



## 2012 Youth Symposium the Best Yet!

**W**hat started out in 2003 with 500 students attending, has blossomed into a full two-day jam packed inspiring event for over 3,300 grade 8 students (with another 1,400 on the waiting list!!!) from across Waterloo Region and Wellington County.

As a way to give back to the community, and also serve as a prevention measure, the Child Witness Centre holds an annual Youth Symposium. 2012 featured fourteen professional and motivating speakers educating youth on ways to prevent bullying, reaching their dreams, making better choices, improving the lives of others, and other pertinent topics for youth who are about to enter a critical time – high school. Go to <http://www.childwitness.com/youth.html> to see the



Mitch Dorge, drummer with the Crash Test Dummies interacting with the students in his responsible choice presentation, which was sponsored by The Co-operators



L to R: Presenters Valérie Hould-Marchand, Joel Hilchey, Mitch Dorge, Andy Thibodeau, Stu Saunders with Peter Braid, MP for Kitchener-Waterloo.

long list of presenters and topics.

We can't run this event alone. We are indebted to the more than 45 volunteers who assist us in ensuring the event runs smoothly; and to the following sponsors, whose support ensures we can run this valuable event for youth in the community.

- The Co-operators
- Sertoma/LaSertoma Foundation
- Scotiabank
- The Guelph Community Foundation
- Rotary Club of Guelph-Trillium
- RBC

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2012 Youth Symposium the best one yet!!!

## WE'RE GOING PAPERLESS IN 2013

We're finally jumping on board and catching up with technology trends. We will only print two more newsletters before going fully paperless in all future newsletters. So, send us an email ([admin@childwitness.com](mailto:admin@childwitness.com)) and stay up-to-date with the happenings of the Child Witness Centre.

## Shake, Rattle & Raise Results

**T**hanks to everyone who supported our 2012 Shake Rattle & Raise event on Friday May 25 at Victoria Park Pavilion by attending and/or donating an item to our amazing silent auction. We raised over \$7,500 and had a blast doing it.

Please go to [www.childwitness.com/fundraising](http://www.childwitness.com/fundraising) to see the long list of businesses that were so generous. We encourage you to support them.

Board members Doug, Patti & Maedith



# GUELPH RECEPTION



Staff of the Child Witness Centre with Deputy Chief Jeff Deruyter and new Chief of Police Bryan Larkin. Chief Larkin made a brief presentation, offering some perspectives on his new role heading the Guelph Police Service and his personal history with the Child Witness Centre to friends of the agency at an informal reception, held at the Guelph Youth Music Centre on Thursday May 17.



Jack Reynolds with Ken Dardano, Executive Director of United Way of Guelph Wellington Dufferin, who we are thankful for providing funding to our child witness program that benefits over 100 children from Wellington County.



Board members Rod Miller and Cate Welsh with Judy Sorbara (R), Chair of the Guelph Police Service Board.

## Rotary Chooses Child Witness Centre Again

We were ecstatic to learn that the Kitchener-Conestoga Rotary Club chose the Child Witness Centre, along with Family and Children's Services, as the recipients of the 2012 Rotary Dream Home Lottery.

Tickets are \$100 and will be available starting in September, with the draw on Sunday December 2. Buy your tickets early for a chance to win fabulous early bird prizes.

We are truly grateful for the support from Kitchener-Conestoga Rotary Club, which allowed us to purchase and renovate a new home for our Kitchener facility, kitty-corner to the new courthouse which is due for completion in March 2013. Renovations are in progress, and we will most likely move into our new digs in early 2013.

## Coordinated Help for Sexual Assault Victims

The Child Witness Centre was very happy to 'sign on' recently to the new sexual assault response protocol for the Region of Waterloo. The protocol will help community partners and service providers to respond more effectively to sexual assault and to better meet the needs of victims of sexual violence.

The Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region took the lead in planning and implementing this vital community project. Dr. Ginette Lafreniere and her associates at the Social Innovation Research Group at the Lyle Hallman Faculty of Social Work at Wilfrid Laurier University volunteered countless hours over the past two years towards the project. Members of the Region's Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), which includes the Child Witness Centre, contributed to the protocol and are committed to working together in a spirit of cooperation in the best interest of victims. A list of the other team members is provided at the end of this article.

Sexual assault is a complex social prob-

lem and a serious crime that requires a comprehensive approach from all service sectors and community members. Sexual violence affects not only the individual victim, but also impacts families, loved ones, other witnesses to the violence, and the whole of the community.

The protocol includes information on agency practices and procedures; clarifies roles; facilitates effective working relationships; and benefits the community at large as a central source of information. Any SART service provider can request a meeting in order to collaborate on complex cases related to sexual assault, where there is a need to coordinate multiple services. Effective communication and planning between service providers can support a victim/survivor to build a network of support that no one provider could accomplish alone.

We encourage you to view a related video entitled Transforming Women's Lives on the Sexual Assault Support Centre website, [www.sascwr.org](http://www.sascwr.org), or via the link on our Child Witness Centre website

[www.childwitness.com](http://www.childwitness.com). Four very courageous women speak frankly about their personal experience as victims of sexual assault.

