



# HARVEST HOUSE

3435 Ramsayville Rd. Gloucester, ON K1G 3N2

## 22nd Annual Recovery Cup Softball Tournament



All proceeds go to The Harvest House Drug Recovery Program

# Chief White article



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June 17, 2009

Ms. Nicole Plaschy  
Executive Director  
Harvest House Ministries  
3435 Ramsayville Road  
Gloucester, Ontario  
K1G 3N2


Dear Ms. Plaschy,

On behalf of the Ottawa Police Service, I am writing to express my support of the 22nd Annual Recovery Cup in support of the rehabilitation program at Harvest House. I believe that this is a unique opportunity for Harvest House residents and law enforcement agencies to foster positive relationships, as well as to experience the valuable lessons and opportunities associated with sports.

Police officers are, through frequent contact with alcohol and drug addicts, well aware of the wide range of problems they experience and the impact on the lives of the individual, partners, children, and other relatives. As police officers, we are also conscious of the wider effects of alcohol and drug use including increased levels of crime and demands on a number of public services, including health and social care, and the criminal justice system.

I want to wish Harvest House Ministries the best in the future in continuing to better our community and helping on an individual basis to make a difference in people's lives. I feel that organizations such as yours play a critical role in our community.

Sincerely,

  
Vern White  
Chief of Police





# The Trillium Redemption Run

## June 14, 2009

As the evening dew faded with the morning sun blazing, an "epic moment" was about to take place. The air was crisp with excitement and anticipation. Birds sung a tune of hope in wait of the glory to follow. A new day was born and another page was added to the annals of H.H. History.

Sunday June 14, 2009 marked the very first Harvest House organized community road race, The Trillium Redemption Run. The Redemption Run was part of a plan to make the H.H. Running program more financially sustainable while increasing community awareness. This exciting next step was intended to formalize and augment the existing program.

With help from Ottawa University graduate students under the moniker '3 Musketeers Consulting', Gary Wand and Executive Director Nicole Plaschy began developing the framework for this 'annual' event.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation, a corporation dedicated to providing grants for charitable organizations, sponsored Harvest House to help fund this new and exciting endeavor. The OTF generously pledged \$27,000 to help with the Harvest House running program and the Redemption Run.

"This is just so awesome," said Josh Eisenbrenner who crossed the 11k finish line with a time of 48:47, "our very own run, man, that's pretty cool!"

What began as a dream materialized into a successful reality. Over 50 runners showed up to participate in the 5km and 11km race. Music played throughout the sun-filled day as children had their faces painted into their favorite KISS rock stars! Cameras flashed and supporters shouted as each runner came through the Trillium Redemption Run finish line.

The Harvest House Running Team did exceptionally well, placing runners in the top three in each category.

For the 5km race, Nigel Burgess, a Harvest House Team Runner, placed 1st overall with a remarkable time of 20:41. Second was Kathy Bradley, an avid runner and Harvest House supporter, who crossed the line with a time of 20:50. In third was seventeen year old Jayce Matthews, another Team Runner with a phenomenal time of 21:05.

Our 11km race was taken in victory by Randy Hilderman with an impressive time of 45:26. The second and third place victories went to Harvest House Team Runner's Josh Eisenbrenner and Pierre Prud'homme with times of 48:47 and 49:31 respectively.

After a home-cooked pancake breakfast and a time of fellowship, everyone was gathered into the gorgeous sunlight to applaud the runners as they accepted their awards. Nepean-Carleton MPP Lisa MacLeod and Ontario Trillium Foundation representative Bob Wilson were present during the awards ceremony and expressed their admiration for the success of this event.



To all who were present, who participated and enjoyed themselves, thank you for making the 1st annual Redemption Run a success and a blessing.

Join us next year for another race in support of the program that changes lives, one life at a time!

# JIMMY

## Breaking On Through To The Other Side

At 38 years old with over 26 years of drug and alcohol abuse, the visible scars of his long, hard and chosen road are but mere scratches in the light of his joyful countenance. James Bonney, a long-term resident of Harvest House Ministries, sitting casually with his hands folded over his belly, openly shared about his long-awaited passage through recovery.

Nine months ago however, you would have only focused on his scars and would have approached him with trepidation. Personable and polite, his contagious laugh echoed loudly throughout the office as he shared with us where he came from, where he is now and where he wants to go.

Jimmy, as he's known at Harvest House, was born into a military family in Pembroke, Ontario on December 18, 1970. Having spent the first five years of his life in Germany as result of his family's military responsibilities and then moving around a lot as a child, Jimmy says he never really had time to "settle in and get some roots." He described himself as an active child with a penchant for exploration of any kind.

