



## Viva Las Vegas!!

It's not often that a \$50,000 contribution to the Child Witness Centre hinges on the performance of four very fine golfers. But it does, and we're waiting anxiously to hear the results of a Chubb Insurance Tournament being held in Las Vegas in November.

Over the past four years Rick Purdy and staff at the Cowan Group of Companies have provided amazing support for the Child Witness Centre. Rick is currently CEO of the Frank Cowan Company in Princeton, and formerly lead Cowan Insurance Brokers in Kitchener. As well as receiving significant support from their annual golf tournament and from several other Cowan events, the Child Witness Centre has also received an annual donation from Chubb Insurance Company of Canada, a leading world-wide property and casualty insurance company. Chubb holds an annual charity golf event with their key brokers, and participants designate the charity they wish to support. Rick and three others from the Cowan organization participate in the event and have been designating the Child Witness Centre as their charity of choice.

This year Rick wasn't able to join the team and either because of that, or in spite of it, the Cowan team won the Southern Ontario tournament. This year's Chubb donation was \$2,500. Hats off to Tom Burns, Bob Herron, Brian Boileau and Craig Beaton.

And the even better news is that the winning teams from similar tournaments across North America now compete in the Chubb Charity Challenge Golf Tournament in Las Vegas. The Cowan team will compete against 44 other teams, for a total purse of \$562,500!! The Child Witness Centre will be awarded between \$5,500 and \$50,000, depending upon the final results. This is quite an amazing demonstration of charitable giving and corporate social responsibility by Chubb.

Regardless of the outcome, we are extremely grateful to Cowan Insurance Brokers and to Chubb Insurance. We will all be keeping our fingers crossed for Tom, Bob, Brian and Craig as they tee it up for Cowan and the Child Witness Centre. Viva Las Vegas!!

## WELCOME BACK Rob Dippell

We are very pleased that our longest serving director, Rob Dippell, former Child Witness Centre President and Treasurer, is now back on the board after a short break (as required by our by-laws). When a position opened on the board we urged Rob to return and we were thrilled that he was willing to continue to give so generously of his time. We benefit immensely from Rob's knowledge of the agency and its history, and from his abilities, work experience, integrity and sound judgment in the course of board delibera-

tions. He is now co-chairing our Governance Committee, and serves on the Audit, Finance and Investment Committee. Rob was first recruited to the board in 1998 by President Laura Muirhead...and we continue to thank Laura for that. Rob's leadership helped the agency weather some tough times, and he played a key role with major organizational changes in 2002 and in obtaining essential funding at that time. "It's been a tremendous experience for me to witness and assist in the growth and improved financial stability of an agency which makes such an invaluable contribution to our community. The work being done with child victims and witnesses is quite exceptional."

When Rob is not helping the agency, he and his wife Stephanie are raising two young children; he is

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## Special Thanks to RBC Foundation

We extend our most sincere thanks to RBC Foundation for their very generous donation of \$25,000. RBC has provided \$50,000 over the past three years to assist with our case worker training program and ongoing operating costs.

"The Board and staff of the Child Witness Centre were thrilled to receive word and are most grateful to RBC Foundation for their support and dedication to improving lives of child victims" said Alexandra Hardy, President of the Child Witness Centre Board of Directors.

RBC believes in building prosperity by contributing to the communities in which RBC staff live and work. They are now one of Canada's largest corporate donors, and support a broad range of community initiatives, through donations, sponsorships and employee volunteer activities. In 2006 RBC contributed more than \$83 million to community causes worldwide. As a founding member of Imagine Canada, RBC is committed to donating at least one per cent of their average annual net income before taxes.

## Come Join Us So We Can Say THANKS

Once again, we will host our bi-annual Thanks4Giving Movie Night on Monday October 29 at Princess Twin Cinema, 46 King Street North in Waterloo. All those who have supported our work with child victims as a donor or volunteer are invited (along with a guest) to a movie, on us! This year we've chosen the movie "Hairspray", a fun, upbeat musical with a combustible mix of sassy humour and brassy show-tunes, and something the whole family can enjoy. The movie begins at 6:30, followed by food and refreshments. Seating is limited, so please call or email Sherry Stockton to reserve your spot. Don't miss it – we want this opportunity to say thanks to you personally!



Rob Dippell



# Thanks... again... to Brian and David Vickers

The 8th Annual Vickers Brothers' Invitational Golf Tournament, held on June 22nd, was another great success. Proceeds of \$11,000 were donated to the Child Witness Centre of Waterloo Region and the Toronto Victims Services Program of Toronto. We are very appreciative of their continuing support; it's really quite remarkable.

