

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

WOOLWICH COMMUNITY SERVICES

FALL 2009



OVERVIEW DON HARLOFF

WCS

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- ST. JACOBS FAMILY SUPPORT CENTRE

Hello to all our many Volunteers and friends of WCS.

Fall is upon us, more quickly than many of us can believe. It remains a busy and rewarding time at WCS as we strive to best assist people who access are many services.

As has become tradition (if tradition means doing something more than two times), we have been focusing our newsletter on one of our programs. It is our hope that by this, a greater understanding of a particular service is reached. This newsletter is all about our/your/their Youth Centre.

Why does Woolwich need a Youth Centre? People young and old are social creatures who look for opportunities to belong to their community. We need places to congregate, places to play, places to feel secure and safe.

Most communities have this in churches, senior centres, minor sports programs, schools, but few have a place for youth who wish to be involved in activities that reflect the non-athlete, or the musician, the games player, or the "social butterfly". This is where the Youth Centre plays an important role in this community.

To provide some history, in the late 1990's and in to early 2000 a number of community minded people were interested in providing a place for youth to be able to go that was safe and welcoming.

Out of this was born the idea of a pilot project in the summer of 2001 using the Elmira arena floor as a temporary youth gathering place. The positive response from youth, Township, and community encouraged WCS to establish a year round

program.

On February 19, 2002, the Youth Centre was opened in the Community Centre in the upper level of the Elmira Arena. A four year grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation gave us some stability in the beginning. In the first year 250 individual youth participated.

WCS approached the Woolwich Township in October 2006 requesting the Youth Centre be part of the plans for the new Recreation Complex. Given the positive outcomes to date, Council agreed to provide dedicated space in the Complex. PIB Insurance readily came forward as the lead sponsor for the cost of building the Youth Centre portion within the Recreation Complex.

Eight "short years" from its inception, the Youth Centre opened on August 27, 2009. Community donations, United Way, Bridge-land Terminals, fundraising and youth fees make up our sources of revenue. We are very thankful to all.

One last note before you turn the page. WCS has been blessed with support from many in the development of this centre to what we see today. However, I would be remiss if I did not congratulate and a knowledge the years of effort put forth by

Kelly Christie in making this all happen. It is her vision that gives this life.

Wishing you all the best. Hope you enjoy this edition of Community Connections!!

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TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

WOW !!

It's Here and It's Impressive!

As you can imagine, over the years there have been surveys upon surveys and questionnaires upon questionnaires on the benefits of youth centres, youth recreation, what youth want and barriers to youth. Yet, many youth activities continue to be restrictive due to location, cost, or may offer only a structured activity/sport. Youth are always looking for a place to have fun with their friends, meet new friends, enjoy time away from school and family. Youth Centres offer a relaxed atmosphere for youth to experience a sense of belonging, to develop their self esteem and personal growth through group interaction in a pleasurable social environment. When you think about it, youth probably depend more than adults, on their immediate neighbourhood



for their social life. I will not continue to bore you with the common sense conclusions derived from all the surveys and questionnaires. What I would like to do is excite you with the fact that

Woolwich Township youth have a permanent, call their own, YOUTH CENTRE located in Elmira at the Woolwich Memorial Centre!

The Youth Centre is a very popular spot for the local youth to socialize. Many are meeting each other for the first time. They are from different neighbourhoods and attending different schools and have not had the opportunity to meet until now. However, having a place to relax, talk and to hang out in a safe environment, has helped to develop friendships, through sharing their common interests and enjoying each other's humour. It has been very rewarding to watch these trusting relationships build over such a short period of time. The social environment offered at the YC is not goal oriented, structured nor defined by rules and regulations allowing youth to explore with their ideas, suggestions and opinions, possibly expanding on or developing new ideas and opinions. Lively fun filled activities are available daily and the youth workers are there to have fun with the youth and ensure the environment is safe, respectful and all inclusive.

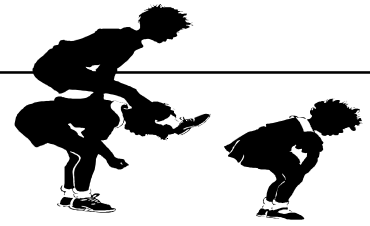


YC Possible Home of a Future Prime Minister

The Youth have shown a great interest in the activities available to them at the YC. They want to be involved, share their ideas and opinions so... a Youth Council has been formed. Nominations were accepted and a vote took place with four elected Youth Centre Members representing the four area schools. We are delighted in announcing that the Youth Council for 2009/10 are Jill Perfect representing Park Manor, Zeke Schneider St. Teresa, ... Kristen Horst St. Davids, Treyce Pomroy E.D.S.S. and Cavin Wall representing Sir J. A. MacDonald

"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future." F. D. Roosevelt

Can YOU Come Out and PLAY ?



