



Sertoma International Recognizes Jo-Anne Hughes

We are very proud to announce that Sertoma International awarded Jo-Anne Hughes their Service to Mankind Award, recognizing her years of work with victimized children. Jo-Anne was chosen from amongst nominees from Canada, New York and Pennsylvania, and received the award at a luncheon in Niagara Falls on April 25.

Jo-Anne has been with the Child Witness Centre since 1983, and helped co-found the child witness program in 1991. Her dedication and commitment to victimized

children is truly outstanding.

Sincere thanks to Kitchener-Waterloo Sertoma for putting Jo-Anne's name forward for this well-deserved recognition.

Sertoma is one of the oldest civic service clubs in North America. It was founded in the U.S. in 1912, came to Canada in 1946, and now has more than 35,000 members in more than 1,000 clubs in Canada, the U.S., Mexico and Switzerland. Sertoma promotes friendship and fellowship to create the opportunity for communi-

ty service. K-W Sertoma, K-W La Sertoma and Twin City Sertoma clubs have been generous supporters of the Child Witness Centre over many years.



Gerry Haack (President of K-W Sertoma), Jo-Anne Hughes, Ron Robson (Sertoma District Governor), Phyllis Haack (Secretary of K-W Sertoma)

Snapshot of a Volunteer

Working Adults Learning Empowering Skills (WALEs) is a community based group that is part of Extend-A-Family Waterloo Region (EAFWR). WALEs facilitates opportunities of employment, volunteerism and recreation leisure programs for individuals over the age

of 18 with a developmental challenge who live in Waterloo Region. WALEs has been around since 1992 and believes strongly in the power and ability of all individuals as well as the principals of servant leadership, an inclusive community and person centred planning.

Mike Lankowski has been with WALEs since July 2000 and has been volunteering at the Child Witness Centre since 2002. Twice each month, Mike sorts and counts Zehrs and Sobey's tapes—a significant source of revenue for us each year. Mike feels really good to be helping us out and we're happy to have him with us—it's a mutually beneficial arrangement. Mike's other interests include basketball, both playing and watching.

More information about EAFWR and the WALEs program can be found at www.eafwr.on.ca.



Mike Lankowski

11th Annual Pancake Luncheon

The 11th Annual Child Witness Centre Pancake Luncheon on Tuesday February 24th was a huge success, with over 260 in attendance -- our best turn-out yet. The event was held at the Delta Kitchener but in a new room this year -- on the main floor in the Trillium Room and surrounding the pool area.

At a cost of \$10 per person, attendees enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch of pancakes, bacon, sausage, ham, sliced fruits and coffee/tea/juice.

This event helps us immensely, not only in terms of revenue from the event, but in connecting us with such a large number of people in the community... in turn generating future donations to support the work we do.

We extend special thanks to Delta staff--their efficiency and caring was very evident and made for a very well run event... they even opened up a portion of the restaurant to accommodate our overflow crowd.

6th Annual Child Witness Centre Youth Symposium

April 16th was an exciting day for 2,000 grade 8 students from across Waterloo Region and Wellington County. Students from 36 schools attended the Child Witness Centre's Youth Symposium at Empire Theatre in Kitchener. It's a very unique and potentially life-changing event for young people in our communities throughout the region.

Rick Osborne connected with the students about his life as a former gang member, on Canada's "most-wanted list", and his 23 years in the prison system. Rarely does someone survive Rick's past with both the ability and the motivation to make a difference in so many young lives.

Locally born hero Scott Hammell, the Guinness World Record holding magician, taught students his highly effective techniques for turning dreams into reality.

In total, a distinguished line-up of eleven speakers from Canada and the U.S. challenged, educated, and motivated students at a critical time in their life, to make the right choices, stand up and make a difference, and to be leaders.

Held annually each April, the Youth Symposium is a community building initiative of the Child Witness Centre. "We are absolutely thrilled with the level of interest," says Jack Reynolds, Executive Director. "More than 3,000 students registered for the event. We were disappointed that because of space limitations, we could only accept 2,000. It certainly confirms the value that teachers see for their students in such a program. We are proud to put together this inspirational and valuable event for so many young people."



Presenters Andy Thibodeau (left) and Stu Sanders with one of our many volunteers.



Students giving a Thumbs Up.



Presenter Joel Hilchey with a student.

We are indebted to K-W Sertoma/La Sertoma for funding the symposium. They are part of Sertoma International and Sertoma Canada, one of the oldest civic service clubs in North America. They share our vision of the events value for youth.

Hats off to Empire Theatre management and staff for their favourable rental rate and

outstanding organizational skills in ensuring a smooth running event.

Finally, we are grateful to the 30 volunteers who gave their time to help on the day of the event.

