



Huron Women's Shelter

Summer 2009



24 HOUR CRISIS LINE

1.800.265.5506

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

WHO WE ARE

A Message from the Executive Director

FEATURE ARTICLE

Second Stage Housing provides safety and stability

OUR FRIENDS

Huron Women's Shelter welcomes newest Board Member: Rick Hillner

Featured Donor: Rosemarie Wiese

New Board President elected at Annual General Meeting: Carol McDonnell

Interested in joining the Board of Directors?

Staff Appreciation Night

PHOTO GALLERY

An Evening with Pinball Clemons

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Safe Harbour Run - June 14th

Take a Swing at Violence Golf Tournaments
- June 17th and 24th

UPCOMING EVENTS

Festival of Arts and Crafts - July 3rd, 4th & 5th

Sunscreen and Swimsuits Now Needed

How Can You Help?

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 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: MICHELE HANSEN



Greetings to all of you who are interested in the work of Huron Women's Shelter, Second Stage Housing & Counselling Services. In this edition we are highlighting the work of Second Stage Housing. Many of us think primarily of the emergency shelter or the first stage of safety for women fleeing an abusive relationship. But when we realize that the maximum stay at the shelter is six weeks, we can quickly see that many women need a longer time in safe housing; which is why we are so fortunate to have 22 apartments in our three second stage housing sites. I hope you will read more about these apartments and the work of the support staff in our Goderich, Clinton and Exeter sites.

As summer approaches, we all begin to think of our favourite recreational activities. Golf and running are two of the sports we've turned into fund raising activities. Our 5km run was held in the perfect setting of the village of Bayfield on an idyllic sunny, Sunday morning. We had 194 runners cross the finish line in our very first "Safe Harbour Run". I want to publically thank Lynne Godkin. This event was her brain child and she poured countless hours into organizing and advertising the event. Lynne is a member of the Board of Directors and like many before her; she shared her unique interests and skills to the great benefit of the agency. THANKS LYNNE!

June also brings our Annual General Meeting and Staff appreciation dinner. At our AGM we elected three new Board Members and sadly we said goodbye to Emily Phillips as Board President (she will return as Past President), Emily provided wonderful leadership this past year. We also said goodbye to Carole Broadley who completed one full term, Carole chaired the Goderich Golf Tournament, Carole's enthusiasm will be missed. You will find more photos inside depicting the staff appreciation dinner.

I cannot say enough about the talent and dedication of the many women on staff; they are a caring, skilled group who provide excellent services for women and children alike.

For anyone who would like to read about the statistical and financial details of our past fiscal year, our annual report is available; simply contact Michele at 519-524-5333, leave a voice mail message with your address and we will mail out a copy to you.

I sincerely hope that this summer brings you time to relax, refresh and rejuvenate. We too will take a brief pause; have a few weeks of summer holidays, and return with another newsletter in the fall.

*Sincerely,
Michele Hansen*

Please visit www.huronwomensshelter.com to explore our newly designed website. We also welcome your feedback, questions, and suggestions for future content.

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.

SECOND STAGE HOUSING PROVIDES SAFETY AND STABILITY

Tucked away in tree-lined neighbourhoods in Exeter, Clinton and Goderich are uniquely designed living spaces which provide abused women and their children a transitional home between emergency shelter and independent living. Second Stage Housing is just that – a second stage in the journey of assistance provided by Huron Women’s Shelter to abused women and their children as they rebuild their lives following domestic abuse.

Once the immediate need for emergency shelter is met, often after about 6 weeks of living at the emergency shelter location in Goderich, abused women with or without children have the option of moving to a controlled entry apartment with rent geared to income where they can continue to receive counselling while working and gaining further independence.

Second Stage Housing can be a one, two or three bedroom apartment – many with two floors – which is independently furnished by a tenant. A fridge and stove is provided and there are laundry facilities in each building. Utilities are included in the rent. Each woman has her own key to her apartment as well as a key card for access to the front door, which is always locked. As well, every apartment has a panic alarm which rings throughout the whole building and to the police to provide further security to women escaping violence.

“It is more than housing, it is a program to help women and their children deal with the effects of abuse, to help them move forward toward independence,” explains Gertie Gerrits, Manger of Second Stage Housing at Huron Women’s Shelter. “It is a safe, supportive place to live.”

Each building location in Goderich, Clinton and Exeter creates its own nurturing community through the maintenance of



SECOND STAGE HOUSING provides independent, controlled entry apartments geared to income for women and families.



