



YMCA

We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

# Community Justice Newsletter

Owen Sound & Area Family YMCA Community Justice Programs  
Serving Grey & Bruce Counties

AUGUST 2009

## Community Justice Year Review 2008-2009

### YOUTH JUSTICE CIRCLE

Over the course of this past year, 29 Justice Circles were held throughout Grey & Bruce Counties. The youth who participated in these Circles ranged in age from 12—17 and the offenses dealt with spanned the realm of applicable referrals: from Mischief to Assault. Success rates continue to be positive and youth compliance with Circle Agreements remains over 90%.

***But there are other ways of judging the 'success' of a Circle...*** A young man, aged 15, participated in a Justice Circle in an attempt to resolve his 9 Mischief offenses (all graffiti related). In compliance with his Circle Agreement "Andrew" provided uniquely personal letters of apology to each of his victims. In addition, he completed 20 hours of volunteer work within the downtown area, for which he received very positive feedback. Also, he worked side by side with one victim, physically repairing the harm he had caused, by removing graffiti and repainting property. This victim was so impressed by "Andrew's" work ethic that he has offered him summer employment.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS

2008-2009 year end totals for both youth and adults ordered to complete community hours:

#### **Adult Orders (Owen Sound & Walkerton)**

- 62 adults were ordered to complete 2440 hours.
- 52 adults successfully completed their orders and 23 either did not complete or relocated.
- A total of 2596 hours were completed during the year by recent and past referrals.

*(Community Service Orders cont...)*

#### **Youth Orders**

- 71 youth were ordered to complete 2403 hours.
- 72 youth successfully completed their orders and 21 either did not complete or relocated.
- A total of 2331 hours were completed during the year by recent and past referrals.

### PRE & POST CHARGE DIVERSION

- 80 pre charge referrals were handled by the YMCA in 2008-2009. 80% of youth that completed the program did so successfully.
- 58 post charge referrals were handled by the YMCA in 2008-2009, with a successful completion rate of 90%.
- Youth worked diligently at completing the following tasks during the course of the year:
  - \$1440.00 restitution paid to victims
  - \$700.00 made in donations
  - 313 community service hours completed
  - 26 letters of apology
  - 25 Crime Prevention Workshops
  - 22 successful Youth Justice Circle completions (33 victims had involvement in the process)
  - 18 written assignments
  - 17 Anger Management Workshops
  - 16 referrals to substance abuse counseling
  - 10 referrals to educational supports/aids
  - 9 referrals to employment supports
  - 1 referral to Mentoring
  - 1 referral to Family Mediation

## WHAT'S NEW?

### → TRAINING

Ever wanted to learn more about what happens at a Justice Circle? Or how youth you deal with can participate in one? Or are you unsure about what options are available if you refer a youth to diversion?

Members of the YMCA Community Justice Programs are available to provide training opportunities relating to pre charge diversion and Youth Justice Circles for officers in Grey and Bruce Counties.

#### For more information contact:

**Christine McCardell 519-371-9246 ext. 430**

**Amy Sutherland 519-371-9246 ext. 230**

## SPECIAL THANK YOU

The success of pre charge diversion relies on the collaboration between the police services of Grey and Bruce Counties and YMCA staff; special recognition is extended to two officers who demonstrated great support of community based alternatives for youth during 2008-2009:

**Constable Brad Robertson (OSPS)** referring 8 youth and **Constable Sue MacPherson (Grey County OPP)** who referred 7 youth during the year.

Thank you for your continued support of our programs and the youth in the community.

## RECENT ACTIVITY : April - June 2009

### Youth Justice Circle Program:

- Pre charge referrals received included 11 from Grey County and 1 Bruce County.
- Post charge referrals received included 7 from Owen Sound Court and 4 from Walkerton.
- A total of 10 youth attended circles during this period and 22 files were closed successful.

### Pre Charge Diversion (Extrajudicial Measures):

- 15 Referrals were received from the following police services:
  - Grey County OPP (7) - **PC R. Bierworth, PC R. Lindsay, PC J. Nellis, PC S MacPherson and PC B. Sewell**
  - Owen Sound Police (7) - **PC Down, PC Holovaci, PC McKean and PC Watson.**
  - Bruce Peninsula OPP (1) - **PC T. Doersam.**
- 19 files were closed successfully completed.

### Post Charge Diversion (Extrajudicial Sanctions):

- 8 referrals were received from the Grey County Crown's office and 5 from Bruce County.
- 18 files were closed as successfully completed.

### Community Service Order Program:

#### Youth:

- 18 youth were referred with 451 hours ordered
- 14 youth completed and 645 hours have been completed to date.

#### Adults:

- 14 adults were referred with 519 hours ordered
- 13 files closed successful
- 409 hours completed to date



**Community Justice Programs**

Serving Grey & Bruce Counties

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#### COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDER PROGRAM

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#### EXTRAJUDICIAL MEASURES/SANCTIONS (Pre & Post Charge Diversion)

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#### YOUTH JUSTICE CIRCLE PROGRAM

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