



COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDER NETWORKER

'Open your doors by helping adults and youths build confidence and skills'

August 2008

CSO HOSTS

PARDONS CANADA EVENT



On June 3, 2008, the Community Service Order Program hosted an information session facilitated by Ian Levine, the National Program Director for Pardons Canada. Mr. Levine was invited to speak to a group of about 15 people who were looking for information on having a criminal record removed for either themselves, a family member, or a client. Information was provided on when one should start the process, how much the process will cost and what a pardon means for one's future.



Mr. Levine advised that individuals should apply for a pardon immediately after leaving the court system. The process will cost between \$250 and \$580, but Pardons Canada will do most of the work. It is especially important for those wishing to travel

to the United States to get a pardon before they cross the border as the USA does not recognize Canadian pardons and once the criminal information is in the USA databanks, information cannot be removed.

A great deal of information was delivered during the one hour session. All who attended left well-informed about the importance of getting a criminal record removed and the steps required to do so.

CRIMINAL RECORD REMOVAL

You do not need a lawyer or representative to apply for a pardon. Depending on the complexity of the criminal history, an individual may choose to use an agency such as Pardons Canada for assistance in applying for a pardon or they may obtain the required forms and complete the application on their own.

Pardons Canada is a federal non-profit organization that assists individuals to remove a past criminal offence from public record. For a fee, Pardons Canada will do the work for any individual seeking a pardon.

For more information on getting assistance to have a criminal record removed or to obtain a USA Entry Waiver, contact:

Pardons Canada

Phone: (416) 929-6011

Email: info@pardons.org

Website: www.pardons.org

The National Parole Board gives the same consideration to a pardon application submitted by an individual or by a representative. You can access all necessary information, including a Pardons Application Guide yourself at the **Government of Canada National Parole Board** website: www.npb-cnrc.gc.ca/pardons/servic_e.htm

You can also obtain the same information and forms at any **Service Canada** office.

Community Service Order Program
229 King Street
Peterborough ON
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Phone: Shelley Giardino, Program Manager (705) 743-6376

Website: www.ccrcc-ptbo.com

Email: csopeterboro@yahoo.ca

Thank you for your support!

If you know of any non-profit organizations that could benefit from the help of our clients within their agency, or for special events or projects, please contact us.

The CSO Networker is a newsletter of the Community Service Order Program of Community Counselling and Resource Centre. This program provides assessment, placement and supervision of adults and youths in conflict with the law in completing court-ordered community service hours within non-profit & tax-supported organizations. Through this newsletter, the CSO program will communicate with our 'placement agencies' (the groups & organizations that provide placements for CSO clients) about the program and what is happening within the placement agencies. Submissions with regard to placement services or events are welcome by contacting Christine Hignett by phone, fax or email. Please feel free to also share any success stories that you may have had through partnering with our Program.

GAMBLING ADDICTION: A DOWNWARD SPIRAL



I'm a 44 year old female who has experienced first-hand the anguish and despair of problem gambling. I grew up in a middle class family, graduated from college, had a family, bought a house and life was to be good. Unfortunately, this was not the case.

I started gambling slowly at first. My children had left home and I didn't have any hobbies. I was tired of spending all my time working and sitting in the house. At first my husband and I started going to the casino for an evening out. It was fun and exciting and I really enjoyed the atmosphere. It became a regular habit for us on weekends. Then I started going on my own. I began spending more and more of our household monies on the evil slot machines. When questions were asked by my family about where I had been, I started lying to them. Soon all I could think about was how I was going to get enough money to head to the casino.

What I did next was the start of a downward spiral for me. I had a really good job making great money but it wasn't enough to support my family or my habit. I took money from my employer, had a great time at the casino and lost several thousand dollars. This made me feel very guilty and ashamed of myself and I promised myself if I got away with it I would never do it again. However, I did get away with it and I continued to spend every cent at the casino and lost everything including myself.

Life at home was getting pretty chaotic. My husband and I were fighting all the time, my children were seeing a different mother and I was miserable. This continued for approximately four years. I had no clue how much I took until I was caught—a day that always comes.

The day I was caught at work my world fell apart. I was asked to clean out my desk and told they would be in contact with me. When I arrived home, I told my husband I was taking holidays for a couple of weeks. One night I couldn't sleep and I wrote a letter to my family explaining everything to them and then I left. I drove and drove wondering what to do. I considered suicide, but I needed to face the consequences of my actions, so I went home.

