



Effective, just and humane
responses to crime and its causes





MISSION

Effective, just and humane responses to crime and its causes.

METHODS

In furtherance of its Mission, the Society:

1. Provides for the effective integration into the community of those in conflict with the law, and provides, or encourages others to provide, services to those in contact with, or affected by the Criminal Justice System;
2. Promotes changes in the law and the administration of justice which will lead to the more humane and effective treatment of individuals;
3. Promotes citizen awareness of the problems of crime and its causes, acceptance of responsibility to respond to these problems and involvement in the delivery and management of justice related programs;
4. Promotes the fair and humane treatment of all incarcerated persons and seeks to ensure that all forms of detention and imprisonment comply with relevant legal and human rights standards.

DESCRIPTION

The John Howard Society of Ontario is an organization of citizens who accept responsibility for understanding and dealing with the problems of crime and the criminal justice system.



It is my pleasure to once again report on the activities of the Board of Directors during the past year. This has been an exciting period of change for the John Howard Society of Ontario as we explore new ways

to advocate for effective, just and humane criminal justice policies.

The JHSO Board is comprised of eighteen members who represent each Affiliate across Ontario, as well as eight members-at-large. We meet four times annually in Toronto with the formal function of governing the agency, meaning that we seek to ensure that the agency is an efficient non-profit organization which serves the public effectively in accordance with its mandate. We review a variety of monitoring reports, including assessments of financial conditions, asset protection, budgeting, staff treatment and fundraising practices. Our meetings are always productive, businesslike and even pleasant, and I would like to thank all members for their conscientious commitment to the Board and its responsibilities, and for their collegial approach to issues that arise.

We continue our efforts to protect the John Howard Society name through the trademark registration process. While this protracted process has been challenging, a positive resolution appears to be in sight.

In seeking to remain dynamic and current, the Board has begun examining the extent to which it represents a diversity of skills and experiences, as well as reflecting the communities that we serve. This year, the Board Nominating Committee developed a Board Composition Analysis tool to assist in soliciting and becoming accessible to a range of qualified candidates. The Board orientation guide was also updated this year by the Executive Director.

The Board Standing Committee on Prison Conditions has continued its efforts to bring the issue of remanded prisoners to the political agenda. Following the release

of their Remand Report early in 2009, the Committee has attended meetings with such key officials as the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services and the Attorney General and has continued to distribute the report widely.

The remand issue is of primary concern to JHS across the province due to the dramatic increases in rates of those incarcerated on remand (those incarcerated in detention centres before their trial or sentencing). Remanded prisoners now account for almost two thirds of those incarcerated in Ontario. Although still entitled to the presumption of innocence, they are warehoused for weeks, months and even years in isolated, dangerous and criminogenic conditions. They face a lack of any meaningful programming, serious overcrowding, and a default, yet often highly unsuitable, classification as maximum security prisoners.

Research shows clearly that incarceration, especially without any relevant programming, not only fails to decrease criminal behaviour, but in some cases predicts increases in the likelihood of re-offending. Nevertheless, public safety is quite illogically cited as the justification for the continued rise in remand rates.

Some optimism is warranted, however. The Attorney General's *Justice on Target* strategy seeks to minimize court delays and inefficiencies, and may thus decrease one cause of high remand rates. If the Attorney General succeeds in his goal (and we certainly wish him well in that regard), remand times will shorten significantly. The reintroduction of bail supervision programs, a number of which are operated by our Ontario Affiliates, is preventing remand rates from rising even higher.

Another area of concern for the Board is the punitivism and lack of consideration of the research literature that is reflected in recently-proposed criminal justice legislation. While the rates and severity of crime have continued to drop, the Federal Government continues to push for "tough on crime" legislation. Said the Public Safety Minister, "we don't govern by statistics in our government. We're governing by what we told and promised Canadians."

