



Child
Witness
Centre

Serving Waterloo Region and Wellington County

2006 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



615 children and families were assisted in 2006.

Established in 1981, the Child Witness Centre is a local registered charity providing support and court preparation for child victims and witnesses.

Message from the President

I am pleased to report to you on a landmark year for the Child Witness Centre.

First let me say that I am honoured to serve on the Board of an organization which provides such vitally important services for child victims, their families and for our community. The staff are dedicated, caring, professional and very effective in their work. 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.



Alexandra Hardy

Let me share with you an overview of the past year:

Children Assisted

- 467 child victims and witnesses were referred to the agency from January-December 2006 compared with 329 in 2005. Thanks to an effective working relationship with Police Services, Crown Attorneys, and Victim Witness Assistance Programs in Waterloo Region and Wellington County, our services are extended on a timely basis to virtually all who need them. Feedback we receive continues to demonstrate the value of the support provided.

Financial Strength

- After efforts spanning many years, we were successful in obtaining substantial funding from the Victims' Justice Fund, which is administered by the Victim Services Secretariat of the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General. This is a landmark event in the history of the agency, given the constant fundraising challenge we have faced since the agency was founded. We anticipate that the funding will continue annually.
- We completed the year with a surplus, which enables us to sustain services at no charge to families, and moves us to a reserve target which ensures we can cope in the event of a significant funding shortfall. A significant portion of the surplus will be directed to a Facility Fund we set up in 2004. The Ministry has announced plans to build a consolidated court facility in Waterloo Region. Given our need to be close to the courthouse, we may have to relocate, and could face a significant increase in future facility costs.

Expansion of Services

- In conjunction with the Ministry funding, we agreed to extend our services to Wellington County, to increase by one year the age of the youth we serve--to those under age 18; and to change our fiscal year-end from December 31 to March 31. The government is providing office space free of charge for us (for court prep and waiting with children) in the court house in Guelph. We now service Wellington County as we do children living in Cambridge, where we also have a waiting facility—all of our staff will continue to work out of our Kitchener office and travel to other communities to work with the children there. Ensuring a complete and smooth transition in Wellington County will be a priority item in 2007.

Staff and Volunteers

- We are extremely fortunate in sustaining a team of very capable staff. Jo-Anne Hughes continues as our Program Co-ordinator. Jo-Anne shared in developing our child witness program in 1991. Linda Mark, Resource Development Co-ordinator, has done an excellent job developing and carrying out our fundraising strategies, and improving our website and newsletters. Katrina Ratz has moved into a Caseworker role, in view of our increased workload. Sherry Stockton joined us recently in an admin role after serving for more than 10 years as an Executive Assistant at Mutual Life/Clarica.
- The agency sustained a strong core of 55 volunteers. Special thanks to Gladys Grant, Peter Hughes, Mike Lankowski, Herb Spencer, Jim Strauss and Carl Thiel.

Governance

- Our governance practices are well attended to, including best practice risk management, outcome measurement, and Board and Executive Director performance assessment procedures.
- We were very pleased to have Natalia Kotchetova and Kendra Pagnan join our Board in the past year. Natalia is an Assistant Professor of Accounting at the University of Waterloo. Kendra is Finance Manager with Guelph Police and served for many years as Chair of Citizens Concerned With Crime Against Children in Guelph.
- We're very grateful for the contribution made by two directors who left the board in the past year: Kathy Storing who served since 2004 and chaired our Development Committee; and Kevin Bambrick, who served as Treasurer in 2005-2006.

Community Support

- We are pleased with the continuing growth of the Child Witness Centre Jim and Heidi Balsillie Endowment Fund. The Fund was set up through the KW Community Foundation.
- We continue to receive substantial support from the United Way of Kitchener-Waterloo and Area, and of the United Way of Cambridge and North Dumfries. Agency staff did 19 workplace meetings with United Way staff and loaned reps during the United Way campaign, and hosted three agency tours by employee groups and United Way volunteers.
- Over the years we have enjoyed and benefited from a marvelous relationship with the Sertoma and La Sertoma Clubs, through significant subsidization of our rent in Kitchener and financial help at other times when needed. In 2006 Sertoma sold the building we occupy and have most generously offered to sponsor our annual Youth Symposium, further benefiting children in the community. We're very grateful to our new landlord, Megbrook Inc., for sustaining the very favourable rental terms that we have previously enjoyed.
- Special thanks to the West Cambridge Optimist Club, whose financial support makes it possible to maintain a child friendly waiting and court preparation facility in Cambridge.
- We are grateful and humbled each year by the many who step forward to provide help—Brian Vickers at TD Waterhouse; Rick Purdy at the Frank Cowan Company; Sandra Stone at Conestoga Mall; employees at Waterloo North Hydro and Bell Canada; community service clubs; Peter Hughes at IBM; Ben Cook at Tannoy; The Record; and many others.

