



"When thee builds a prison, thee had better build with the thought ever in thy mind that thee and thy children may occupy the cells."

— Elizabeth Fry 1780 - 1845

Opening the Doors

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COUNCIL OF ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETIES OF ONTARIO

LSD experiments at Prison For Women

A year ago, information became public about the LSD experiments on women prisoners at Kingston's Prison for Women (P4W). Twenty-three women at P4W were given LSD as part of a psychology experiment in the early 1960's.

Another woman, whose name was withheld in the report, told investigators about being locked in her cell after she was given an LSD dosage. She slashed her left arm.

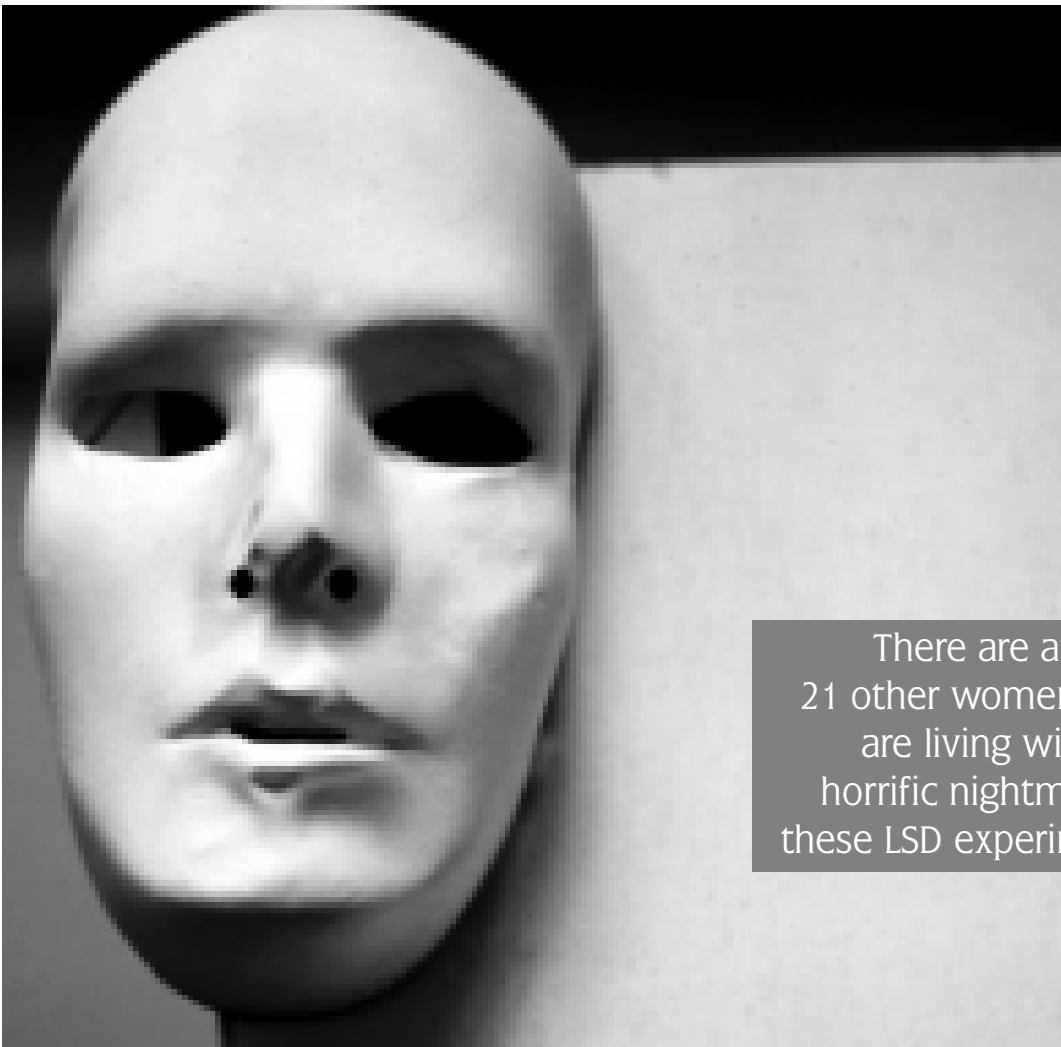
Dorothy Proctor, a former prisoner at P4W, complained to Solicitor General Herb Gray in October 1995, leading to an inquiry to investigate the case. Her complaint was corroborated by one other former prisoner and written records of the experiments were uncovered during the investigation. During 1997, the Board of Inquiry interviewed Ms Proctor, retired prison staff, and the two men who conducted the research.

