



Huron Women's Shelter

Winter 2010



24 HOUR CRISIS LINE

1.800.265.5506

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this Holiday Season

WHAT'S NEW

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PHOTO GALLERY

25th Anniversary Celebration - October 16, 2010

UPCOMING EVENTS

International Day of Remembrance - Dec. 6, 2010
Breakfast with Santa - Dec. 11, 2010
Open House for Municipal Politicians - Jan. 19, 2011

Huron Women's Shelter, Second Stage Housing & Counselling Services

Please send your comments, questions or
concerns to:

Huron Women's Shelter
376 Huron Road, Box 334,
Goderich, ON N7A 4C6

Contact us by phone at: 519.524.5333
24 Hour Crisis Line: 1.800.265.5506

Visit our website at:

www.huronwomensshelter.com



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT: CAROL McDONNELL

“A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step” [Lao Tze] sums up the work of the whole organization of the Huron Women’s Shelter, Second Stage Housing and Counseling Services. We exist to help women make this step away from abuse, which is a giant step for themselves and their children.

Our staff, who run these services on a daily basis, deserve our admiration for the difficult and demanding job which they do. We trust that these employees are able to take time to look after themselves and “decompress” with family and friends.

We are also grateful to the men and women of Huron County who have served on the Boards of Directors during the past 25 years, overseeing the governance and finances of the organization. In October it was very heartwarming to visit with so many past Board members as we celebrated their faithfulness to the cause at the “Harvesting of Memories”.

CONGRATULATIONS MICHELE!

The Huron Women’s Shelter, Second Stage Housing and Counselling Services wishes to extend sincere congratulations to Executive Director Michele Hansen for successfully being elected to Goderich Town Council as a Councillor.

The people of Goderich are so fortunate to have you as their representative.

Best of luck to you in your new role!

What is involved in being a member of this Board? Well, we meet on the second Wednesday of the month, every month except August. Committees such as executive, personnel, property, and finance meet periodically as needed. The Fundraising and Public Relations Committee meet monthly at 5:30 p.m. just before the Regular Board Meeting and this is by far the largest and busiest group. The committee is currently planning the Memorial ceremony on Dec. 6th commemorating the anniversary of the Montreal massacre, and assisting the group which organizes the Breakfast with Santa, on Dec. 11th as well as planning for the new year. Some very exciting events will be happening in the future, some old, some new.

Constantly, I am so impressed by the dedication, creativity, and generosity of time and talent of the men and women who presently serve on the Board of Directors. As my term as President draws to a close, I would like to thank them, and of course our stellar C.E.O. Michele Hansen for their support. I know that we have helped some women and children step forwards to a future with dignity.

*Sincerely,
Carol McDonnell*

OUR SERVICES:

Since 1985, our shelter has provided safe, temporary housing for victims of woman abuse and their children. Second Stage Housing has been operating since 1991 and provides rent geared to income apartments in secure buildings where women and children can live for one year.

Residents are offered individual and group counselling, as well as information on housing, legal aid, financial assistance, and job training.

Residents benefit from a feminist analysis of woman abuse, an empowerment model in supportive counselling and the understanding and support of the staff and other residents.

OUR PHILOSOPHY:

We believe that women, given emotional support, and much needed resources, can be empowered to recognize their own strengths and choose a safe and fulfilling future.

SHOPPERS DRUG MART TREE OF LIFE™ CAMPAIGN

Between September 18th and October 19th 2010, Huron Women's Shelter and Shoppers Drug Mart® partnered for the ninth annual Tree of Life™ campaign, raking in a total of \$946 to support Huron Women's Shelter's service and programming initiatives.

"Being able to improve the health and well being of women in Goderich truly takes the commitment of our whole community and we thank Shoppers Drug Mart, their employees and customers for coming together and supporting us through the 2010 Tree of Life campaign," said Michele Hansen, Executive Director of Huron Women's Shelter.



(L-R) Theresa Thomas, Melissa Peeters and Gord Matthews of Goderich Shoppers Drug Mart with HWS Executive Director Michele Hansen.

The Shoppers Drug Mart Tree of Life™ campaign is a four-week program held across Canada each autumn. In support of leading women's health organizations at the national, regional and local levels, customers, staff and Pharmacist-Owners at over 1,180 Shoppers Drug Mart / Phamaprix stores together raise funds through the purchase of the Tree of Life paper icons, which include leaves, butterflies, and cardinals.

Since 2002, the Tree of Life campaign has raised more than \$13 million for Canadian health charities. In 2010, over 375 women's health charities across Canada benefitted from the campaign's proceeds with 100 per cent of funds staying in the community where they are raised.

