui croient à la prévention de la criminalité au moyen de programmes qui promeuvent des collectivités plus sûres et responsables.



St. Leonard's Society of Canada is deeply appreciative of the generous support from The Ontario Trillium Foundation for our Strategic Planning Process.

LOFTY IDEA:

Jessica DiZazzo and Susan Haines deal with the fallout from moving, combined with the fallout from our recent AGM, Bolton Day and Strategic Planning session, in SLSC's new office space at The Bronson Centre.

For more details about the new space, including the new address, see page 8.

Photo: David Whiteley



SOCIETY NEWS

National

By David Whiteley

St. Leonard's Society of Canada held yet another highly successful Bolton Day conference on May 28th, timed to coincide with our Annual General Meeting the following day. Both events were held in London and co-hosted by our local affiliate in that city. Attendance at the conference reached capacity and evaluations were very positive. Clearly the day's theme, "Collaboration and Partnership – Turning Buzzwords Into Reality" struck a chord with the very diverse group of participants. Our thanks to speakers, moderators, workshop facilitators and SLS London volunteers for making the day a success. Look for proceedings from the day to be published on our website, www.stleonards.ca.

One of the main activities of the Annual General Meeting was to elect the new Board of Directors for the Society, which in turn elected a new Executive. Our thanks for the contributions of departing Board members Sharon MacEachern, Jan Carrie Steven and the many years of outstanding service by long-term Board member Merrikay Snellgrove. Welcome to new members John Battison, Marilyn Cooper, Royal Galipeau and Renée Robertson. The new Board and Executive is as follows:

- Michael James President
- Ted Addie Secretary
- Michael Rutherford Treasurer
- Don Boudreau First Vice-President
- (Vice-President, Atlantic)
- John McDonough Vice-President, Quebec
- Roy Oiyé Vice-President, Ontario

- Renée Robertson Vice-President, Pacific
- Rebecca Howse Past President
- Chuck Anderson Director
- Joseph P. Barbaro Director
- John Battison Director
- Marilyn Cooper Director
- Royal Galipeau Director
- Bernie Kroeker Director
- Pauline Lambert Director
- Joe Mell Director
- Thomas Nicolle Director
- Ray Scanlan Director



David Whiteley is SLSC's Office Manager and Publications Manager


House of Hope (Ottawa)

Community Forum Report

By James Lafleur

House of Hope held a community forum on March 25th of this year on "Parolees Returning to the Community." In total we had 104 participants. Our keynote speaker for the event was Rev. Dr. Pierre Allard, Assistant Commissioner, Community Engagement for the Correctional Service of Canada. Rev. Dr. Allard spoke of how offenders come from our communities and eventually will return to those communities. In what shape will they return to our communities? Do they have new contacts or are they going back to the "old crowds"? He indicated that there are programs that work: Circles of Support, restorative justice, volunteer associations, community resource facilities, etc.

Michael Crowley, National Parole Board member, discussed the role of NPB in regards to releasing offenders, the impact of victims' groups and the importance of community partners involved in the release and reintegration of the offender. An ex-offender spoke about his personal struggles upon

release but also the positive impact that various criminal justice partners have had and continue to have. Paul Heffler, of the Ottawa Carleton Regional Police, discussed the role and stance of that organization, namely that its responsibility to the public at large is to ensure that offenders released back to the community do not re-offend. He acknowledged the need for community resource facilities. Sharon Rosenfeldt, Chair of the Office for Victims of Crime, Ministry of the Attorney General, discussed her personal interest in the criminal justice system. In the mid 1980s her son was murdered in BC. Since that time she has been very active promoting victims' rights in Ontario and across Canada. She indicated her belief that crime is not always the offender's fault, but rather the failure of the entire social system. Until we as a community embrace all those in need, there will always be people in crisis committing acts of crime. 