In testimony before the Board of Inquiry, Ms. Proctor said she believed researchers targeted her because she was viewed as a "throwaway" who had no family connections beyond prison walls. "If I had died in Kingston Penitentiary,

the report would have said I just died", Ms. Proctor testified. "I think I was targeted because I was 16, I was Black, and I didn't have anybody on the outside who cared."

The report says that the women suffer from a recognized psychiatric syndrome called Post-Hallucinogen Perceptual Disorder. In Ms. Proctor's case, she was abandoned in a solitary confinement cell in the basement of the penitentiary. During her bad trip, the walls melted and the bars of her cell turned into snakes. "I remember dry screaming, screaming but nothing coming out", she testified at the Board of Inquiry. "No one (was) there to help me ...things were all over my body." The report concluded that giving Ms. Proctor

continued on page 2



There are at least 21 other women who are living with the horrific nightmare of these LSD experiments

ported by these two subjects of LSD treatment at the Prison for Women” the report states. “We are certain they have had no contact with one another.”

Post Hallucinogen Perceptual Disorder (PHPD), was first recognized in 1956 and is listed in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, the recognized handbook of mental illnesses. The manual says flashbacks are a feature of the disorder, which “causes clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning... the perceptual disturbances may include geometric forms, peripheral-field images, flashes of colour, intensified colour, trailing images (images left suspended in the path of a moving object remaining after removal of the object)...” The flashbacks can

LSD while in confinement “fell far short of what was considered suitable in the field at that time” and could be “conducive to negative effects during the session and possibly long term as well.”

Another woman, whose name was withheld in the report, told investigators about being locked in her cell after she was given an LSD dosage. She slashed her left arm. When it bled she imagined spiders crawling out of the wound. She could not sleep because she hallucinated that “spider semen crawled up my legs and into my vagina and some crawled up my body and entered through both ears. That night I wadded the toilet paper and plugged my vagina, anus and ears. I never slept.”

The long-term effects on both women were severe. Ms. Proctor avoids opening cans because she

imagines the lids growing large and moving towards her to slice her. She can only sleep if she holds her arms across herself or clasps her hands together. She avoids looking into mirrors to prevent being drawn into them. She also avoids her reflection in the store windows or pools of water. She has difficulty with depth perception and walking down stairs. If she looks at her body too long, she imagines her skin starting to bubble and ooze.

The unnamed woman said she continues to hear voices in her head. She can only sleep three hours at a time, and only if she can feel the stability of a wall. She has panic attacks on escalators and elevators. She avoids mirrors for fear of being drawn into them.

“We are struck by the similarity of some of the long-term affects re-

be triggered by entering a dark environment, drugs, fatigue, anxiety or other stressors, the manual says.

Since only two women have come forward that means there are at least 21 other women who are living with the horrific nightmare of these LSD experiments during their imprisonment at P4W. Locating other women who were part of the study may be difficult due to the time factor. We encourage anyone who wishes to come forward to call Council at (416) 585-2842 for further information.

The Prison for Women continues to imprison approximately 20 women within its walls, despite a commitment to close it and transfer the prisoners to the five regional federal institutions for women across Canada. ☹

ICCA Annual Conference

“What Works: Women and Juvenile Females in Community Corrections”

Last Fall, some members of the Elizabeth Fry network in Ontario had the opportunity to attend the 1998 annual International Community Corrections Association (ICCA) conference in Virginia co-sponsored by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, Virginia Community Criminal Justice Association, National Institute of Corrections, Bureau of Justice Assistance and Correctional Services of Canada. Kim Pate, Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies, was honoured with the Marlene Moore award at this event.