SART Members include: Child Witness Centre; Community Advocates for Sexually Abused Males - Canadian Mental Health Association; Community Justice Initiatives; Conestoga College, Security; Office of the Crown Attorney; Family & Children's Services; Family Counselling Centre of Cambridge and North Dumfries; The Healing of Seven Generations; John Howard Society; KW Multicultural Centre; Lutherwood; Mennonite Central Committee Ontario; Mosaic Counselling & Family Services; Sexual Assault Support Centre; Victim/Witness Assistance Program; Victim Services; Waterloo Regional Police; and Waterloo Region Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centre. SART members meet monthly to share information and work together in providing a coordinated community response to sexual violence in the region.

# Leadership Waterloo Region Youth on Board Program

For the past two years, the Child Witness Centre has participated in the Youth On Board program of Leadership Waterloo Region. It's a way of contributing to youth development in the community. The program links student leaders with community leaders for a 6-month mentorship on a local board of directors. Marc Quirion, a 4th year University of Waterloo student has just completed his term with the Child Witness Centre, attending Board and Board Committee meetings over the past six months. His mentor was Cate Welsh, Staff Sergeant with Guelph Police Services, who has served on our Board since 2007.

Program participants recently provided feedback on their experience in various community organizations. It was evident that each is having a unique experience. They talked about experiencing a strategic review process, different working committees, and discussion on matters such as funding, new projects, events, restructuring of staff, etc.

When asked if it was what they had expected, and whether it has been a worthwhile experience, here's what they said:

- A very worthwhile experience, different than I had expected.
- Thought I would have heard more at the meetings about the work that the organization does, what programs they offer etc., rather than all the financial discussions.
- Shocked at how much time these amazing people give, and how passionate they are about the work of the organization with no monetary gain to themselves.
- Met an inspiring and knowledgeable group of people who have become great life connections.
- Found it interesting how connected the community is, not only people but organizations collaborating with each other; did not expect this at all.
- Admire their board members for the contributions they make to the community.
- Seeing the passion and excitement from the mentor makes me want to get involved when I get back to my hometown.
- Didn't realize I would see what the whole community is doing, rather than just the organization I am involved in.

## Hats Off to the Elmira Maple Syrup Festival

We want to express sincere appreciation to the volunteers and businesses that organize and host the Elmira Maple Syrup Festival. All proceeds from the festival are returned to charitable and not-for-profit organizations in the community and again this year, the Child Witness Centre was a recipient...for which we are immensely grateful. It helps sustain our services for child victims. Since its inception, total monies raised by the Festival for community groups is now in the millions of dollars!!!

The first Festival was held in 1965, a collaborative effort between the Elmira Board of Trade and the local Maple Syrup Producers. The focus was on promoting local businesses and producers. They expected 2,000 people and to everyone's surprise, more than 10,000 showed up. From there the Festival grew, and grew, and grew. Visitors come from all over the world. The Festival has been recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's largest maple syrup festival with record attendance one year of 66,529 people.

A well organized volunteer committee meets monthly throughout the entire year to arrange the event. On festival day a fine tuned team of 2,000 volunteers rises long before dawn to ensure the smooth running of the Festival throughout the day. Sincere thanks to each of you from the Child Witness Centre.

## We were on Santa's "nice" list

Each year, Conestoga Mall chooses a children's charity to receive the proceeds from their very successful Santa Photo Donation Program. In 2011, we were chosen and stunned to receive a cheque in the amount of \$11,672. Thanks to Conestoga Mall for providing this valuable program for worthy charities in the region and thanks to everyone who brought their children to get their photo with Santa and make a donation. You are truly making a difference in the lives of child victims.

Conestoga Mall Manager Sandra Stone, CWC staff member, Linda Mark and Rhonda Richmond, Marketing Director with Conestoga Mall.



Thanks to a donation from the Optimist Club of Twin Cities, these stones were purchased. They are a type of testimonial aid – a smooth and calming item that children hold while testifying on the witness stand.

## THANK YOU...

to Bryant Canada and Service 1st Heating & Cooling for donating and installing a top-quality Bryant heating and cooling system. Your generous support means our resources are spent on helping more children. You set the highest standard for corporate citizenship – true community heroes!

Watch the video on our website [childwitness.com](http://childwitness.com) or scan the code with your Smartphone.

*Caring Support for Child Victims*

# Thank you



## Child Witness Centre

Caring Support for Child Victims

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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Cheque enclosed (made payable to Child Witness Centre)

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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E-mail: admin@childwitness.com  
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\*On average it costs \$350 per child to provide court support services

Donation amount:  \$35  \$250

\$50  \$350

Tax receipt issued for donations over \$10  \$100  \$500

I prefer to give: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Charitable Tax  
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Please use my donation for Child Witness Program operating expenses

Please direct my donation to the Child Witness Centre Endowment Fund

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Donations can also be accepted online at [www.childwitness.com](http://www.childwitness.com)

Mail Code: SUMMER2012

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CWP - Child Witness Program



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