James Lafleur is Assistant Executive Director for House of Hope

Maison « Cross Roads » (Montreal)

Service Oxygène and Foyer Oxygène

by **Michel Gagnon**

Service Oxygène

Service Oxygène is dedicated to respecting individuals rights to dignity. It's main goal is to assist elderly inmates recently released from incarceration. Whether these individuals served life, or extended sentences, or were imprisoned late in life, Service Oxygène is ready to help. In general, this service is available to elderly inmates who:

- are experiencing difficulties in being released from detention due to their apprehension about the release or because various health and mental issues are making their release within the community problematic;
- have already been released into the community and may be experiencing difficulties as a result of long-term incarceration such as physical and/or mental issues, or other crisis situations;
- live in the community and are destitute and have no support network or residence.

Placement will be made within Community Residential Centres or Community Correctional Centres, including Foyer Oxygène (see below), and other residences that can accommodate our client group. It will provide help to elderly offenders by offering employment assistance, housing, and basic life skills instructions. This process will allow these offenders easier integration into the community. Elderly offenders will find unparalleled assistance from our vast network of volunteers specially trained to ease the transition from institutional living to one that is community-based. It offers access to various seniors' resources, including referral to long-term care facilities.

Service Oxygène will help sensitize the public, as well as the correctional community, about the gerontological and criminogenic issues facing elderly offenders and the community at large.


Service Oxygène works closely with Service Option Vie/LifeLine (in penitentiaries and the community), Correctional Service of Canada and all community correctional resources involved with elderly offenders within the Canadian correctional network.

Foyer Oxygène Residential Service

Foyer Oxygène Residential Service is a home-based residential resource for elderly offenders.

The length of stay will depend on each individual case, and whether they can achieve enough autonomy to return to the community. The goal is to place clients into low-cost housing, senior citizens' homes or other resources as quickly as possible.

To maintain the friendly family atmosphere usually found in such homes, the resource will accept only five people at a time. The residents will have their own room which they can furnish to meet their own individual needs and preferences. They will have access to communal living space, a meeting room for family and friends, and the kitchen. Although residents will do their own cooking, volunteers will help buy and prepare the food.

For more information, contact Maison « Cross Roads » at the numbers listed at the back of this newsletter. 

Michel Gagnon is Executive Director of Maison « Cross Roads ».

St. Leonard's Community Services (Brant)

Varency Home

By **Jo-Anne Link**

Varency Home is new project under construction in the community of Jarvis, Ontario. It is a partnership between the Children's Aid Society of Haldimand and Norfolk and St. Leonard's Community Services. For the past five years these two agencies have been working together providing care for children who are in need of residential services. In the past, this care has taken place at two of our group homes in Brantford.

About 24 months ago, the CAS approached our agency and asked that we work together to develop a group home in the Haldimand area for children in the care of the CAS from the Haldimand and Norfolk communities. Our unified purpose is to provide quality services inspiring our communities' youth to reach their full potential. We support youth to overcome challenges by helping them make responsible choices that result in positive change.

According to the Child Welfare League's Environmental Scan conducted in April 2001, approximately 135,000 investigations of child maltreatment were conducted in Canada in 1998 and the estimated number of kids in care has increased by more than 50% during the past five years.



COMING SOON: Varency Home, under construction. Photo by Bruce Barrett

The Haldimand-Norfolk community is no exception. At the present time we have 250 children in the care of the CAS and over 25 of these kids must live outside their home community due to a lack of residential resources in the region. Clearly the need for Varency Home is evident. Varency Home will be a safe haven for 10 children aged 12-16 who have been removed from their homes and placed under the protection of the CAS as a result of parental neglect, rejection, abandonment, physical abuse or sexual abuse.

Social Workers describe this group of kids as having behaviour problems, emotional difficulties, learning disabilities, chronic problems and failure in school, lack of social skills and low self-esteem. These kids have missed out of the most basic of human needs – to know that they have people who care about them and a place where they belong.

Varency Home will offer a therapeutic long-term program in a home-like environment that features both structure and safety. Our counsellors will work alongside social workers from the CAS, psychologists, teachers and other professionals in the community, creating plans to meet individual children's needs. The plans will focus on providing the young person with the skills for basic functioning, forming social support networks, building relationships, avoiding risky behaviour, developing life skills and problem solving ability, and achieving success in school.