This research-based conference was a confirmation of the phenomenal gap in women’s gender-specific correctional intervention literature,

programs and services, evaluations and nearly non-existent formal documentation. That women represent such a small percentage of the offender population, fewer than 10%, has been the justification for the lack of re-

These programs use an “empowerment” model of skill building to develop competencies in order to enable women to achieve independence.



Painting courtesy of “multi-cultural Celebration” by Betty La Duke

sources allocated towards gender-specific programs, data gathering and analysis.

Academic presenters confirmed our beliefs that women’s pathways to crime are distinct from men’s pathways to crime. Women are overwhelmingly incarcerated for non-violent offenses related to their poverty.

Histories of male violence and victimization are central to an understanding of women’s crimes, and women’s unique needs and issues must be addressed in a safe, trusting and supportive women-focused environment. Programs designed for men, currently used for women, are

continued on page 12

Legal Changes

Legislation was passed in December 1998, and is now in force, to transfer responsibility for legal aid services in Ontario from the Law Society of Upper Canada to a new corporation, called Legal Aid Ontario. This corporation is independent from but accountable to, the government of Ontario.

The purpose of the new corporation, as stated in the Legal Aid Services Act, 1998, is "to promote access to justice throughout Ontario for low-income individuals...". One of the functions of the corporation is "to establish policies and priorities for the provision of legal aid services...".

Elizabeth Fry Societies, other women's organizations, and agencies that work with people in conflict with the law, are anxious about what policy changes might take place under the new system, and how these changes might affect their clients. These are some of the issues we will be following:

1) WILL SERVICES BE AVAILABLE consistently across the province? Under the former system, the province was divided into numerous "areas". Each area had its own Director of Legal Aid. And there were great variations among areas as to what services would be covered by legal aid. For example, many prisoners want to have a lawyer to assist them in preparing for a hearing before a Parole Board to determine whether parole will be granted. In some ar-


reas, legal aid was always available for this type of hearing, in other areas it was never granted for this, and in other areas it was granted sometimes, depending on the circumstances of the case.

2) WILL THE NEW CORPORATION apply the same rules when setting policy for legal aid for prison law matters as it does when setting policy for legal aid for criminal law matters? Under the former system, a legal aid certificate would be issued to low-income applicants charged with a criminal offence if there was any risk of incarceration. The rationale for this is that there is a liberty interest at stake, which is a very important interest to protect. When prisoners appear at a parole hearing, there is definitely a risk of further incarceration if they lose the hearing - a person serving a life sentence has their liberty for the rest of their life at stake. Yet in most cases, legal aid has not been available to people applying for parole.

3) WILL THE NEW CORPORATION appreciate the importance of the availability of legal aid for prisoners, when the prisoners need to challenge

the actions of the people in charge of the prisons? Numerous inquiries have called for action in relation to enforcing the rule of law in prison. The only way this can be done is by making legal aid available so that prisoners can challenge illegal acts that affect their lives in custody. Most recently Madame Justice Louise Arbour, in her Commissioner's Report regarding Prison for Women, stated that "the Rule of Law is absent, although rules are everywhere." She also quoted an earlier report: "There is a great deal of irony in the fact that imprisonment ... the ultimate product of criminal justice itself epitomizes injustice".

Prisoners need legal aid to protect and enforce their rights in relation to many areas of law such as family law and civil litigation, as well as parole matters and correctional law matters. Let us hope that the new corporation is mindful of the words of Madame Justice Arbour when she wrote: "One must resist the temptation to trivialize the infringement of prisoners' rights as either an insignificant infringement of rights, or as an infringement of the rights of people who do not deserve any better. When a right has been granted by law, it is no less important that such right be respected because the person entitled to it is a prisoner. Indeed, it is always more important that the vigorous enforcement of rights be effected in the cases where the right is the most meaningful."

