



HEADING UP THE 25th ANNIVERSARY *St. Leonard's Society of Peterborough's President, J. Oliver Doyle, and Executive Director, Darrell Rowe, share the limelight at SLSP's 25th Anniversary Dinner.* Photo: Peter Gognavec

St. Leonard's in Peterborough

St. Leonard's Society of Peterborough celebrates Edmison House's 25th Anniversary

Edmison House is celebrating their silver anniversary this year. The Board of Directors and staff hosted a 25th anniversary dinner which was held at the Kawartha Golf and Country Club in Peterborough, Ontario. Approximately one hundred people attended the event including former board members, directors, staff, dignitaries and friends of St. Leonard's. The celebration included a served dinner and, of course, a large cake displaying "25th anniversary."

A number of dignitaries attended including MP Peter Adams, Mayor Sylvia Sutherland, Chief Terry McLaren, Deb Chase (Area Director CSC) and our own Elizabeth White.

Oliver Doyle, President, introduced the dignitaries and the current members of the Board of Directors of Edmison House.

Ruth Hillman, a current Board member and recently appointed Board historian, described her trials and tribulations in tracking people all over the country and beyond the Canadian borders to invite them to the event. Ruth's humorous speech set the tone for the evening and laid the groundwork for the speakers to follow.

Rather than one keynote speaker there were a number of speakers who shared memories of different periods covering the entire twenty-five year period. Mayor Sutherland, whose late husband David was a founding board member as well as the first President of Sir Sandford Fleming College, shared some of her

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St. Vincent de Paul Home - Peterborough

Presenting SLSCs Newest Associate

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an international Roman Catholic organization with a mandate to help economically disadvantaged people.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (Peterborough) is an incorporated not-for-profit group that operates St. Vincent

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News and Views

Creating Chances for the Future

When the first St. Leonard's house opened 40 years ago, few foresaw that halfway houses would become the integral part of federal community corrections that they are today. But thanks to the vision of some and the hard work of many, halfway houses play a key role in reintegration. This does not mean that they are immune from the challenges of change nor from the need for continual improvement if they are to hold the respect of the Canadian public that is necessary to ensure their continued existence.

St. Leonard's Society came to be, because of a belief in the need for transitional residential services for men who had been isolated from community for significant periods of time. Recognizing from the outset that transition involved more than three hots and a cot, there was an early insistence on development of employment skills and opportunities as well as life skills interventions to avoid future criminal involvement. While our member agencies now run a diverse range of programs, the federal halfway house is a cornerstone of our mandate and our Board of Directors is committed to helping houses be as effective as possible.

In February 2002 the St. Leonard's Society of Canada (SLSC) and the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) Research Branch, in collaboration with the Canadian Training Institute (CTI), initiated a research project on Canadian halfway houses. This three-year multi-phase project involves the participation of a National Advisory Committee and residential service providers throughout Canada, reflecting cultural, gender and profile specificity to achieve our goals. We want to find out what is out there, in order to find out "what works" in community-based residential services and programs for federally sentenced persons in Canada. We began with a Literature Review prepared by CTI which we can distribute electronically at present.

It is anticipated that the project will involve two phases. Phase 1 (2002-2003) involves developing a profile of residents in CRFs/CCCs over the last few years. It includes interviews with directors, staff, residents and other key stakeholders in a sample of CRFs/CCCs to describe various models currently in use and

issues they are facing. In addition, this phase involves developing appropriate outcome measures to examine what works in these facilities. Phase 2, tentatively scheduled for 2003-2004, will include an examination of the effectiveness of the various models of CRFs/CCCs and make recommendations for fields of improvement.

Correctional halfway houses were initially designed to help offenders negotiate the critical transition from confinement to the community. They were also used to aid offenders in need of short-term supervision in a community residential setting. It was felt that the provision of a supportive environment, the basic necessities of food and shelter and assistance in securing employment, education and counselling services would facilitate adjustment to the community and thus contribute to the correctional goal of reintegration.

CRFs have been developed at various points in time and in response to needs identified by the community. Therefore, there is a great deal of diversity in the approaches used in providing services to offenders across Canada. For example, while updating the CRF directory we encountered a variety of non-traditional approaches to

the halfway house model. Currently, houses operate variously as privately administered facilities, as residency programs that coexist with detox and drug treatment centres and homeless shelters, and some clients are housed in provincial institutions. We are working with CSC's Community Corrections staff to have this updated Directory distributed to community based halfway houses and CSC staff across the country to improve our awareness of who is out there doing what.