One example is the government's introduction of several pieces of legislation that include mandatory minimum sentence provision. Despite the clear evidence to the contrary from both the research

The US example shows us that mandatory minimums lead only to dramatically increased prison populations and spiralling costs, and have no success in reducing crime.

literature and the disastrous experiences in the US, the current government maintains that tougher sentences deter crime. The US example shows us that mandatory minimums lead only to dramatically increased prison populations and spiralling costs, and have no success in reducing crime. In fact, our American friends have begun a process of decarceration, motivated not only by a realization of the uselessness of extended incarceration, but also the prohibitive cost.

The Roadmap to Strengthening Public Safety report was released in December of 2009 and calls for the building of massive prison compounds and the removal of statutory release, even though criminologists and service providers report that smaller prisons and a period of community corrections both lead to more positive outcomes.

This Society supports any measures that are likely to strengthen public safety; thus we argue that new criminal justice policies must actually be shown, through evaluation, to work before money is spent on them. The potential impact of such measures, not only in terms of financial cost but also the substantial costs in terms of human suffering, must be considered. I find it disturbing that some politicians are prepared to go ahead with these punitive measures, whether or not they are effective, because it is believed that they are politically expedient.

This punitivist approach is also seen in the attempts earlier this year to amend the Youth Criminal Justice Act to 'toughen' its sentencing principles. JHS argued in a submission that the YCJA has had a tremendously positive impact precisely because it recognises the unique needs of youth, increased the clarity and consistency of the youth criminal justice process, and incorporated the research literature and relevant human

rights instruments. The proposed amendments would have been a step backward. While that Bill was not enacted, it is anticipated that similar amendments will be proposed in the future.

The catchphrase for people wanting to "toughen" consequences for young offenders is "adult time for adult crime." It never ceases to astound me that anyone who has lived to be at least 30 could possibly believe that a 16 year old, let alone an even younger child, is as responsible and culpable for his or her behaviour as an adult. When I hear someone say that, I can only conclude that they have absolutely no recollection of ever having been a teenager themselves.

This year was marked by the passing of a dear friend of JHSO, Gerry Molloy. Gerry served on the JHSO Board for over four years as the JHS Kingston Affiliate representative. He was a strong advocate for institutional services in Federal prisons and will be greatly missed.

I would like to close by thanking the JHSO Board members, staff and Affiliates for their commitment to this work. Whatever your capacity and relationship with the John Howard Society, I hope you will join us in continuing to advocate for the effective, just and humane treatment of people within the criminal justice system.

Winston Churchill remarked on more than one occasion that the test of a country's civilization may be found in the way in which it treats its least popular members, particularly prisoners. I believe we are doing the right thing in attempting to make that standard as high as we can for our country.



Bruce F. Simpson
President



Neighbourhoods across Ontario are positively impacted by the work of the John Howard Society each and every day. Our staff and volunteers are committed to creating safer and healthier

communities. Through effective services to those at risk of entering the criminal justice system, those involved with the system and those re-entering our communities from prison, we work toward our mission of Effective, just and humane responses to crime and its causes. At the John Howard Society of Ontario, in support of these services, we undertake research to achieve better program outcomes, policy work to improve legislation and public education to help people understand what works in the criminal justice sector.

It is my pleasure to report on the activities of the John Howard Society of Ontario over the past year.

Policy and Research Activities

Staff at the Centre of Research, Policy & Program Development have been very busy with proposal writing and program development, both for the Centre and to support our Affiliates.

The Centre submitted two letters of interest. The first, to the Youth Justice Fund titled *Revisiting Extrajudicial Measures and Sanctions in Ontario: Five Years after the Introduction of the YCJA*, to explore the utilization of Extrajudicial Measures and Extrajudicial Sanctions in Ontario. The second was submitted to the Department of Justice for funding to host a Youth Bail Verification and Supervision symposium in Toronto.

The Centre has also been involved in assisting JHS Affiliates with the evaluation components of their various programs, including JHS Durham's STEPS program, their HEP C education program and the replication of a promising program at JHS Peterborough and Belleville. As well, ongoing support was provided to the John Howard Society of Toronto for their work on a Mapping Project of provisional jail releasees.