Special Events

- A very active schedule of agency events was maintained, including a Gala, Pancake Lunch, Garage Sale, and our third annual Youth Symposium which provides a day of outstanding speakers for grade 7 and 8 students.

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

Alexandra Hardy

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A. Hardy', written in a cursive style.

Child Witness Program Statistics

Year (Jan-Dec)	Active Cases from Prev Yr.	New Referrals	Total Children Assisted
2002	174	385	559
2003	251	339	590
2004	165	359	524
2005	261	329	590
2006	148	467	615

Profile of Children Assisted	5 Year Average
Age 7 and under	9%
Age 8-12	29%
Age 13-15	47%
Age 16+	15%
Victims	52%
Witnesses	48%
Kitchener-Waterloo Residents	69%
Cambridge Residents	25%
Wellington County	N/A
Townships and Outside the Region	6%
Types of Crime Involved	5 Year Average
Sexual Assault	25%
Other Types of Assault	38%
Domestic Violence	20%
Other Charges	17%
Relationship of Accused to the Child	5 Year Average
Family Member, Relative, Guardian	40%
Friend or Acquaintance	42%
Stranger	18%

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:

- Providing updates for the family on the progress of the case.
- 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, Cambridge and Guelph where children wait before going to court.
- Accompanying children into the courtroom, and on occasion on the witness stand.
- Assisting with victim impact statements.
- Explaining the verdict.



Who we are

Jack Reynolds, Katrina Ratz, Sherry Stockton, Linda Mark, and Jo-Anne Hughes. (Absent is Laura Cook)



Child Witness Centre

Serving Waterloo Region and Wellington County

CAMPAIGN LEADERS

Jim & Heidi Balsillie

COMMUNITY LEADERS

Bob & Judy Astley

Chief Larry Gravill

WATERLOO REGIONAL POLICE SERVICES

Rick Purdy

PRESIDENT & CEO, FRANK COWAN COMPANY LTD.

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

2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alexandra Hardy

PRESIDENT

Rita Westbrook

PAST PRESIDENT

Natalia Kotchetova

TREASURER

Teresa Douma

SECRETARY

Robin Decker

Duncan McLean

Rod Miller

Kendra Pagnan

Cheryl Preston

Amy Reier

Craig Sullivan

STAFF

Jack Reynolds

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jo-Anne Hughes

PROGRAM CO-ORDINATOR

Laura Cook

CASE WORKER

Katrina Ratz

CASE WORKER

Linda Mark

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR

Sherry Stockton

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Mary Frances Carter

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Financial Highlights

We completed the year with a surplus, which enables us to sustain services at no charge to families; sustain operations in the event of a significant funding shortfall; and supplement 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. Because the agency's fiscal year-end changed from Dec 31 to Mar 31, to correspond with that of the Ministry, no comparative audited figures are provided for the prior 12 months.

BALANCE SHEET

Assets	March 31, 2007
Bank and Cash	173,849
Short Term Investments	127,500
Managed Fund Investment	50,000
Interest Receivable. GST	
Recoverable, Prepaid Expenses	9,450
Total Assets	360,799
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable & Accruals	4,242
Payroll Remittance Payable	6,329
Deferred Contributions	28,359
Total Liabilities	38,930
Net Assets	
Internally Restricted	160,000
Unrestricted	161,869
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	360,799

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Revenue	Year ended Mar 31, 2007
Community Donations	46,651
Agency Run Events	19,546
Ontario Trillium Foundation	10,516
Other Foundations	2,550
Government Grants	196,070
United Way	78,250
Break Open Tickets	22,209
Other Income	12,728
Total Revenue	388,520
Expenses	
Facility Expenses	26,375
Administration	36,404
Travel & Staff Development	3,753
Resource Development	2,464
Salaries & Benefits	222,136
Other Expenses	1,451
Total Expenses	292,583
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	95,937



United Way
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMS
 AND TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY SERVICES OF WATERLOO

Ontario



United Way
OF CAMBRIDGE AND NORTH DUMFRIES

Certain funding for this program is provided by the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General. Views and opinions expressed do not reflect the views and opinions of the government.

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