His explorative demeanour led him to smoke hash and marijuana with other "base kids" at the age of eleven. "I absolutely loved the feeling when I first smoked hash and I thought I was a big time!" A year later he was placed in juvenile detention for his involvement in a pellet gun shooting. The next three years of his life were spent in juvenile detention. This three-year period was the "worst time of [his] life". He was placed in foster care immediately following his release. Scared, uncertain and angry, he left foster care at sixteen years old and forsook the possibility of having a meaningful life.

The next twenty years for Jimmy was a horror-ride down a slippery slope to nowhere. In and out of federal and provincial institutions, living on the streets and actively engaged in a criminal lifestyle to support his addiction to drugs and alcohol, Jimmy was a write-off. He shared his story – one of sleeping in local shelters, using drugs intravenously and going to prison – with a charming nonchalance. Beneath that tough exterior, however, lies the truth his story.

"I never achieved anything in my life, Charlie. I'm 38 years old, I don't have a driver's license, no education – I've done nothing with my life. That is...until now."

Jimmy is a miracle. Hard work, perseverance and his faith in Jesus Christ have brought him to where he is standing now. A junior staff member with nine months of sobriety, Jimmy is our most diligent and cheerful in-house representative. His volunteerism and dedication to studying and applying the Bible to his life have made him an example to the newest residents.

Above all else, on July 3, 2009 James Bonney became a high school graduate! He was registered in our G.E.D. (General Education Development) program in the winter of 2009 and worked very hard with our volunteer teachers to achieve what he holds proudly in his hand: a high school equivalency diploma!

He thought this would never happen. He wrote off the possibility of graduating high school. He did not think he could do it. "But [Harvest House staff] believed in me. They believed in me, encouraged me and built me up. You know something, (as his contagious laugh begins to rumble in the distance) they tricked me into believing I can graduate!"

At 38 years old, with plans of going to Carleton University and having a successful life with meaning and purpose, James Bonney has no way to describe what he's going through.

**"I never thought this could happen, never in my craziest dreams.  
I'm looking forward to seeing where I'm going to be in 5 years from now."**

Dear Gary,

On April 10th I was flipping through the channels and suddenly heard a name I recognized. I perked up, grabbed the remote, turned up the volume and waited to see what would be said. To be honest, I expected to hear that Peter had been accused of a crime, was currently at large and the community should be on the look out for him.

You see, over three years ago, Peter was a participant in my substance abuse program. At the time I was District Correctional Programs Officer at the Ottawa District Parole Office. Unfortunately, during that time in Peter's life, I don't have many positive things I could mention about him. At the time, Peter, like many other federal offenders I'd delivered programs to, was simply not able to recognize that alcohol and drugs were problematic for him. He believed they helped him function in society; have fun, be social, relax, stay alert, go to sleep, etc. From my experiences with Peter, I had no hope for him at the time. He simply was not ready to accept that he had an addiction, and the only consistent thing in his life was the panoply of rationalizations, justifications and excuses to drink or smoke up. Peter was so in denial about his addiction that I had to kick him out of the program. His attitude was detrimental to the other participants in the program and more importantly, to himself.

That was the last I had heard of him until the night of April 10th on CBC. I was so surprised and happy to hear that he had changed his life. So much so that I felt compelled to pay a surprise visit to Peter at Harvest House. Thank you so much for arranging the visit with him. When you pointed him out to me and I walked up to say hello, the look on Peter's face was priceless! Initially he was confused and I could tell that he couldn't place me. I told him that I knew him from three years ago. A flicker passed over his face. I told him I knew him when he was on parole. Another flicker. I reminded him that I was the one who kicked him out of the drug and alcohol program I was teaching. Instant recognition. He jumped out of his chair and I gave him a big hug. Peter and I chatted for about half an hour. He proudly showed me around Harvest House, introduced me to everyone we passed, searched the facility so that I could meet the special people in his life and talked about how far he has come. Gary, I was so impressed with the young man that I spent an hour with. Peter has come a long way and I was very pleased to see him on such a positive road to recovery. Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to meet with him and congratulate him on his success and wish him luck on his 42K marathon and his journey in life.

*Sincerely, Marion Houle*



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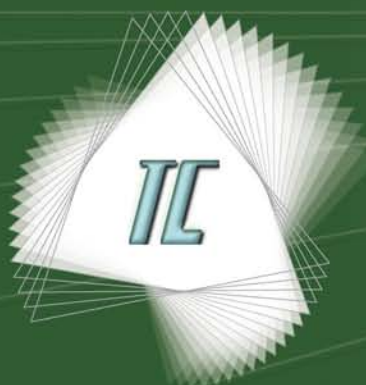
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