FAMILIES can feel safe while at play on totally fenced-in playgrounds at each building.

a play yard with a clothes line and picnic table surrounded by fencing. Inside, children can use an equipped playroom during child care times while their mother is in counselling sessions. The playroom is also used as a counselling room for children who are recovering from domestic abuse. It has its own washroom and is stocked with donated toys, books and movies. A counselling office is on site for women receiving counselling and it is also a meeting room for outreach workers with Huron Women’s Shelter. A furnished lounge with access to the backyard is used as a meeting space for groups. And the central laundry room is operated by a schedule so that each woman or family can select a time to use it.

“We want to model what a life free of violence can look like,” says Gertie. “Working here is very rewarding. The women living here are very appreciative.” Part of the culture at Second Stage Housing is that men and boys over 16 are not allowed inside the building. The “no man rule” allows the women to experience their own space to work on their personal issues and feel safe while doing so, says Gertie. “The majority of women really like the no man rule because they can say to men ‘you can’t come here’ and we can be the bad guy and not let him in.”

Women can work or participate in an Ontario Works job training program while living at Second Stage Housing. Often, during their time at Second Stage Housing, women are still busy in the court system regarding criminal charges against their abusers and dealing with child custody and access issues.

The average length of stay is eight to nine months, however women can stay in the units up to a year, or longer, especially if they are at high risk. While at Second Stage Housing they also learn safety planning and how to obtain a credit profile/history which will allow them to rent in the wider community. Showing others that they paid rent in Second Stage Housing is often a strong first step towards establishing that credit history.

To apply for Second Stage Housing applicants must complete a form which can be found online at:

www.huronwomensshelter.com.

To speak to someone about how the program or how to donate, please call 519-482-5288.

HURON WOMEN'S SHELTER WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER: RICK HILLNER

The Huron Women's Shelter is proud to welcome its newest member to their Board of Directors, Mr. Rick Hillner. Rick and his wife Marilyn have resided in the Goderich area for the past two years, after living in beautiful British Columbia for six years prior to that, but they are no strangers to the area. Both are Southwestern Ontario born: Marilyn is from Toronto and Rick is from a rural Tillsonburg farming community. They have two grown children, a son who lives and works in London, and a daughter who lives in Kitchener and works in Mississauga.

With an extensive and varied employment history with a strong connection to community service, Rick brings a great deal of expertise to the Board of Directors. Rick spent 28 years as a police officer in Langton, Ontario, and gained a real appreciation for the diverse needs of his community and for the preservation and protection of society.

"I hope that some of my experiences and training can be of assistance to this very dedicated group of volunteers and professionals."

More recently, Rick and his wife have gone on to serve the community other ways, opening a new Canadian Tire store in Squamish, British Columbia. While in BC, Rick also served as the Community Coroner, working with an experienced coroner and learning a great deal about another side to real life. Rick brings a unique perspective to the Board of Directors, one that is sure to be of real value to the Huron Women's Shelter when dealing with situations of domestic violence.

When asked what motivated him to join the Board, Rick explained, "The Huron Women's Shelter was another opportunity to get involved at another level, offering whatever I can to an already very well established organization. I hope that some of my experiences and training can be of assistance to this very dedicated group of volunteers and professionals."

Rick and Marilyn have enjoyed settling in to their new home in Goderich, and have found the people and the community very likeable. In his spare time, Rick enjoys golfing, boating and traveling, and Southwestern Ontario provides him with plenty of opportunities to enjoy his hobbies. Welcome Rick, to Goderich, and to the Huron Women's Shelter Board of Directors.



NEW BOARD MEMBER, RICK HILLNER

FEATURED DONOR: ROSEMARIE WIESE



DONOR, ROSEMARIE WIESE

The Huron Women's Shelter extends a very special thank you to our featured donor and Board member Rosemarie Wiese and to the Bayfield General Store for donating 200 T-shirts to the 2009 Safe Harbour Run. These T-shirts allow our runners to commemorate their race and help to make the event a real success. Thank you, Rosemarie, for your generosity!



SAFE HARBOUR RUN, BAYFIELD ON

NEW PRESIDENT ELECTED AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: CAROL MCDONNELL

The Annual General Meeting and Staff Appreciation Dinner for Huron Women's Shelter was held in Goderich on June 3rd. Presided over by Board President Emily Phillips of Blyth, the Board officially elected a new slate of officers for 2009-2010. We welcome new Board President Carol McDonnell of Blyth, Vice-President Judy Stuart of Goderich, Secretary Rosemarie Wiese of Bayfield and Treasurer Sharon Creighton of Goderich. Emily Phillips moves to the much deserved role of Past President, where she will continue to bring her energies and enthusiasm to the organization.