Changing a life damaged by abuse does not happen easily or overnight. We will be hiring staff to work at the home, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. At all times, there will be someone available to meet the children's needs. Our staff are dedicated child and youth workers trained to use cognitive therapy and problem solving methods to help youth grow, manage their behaviour and learn skills for practical living.

For many of the young people at Varency Home, school success has been elusive. Varency Home will work closely with teachers and school administrators to help our residents who are able to attend school in the community experience success. Many residents will have special needs and for them, an alternative classroom will be located on-site at Varency Home to provide more support. Students in the school will work at their own level on individual programs that concentrate on core subjects.

Positive use of leisure time will be an important part of life at Varency Home. An active structured recreational program will provide the kids with a chance to enjoy sports, crafts and activities. Camping will also be a feature of the recreation program. We plan on taking the kids up north each summer so they can experience a remote one-week canoeing and camping experience on the French River.

In addition to helping youth, Varency Home will also be a valuable asset to the community. The program will bring new jobs and partnerships with local agencies and service clubs.

Today plans are well underway. A one acre lot was purchased near the community of Jarvis and plans were drawn for a 4000 square foot home that will include the on-site school. The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation is providing \$587,000 for the construction of the home and the Ontario Trillium Foundation has committed \$37,000 to furnish and equip it. Upon opening, the HNCAS will fund operating costs. Construction began mid-April, with an anticipated opening in time for the September 2004 school year.

Jo-Anne Link is Director of Children's Residential Services for St. Leonard's Community Services



FIVE STARS: Several prominent individuals took part in St. Leonard's Society of Peterborough's ribbon cutting ceremony on April 23. Seen here, from left to right: Darrell Rowe, ED of SLS Peterborough; Elizabeth White, ED of SLSC; Peter Adams, MP; Mayor Sylvia Sutherland (Past President of SLS Peterborough) and Jeff Leal, MPP.

St. Leonard's Society of Peterborough

Official Opening

By Darrell Rowe

On April 23, 2004 the St. Leonard's Society of Peterborough held a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house at Edmison House. The event celebrated the completion of almost one year under construction as a full foundation was placed beneath the 173 year old main residence. Additionally, a new three hundred square foot kitchen was also constructed.

Approximately seventy people attended the opening ceremony. A tour of the facility followed by snacks and refreshments completed the event. Special guests included Mayor Sylvia Sutherland; MP Peter Adams; MPP Jeff Leal; William Beatty, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation; Nancy Stableforth, Deputy Commissioner Ontario Region; Deb Chase, CSC Area Director and Elizabeth White, Executive Director, St. Leonard's Society of Canada.

Darrell Rowe is Executive Director of St. Leonard's Society of Peterborough

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WE'VE MOVED!

St. Leonard's Society of Canada recently moved its headquarters to The Bronson Centre, an Ottawa office building operated as a non-profit organization dedicated to providing charitable organizations with affordable office space. Our thanks to The Bronson Centre and to our local Ottawa affiliate, House of Hope, for making this exceptional opportunity become a reality.

Please take note of our new Ottawa address, highlighted below.

ABOUT US . . .

St. Leonard's Society of Canada is a national voluntary organization whose mission is to prevent crime and promote responsible community living and safer communities. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily shared by the editors or the Society. Submissions, inquiries and comments are welcomed. Please contact us at:

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Comings and Goings

We are pleased to announce that SLSC has recently been awarded a contract with Correctional Service of Canada to hire Gerald Bissett as a LifeLine Inreach worker based in Saskatchewan. This fulfills a long term goal of the Society to introduce a St. Leonard's presence to the Prairie region. We are delighted to welcome Gerry to our team.

After a successful student co-op placement, Jessica DiZazzo returned to the head office as Research and Policy Assistant thanks to a Summer Career Placement grant from HRSDC. SLSC is very lucky to have her back for another season.