In the meantime, work is proceeding on outcome methodology and we plan to have a report ready for our advisory group to review in the early spring of 2003. We welcome your questions and comments on this project and would be pleased to send you additional information. Please contact Cathy Ann Kelly, Research Assistant in our Ottawa office for further materials. Addressing the gaps in knowledge about halfway houses, sharing best practises and understanding what works well in these community settings will create chances for our clients. Using research to improve our ability to match up residents with resources will improve community corrections in Canada.

Elizabeth White, Executive Director, SLSC

**Our mission: to
prevent crime and
promote responsible
community living and
safer communities**

St. Vincent de Paul Home (Continued from p.1)

de Paul Home, St. Vincent de Paul Store and Ozanam Home with each program having its own Management Committee to oversee operations. The Store sells used furniture, household articles and clothing as well as providing food vouchers and home visits to people. Ozanam Home is a recovery facility for adult substance abusers.

St. Vincent de Paul Home is an open custody, phase two facility for female young offenders. It is funded by the Province of Ontario: Ministry of Public Safety and Security. The initial contract with the Province indicated a co-ed facility to house 8 offenders. St. Vincent de Paul Home opened in March 1989 housing male offenders as the need for female beds was not required. Around 1993, we admitted female residents along with males. This situation was less than desirable as we found the male residents to be abusive towards the female residents. We transferred the males and remained all-female for about a year. At that time, we reverted back to male young offenders as the need for female beds had decreased once again. We continued to house male offenders until 1998 when the need for female beds rose. We have housed female offenders since that date.

St. Vincent de Paul Home offers a variety of in-house programs to its residents specific to the needs of young women: pregnancy, self-injurious behaviour, eating disorders, anger management, substance abuse, victimization (through violence), self-esteem, recreation. We also offer a series of individualized programs to assist the residents with personal self-growth.

Karen Carr, Executive Director, St. Vincent de Paul Home

St. Vincent de Paul Home - Peterborough

Some Statistics...

- Average age of residents has decreased in the past few years from 17.5 years old to 16.5 years old.
- Half of the offences of the residents involve breach of probation and fail to comply.
- In 01/02, 37% of our residents were level one offenders (had committed violent offences).
- Over the past 3 years, we have housed an average of 37 different residents.
- The average length of sentence is 3.8 months.
- Most resident's home locations are in Peterborough, Kingston, Ottawa and the Greater Toronto Area.
- Only 1% of our residents have received a review of disposition over the past 3 years. We believe this is predominantly related to their short dispositions, level one status and lack of family support. i.e. nowhere to go once they are discharged.
- About 3% have received pre-releases.



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Edmison House's 25th Anniversary (Continued from p.1)

thoughts regarding those early years. Sylvia was also a Board member who resigned on the evening of her election victory.

Mr. Al Smith, the senior parole officer with the CSC (P) Peterborough office, spoke. Al was the only person in attendance who has been working directly or indirectly with Edmison House since the first day the doors were opened. Although Al has not been doing parole supervision with our clients throughout the twenty-five year period, he has recently returned, once again, to do parole supervision of some of our clients.

Natalie Garnett, Board member, introduced Elizabeth White, by announcing that the organization has officially changed the legal registration from 458 Rubidge Inc. to the St. Leonard's Society of Peterborough. The amended letter's patent were received in June, 2002.

Elizabeth shared her thoughts regarding the affiliation with the St. Leonard's Society of Canada. She noted that Edmison House has been an affiliate for eleven years and is a valued member of the St. Leonard's family.

Oliver Doyle, President, spoke of the many years of struggle that the organization has endured. He mentioned the time several years ago when we were on the verge of insolvency. Careful planning and execution of a survival plan by both Board and staff prevented this disaster. In recent years we have been able to grow and stabilize the organization for the future.

Darrell Rowe, Executive Director, introduced the staff of Edmison House. His speech focused on the importance of the role of volunteers. It is the Board of Directors that provide the organization with a legitimate mandate to carry out our work. Edmison House is celebrating a 25th anniversary because of the efforts of these volunteers.