The internet is an economical and effective way for the Society to inform and engage our supporters, partners and clients and promote our positions on what works to prevent crime.

In response to posted Advanced Contract Award Notices, the Centre submitted a statement of capabilities and letter of interest to compete for funding opportunities through Correctional Services of Canada that would allow the Society to broaden its correctional programs both inside and outside of prisons.

We were pleased to have our first research article entitled *Factors Influencing Police Attitudes Towards Extrajudicial Measures Under the Youth Criminal Justice Act* by Dr. Voula Marinos and Nathan Innocente (PhD candidate) published in the July 2009 Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice.

And finally, based on a decision made by the Executive Directors Committee, work is underway on a Province Wide Proposal to offer post-release reintegration services across Ontario.

Development and Communication Activities

I am pleased to report that 94% of our Affiliates across Ontario have adopted and implemented our new brand. We are currently transitioning all of our organizational documents and public education materials and have revised our website. Our local Affiliates are in the process of updating their websites also, or creating their online presence for the first time. Our new cohesive brand and websites are vital to increased awareness of the Society across Ontario. The internet is an economical and effective way for the Society to inform and engage our supporters, partners and clients and promote our positions on what works to prevent crime.

This past year we participated in a review of the CRA fundraising guidelines. We welcome measures which will increase clarity around fundraising and improve support of the charitable sector. Our commitment to

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ethical practices and financial accountability is evident in our continued adherence to Imagine Canada's Ethical Code and Standards and the Association of Fundraising Professional's Donor Bill of Rights to which we also subscribe.

The Institutional Services and In Touch Family Transportation programs run by our local Affiliates continue to receive funding through our Direct Mail campaign and other fundraising programs. These meaningful reintegration support services are vital to a person's success upon release. Each year thousands of individuals and their families benefit from the generosity of our donors and volunteers.

Affiliates

After years of encouragement and support from social service providers in York Region for an established John Howard Society presence, we responded to a Proposal for Service Request. Our submission, under the Homelessness Partnership Initiatives, included the provision of Case Management services on a full time basis from a Newmarket office location. We are very hopeful that we will be successful in securing funding that will allow for The John Howard Society to provide specialized services to this high risk and high need group.

We will continue to respond to requests for Society services in order to address the needs of communities across Ontario.

The Executive Directors of our John Howard Society Affiliates play a very important role in the activities and direction of the provincial office. In addition to their responsibilities at their local Affiliate, they continue to commit significant time and expertise to our organization.

Operations

With the support of the Pension Plan Committee, JHS Ontario continues to provide administration to the Society's Pension Plan including close monitoring of the impact of the downturn in the economy, the meeting of all statutory obligations, the facilitation of the Plan audit and the ongoing education of all Plan members.

As part of a review of our province wide benefits plan, we also facilitated a survey of all plan participants to determine what people valued and what changes they would like to see made to their plans. Results will inform the updating of our plan at renewal.

John Howard Society of Canada

The Executive Directors from the provinces and territories across Canada developed Terms of Reference to guide the formalization of our national JHS network. Once finalized, the group will meet on a regular basis and will benefit from information sharing, program development as well as research and policy initiatives both regionally and nationally. In addition, JHS Ontario has been asked by the National Executive Directors group to take the lead with national research, policy and program development initiatives.

We also co-authored a submission to the Federal Government as part of a review of the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA), participated in the planning of the National Conference where we facilitated a training session on the YCJA.

Acknowledgements

I would like to recognize our Board of Directors for their significant contributions to the Society for ensuring that we continue to demonstrate high standards of both accountability and transparency in our governance and activities. Again, a special note of appreciation to our President, Bruce Simpson, Treasurer, Ken Doan and the members of the Executive Committee; Richard Beaupre, Jim Preston and Richard Gadde, for assuming additional tasks and continuing to provide wise counsel and guidance.