It wasn't easy but I have a loving family who supported me through the whole process of being arrested and having to attend court. When the details came out at court, I found out that I had taken over a hundred thousand dollars and spent it all at the casino.

I was able to repay my employer the money I had taken and I received a 15 month house arrest sentence and probation as well as community service hours.

To anyone who finds him or herself in my situation, the only advice I can give you is to please talk to someone. Don't allow your gambling to change your life forever like it has mine. There are people out there that are willing to help. All you have to do is reach out.
Written by an Adult CSO Client

YMCA YOUTH GAMBLING AWARENESS PROGRAM

In collaboration with the YMCA of Greater Toronto and the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotions, 18 sites across Ontario, including the YMCA in Peterborough, have implemented the YMCA Youth Gambling Awareness Program (YGAP). Statistics show that 70-90% of youth are involved in gambling behaviours. Further, of this number 15% are showing signs of problem gambling. The goal of the program is, therefore, to implement a prevention and education program designed to reduce the potential harms associated with youth gambling.

YGAP uses a non-judgmental approach in dealing with gambling issues. The program strives to remain neutral in discussions with youth and aims to support young people to make healthy decisions about gambling using a harm reduction model.

As well as addressing the needs of youth aged 8-24, the program also provides services for those who influence and work with youth. In Peterborough and surrounding areas the program is involved with over 70 schools, camps, and other youth oriented agencies.



Specific services offered by the program are:

- Community awareness sessions
- Referral to community and treatment services
- Formal presentations to schools and other organizations that work with youth between the ages of 8 and 24 years
- Educational workshops for parents, teachers, and other professionals working with youth

For more information or to book or preview a presentation please contact:

Elizabeth Martin

Youth Outreach Worker

Youth Gambling Awareness Program

YMCA of Peterborough

Phone: (705) 748-9622 ext. 209

elizabeth_martin@ymca.ca

Other community resources for gambling include:

Gambler's Anonymous, 743-1318

Four Counties Addiction Services Team, 876-1292

WELCOME!

TO OUR NEW COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

- Green Pick-It
- Peterborough Exhibition
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch 52
- St. Luke's Anglican Church
- Trent University Walk Home Program

Helping turn things around...



PLACEMENT NEWS

The Community Service Order Program would like to send best wishes to a few of our partners in the community who will be moving on at the end of the summer.

Congratulations to **David Weddell** of the **Salvation Army** on his retirement August 20th, 2008. David has worked with the CSO program for many years and will be missed!

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

United Way 2008 Campaign Kickoff

Date: Thursday, September 18th, 2008

This event will be held at the Evinrude Centre from 7:00am to 8:30am. Tickets are \$15.

PARN AIDS Walk for Life

Date: Sunday, September 21st, 2008

Taking place at Millennium Park, registration begins at 1:00 pm and the walk will start at 2:00pm.

The event will include live music, food and prizes!

You can register now on-line at www.aidswalkforlife.ca.

CSO REMEBERANCE



On August 18, 2008, **Fran Helsing** passed away after a difficult battle with West Nile virus. Fran worked in the **Community Service Order**

Program from 1986 ~ 2001 and was the first Program Assistant for the CSO Program. Fran assisted many clients through their community service and was kind, caring and positive in dealing with her clients, community and co-workers. Fran will be sadly missed by family, friends and community. The family is holding a memorial service Saturday September 20th at St.. John the Baptist Church in Lakefield, ON 1:30– 3:30pm to celebrate Fran's life.

RECIPE FOR RELAXATION

Make some time to relax and enjoy the sunshine this summer. You can sit on the patio or by the pool and enjoy a *mocktail* with this recipe:

SUNNY CITRUS COOLER

Ingredients:

- 1 (46 fluid ounce) can pineapple juice
- 2 (12 fluid ounce) cans frozen orange juice concentrate, thawed
- 3/4 cup lemonade concentrate
- 6 cups ginger ale, chilled
- Orange slices



Directions:

In a 1 gallon pitcher, combine pineapple juice, orange juice concentrate and lemonade concentrate. Add ginger ale and mix well. Serve over ice. Garnish with orange slices if desired. Refrigerate leftovers.

Ministry of Community Safety & Correctional Services &

Children & Youth Services



Is your organization having a special event, fundraiser, silent auction or anything else that you would like the community to know about? Please submit the information to Christine Hignett, Program Assistant by fax at 705-742-3015 or at csopeterboro@yahoo.ca