Watch for more news in subsequent newsletters. 

— by Elaine Bright
Executive Director of the Elizabeth
Fry Society of Hamilton



**women
don't
belong
in cages**

**80% of imprisoned
women are inside
for poverty related
offences.**

**90% of Aboriginal
and 82% of all women
in prison are survivors
of incest, rape or
physical assault.**

**The number of women
in prison increased
200% in the past
15 years.**

prisons are the real crime

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Kingston Elizabeth Fry Society celebrates

In the Fall of 1999, the Elizabeth Fry Society of Kingston will celebrate its 50th year of providing service to the women in our community. The agency has seen many changes in its community and Kingston has seen many changes in an agency that provides an advocacy service to women who are, or are at risk of becoming, in conflict with the law.

More importantly, both Elizabeth Fry and the community have seen positive changes in the lives of the women we serve. There is something especially moving to me when I witness changes in a woman's life due to her empowerment and self-sufficiency in her ability to follow her hopes and dreams and to rely on herself while working toward these changes. Before we can move forward and truly appreciate the goals and dreams of tomorrow, we need to fully appreciate the challenges of the many women of the Elizabeth Fry Society over the past fifty years.

In 1946, Kaye Healey was the first volunteer to enter the Prison for Women. She was asked to visit the prison by Dr. Crawford, who was

then the only psychiatrist for all of the area penitentiaries. Kaye brought a film and books into P4W, which she had borrowed from the Queen's University Library.

Dr. Crawford and Kaye's visits led to many more with permission being granted by the Commissioner of Penitentiaries. Approximately two years later, the Elizabeth Fry Society of Kingston was formed and became the second society in Canada. At the time, the agency consisted of eight volunteers, all wives of Queen's University faculty members: Eileen Lord, Jeanne Hughes, Blossom McDougall, Kaye Healey, Vera Cartwright, Dorothy Bartlett, Harriet Selby and Elizabeth Harrison. These women wasted no time setting up programs inside the prison. There was little for the women at P4W to

do but play card games. These eight women set up programs in sewing, English and French. Kaye Healey continued to show films and provide reading materials, followed by group discussions. Thursday night was selected as "Elizabeth Fry Night".

During this time, the first Legal Aid program for offenders began in Canada. This service continued until 1968 when the province took it over. In 1949, the Parole Board chose EFS Kingston to participate in a trial program in which Kaye Healey was allowed to escort the first inmate in Canada to be granted a Temporary Absence Pass from P4W. This woman spent her time acquainting herself with the Kingston community and attended mass at the Church of the Good Thief. This pass was successful and was the first of many. The first Unescorted Pass took place on December 21, 1949 with a woman being released to the home of Eileen Lord, President of the Kingston Elizabeth Fry Society. In 1961, EFS Kingston was incorporated as a non-profit agency. 1970 saw many changes, including the opening of the first pre-release center in Canada.

The growth of the society over the years is reflected by its financial statements. During our first year of operation, revenue was \$166 and the year ended in a surplus! Today, our annual budget approaches \$1 million and has expanded to include 14 programs. As our services continue

Elizabeth Fry Society 50 Years

to grow and change, the mandate and commitment of staff and volunteers have been unwavering.

Joyce Detweiler is another woman who made a difference. She was described by friends as being a woman ahead of her time, as she was a logical thinker and a great debater. Joyce had a degree in psychology and with particular interest in children, she became employed with the Sunnyside Children's Centre in Kingston, where she worked from 1954 to 1965. There she held the position of psychologist, clinical director and assistant director.

The children in the care of the Sunnyside Children's Centre were wards of the Children's Aid Society. Joyce became concerned over what was happening to the children of women who were incarcerated, or in conflict with the law. It was at this point that she turned her focus to working with these women. She became the President of EFS Kingston and, she, like Kaye Healey, brought women to her home on pre-release from Prison for Women. Also, she was responsible for heading up a delegation that traveled to Ottawa to see the Commissioner of Penitentiaries, Guy Favareau, to successfully appeal for new uniforms more suitable to the women's needs.

