

**COUNCIL *of* ELIZABETH
FRY SOCIETIES
of ONTARIO**



**ANNUAL REPORT
2004-2005**

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The **Council of Elizabeth Fry Societies of Ontario** is a not-for-profit organization first organized in 1952 and today comprised of ten autonomous Elizabeth Fry Societies, a voluntary board, and compassionate donors. We are committed to raise public awareness, work with governments to recommend law and policy reforms that reflect the needs of women, and promote gender-specific and effective services on behalf of adult women and adolescents involved with the justice system as offenders and as victims of abuse and crime. We facilitate effective communication among Ontario societies to identify issues for concerted action.

**Together, our voice is louder, our credibility greater, our representativeness more diverse,
and our efforts more effective.**

We believe...

... women are criminalized by poverty, racism, social inequality, and abuse

... there must be fair, equitable and compassionate treatment of women who are, have been, or may be at risk of coming into conflict with the law

... preventative and corrective interventions are most effective when delivered in the community and permit women to retain ties with family and social networks

... women have needs different from men that demand a holistic response to address addictions, health, safe and affordable housing, access to education and vocational training, healing from abuse and trauma, and parenting

... each woman is unique and has the right to dignity, respect, confidentiality, and

high-quality service delivered with compassion

... the non-profit and voluntary sectors have the responsibility and expertise to assist governments with responding to women in conflict with the law

... women found guilty by criminal courts should be subject to the least restrictive penalty that is appropriate given the nature of the offence and the need for accountability

... the community has a responsibility to be active in the criminal justice system and the work of volunteers is vital

**Look on Council's web site for a copy of our submission to the
Task Force on the Reform of Correctional Services in Ontario**

MISSION STATEMENT

The Council of Elizabeth Fry Societies of Ontario is a not-for-profit organization of autonomous Elizabeth Fry Societies and a voluntary board of directors. We are committed to raising awareness among the public, working with governments to recommend law and policy reforms, and promoting gender-specific and effective services on behalf of women and girls who are, have been, or may be at risk of coming into conflict with the law. We monitor the conditions of confinement at provincial and federal institutions, liaise with all levels of government, represent Ontario issues with the national association, and educate the public about the social, political and economic inequities that affect marginalized women.

ORIGINS AND STRUCTURE

Elizabeth Fry (1780-1845) was an English Quaker devoted to publicising and improving the inhuman conditions in which women and their children were held in the prisons of 19th-century Europe. Today, concerned citizens come together in her name with, and for, women in conflict with the law.

Elizabeth Fry Societies began in Canada in Vancouver in 1939 and in Ontario in Kingston in 1949. The Ontario Council of Elizabeth Fry Societies, established in 1952, was formally registered as a non-profit corporation in 1985. On the volunteer Board of Directors sit one representative from each agency and five community representatives.

The nine Ontario member societies are located in Hamilton, Kingston, Kitchener-Waterloo, Ottawa, Peterborough, Brampton (Peel and Halton), Barrie (Simcoe County), Sudbury and Toronto. A society is developing in Thunder Bay.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Bonnie Rush

As President, it has been a pleasure to work with Council's staff and volunteers over the last year to move many issues forward. New directions have been tried; some of which have been successful and others not. Through it all, Council members continue to be self-reflective to ensure that processes, policies and programs meet the many diverse needs of criminalized women served by the Elizabeth Fry agencies in Ontario.

This last year, on Council's behalf, the *Kapelos Consulting Group* conducted a project funded by the Trillium Foundation of Ontario to conduct a 'point-in-time' needs assessment of community based clients and programs offered by the 10 member agencies, to develop a common client intake form and database and to determine ways to enhance our ability to educate and fundraise through this research to further develop our policies and processes toward 'best practice'.

A new President will take up that challenge, as this was my last year with Council. As always, being President was made easier by the Executive Committee who provided wise counsel and by Council members who provided honest, reasoned discussion to the many issues faced by all of us in this last year. Council continues to be grateful to the Peel-Halton agency who provides space for the corporate office and our meetings, to Kari Simpson, Executive Assistant, who keeps us informed, accountable and operating efficiently, to Trish Crawford, Leslie Kelman and Joan Winchell who continue to represent Council with professionalism and expertise on key committees, during prison visits, and as advocates for both federally and provincially sentenced women to the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies. These three women are held in high regard in the corrections community, and we have benefited from the commendable way they have represented us in their responsibilities on Council's behalf. We also thank Barb Wilson for her competent, albeit short, sojourn as Regional Advocate, and wish her great success in her other work.

Finally, the generosity of our donors makes Council's work possible and we thank you. As Charles Dickens said; 'Charity begins at home, and justice begins next door'.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' MESSAGE

by Trish Crawford, Joan Winchell, Leslie Kelman

Council continues to advocate on behalf of both provincial and federal women. Meetings with the federal warden and various provincial superintendents as well as bureaucrats, politicians and the women keep us well informed.

The Grand Valley Institutions (GVI) at Kitchener/Waterloo continues to be the focus of our regional advocate. Isabel McNeil remains open with 6 women on site. Brenda Wilson-Demuth is the new warden at GVI. In June 96 women were in general population and 7 women in maximum. Programming and counselling continue to be an issue. Several options are being explored including music therapy, chaplaincy and corcan.