Three new Board Members were elected at the AGM. Huron Women's Shelter welcomes Janette McClean of Wingham to a two year term. Elected to a three year term as Board Director were Richard Hillner of Goderich and Karen Stewart of Blyth. Continuing on the Board are Lynne Godkin of Kirkton, Rev. Gwen Nicol-Macdonald of Goderich, Gary Martin of Goderich, Patricia Senn of Clinton and Marilyn Vander Woude of Wingham.

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE BOARD?

To qualify as an applicant to sit on our Board of Directors, you must first be a member of our organization for at least three months. Anyone can be a member by simply paying an annual fee of \$10 or purchasing a lifetime membership for \$50. Membership runs from June to June each year, which is also when we hold our Annual General Meeting to elect new Board Members.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS: (L-R)
Carol McDonnell, Michele Hansen, Judy Stuart, Gary Martin, Emily Phillips, Marilyn Vander Woude, Lynne Godkin, Rosemarie Wiese, Sharon Creighton. Absent: Carole Broadley, Rick Hillner, Janette McClean, Rev. Gwen Nicol-Macdonald, Pat Senn, and Karen Stewart.



INCOMING BOARD PRESIDENT, CAROL MCDONNELL AND PAST PRESIDENT, EMILY PHILLIPS

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 details about joining the Board please visit our website at: www.huronwomensshelter.com

STAFF APPRECIATION NIGHT

Following the AGM, the members of the Board saluted the work of the staff of Huron Women's Shelter. A Staff Appreciation Dinner was held at Sunset Golf Club in Goderich. All staff and a guest were invited to the dinner as a gesture of thanks from the organization. Each staff member was recognized personally by new Board Chair Carol McDonnell and given a rose by outgoing Board Chair Emily Phillips.

Huron Women's Shelter is blessed to have many long time staff and experiences a very low staff turnover rate – a tribute to the organization and it's hard working, dedicated and compassionate staff.

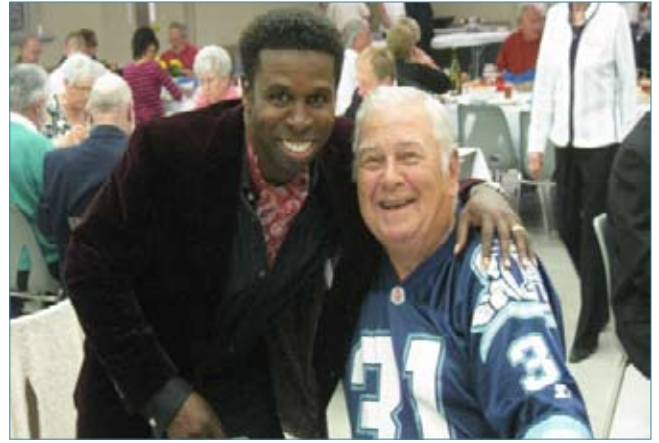


HURON WOMEN'S SHELTER STAFF 2009

AN EVENING WITH PINBALL CLEMONS APRIL 17, 2009

Mike "Pinball" Clemons was guest speaker at a fundraising dinner for the Huron Women's Shelter on April 17th in Goderich. Clemons is the CEO of the Toronto Argonauts and also a former CFL star.

He inspired his fans and also supporters of our organization with his encouraging words. He also surprised the audience by donating two corporate boxes to upcoming Argo's games which were auctioned off for \$6,000 to support the work of the Huron Women's Shelter.



Some lucky fans get their photos taken with Pinball after his keynote address.



Board members Rosie Wiese, Emily Phillips, and Carol McDonnell greet guests as they arrive for the special evening.



Executive Director Michele Hansen and Pinball Clemons smile for the camera.



SAFE HARBOUR RUN

More than 200 registrants and 194 finishers took part in this year's Safe Harbour Run held in Bayfield on Sunday, June 14th. The beautiful weather made for an exceptional race through the village, giving participants a gorgeous view of the lake, Bayfield homes, and historic Main Street before crossing the finish line in Clan Gregor Square. The Safe Harbour Run is the third race in the Runkiker Series sponsored by Runner's Choice of London. This year's event raised an incredible one-day total of more than \$3,000.



A special thank you to those who supported our organization over the past several months. Your support has totalled more than \$10,125.