Hats Off to Service Clubs

Service Clubs continue to provide substantial, vital support to the Child Witness Centre year after year. Thank you to the following for your support over the last year:

- Army, Navy and Airforce Ladies Auxiliary
- Kinette Club of Preston
- Kichener-Waterloo Civitan Club
- Kiwanis Club of Elmira
- Lions Club of Bridgeport
- Lions Club of Elmira
- Lions Club of St. Jacobs
- Optimist Club of Hespeler Cambridge
- Optimist Club of Lakeshore Village
- Optimist Club of New Dundee
- Optimist Club of Stanley Park
- Optimist Club of Twin Cities
- Optimist Club of West Cambridge
- Rotary Club of Kitchener-Conestoga

Sertoma/LaSertoma Foundation of Waterloo Region • Twin City Sertoma •

We offer special thanks to the Optimist Club of West Cambridge. Since 1993, they have paid our rent at our Cambridge office – where we provide court preparation services to our Cambridge

clients. Like many service clubs, the Optimists conduct positive service projects aimed at providing a helping hand to youth. Optimist Clubs have been "Bringing Out the Best in Kids" – their motto, since 1919. Since each club is autonomous and run by members in their

community, Optimists have the unique flexibility to serve the youth of their community in any way they see fit. Optimist Clubs see a need in their community and react to it. Thank you for supporting the Child Witness Centre and meeting our needs.

Caseworker's Notebook

Testimonial Support for Children

Certain provisions in the Criminal Code are designed to make testifying in court less stressful for children. These are referred to as testimonial aids. Research and experience have demonstrated that special accommodations and testimonial aids minimize stress and maximize the child's ability to give a full and candid account of the evidence.

The Crown Attorney may consider the use of any of the following testimonial aids to assist the child, although the judge has the final decision on whether or not they will be utilized. Bill C-2, (January 2006) stipulates that, if requested, use of a testimonial aid for a child under 18 should be granted unless it was shown to "interfere with the proper administration of justice".



Caseworker with child in the closed circuit TV room.

• Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)

This allows the child to testify from outside the courtroom. Typically, the child, a designated support person, defense counsel and the Crown Attorney sit in an adjoining testimony room. A live video feed of the child is transmitted into the courtroom onto a television monitor. The use of CCTV prevents the child from having to see the accused, or even enter the courtroom—two of the biggest fears of child victims. Unfortunately CCTV is not yet available in many courthouses.

• A Screen

These specially designed screens block the child's view of the accused, reducing fear around the presence of the accused and the open court. Even where CCTV is an option, a screen may be preferable because it is less expensive, there is not the possibility of technical problems, it is more easily moved from courtroom to courtroom, and can be set up in just a minute or so.

• Support Person

A support person (such as a Child Witness Centre caseworker) can be present and close to the child in the witness box while s/he testifies. The support person must not be a potential witness in the case.

• Video Recorded Evidence

Often in cases involving child witnesses, police officers will record the initial investigative interview. This video can be admitted into evidence, providing the child adopts its contents and is available for cross-examination. The availability of a recorded police interview does not mean that the child doesn't have to personally testify in court.

• Exclusion of the Public

At any time during the proceedings, the judge can require that some or all spectators leave the courtroom.

• Publication Ban

As a general rule, all proceedings take place in open court

and the names of witnesses, victims and accused persons are made public. However, with respect to children, the judge may, and usually does, prohibit the media from publishing the child's identity to protect their privacy. The ban doesn't end when the case is over. A publication ban stays in force until the judge says otherwise.

• Prohibiting Cross-Examination by Accused

If the accused is self-represented (has not retained a lawyer), s/he is prevented from directly questioning a child on the witness stand. In this case, a court-appointed lawyer is made available to conduct the cross-examination.

There are other supports and aids for children that are not referred to in the Criminal Code. A discussion can take place with the Crown Attorney to determine if any of the following suggestions could be accommodated in order to assist the child in testifying:

- Accommodating the child's daily routine (e.g., naptime, school schedule) and attention span.
- Use of communication aids (e.g., drawings, writings, photographs, a microphone).
- Modifications for a child with special needs (e.g., a hearing impairment, speech impediments, developmental delay, physical impairment and/or chronic illness) including calling upon individuals who can assist in overcoming any communication barriers.

- A booster seat.
- Allowing the child to hold a comfort object such as a stuffed animal or blanket.
- Washroom and snack breaks.
- A child-friendly waiting room for child witnesses.

For a courtroom to be 'child friendly', it would include:

- A waiting area designed for children, with an entrance that leads directly to the witness box.
- Separate washroom facilities where the child will not encounter the accused or friends and family of the accused.
- Seating that is appropriate for children.
- Availability and use of screens.
- Closed circuit television capability and a testimony room outside the courtroom.
- A play area for younger children.

Thank you



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