We welcomed Else Marie Knudsen as our new Policy Analyst. Else brings impressive credentials to the Society and has quickly become an important part of our staff team. We also welcomed Amber Kellen

With rising unemployment and greater income disparity, an increasing number of our neighbours, family and friends, including those involved in the criminal justice system, will depend on our services this year.

from JHS Toronto. Amber is working under a one-year secondment agreement in both policy and research. We have all benefited from her experience as part of a direct service Affiliate. We were fortunate to have Jenn Mitchell, a University of Toronto MSW student with us. She has provided both insight and support to a wide range of policy and research activities. I would like to acknowledge the staff at the provincial office for their willingness to take on additional projects over this past year. They have gone above and beyond to meet the many deadlines we faced, and I am impressed with how well they pulled together as a team. My personal thanks to every one of them for their enthusiasm commitment, and hard work.

I would also like to recognize and thank our donors who continue to generously support our work. They understand the importance of philanthropy in our sector and its direct relationship to the development and delivery of effective solutions for social and criminal justice problems.

Finally, a special note again this year to acknowledge the support of our legal team from Torys, Ian Fleming from Cactus Design in Toronto for their work with our branding and website revisions, Matthew Johnson and Justin Dupas from Colliers International, who continue to support our efforts to co-locate with JHS Toronto and the National Adult Literacy Database (NALD) for their continued assistance with website hosting and maintenance.

The Year Ahead

As our organization continues to grow and our range of programs and services expand, the supportive role of the John Howard Society of Ontario is changing. Our Affiliates focus is, and should be on direct client service. For this reason, research, policy development and communication initiatives are best provided by one centralized location – our provincial office. This will serve to be most cost effective and alleviate much of the burden on our Affiliates. Over the next year, we will examine our capacity and identify the needs of our Affiliates through staff surveys and interviews. We will then develop strategies and recommendations for identified organizational change. As funding becomes more challenging to secure, examining our efficiency and effectiveness as a collective is a vital part of our sustainability and success.

With rising unemployment and greater income disparity, an increasing number of our neighbours, family and friends, including those involved in the criminal justice system, will depend on our services this year. The John Howard Society's programs such as employment assistance, housing assistance, life skills training, anger management and substance abuse counselling, will take on an even greater social importance.

Our commitment to continuous improvement and creating positive change in our communities will continue in the upcoming year. We look forward to the opportunities and achievements ahead.



Paula Osmok
Executive Director

2009 | Board and Staff Members

Executive Committee

Bruce F. Simpson	President
Jim Preston	Vice President
Richard Beaupre	Secretary
Ken Doan	Treasurer
Richard Gadde	Executive Member at-large

Directors

Sheila Arthurs	Mary Jane Bennett
Brian Cavanagh	Rolf Cohrs
Ron Cuthbert	Abb Gilbert
Maija Laitinen	Paul Legacy
Barbara Macrae	Voula Marinos
Hermon Mayers	Paul Mundra
Louis Osemwegie	John Rives
Lisa Romano	Michelle Theriault
Pauline Wainright	Judy Webb
Lori Western	

Staff

Paula Osmok	Executive Director
Pat Johnston	Finance & Benefits Coordinator
Maureen Zuniga	Administrative and Human Resources Assistant
Shanno Fairfield	Development and Communications Coordinator
Darlene Parsons	Volunteer Coordinator
Joanne Davis	Volunteer Coordinator

Research and Policy Centre

Barry Clark	Director of Research
Michelle Keast	Researcher
Else Marie Knudsen	Policy Analyst
Amber Kellen	Research and Policy Secondment (JHS Toronto)
Jennifer Mitchell	MSW student (University of Toronto)



Prison for Women, Kingston, closed in 2000, as pictured by a JHSO staff member while visiting our Kingston Affiliate



JHSO Staff and Executive Director, John Bilton (JHS Waterloo).