2K Winners - Female

9 and under: (1) Aimee King, (2) Holly Holden
10 and 11: (1) Jaimee Clarke, (2) Kathryn Chalmers
12 and 13: (1) Maddie Melady, (2) Heather Godkin, (3) Niki Hern
14 and up: (1) Carolyn Williams, (2) Leigh Melady, (3) Erin Dolmage

2K Winners - Male

9 and under: (1) Iziah McDonnell Milley, (2) Graeme Lingard,
(3) Ian Watling
10 and 11: (1) Thomas Hartman, (2) Mackenzie Berard, (3) Sam Murray
12 and 13: (1) Luke Melady, (2) Bryce Gloucher
14 and up: (1) Connor Lingard, (2) Dave Murray, (3) Wm Creighton

5K Overall Winners - Female: (1) Grace Hartman with a time of 20:34, (2) Shannen Murray, (3) Samantha McGuiness

5K Overall Winners - Male: (1) Steve Beasley with a time of 16:59, (2) Patrick Deane, (3) Mike Park

Congratulations to all of our participants and a very special thanks to our sponsors!

RACE BENEFACTOR:

THE BAYFIELD GENERAL STORE (T-shirt sponsor)
United Communities Credit Union (refreshment sponsor)
Outside Projects (race support, lead bike)
Runners' Choice (series sponsor)
Municipality of Bluewater (facility sponsor)

Pfaff Electric Ltd.; Huron Motor Products Exeter; Exeter Chrysler Ltd.; PTMG Chartered Accountants, Exeter; Gail Grant; J.M.R. Electric Ltd.; United Communities Credit Union; Hayter Turkey Products; Doris Ball; McCann Redi-Mix Inc.; Godbolt Ciufo Insurance & Financial Services; Canadian Tire, Exeter; RM Flooring; Tim Hortons, Clinton; KFC, Exeter; A & W, Goderich; Central Huron Secondary School Construction Classes; Stephen Oliver

TAKE A SWING AT VIOLENCE GOLF TOURNAMENTS

An enthusiastic group of first time golfers and seasoned professionals took to the links this June for a day of fun, fitness, and friendly competition during our annual "Take a Swing at Violence" Golf Tournaments. Events were held on June 17th at the Maitland Golf & Country Club in Goderich, and June 24th at the Wingham Golf and Curling Club.

Congratulations to this year's winners! We hope to see you all again next year!



**TOURNAMENT WINNERS (L-R):
Jan Filman, Nadine Wathen, Roma Harris,
Michele Hansen.**

FESTIVAL OF ARTS AND CRAFTS

July 3rd, 4th and 5th
 Courthouse Park on the Square
 Goderich, ON

Join us once again in Courthouse Park on the Square in Goderich for our annual three-day Festival of Arts and Crafts on July 3rd, 4th and 5th featuring over 160 artisans and crafters.

Find the perfect gift for any occasion; weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, new babies, special thank yous and more. Browse through some of the most unique pieces for your home or garden. Bring a friend and spend the day supporting our local economy.

Share your talents and creativity, and purchase a table for the annual Goderich Festival of Arts and Crafts. Register early to secure your spot. Spaces are \$220 each.

For full details, please contact the Huron Women's Shelter.

SUNSCREEN AND SWIMSUITS AMONG ITEMS NOW NEEDED

Donations are gratefully accepted year round, and can include basic needs, personal care items, non-perishable food items, and monetary donations.

Basic needs can include items such as:

- large bottles of shampoo and conditioner
- personal care items and toiletries
- clothing for women and children
- new underwear for women and children
- towels
- blankets
- pillows
- comforters
- pajamas
- slippers

During the warm summer months, our centres are also in need of:

- sunscreen
- new or gently-used children's swim suits
- hats
- sunglasses

Your support is greatly appreciated, and makes a real difference in the lives of women and children in need.

Women's Shelter,
 Second Stage Housing
 & Counselling Services of Huron
proudly presents the

Festival of Arts & Crafts

July 3, 4, 5, 2009

Courthouse Park on The Square in Goderich

Friday - noon to 8:00 pm
Saturday - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
Sunday - noon - 4:00 pm

*Over 160 Artisans and Crafters
 Including New Vendors This Year!*

Attractions
 Shriners' Fish Fry
 Friday 4:30-7:30

At the Bandstand
 Goderich Laketown Band
 Friday 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Rotary's Used Book Sale
 All Day Saturday & Sunday

David Walker "Vocalist"
 Saturday 2:00 pm

United Way

Celebrating the Shelter's 24 Years of Service to the Community

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 website, or contact our staff for more information.