Case management is functioning below expectations due to staff turnover and lack of fully trained staff. Council staff meet regularly with the women and have identified areas of concern including no ETA's due to lack of escorts, delay in paperwork for the NPB, access to outside medical appointments and the timely dispensing of medication.

Council's advocate participates on the Community Reintegration Committee and the Program Advisory Committee. We also attend the Inmate Management Committee and the Institutional Reintegration meeting and we monitor the work of the Women's Supervision Unit. This unit is responsible for the women in the Region (Ontario) who are on community supervision.

In Ontario there are on average 481 women institutionalized and 8,938 women on community supervision on any given day. Council actively advocates and monitors conditions in jails, correction centers and detention centers throughout the province. The three superjails, Central North (Penetang), Central East (Lindsay) and the Vanier Centre for Women (Milton) are routinely visited and crisis calls are responded to immediately if possible. As with federal women the most pressing issue is lack of health care, programming and access to early release mechanisms. Large institutions and local jails are all monitored. The local Elizabeth Fry Societies throughout Ontario regularly monitor their local institutions and meet with the women in order to facilitate discharge planning, expedite paperwork and offer programming.

The Ministry is somewhat receptive to the unique needs of women in the system and we continue to participate on committees to further the Council agenda regarding women at risk or enmeshed in the system. Council is actively involved across several Ministries to challenge the norm and press for relief of many of the issues that repeatedly place women at risk.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Balance Sheet
For Year Ended March 31, 2005
With Comparative Figures for 2004

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Assets		
Current	\$94,960	\$109,305
Fixed	<u>1,012</u>	<u>-----</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$95,972</u>	<u>\$109,305</u>
Liabilities and Funds		
Current	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,000
Long-term	17,883	16,317
Restricted funds	54,748	58,128
Operating funds	<u>20,841</u>	<u>31,860</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$95,972</u>	<u>\$109,305</u>

Statement of Operating Fund Revenues and Expenditures
For Year Ended March 31, 2005
With Comparative Figures for 2004

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Revenue		
Donations and bequests	\$ 28,902	\$ 6,967
CAEFS	40,000	30,000
Members' contributions	20,715	21,090
Other income	315	109
Break open tickets	14,569	34,469
Trillium Foundation Grant	16,317	65,267
Samuel Rogers Memorial Trust	<u>7,000</u>	<u>7,000</u>
Total Revenue	<u>127,818</u>	<u>164,902</u>
Expenditures		
Services	45,002	87,688
Administration	48,131	56,598
Community education	-	1,360
Fundraising	<u>1,781</u>	<u>4,857</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>94,914</u>	<u>150,503</u>
Excess/(Deficit)	<u>\$32,904</u>	<u>\$14,399</u>

OUR DONORS

We acknowledge, with heartfelt thanks, the generosity of our loyal donors.

TRUSTS, FOUNDATIONS, ESTATES

Ontario Trillium Foundation
Samuel Rogers Memorial Trust

RELIGIOUS ORDERS & INSTITUTIONS

Congregation de Notre Dame, United Church Women Corunna and
St. Andrews United Church Women

INDIVIDUALS

The Council of Elizabeth Fry Societies of Ontario would like to thank all of those individuals who kindly made donations in the 2004-2005 fiscal year. Due to the new Privacy Act we are unable to publish their names but we are truly appreciative of all donations received. Without these donations we would not be able to continue the work we do. Thank you all very much!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2004-2005

OFFICERS

President	Bonnie Rush, Community Representative
Past-President	Alison Cunningham, Community Representative
Secretary	Leslie Maunder, Community Representative
Treasurer	Jan Mills, Community Representative

DIRECTORS

	Clare Campbell, Kingston Representative
	Joy Anderson, Peel Representative
	, Ottawa Representative
Vice President	Donna Cuffe, Peterborough Representative
	Patricia Peterson, Simcoe Representative
	Kim Edwards, Hamilton Representative
	, Sudbury Representative
	Evelyn Witmer, Waterloo Representative
	Joanne Prince, Toronto Representative
	Debbie Ball, Community Representative

ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETIES IN ONTARIO

Elizabeth Fry Society of Hamilton
293 Wellington St. N. Ste. 111
Hamilton, Ontario L8L 8E7
(905) 527-3097

Elizabeth Fry Society of Simcoe County
102 Maple Avenue
Barrie, Ontario L4N 1S4
(705) 725-0613

Elizabeth Fry Society of Kingston
127 Charles Street
Kingston, Ontario K7K 1V8
(613) 544-1744

Elizabeth Fry Society of Sudbury
204 Elm Street West
Sudbury, Ontario P3C 1V3
(705) 673-1364

Elizabeth Fry Society of Ottawa
311 - 211 Bronson Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 4P8
(613) 237-7427

Elizabeth Fry Society of Toronto
215 Wellesley Street East
Toronto, Ontario M4X 1G1
(416) 924-3708

Elizabeth Fry Society of Peel & Halton
24 Queen Street East, Suite LL-01
Brampton, Ontario L6V 1A3
(905) 459-1315

Elizabeth Fry Society of Waterloo
P.O. Box 40007, Waterloo Square PO
Waterloo, Ontario N2J 4V1
(519) 579-6732

Elizabeth Fry Society of Peterborough
223 Aylmer Street North, Unit C
Peterborough, Ontario K9J 3K3
(705) 749-6809

Elizabeth Fry Society of Northwestern Ontario
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