Darrell Rowe introduced the staff of Edmison House. He also spoke of past Board members, staff, colleagues and clients who have contributed to the development of Edmison House. Darrell called out the names of those who are no longer with us who made significant contributions.

Two presentations were made to honour people for their exceptional service to the organization. Elizabeth White assisted Darrell Rowe in presenting a framed picture of Edmison House to Mr. Ben Brien, past Board member and Executive Director. Mr. Brien was the 1998 Cody Award winner for outstanding contributions to the development of work skill training programs. Mr. Brien was the key player in the establishment of Scott's Plains Recycling; a non-profit that established the blue box program in the City of Peterborough and provided recycling services from 1984 – 2000.

Dr. Ronald Milne who has served for many years as the house doctor was honoured and presented with tickets for a Toronto Maple Leaf game and a jazz concert at Massey Hall. It was interesting to note that no one, including Dr. Milne, could remember exactly how many years of service he has provided. The best guess is approximately 18 years.

The event was attended by many past board members, members of the Peterborough/Lakefield Community Police Service, Community Assessment Team members, St. Leonard's Society of Canada and affiliate members, OHHA representatives, the John Howard Society of Peterborough, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Sir Sandford Fleming College, the Correctional Service of Canada and former student placements who have pursued careers in the field of corrections. The guest speakers and the members of the planning committee were each presented with a St. Leonard's gold pin. The event was a tremendous success and we look forward to our next milestone.

Darrell Rowe, Executive Director, SLS Peterborough



Your Opinion Matters: Evaluating *Bolton Day 2002*

Many of you receiving this newsletter attended Bolton Day 2002: "Taking Responsibility for Community Safety." We at St. Leonard's Society of Canada hope you found this conference useful. We would appreciate some feedback on the long-term value of the information presented at the conference. To this end, we invite you to respond to the following questions:

How has the information presented at Bolton Day 2002 influenced your work?

Please describe any new practices or revisions to existing practices you have instituted or helped to institute since the conference, in any of the topic areas covered (Safety and Transitional Housing, Sex Offender Reintegration, Support for Family with Loved Ones in Prison, Reintegration of People in Conflict with the Law, Conflict Resolution, Public Awareness).

Please mail your responses to the address listed on the back. Thank you for your time.

SOCIETY INFO

St. Leonard's Society of London

AGM and a New Program

St. Leonard's London has two items to report this fall. On Sept. 30 2002, we held our 33rd AGM. The meeting included the usual requirements of an AGM, highlighted by two activities. Our Board has been working with a Leadership Consultant over the past six months and we used the opportunity of our AGM to update our Staff on this activity. The Board is developing a policy base to facilitate a Carver model of Board leadership as we develop our current Strategic Plan. Secondly, where last year, in recognition of the International Year of the Volunteer, we acknowledged the contribution of over 100 volunteers, this year we chose to acknowledge the dedication of our staff and those with over 10 years Agency service in particular. Nine of our 43 staff have contributed over 10 years to St. Leonard's London. The Board was very pleased to acknowledge the contribution of all staff and especially our "10 plus" members.

The Ontario Ministry of Public Safety & Security has embarked upon a number of strategies related to the implementation of the new Youth Criminal Justice Act. One component of the implementation strategy has led to a unique contract with the Ministry for St. Leonard's London. Over the years leading up to the passing of the Act, London Executive Director, Peter Aharan, has been fortunate to participate in a number of consultations and dialogues with officials from both senior levels of government. Additionally, St. Leonard's London has developed new services and partnerships supporting several components of the new legislation. From that base, St. Leonard's London is pleased to be assisting the Ministry of Public Safety & Security in a orientation process in preparation for the April 1, 2003 implementation date. Peter will assist a Multi-Ministry team in reaching out to interested persons and stakeholders in 17 Ontario centres. Communities will be encouraged to consider local strategies that compliment the Act's increased emphasis on engaging traditional and non-traditional stakeholders in youth justice. The proposed Community Partnership initiative will see Peter visiting targeted locations up to three separate times in preparation for April 1, 2003. We look forward to updating readers on Peter's progress in future editions.