After Joyce Detweiler's tragic and untimely death, her father, Dr. H.K. Detweiler, established the Joyce Detweiler Memorial Fund in her memory, and a Bursary was estab-

lished in her name. Funding assistance has been given to help women in conflict with the law offset the costs of integrating themselves into the community. Usually it provides financial assistance for the purpose of employment and education.

Along with the existing programs of the agency, we are excited about celebrating the opening of our new Community House, right next door to the Community Residential Facility, the Joyce Detweiler House. This centre will allow us an opportunity to improve the service provision of the women in our community by centralizing our agency in one geographical location, including Kaye Healy Homes, our second-stage housing program. We are also excited

about the development of a Special Needs Program soon to be available at the C.R.F.

Fifty years from now, I can only hope that a woman will be writing an article about the past 50 years of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Kingston. What she will uncover is the unchanged dedication of a handful of women who truly believe in the human spirit and the power of unity. The women I have the honour and privilege of working with have become a second family. Jo-Ann Connolly, a past President, once stated, "The Elizabeth Fry Society of Kingston is not a place to work, it is a way of life".

—by Patti McGuirk
Addiction/Program Co-ordinator of
the Elizabeth Fry Society of Kingston


SURF
these
web sites!

Council of Elizabeth Fry Societies of Ontario: www.web.net/~efryont
Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies: www.elizabeth-fry.ca

Update from OCCCA

The Ontario Coalition of Community Corrections Agencies (OCCCA) works throughout Ontario to improve community safety by reducing or eliminating those factors that contribute to crime.

Studies have shown that public empathy for the work of community corrections agencies increases when they have an understanding of what it is that we do. In order to improve this understanding, the members of OCCCA recognized the need to gather evidence that verifies what we do. With the leadership of the John Howard Society of Ontario, we are compiling facts and figures that will readily demonstrate our effectiveness. Service delivery variables being examined include volunteer hours, number of clients served, cost savings represented by voluntary sector agency effort, crime reduction, etc.

The OCCCA is interested in hearing from you. If you would like to learn more, you can contact the Council of Elizabeth Fry Societies of Ontario, which is a participant. Plus, if you would like to let the government know what you think regarding community safety, we encourage you to call the provincial government at **1-888-668-4636** and request a copy of **Safety - Protecting our Communities**. Let them know what you think. 

— by Patrick Connor
Director Ontario Halfway House Association

On December 1, 1998, eighteen community corrections agencies met to discuss strategies to promote a greater public awareness of community corrections in Ontario.

Ontario Coalition of Community CORRECTIONS AGENCIES

- Alcohol and Drug Recovery Association of Ontario
- Addictions Intervention Association
- Black Friends and Inmates Assembly (Ontario)
- Canadian Training Institute
- Canadian Safe Schools Network
- Church Council on Justice
- Council of Elizabeth Fry Societies of Ontario
- John Howard Society of Ontario
- Mennonite Central Committee
- Ontario Association of Community Correctional Residences
- Ontario Association of Corrections and Criminology
- Ontario Association of Hostels
- Ontario Community Justice Association
- Ontario Halfway House Association
- Salvation Army Correctional Residences (Ontario)
- Salvation Army Corrections and Justice Departments (Ontario)
- St. Leonard's Society of Canada
- Springboard

Elizabeth Fry Week

May 3 - May 9, 1999

This year's Elizabeth Fry Week in Canada runs from Monday, May 3 to Sunday, May 9, Mothers' Day. The theme for the week will be "Alternatives to Incarceration". In the past, public events held by Elizabeth Fry Societies have ranged from film screenings to debates, open houses, tree plantings, fundraisers and so forth. Please contact you local agency for information about their week's happenings.

Women prisoners used as guinea pigs for LSD experiments

- Were you at Prison for Women (P4W) in Kingston between 1955 and 1970?
- Were you part of LSD or other experiments at P4W?