There is an interesting story to the tournament. Brian Vickers is Senior Vice President and Investment Advisor with TD Waterhouse. His brother David is a Detective Sergeant with the Toronto Police Service. Says Brian, "It started out as a day for my brother and me to get together with our friends, play some golf and have a dinner, with a few prizes afterward. Four years ago we decided that we should try to raise a little money for charity with a premium prize raffle, and the result was a \$1,000 donation to ROOF. Since learning about the work of the Child Witness Centre in 2005, we have made a donation to the Centre each year. Because roughly half of the participants are Toronto Police Officers, we decided last year to split the proceeds evenly between the Child Witness Centre and the Toronto Victims Services Program. The tournament, and funds raised, has grown each year through the generous donation of premium prizes from many of our business suppliers; we had a record high 32 participants this year; and we've been very fortunate to have a TD Waterhouse contribution of \$2,500 in each of the past three years.

Brian has a team of four at TD Waterhouse helping individuals, families, small businesses

and institutions with various forms of wealth management, including retirement planning, tax planning, estate planning and investment advice. This encompasses charitable giving, life insurance and annuities along with a full range of investment solutions, including managed equity portfolios, fixed income securities and segregated funds. A big part of their practice involves providing second opinions to prospective clients who may be looking for assurance that their portfolios are well suited to their circumstances of income requirements and risk tolerance.

The Child Witness Centre extends its sincere appreciation to Brian and David, and to their tournament participants, suppliers and sponsors.

Brian  
Vickers



## Mount Forest Office Gets "Soft Room"

In July 2006 the Child Witness Centre began to extend services to child victims and witnesses in Wellington County and, over the past year, we have worked with 80 children there. We rely on Guelph Police Services, the Guelph Crown Attorney's office, and the Wellington County OPP to ensure that child victims and witnesses are referred to the Child Witness Centre in order to receive support during the course of court proceedings.

Thanks to the Ministry of the Attorney General, we have a child-friendly facility (a "soft room") in Guelph at 36 Wyndham Street South, below the courthouse, for use in doing court preparation sessions with child

victims and also providing a place for them to wait before giving testimony in court. We've also had tremendous co-operation and support from the Ontario Provincial Police in Wellington County in making space available at the OPP detachment in Mount Forest for our use with children in that area. Working with Inspector Steve Walsh and Staff Sergeant Scott Smith, and with funding directed from Guelph 4C's to the Child Witness Centre, the room is now furnished as our Guelph, Kitchener and Cambridge facilities are, with a sofa, chairs, toys, crafts, etc. and will be equipped with video equipment. The Mount Forest facility will also be

## ROB DIPPELL CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

the General Manager of local distribution company William Knell and Company Limited. He is the President-Elect of the Rotary Club of Kitchener-Grand River, from whom he was previously awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship.

The Child Witness Centre is extremely fortunate to have Rob associated with the agency, now in his 9th year, and couldn't ask for a more caring and dedicated individual.

## Calendar of Events for 2008

Enjoy lunch with friends and colleagues while at the same time supporting a good cause. Mark your calendar to attend the Child Witness Centre **10th annual Pancake Luncheon – Tuesday February 5th** at the Delta Kitchener. For \$10, enjoy a delicious buffet lunch of pancakes, bacon, sausage, ham, fruit and drinks. Lunch is served anytime between 12 noon and 1:30 pm. No advance tickets are required, but if you have a group of 8 or 10 we'd suggest you call or email us and reserve a table.

### Child Witness Centre 5th Annual Star Light Gala – Saturday February 16th, 2008

Enjoy a night out of fine dining, fabulous silent auction items, dancing, conversation and lots of fun, at The Pines in Cambridge. Tickets are \$75 per person (for which a tax receipt will be issued for a portion of the cost). Reserved seating at tables for 8-10 people can be pre-arranged.

**2008 marks the 25th anniversary of the Child Witness Centre's incorporation.** We're planning special events throughout the year to highlight this milestone. Go to [www.childwitness.com](http://www.childwitness.com) for updates.

used by the OPP and social service workers, providing a setting to complete professional and thorough investigations in an atmosphere that is conducive to the needs of child victims and witnesses. Videotaping a child's statement means that the child does not have to repeatedly recount the details of the crime. The video can be used for reviewing their statements prior to court and may also be used in court, thus lessening the re-traumatization that can occur when testifying. As well, because proceedings often take 12-18 months, the courts have found that the most reliable recollection of events is that given during the initial interviews by the police.