A very special thanks to Gord Matthews and the staff at Goderich Shoppers Drug Mart® for their tremendous support.

DONATION FROM KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Joan Winter of Knox Presbyterian Church presents donated items to Michele Hansen.

As part of their Christmas project for 2010, Arthur Circle WMS purchased and generously donated more than 40 new kitchen tools and small appliances for clients of Huron Women's Shelter.

Joan Winter of Knox Presbyterian Church presented Executive Director of Huron Women's Shelter, Michele Hansen, with a large assortment of items, including kettles, toasters and electric mixers. The items will be invaluable in assisting women leaving the shelter and setting up household in a safe environment.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

At the Huron Women's Shelter we're all about providing shelter, support, counselling and advocacy to women in need, and the best way for us to achieve our goals is through your continued support. Here are just a few of the ways you can help us make a difference in the lives of others:

- ✓ BECOME A VOLUNTEER
- ✓ JOIN OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- ✓ DONATE
- ✓ STAY INFORMED

Subscribe to our newsletter, visit our new website, or contact our staff for more information.

HURON WOMEN'S SHELTER WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER: HEATHER MOFFATT

Huron Women's Shelter welcomes Heather Moffatt to the Board of Directors! Heather joined our Board at the Annual General Meeting in June and is already busy working on the fund raising committee.

As a recreational runner, Heather first became aware of Huron Women's Shelter during the Safe Harbour Run in Bayfield two years ago. She was asked to support the run by a Board Member from the area, Rosemarie Wiese. Both women live and work in the Bayfield area and Rosemarie encouraged Heather to get involved by helping to gather donations from local Bayfield businesses to be used as door prizes. Heather is a grain merchandiser for Norag Resources in Bayfield and she eagerly asked her fellow business owners to help out.

"I've always had a need to give back in any way I can to help the community," says Heather. "We can all donate money but it is important to put your time into things, too," she says.

After helping out with the Safe Harbour Run for two years, Heather attended a Board meeting in Goderich which she says she found "very interesting". She now wants to help "raise awareness of the high number of women the organization helps. It was quite surprising for me to hear that the Shelter is often full to capacity and that they may need to expand in the future. I find that shocking, actually. So, it's great to be able to help in my own small way."

Heather worked on the Harvesting Memories luncheon this past fall which celebrated HWS's 25th anniversary and raised funds for the organization. This coming spring she plans to not only work on the Safe Harbour Run, but also be a participant. In her spare time she also enjoys weight lifting and body building. Heather is also a busy mother of two teenage sons. She helps her mother run a 300



BOARD MEMBER, HEATHER MOFFATT

acre cash crop family farm near Brucefield, where she grew up. She graduated from high school in Clinton and Heather then went on to graduate from the University of Guelph with an agriculture business diploma. She returned to her home area in 2003 after working all over Southwestern Ontario connecting farmers to markets for their corn, soybean and wheat products.

"Being part of the Huron Women's Shelter has been very educational for me. I learned a lot from the speakers at the Harvesting Memories luncheon. I see this as a great opportunity to help."

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE BOARD?

Board meetings are held monthly at the Huron Women's Centre in Goderich. Anyone is invited to attend. New members are elected annually. For more information, please visit our website at: www.huronwomensshelter.com

NEXT MEETING DATES:

Wednesday, January 12 at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, February 9 at 7 p.m.
Huron Women's Shelter, Goderich

Please consider making a donation to Huron Women's Shelter this Holiday Season

**Your support will make a real difference in
the lives of women and children in need.**

Here are just a few of the ways that your donation can support Huron Women's Shelter:

Give to the Alice Munro Fund

The Alice Munro Fund is a benevolent fund which supports the "dignity and self worth" of women and children by covering the financial cost of things that may be challenging for women in crisis to afford (including dental care, participation in sports and recreational activities, etc.)

Give to the Roma Harris Fund

The Roma Harris Fund provides for shelter and care of pets while women are escaping violence. Pets often become the target of abuse once a woman leaves, and the Roma Harris Fund help to ensure the safety of these animals.

Help HWS purchase gift cards for Christmas and birthday gifts

Your donation can help Huron Women's Shelter to purchase gift certificates and gift cards for the children, adolescents, and women in our shelter and second stage housing facilities. These are used both as Christmas gifts and throughout the year as birthday presents.

Allow HWS to direct your donation to any area of need

Your donation can simply be directed towards any area of need at Huron Women's Shelter, including providing for food, clothing, or meeting the basic needs of the women and children in our shelter and second stage housing facilities.