Peter Aharan, Executive Director, SLSL

St. Leonard's Society of Toronto

St. Leonard's Society of Toronto faces the challenge of transition with new initiatives

The Board of Director's is pleased to announce the promotion of Sonya Spencer as the Executive Director. Although we are excited that she has accepted this offer the transition period will continue due to Sonya's upcoming maternity leave. During this period SLST has contracted the services of the Canadian Training Institute (CTI) to assume the Acting Executive Director duties between December 2002 through March 2003. The long-standing positive relationship between SLST and CTI should ensure a smooth and exciting period for the agency.

SLST is very excited to report the recent progress that has been made in the development of our second-stage housing initiative. Appropriate accommodations are clearly an issue, which needs to be addressed in order to facilitate the reintegration of our clients safely into the community. It is because of this need that we established a committee in September to actively seek suitable property and begin negotiations with both the municipal and provincial funders. We are very optimistic about funding and hope to see clients utilizing this housing opportunity early in the New Year.

The After School Tutoring Program (ASTP) has exceeded previous years in student referrals and student utilization. The program consistently provides service four days a week to an average of 25 students. The Catholic Children's Aid Society along with other academic organizations have become strong referral sources recognizing that the supportive environment offered by SLST is essential in maintaining the educational goals of their identified "at risk" clients.

Crossroads House continues to operate at full capacity. SLST also provides the CHOICES program.

SLST Board and staff have demonstrated the commitment to our mission, showing energy and initiative during this period of change. Client service and delivery have always been our priority and will continue to be for many years to come.

Rebecca Rutherford, President, SLST

AFFILIATES & ASSOCIATES

House of Hope (Ottawa)

T : (613) 230-0986
F : (613) 238-5952

Larch Half Way House (Sudbury)

T : (705) 674-2887
F : (705) 674-4312

Maison «Cross Roads» (Montreal)

T : (514) 932-7188
F : (514) 932-6668

St. Leonard's Community Services (Brant)

T : (519) 759-8830
F : (519) 759-8156

St. Leonard's Home - Trenton

T : (613) 392-7149
F : (613) 392-3507

St. Leonard's House - Peel

T : (905) 457-3611
F : (905) 457-2294

St. Leonard's House - Windsor

T : (519) 256-1878
F : (519) 256-4142

St. Leonard's Society of Hamilton

T : (905) 572-1150
F : (905) 572-9152

St. Leonard's Society of London

T : (519) 850-3777
F : (519) 850-1396

St. Leonard's Society of North Vancouver

T : (604) 986-2886
F : (604) 986-5339

St. Leonard's Society of Nova Scotia

T : (902) 420-1221
F : (902) 492-0704

St. Leonard's Society of Peterborough

T : (705) 743-9351
F : (705) 743-9975

St. Leonard's Society of Toronto

T : (416) 462-3684
F : (416) 462-3894

St. Vincent de Paul Home - Peterborough (Associate)

T : (705) 749-5705
F : (705) 749-9545

Waseskun House - Kahnawake (Associate)

T : (514) 344-3378
F : (514) 344-7246

SEASON'S GREETINGS

from St. Leonard's Board and Staff

JOYEUSES FÊTES

de la part du conseil d'administration
et l'équipe de la Société St-Léonard



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:

The Ottawa Office

712-151 Slater Street
Ottawa ON
K1P 5H3

Tel: (613) 233-5170

Fax: (613) 233-5122

E-Mail: slsc@on.aibn.com

Executive Director - Elizabeth White

Kingston Program Director - Joanne Knox

The Toronto Office

605-920 Yonge Street
Toronto ON
M4W 3C7

Tel: (416) 920-6116

Fax: (416) 920-5885

The Kingston Office

P. O. Box 35003
Kingston, ON
K7L 5S5

Tel: (613) 545-0253

Fax: (613) 545-9241

Website: www.stleonards.ca

Office Manager - David Whiteley

Research Assistant - Cathy Ann Kelly

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Comings and Goings

St. Leonard's Society of Canada was delighted to have the St. Vincent de Paul Home of Peterborough join our ranks as an Associate Member this fall. See page one for an introduction to who they are. Welcome to the St. Leonard's family!

SLSC's Kingston Office gained the help of Brenda Whetstone as a part-time assistant to Joanne Knox this fall. We're glad to have you with us, Brenda.

After 5 years service on SLSC's Board of Directors, Doug Caldwell has decided that the time has come to step down. Rebecca Howse, President of SLSC, accepted his resignation with regret this fall. Thank you Doug for your dedication to St. Leonard's.

St. Leonard's Society
of Canada



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