Ms. Debbie Woods
Executive Director

John Howard Society of Belleville & Area
329A Front Street
Belleville ON K8N 2Z9
Tel: 613-968-6628
email: jhs@bellnet.ca

Mr. Bill Fry
Executive Director

John Howard Society of Durham Region
75 Richmond Street West
Oshawa ON L1G 1E3
Tel: 905-579-8482
email: jhsduram@jhsdurham.on.ca
website: www.jhsdurham.on.ca

Mr. David Lane
Executive Director

John Howard Society of Hamilton, Burlington & Area
201-225 King William Street
Hamilton ON L8R 1B1
Tel: 905-522-4446
email: davidlane@jhshamilton.on.ca
website : www.jhshamilton.on.ca

Ms. Laura Maw
Executive Director

John Howard Society of Kawartha Lakes & Haliburton
31 Peel Street
Lindsay ON K9V 3L9
Tel: 705-328-0472
email Info@jhscklh.on.ca
website : www.jhscklh.on.ca

Ms. Lisa Finateri
Executive Director

John Howard Society of Kingston & District
771 Montreal Street
Kingston ON K7K 3J4
Tel: 613-542-7373
email: ED@johnhowardkingston.ca
website: www.johnhowardkingston.ca

Ms. Lori Cunningham
Executive Director

John Howard Society of London & District
601 Queens Avenue
London ON N6B 1Y9
Tel: 519-438-4168
email: jhslondon@execulink.com
website: www.jhslondon.on.ca

Mr. Jim Wells
Executive Director

John Howard Society of Niagara Region
210 King Street
St. Catharines ON L2R 3J9
Tel: 905-682-2657
email: jwells@jhs-niagara.ca
website: www.jhs-niagara.ca

Mr. Don Wadel
Executive Director

John Howard Society of Ottawa
550 Old St. Patrick Street
Ottawa ON K1N 5L5
Tel: 613-789-7418
email: jhsottawa@ottawa.johnhoward.ca
website: www.ottawa.johnhoward.ca

Mr. Gary Reist
Executive Director

John Howard Society of Peel - Halton - Dufferin
100 Queen Street West
Brampton ON L6X 1A4
Tel: 905-459-2205
email: headoffice@johnhowardphd.ca
website: www.johnhowardphd.ca

Ms. Kathy Neill
Executive Director

John Howard Society of Peterborough
305 Stewart Street
Peterborough ON K9J 3N2
Tel: 705-743-8331
email: kneill@jhsptbo.com
website: www.jhsptbo.com

Mr. Frank Stancic
Executive Director

John Howard Society of Sarnia Lambton
300 Christina Street North
Sarnia ON N7T 5V5
Tel: 519-336-1020
email: info@johnhowardsarnia.com
website : www.johnhowardsarnia.com

Ms. Suzanne Lajambe-Stortini
Executive Director

John Howard Society of Sault Ste. Marie
27 King Street
Sault Ste. Marie ON P6A 6K3
Tel: 705-759-1703
email: ssortini@jhsossm.ca
website: www.jhsossm.ca

Ms. Michelle Strickland
Executive Director

John Howard Society of Simcoe & Muskoka
80 Bradford Street, Unit 336
Barrie ON L4N 6S7
Tel: 705-733-0683
Email: jhssimcoemuskoka@bellnet.ca

Mr. John Rimore
Executive Director

John Howard Society of Sudbury
204 Pine Street
Sudbury ON P3C 1X5
Tel: 705-673-9576
email: office@johnhowardsudbury.com
website: www.johnhowardsudbury.com

Ms. Liisa Leskowski
Executive Director

John Howard Society of Thunder Bay & District
132 North Archibald Street
Thunder Bay ON P7C 3X8
Tel: 807-623-5355
email: lleskowski@johnhowardtby.on.ca
website: www.johnhowardtby.on.ca

Mr. Greg Rogers
Executive Director

John Howard Society of Toronto
60 Wellesley Street West
Toronto ON M5S 3L2
Tel: 416-925-4386
email: contact@johnhowardtor.on.ca
website: www.johnhowardtor.on.ca

Mr. John Bilton
Executive Director

John Howard Society of Waterloo-Wellington
310 Charles Street East
Kitchener ON N2G 2P9
Tel: 519-743-6071
email: johnbilton@waterloo.john-howard.on.ca
website: www.waterloo.johnhoward.on.ca