I support Huron Women's Shelter

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please direct my donation to _____

Enclosed is my donation for \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 other amount

My donation is paid by Cash Cheque Money order \$ _____

Thank You For Your Support

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

HARVESTING MEMORIES: 25 CELEBRATING YEARS OF SERVICE

Past and present staff members, Board members, friends and members of the community gathered together on Saturday, October 16, 2010 as Huron Women's Shelter, Second Stage Housing and Counselling Services celebrated 25 years of service to women and children in Huron County. The special event raised a total of \$1,672 for Huron Women's Shelter.



Past presidents of the Huron Women's Shelter were honoured with a special presentation at the Harvesting Memories 25 year celebration.



Current and former staff members of Huron Women's Shelter celebrate the organization's 25 year history at Harvesting Memories: (L-R) Carolyn Hyde (former), Angela Brindley (former), Melody Tigani (current), Winnie Brown (former) & Arletta Hallahan (current).



Acclaimed author and special guest speaker at Harvesting Memories, Alistair McLeod, reads from his novel *No Great Mischief*.



The first Executive Director of Huron Second Stage Housing, Arlene Timmins, speaks about the early years of the organization. Huron Women's Shelter amalgamated with Huron Second Stage Housing in 2001.



Guests at the 25 year celebration explore the many items at the Silent Auction fundraiser.

RECEIVE UPDATES AND INFO AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON

Thanks to a donation from the London go2pages, the Huron Women's Shelter now has a new way to communicate with the wider community. This new service links people via cell phones to news about services, programs and fund raising events at HWS.

To give it a try, all you need to do is send an SMS Text Message to the phone number 20673. Enter the keyword HWS into the body of the message

and press send. Within a few seconds you will receive an auto reply message from HWS about its latest program or services. The organization can change this message daily, if it wishes.

This new program allows HWS to build up a group of fans and in the future HWS can send out text message bursts to the group about new programs, services, or

special events. Anyone can opt out whenever they wish. There is no charge to text or receive the messages, unless the user doesn't have a text message plan – then standard rates will apply.

As you drive around Huron County, you will start to see local businesses and organizations are also part of the go2pages program – and you can text in and join to receive promotions and coupons from your favourite companies and organizations.

"We feel like we are taking another step forward in the world of communications," says Executive Director Michele Hansen. "We know that text messaging is growing in popularity, and that it is already extremely popular with young people. This is a great way for us to reach more people in our community who may need our help."



NOW NEEDED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

There are some basic needs on the wish list of the staff and residents of the Huron Women's Shelter this Christmas. The Centres in Goderich, Clinton and Exeter are hoping that some simple gifts from the community will help women and their children have a better holiday and new year.

Topping the list are basic needs such as large bottles of shampoo and conditioner, new underwear for women, children and teens, towels, blankets, comforters, pajamas, and slippers, toiletries for teens, movie passes, and stuffed animals.

The Centres will also gratefully accept donations of non-perishable food items, gift certificates and gift cards, and more traditional gifts which women and children (girls and boys up to age 16) may want to find under the tree. The gift cards are also used throughout the year as birthday presents. For those wishing to make a more sizeable donation, there is also a need for winter coats and boots for women and children.

This is an important time of year for family, friends and neighbours to be extra supportive of women and their children who may be in abusive situations. Huron Women's Shelter urges community members to reach out with information about their 24-hour helpline (1-800-265-5506) and for community members to know that the Centres are ready to help women and their children at any time – holidays or otherwise.



In Honour of 14 Women

December 6th Memorial



**Join Us in
Remembering**

Monday, December 6, 2010

**6:00 p.m.
South Street Steps
Court House Park
Goderich, Ontario**

TS1267343

Breakfast With Santa

(In Memory of Sue Munnoch)



Saturday, December 11, 2010

8:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

Knox Presbyterian Church

*Photo with Santa
Crafts for Kids of All Ages*

Adults: \$6.00

Children: \$ 4.00

Families: \$20.00

Proceeds to :Huron Women's Shelter

As a newly elected
municipal politician,
you are invited...

Huron Women's Shelter is holding an open house at our shelter and three second stage housing sites.

We believe as a community leader, you should have an opportunity to see the services that are available to women and children in Huron County.

We invite you on January 19th, 2011 to tour one or more of our buildings, meet Board Members and staff members and take this opportunity to learn more about community services.

OPEN HOUSE



Wednesday, January 19, 2011
Drop in between 5 and 8 p.m.

Shelter—Goderich - 376 Huron Road
Second stage—Goderich - 255 Bayfield Road
Second stage—Clinton - 113 North St. North
Second stage—Exeter - 236 Carling Ave.