

Message from the President

March 2006 marks the completion of three years for me as President of the Child Witness Centre Board. It has been an honour to contribute in that role. The work done by the agency is vitally important for child victims, their families and for our community. The staff, directors and volunteers are caring and professional. The financial support so forthcoming from the community reflects an amazing spirit of generosity and concern for others. To all those receiving this report, sincere thanks.



Rita Westbrook

I cannot end my term without paying special tribute to Heidi and Jim Balsillie. Their support for the Child Witness Centre over many years reflects a deep concern for the children of our community and has made it possible to sustain our services for child victims. We are truly grateful for their compassion and public mindedness, which is an inspiration to all.

Let me share with you an overview of 2005:

- Thanks to an effective working relationship with Waterloo Regional Police Services, the Crown Attorney's office, Family & Children's Services, and the Victim Witness Assistance Program, our services continue to be extended on a timely basis to virtually all who need them. More than 300 child victims and witnesses were referred to us in 2005. Feedback we receive continues to demonstrate the value of the support provided.
- We continue to receive substantial support from the United Way of Kitchener-Waterloo and Area and from the United Way of Cambridge and North Dumfries. Agency staff did more than 25 workplace meetings and hosted five agency tours by employee groups and United Way volunteers during the campaign.
- Three of our staff received community recognition. Mary Frances Carter and

Jo-Anne Hughes received Unsung Hero awards at the Justice Dinner, and Katrina Ratz won a Rogers Woman of the Year Award in the Youth category during Oktoberfest.

- Shaughnessy Howell, a Waterloo training firm continues to provide its services to us free of charge, developing a self-paced, six-module child witness case-worker training program.
- We received several donations to the Child Witness Centre — Jim and Heidi Balsillie Endowment Fund. The Fund was set up through The Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation.
- The agency sustained a strong core of 55 volunteers, including three who assist us with office work on a weekly basis. We also had a Bluevale co-op student working with us.
- We completed the final step in providing group benefits for our staff, with the addition of a Group RRSP in September 2005.
- The West Cambridge Optimist Club and Sertoma/La Sertoma Foundation continued to provide invaluable support in sustaining our Kitchener and Cambridge facilities.
- We had a very active schedule of agency events, including a gala, pancake lunch, garage sale, and a day-long youth development symposium for 1,200 grade 7 and 8 students from across the region.
- We continued our pursuit of annualized funding from the Victims' Justice Fund—many meetings, phone calls, e-mails and letters with the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General and local MPPs.



Alexandra Hardy

We are very fortunate to have Alexandra Hardy taking on the President's role. Alex joined the board in 2002 and has served as Treasurer,

Chair of our Finance Committee, and Vice-President. Alex is an accountant by profession and is a Senior Manager with BDO Dunwoody.

Special thanks to Rob Dippell, who leaves the Board in March 2006, after having served for eight years, including three years as President and three years as Treasurer. Rob has given his time generously for many years and provided strong leadership for the agency. We are immensely grateful to him and are very pleased that he has agreed to continue on as a volunteer on several Board Committees.

The Child Witness Centre has been very fortunate over the years in attracting to its Board people of exceptional ability and diverse experience from across the Region. Three such people are joining the Board in March 2006: Rod Miller, Senior Manager at Family and Children's Services; Cheryl Preston, Senior Vice-President of MCAP National Servicing Operations; and George Kehayas, Manager, New Product Development at Toyota.

Other Directors to whom we are very grateful for their leadership and generous gift of time include:

Kevin Bambrick, recently retired as a Tax Auditor with Canada Revenue Agency.

Robin Decker, Director of Human Resources with Rowan Williams Davies & Irwin.

Teresa Douma, Lawyer with Canadian Council of Christian Charities.

Duncan McLean, ICI Sales Representative with Coldwell Banker Commercial Peter Benninger Realty.

Amy Reier, Lawyer, Bond and Brownell.

Kathy Storing, Life Copy Editor at The Record.

Craig Sullivan, Sales Representative, JJ Barnicke Whitney Limited, Industrial Commercial Investment Brokerage.

Thanks again to the many in our community who help to sustain the vital services provided to child victims by the Child Witness Centre.

Child Witness Program Statistics

Year	Active Cases from Prev Yr.	New Referrals	Total Children Assisted
2001	195	374	569
2002	174	385	559
2003	251	339	590
2004	165	359	524
2005	261	329	590

Profile of Children Assisted	5 Year Average
Age 7 and under	8%
Age 8-12	29%
Age 13-15	49%
Age 16+	14%
Victims	58%
Witnesses	42%
Kitchener-Waterloo Residents	68%
Cambridge Residents	26%
Townships and Outside the Region	6%
Types of Crime Involved	5 Year Average
Sexual Assault	25%
Other Types of Assault	37%
Domestic Violence	18%
Other Charges	20%
Relationship of Accused to the Child	5 Year Average
Family Member, Relative, Guardian	37%
Friend or Acquaintance	46%
Stranger	17%

Child Witness Program

Our goals are:

- To reduce the risk that the court process will retraumatize child victims and witnesses.
- To help protect the child's sense of self-worth and confidence.
- To facilitate truthful testimony.