# Caseworker's Notebook

## Provincial Government Expands Services to Help Children Overcome Trauma

### The provincial government made a very significant announcement

August 21, announcing:

- a \$1 million dollar investment in child victim services across the province;
- that annualized funding will be provided to the Child Witness Centre serving Waterloo Region and Wellington County; and to a similar program serving the Region of Peel;
- the establishment of a new child victim/witness

centre in Ottawa at Catholic Family Services and in three other yet-to-be announced locations in the central, northwestern and north-eastern regions of Ontario, bringing the total number of provincially funded centres to eight.

The government has provided annualized funding for child victim/witness centres in London and Toronto for many years. The Child Witness Centre began to receive government funding in 2006, but without any guarantee of its continuation from year-to-year. "The decision to 'annualize' our funding, which assures it in future years, is a

momentous one," said Executive Director Jack Reynolds. "It supplements the support we receive otherwise from the community and provides much-needed financial stability."

This funding comes from the Victims Justice Fund derived from surcharges on fines levied in court. The provincial government administers the fund. Following is background information provided by the government regarding some of the other provincially-funded programs that help victims of crime.

### Victim Services In Ontario

#### Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Services

This community response program provides immediate on-site service to victims of crime, 24 hours a day, seven days-a-week. It currently operates in 48 communities across Ontario and served more than 48,000 victims province-wide last year.

#### Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis Centres

Ontario's 38 Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis Centres offer a wide variety of counselling, information and support services to victims and survivors of sexual abuse.

#### Victim Quick Response Program

Three new immediate services for victims of violent crime were announced in July:

- Emergency Expenses – for eligible victims, to secure premises for victim safety, provide crime scene clean-up and cover transportation and dependant care costs for a family member to identify a homicide victim or support a seriously injured victim of violent crime.
- Funeral Expenses – to assist eligible families of homicide victims.
- Counselling – to provide short-term, early intervention

counselling to help victims of serious crimes recover from their experience.

#### Domestic Violence Court Program

This program provides victims of domestic violence with support from specially trained Crown prosecutors, Victim/Witness Assistance Program staff, police, Partner Assault Response programs, language interpreters and other service providers. It operates in all 54 Ontario court districts and is the most comprehensive program of its kind in Canada.

#### Victim/Witness Assistance Program

A cornerstone of services provided to victims of crime, this program helped more than 66,000 Ontarians last year. It provides information, assistance, referrals and support to victims and witnesses of crime, throughout the criminal court process, in all 54 court districts across the province.

#### Guns & Gangs Task Force

A 12-member victim/witness assistance team is being put in place as part of the Guns & Gangs Task Force, which is based at a new state-of-the-art Operations Centre.

#### Bail Safety Project

In 10 locations across the province, the Bail Safety Project provides trained teams of Crown prosecutors, victim services staff and police to conduct in-depth interviews with victims of domestic violence at the bail stage. Identifying high-risk situations for crime victims allows Crown prosecutors to make better recommendations at bail hearings to help stop the cycle of violence.

#### Victim Support Line

The Victim Support Line is a free province-wide information line providing services in English and French, including referrals to community agencies, information on the criminal justice system and information to registered clients about the status and scheduled release date of provincially incarcerated offenders.

#### Combating Internet Child Pornography and Luring

A comprehensive strategy is being implemented to combat Internet child pornography and offer support to victims and refer them to appropriate community services. It includes:

- An undercover team of municipal police officers working online to identify suspects and victims, and prevent further victimization.

- Dedicated Crown prosecutors to ensure a uniform level of excellence with respect to victim support and prosecution.

- Victim support to ensure that identified victims are connected with the specialized services they need.

#### Community Hate-Crimes Response Grants Program (CHARG)

Four kinds of community-based initiatives are being funded under this program:

- Projects to enhance community resources and/or address gaps in services to victims of hate crimes.
- A hate crime forum to strengthen networks and share information among victims groups, educators and members of the criminal justice system.
- A website for victims containing province-wide information about hate crimes and victim services.
- Templates for community-based victim impact statements for use in court.

#### SupportLink Program

Victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking in 20 Ontario locations can access intensive safety planning and 911-programmed cell phones through this program.

# Thank you



Child  
Witness  
Centre

Serving Waterloo Region and Wellington County

Every donation helps us provide child victims and witnesses with the support they need through the difficult challenge of testifying in court.

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: hm: \_\_\_\_\_ wk: \_\_\_\_\_

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Cheque enclosed (made payable to  
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Donations can also be accepted online at [www.childwitness.com/help.html](http://www.childwitness.com/help.html)

Mail Code: 2007-09-NWSLTR

## Child Witness Centre

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E-mail: [admin@childwitness.com](mailto:admin@childwitness.com)  
[www.childwitness.com](http://www.childwitness.com)

\*On average it costs \$350 per child to provide court support services

Donation amount:  \$35  \$250

\$50  \$350

\$100  \$500

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