If so, Elizabeth Fry wants to assist you.

For more information, please contact Rana Haq at the Council of Elizabeth Fry Societies of Ontario (416) 585-2842, or call the national office collect (613) 238-2422.

All calls will be kept confidential

Stolen Life wins major literary prize

Stolen Life, the tragic tale of Yvonne Johnson's life, took the \$10,000 Viacom Canada non-fiction prize awarded in January by the Writers' Development Trust. Johnson, a Cree woman and mother of three, is serving a life sentence for murder at the Okimaw Ohci Healing Lodge in Saskatchewan. The book, co-written with Rudy Wiebe and published by Knopf Canada, was described by the judges as a "literary triumph".

POETRY BY THE WOMEN OF HAMILTON-
WENTWORTH DETENTION CENTRE

Through the eyes of a child

*Through the eyes of a child life should be
hugs from mother
kisses from father
grandparents to spoil you too
giggles
ponytails
scraped knees as we grow*

*Through the eyes of a child
these are my growing years
my teens shall be
slumber parties
girlfriends with secrets
telephones
boys
and to pursue my dreams*

*Through the eyes of this child
that is how I dreamed it to be*

*Life for me was a slap
a kick
a beating almost daily
no hugs
no kisses
only broken dreams
whips
boards across my back.*

*Through the eyes of this child
life became
cocaine
crack
jail
and violence*

*A new man
a new style of abuse*

*Through the eyes of this child who now
has grown
life can be like it was in my dream*

This child of mine

*From the time I gazed in wondrous eyes
Touch his little hands, his feather like hair
Skin like silk so trusting and new*

*Suckled my breast totally depending on me
No questions. No judgement. Pure
love.*

This child of mine

*I rock my child, and comfort him in
sickness
I let my child know I'm here
Just letting him know momma loves him*

*I tell myself I'm healing him
But in reality he keeps me strong
He gives me reason to go on.*

This child of mine



Elizabeth Fry Societies in Ontario

Hamilton	627 Main Street East Hamilton L8M 1J5 (905) 527-3097
Kingston	129 Charles Street Kingston K7K 1V8 (613) 544-1744
Ottawa	240 Charlotte Street Ottawa K1N 8L3 (613) 789-7077
Peterborough	483 George Street South Peterborough K9J 3E6 (705) 749-6809
Peel & Halton	134 Queen Street East Brampton L6V 1B2 (905) 459-1315
Simcoe County	102 Maple Avenue Barrie L4N 1S4 (705) 725-0613
Sudbury	204 Elm Street West Sudbury P3C 1V3 (705) 673-1364
Toronto	215 Wellesley Street East Toronto M4X 1G1 (416) 924-3708
Kitchener-Waterloo (Emerging)	67 King Street East Kitchener N2G 2K4 (519) 579-6732

Member Agency Programs

Elizabeth Fry Societies operating in Ontario provide a variety of services and programs in their community. For additional information, please contact the Society in your area.

	HAMILTON	KINGSTON	OTTAWA	PETERBOROUGH	PEEL	SIMCOE	SUDBURY	TORONTO
COURTS								
Court worker	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Bail supervision						■		
Probation / parole supervision		■	■					■
Community service orders	■	■	■	■	■	■		
LOCAL JAILS & DETENTION CENTRES								
Visiting	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Counselling / advocacy	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Recreation		■	■				■	■
Temporary absence supervision	■	■	■	■	■			■
Release planning	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Life skills		■	■			■	■	
VANIER CENTRE FOR WOMEN								
Visiting / counselling / advocacy			■		■	■		■
Temporary absence supervision		■	■	■			■	
Release planning	■		■	■	■			■
Recreation					■			
PRISON FOR WOMEN								
Visiting		■	■		■	■		
Counselling / advocacy		■	■		■			
Temporary absence supervision		■	■		■			
Release planning	■	■	■		■	■		
Residential services		■	■		■	■		■
GRAND VALLEY INSTITUTION								
Visiting		■	■		■	■	■	
Counselling / advocacy		■	■		■	■	■	■
Temporary absence supervision		■	■		■			■
Release planning	■	■	■		■	■	■	■
Residential services		■	■		■	■		■
POST OR NON-INSTITUTIONAL								
Counselling / advocacy	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Residence		■	■		■	■		■
Satellite housing								■
Second stage housing		■						
Substance abuse		■	■	■	■			■
Parole supervision		■	■					■
Employment counselling		■	■	■	■	■		■
Shoplifting counselling	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Incest and / or sexual abuse counselling	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Employment training		■	■		■			