Services are free and include:

- Educating the child on courtroom procedures and the role of a witness.
- Dealing with the child's fears and apprehensions.
- Scheduling and attending pre-trial meetings for the child with the Crown Attorney.
- Providing 'child friendly' rooms in Kitchener and Cambridge where children wait before going to court.
- Accompanying children into the courtroom, and on occasion on the witness stand.
- Providing updates for the family on the progress of the case.
- Assisting with victim impact statements.
- Explaining the verdict.



Parent Support Services

Although the Child Witness Centre focuses on the children, support is often provided to their parents as well. In 2005 we tested the concept of holding group sessions for parents of child victims, as is done at the Toronto Child Abuse Centre. We learned that parents in this region prefer to receive help on a one-on-one basis. As a result, we used the information intended for the group session to enhance our protocol for working individually with parents.

Our objectives are to:

- Explain the court process their child is going through.
- Provide regular updates on court proceedings.
- Help parents understand the importance of their support for their child, and how to do that effectively.
- Provide emotional support.
- Allow a safe place for parents to express their own fears and concerns about the court process.
- Ensure parents are aware of the counselling support available to them in the community.
- Provide support in connection with their child meeting the Crown Attorney.
- Help with issues associated with withdrawal of the charges.
- Encourage parents who are reluctant to have their child testify.
- Assist with victim impact statements.
- Explain the verdict and sentencing.



CAMPAIGN LEADERS

Jim & Heidi Balsillie

COMMUNITY LEADERS

Bob & Judy Astley

Chief Larry Gravill

WATERLOO REGIONAL POLICE SERVICES

Rick Purdy

CEO, COWAN INSURANCE BROKERS

Bob Rosehart

PRESIDENT, WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY

Ken Seiling

CHAIR, REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WATERLOO

Karen Wilkinson

TAX PARTNER, DELOITTE

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Waterloo Regional Police Services

Family and Children's Services of
Waterloo Region

Crown Attorney, Regional
Municipality of Waterloo

2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rita Westbrook

PRESIDENT

Robert Dippell

PAST PRESIDENT

Alexandra Hardy

VICE PRESIDENT

Kevin Bambrick

TREASURER

Teresa Douma

SECRETARY

Robin Decker

Duncan McLean

Amy Reier

Kathryn Storrington

Craig Sullivan

STAFF

Jack Reynolds

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jo-Anne Hughes

PROGRAM CO-ORDINATOR

Laura Cook

CASE WORKER

Linda Mark

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR

Katrina Ratz

ADMINISTRATIVE/CWP ASSISTANT

Mary Frances Carter

PROGRAM ADVISOR

Financial Highlights

We completed the year with a surplus, which enables us to sustain services at no charge to families; moves us closer to a reserve target which will enable us to cope in the event of a significant funding shortfall; and supplements a facility fund established in 2004 after the government announced plans to consolidate court facilities in Waterloo Region. A change in the location of the court would require the Child Witness Centre to relocate.

BALANCE SHEET

Assets	2004	2005
Bank and Cash	88,926	79,270
Short Term Investments	54,700	102,052
Managed Fund Investment	50,000	50,000
Interest Receivable, GST		
Recoverable, Prepaid Expenses	2,493	2,672
Total Assets	196,119	233,994
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable & Accruals	6,616	8,778
Payroll Remittance Payable	3,696	3,025
Deferred Contributions	71,503	58,387
Total Liabilities	81,815	70,190
Net Assets		
Internally Restricted	50,000	80,000
Unrestricted	64,304	83,804
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	196,119	233,994

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Revenue	2004	2005
Community Donations	59,832	78,357
Agency Run Events	14,340	17,678
Ontario Trillium Foundation	71,928	62,657
Other Foundations	40,350	2,400
Government Grants	10,335	20,650
United Way	78,750	79,000
Break Open Tickets	20,429	24,767
Other Income	3,250	2,532
Total Revenue	299,213	288,041
Expenses		
Facility Expenses	28,261	25,723
Administration	9,639	11,057
Travel & Staff Development	5,852	3,114
Resource Development	30,285	11,589
Salaries & Benefits	175,600	169,352
Other Expenses	11,112	17,706
Total Expenses	260,749	238,541
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	38,465	49,500



Child photographs by:
David McCammon Photography.
All child photos
are simulated situations.