The goals of the YC are:

- 1) To provide activities of interest to youth in grade 6 to age 19.
- 2) To provide a youth friendly, supervised, safe environment.
- 3) To offer special youth events as requested by participants.
- 4) To provide opportunities for youth to participate in their community.
- 5) To provide a link to other community services and resources.

Youth of all ages need and benefit from recreation, “play” that involves many kinds of learning. Youth in developing their strengths and interests, rely not only on their family and peers but their community for positive adult support and wisdom. When we reflect on our own life experiences and recall the adults that provided us with the support to make well thought out choices, to learn a new skill or that someone who made us feel important by just listening we wonder what might have happened if they weren’t there. If there was no one available in your young life and major decisions had to be made independently , do you ever wonder what would be different if someone was their guiding you. Well we can all be that difference, that someone in a youth’s life. To mentor (guide) a youth and offer your time and talents is a valuable service and compliment. Please consider sharing with the youth your skills/talents. Whether in computer, woodworking, a trade, billiards, music, painting, pottery, collecting, crafts, reading, gardening, whatever, the youth and youth workers would enjoy hearing from you and arranging an opportunity to share and/or teach the youth. The YC can be reached at 519-669-3539 or email woolwichyouthcentre@hotmail.com



A view of just some of the activities available.

After School Resource

(Tues. thru Fri. from 3:30 to 5:30)

The first half hour is a time for Youth to unwind after school with all Youth Centre activities available.

The following hour is a quieter atmosphere to do homework, research on computers, read, journal and participate in mind stimulating activities.

Once again the last half hour all YC activities are available.

P.M. HOURS

(Tues. thru Fri. from 6:00 to 10:00)

Youth are invited to access all YC activities nightly. Organized activities and special events such as swimming, shopping trips, etc. are offered.

See monthly calendar on back page for an example of activities.

“In youth we learn; in age we understand.”— Marie Ebner von Eschenbach

November 2009 Woolwich Youth Centre

AGES Gr. 6 to age 19

\$20 per year

	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
DATE	3	4	5	6
After School Resource →	Open 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Open 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Open 3:30 pm – 5:30	Open 3:30 pm – 5:30
Organized Activity →	Regular Activities Plus Swimming (Extra Cost)	Regular Activities Plus Spa night	Regular Activities Plus Round Table	Regular Activities Plus Shout Games Night
DATE	10	11	12	13
After School Resource →	Open 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Open 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Open 3:30 pm – 5:30	Open 3:30 pm – 5:30
Organized Activity →	Regular Activities Plus Make Cupcakes and decorate them	Regular Activities Plus Handing cupcakes out to Random People	Regular Activities Plus Swim (extra cost)	Regular Activities Plus Helping out at Foodland
A Week of Youth Centre Food Drive for Woolwich Food Bank..... how much can we raise?				
DATE	17	18	19	20
After School Resource →	Open 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Open 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Open 3:30 pm – 5:30	Open 3:30 pm – 5:30
Organized Activity →	Regular Activities Plus Bowling (extra cost)	Regular Activities Plus Crafts with Tiffany	Regular Activities Plus Swimming (extra cost)	Regular Activities Plus Round Table
DATE	24	25	26	27
After School Resource →	Open 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Open 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Open 3:30 pm – 5:30	Open 3:30 pm– 5:30
Organized Activity →	Regular Activities Plus Aqua fit at 6:15 (extra cost)	Regular Activities Plus Movie and Popcorn Night	Regular Activities Plus Walking	Regular Activities Plus Shopping trip to Fairview Mall

DATES TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER IS FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION MONTH

Remember you are the difference, be a friend



Order your **Poinsettia** place plants Nov. 4th to 19th



Poinsettia delivery to your work or home Friday Nov. 27th



Christmas Goodwill Week
December 13th to December 17th

WILD WOOLWICH CHALLENGE

Mark your calendar to join us for this amazing race!
Saturday May 1st, 2010



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