Megababy arrives!

Congratulations to Kim and a big EFry welcome to Madison!



In January, Kim Pate, Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies, gave birth to a bouncing baby girl. Dubbed Megababy by Kim because of her size, we welcome Madison Haika Pate-Green to the E Fry network. True to form, Kim was at the office until she went into labour (!) at which point she took a few hours off.

Not to be outdone by her Mom, Megababy attended her first CAEFS' Board Meeting at three weeks of age, where she was greeted with much oohing and aahing, and where she pretty much upstaged the agenda. Unconfirmed at press time, is a rumour that MB gave her first report to the Board. ☺

Let us know...

From time to time, we find that the best way to reach people not familiar with our work, is to exchange our mailing list with like-minded non-profit organizations, and we strictly limit the use they can make of our mailing lists. However, you have the right not to have your name and address exchanged. If you wish, we will delete your name from these exchanges. Simply write, telephone or e-mail us and request the change. ☺



THANKS JOE!

Our thanks go to Joe Callus of Whizard Graphics in Ajax for the many hours he donated to sprucing up Council's web site.

Please clip and mail this coupon to make your donation easy.

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**Thank you
for caring!**

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unable to capture these factors. Equality does not mean sameness. Equality must be defined in terms of providing opportunities that are relevant and tailored to each gender in treatment and effectiveness.

Successful interventions must relate to the social realities and cultural differences of women and girls. Rather than attempting to cure the client of some pathology, effective programs work with the women to broaden their range of responses to

various types of behaviour and needs, enhancing their coping and decision-making skills. These programs use an "empowerment" model of skill building to develop competencies in order to enable women to achieve independence. Therapeutic approaches support this empowerment model in dealing with specific women's issues including chemical dependency, domestic violence, sexual abuse, pregnancy and parenting, relationship and gender bias, allowing them to re-enter society in a

meaningful and productive way.

There is a clear sense of sexism in the treatment of women and girls in the criminal justice system. At minimum, a "do no harm" principle should be adopted by correctional interventions because the current male model does more harm to women than good. More innovative work needs to be done to vigorously seek alternatives to women's incarceration and document a feminist model of analysis of what works for women in the community corrections setting.

COUNCIL OF ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETIES OF ONTARIO

The Council of Elizabeth Fry Societies of Ontario is the collective voice of the Elizabeth Fry Societies in Ontario. The Council is comprised of eight autonomous member agencies located in Barrie (Simcoe County), Brampton (Peel and Halton), Hamilton, Kingston, Ottawa, Peterborough, Sudbury, and Toronto. An Elizabeth Fry Society is developing in the Kitchener-Waterloo Region.

Opening the Doors is published by the Council and circulated to the Council's supporters, member agencies, and interested community groups. The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors or editors, and are not necessarily those of the Council or its members.

We welcome your inquiries, comments and suggestions.

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MANDATE & PURPOSE

The Council of Elizabeth Fry Societies of Ontario promotes the fair and equal treatment of women in conflict with the law by:

- Providing services for women involved

in the criminal justice and correctional systems

- Assisting and supporting member societies to develop and maintain high quality programs and services to women in conflict with the law, appropriate to women's needs
- Working for penal reform
- Promoting public awareness and understanding of the needs of women in conflict with the law and the need for change in the criminal justice system as it affects women



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