Ms. Marg Bodnar
Executive Director

John Howard Society of Windsor-Essex County
703 - 880 Ouellette Avenue
Windsor ON N9A 1C7
Tel: 519-252-3461
email: margbodnar@jhs Windsor.org
website: www.jhs Windsor.org

1. JHS Ontario staff members. (Not in photo, Darlene Parsons and Joanne Davis)
2. JHS Ontario Board members discuss remand rates in Ontario.
3. Frank Stancic, Executive Director, JHS Sarnia presents Amber Kellen with the Tom Dykstra Award.
4. Barb Hill, JHS Ontario staff member (retired) presents a report on Provincial corrections.
5. Richard Gadde, Chair of the Prison Conditions Committee provides an update to JHSO Board members.
6. Executive Directors from Ontario attend a working lunch in Niagara.



2009 | Faces of JHS

7. Greg Rogers (JHS Toronto), Mayor David Miller and Vinita Puri (JHS Toronto staff) at the 'Breaking Barriers – Building Bridges' conference.
8. Jason Mitchell, (front, holding plaque) a long term volunteer of the JHS Sudbury receives the City of Greater Sudbury Civic award for 2009.
9. JHS Simcoe & Muskoka staff participate in local golf tournament
10. JHS Toronto Institutional staff at the Don Jail
11. Members of JHS Hamilton receive the June Callwood Achievement Award for Voluntarism in Ontario
12. Else Marie Knudsen (JHS Ontario) and John Rimore (JHS Sudbury) join members of the community during Sudbury's Prisoner Justice Day ceremony





KPMG LLP
Chartered Accountants
Yonge Corporate Centre
4100 Yonge Street Suite 200
Toronto ON M2P 2H3
Canada

Telephone (416) 228-7000
Fax (416) 228-7123
Internet www.kpmg.ca

AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of John Howard Society of Ontario Provincial Office

The accompanying condensed balance sheet, condensed statement of operations - general fund and statement of changes in externally restricted fund balances are derived from the complete financial statements of John Howard Society of Ontario Provincial Office as at December 31, 2008 and for the year then ended. In our auditors' report dated March 27, 2009 on the complete financial statements, we expressed a qualified opinion because, in common with many charitable organizations, we were unable to satisfy ourselves concerning the completeness of fundraising and other contribution revenue. The fair summarization of the complete financial statements is the responsibility of management. Our responsibility, in accordance with the applicable Assurance Guideline of The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, is to report on the condensed financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements fairly summarize, in all material respects, the related complete financial statements in accordance with the criteria described in the Guideline referred to above.

These condensed financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Readers are cautioned that these financial statements may not be appropriate for their purposes. For more information on the Society's financial position, results of operations and cash flows, reference should be made to the related complete financial statements.

Chartered Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

Toronto, Canada

March 27, 2009

JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY OF ONTARIO

PROVINCIAL OFFICE

(Incorporated under the laws of Ontario)

Condensed Balance Sheet

December 31, 2008, with comparative figures for 2007

	2008	2007
Assets		
Current assets	\$ 978,355	\$ 1,092,375
Capital assets	6,295	7,256
Investments	709,051	705,456
Land and buildings	–	94,175
	<u>\$ 1,693,701</u>	<u>\$ 1,899,262</u>

Liabilities and Fund Balances

Current liabilities	\$ 333,872	\$ 353,579
Long-term debt	–	16,674
Fund balances:		
General	1,283,898	1,455,290
Externally restricted	75,931	73,719
	<u>1,359,829</u>	<u>1,529,009</u>
	<u>\$ 1,693,701</u>	<u>\$ 1,899,262</u>

Condensed Statement of Operations - General Fund

Year ended December 31, 2008, with comparative figures for 2007

Revenue	\$ 960,567	\$ 941,061
Expenses	1,026,867	922,598
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses before the undernoted	(66,300)	18,463
Unrealized loss on investments	100,140	13,706
Amortization	4,952	5,821
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	<u>\$ (171,392)</u>	<u>\$ (1,064)</u>

Statement of Changes in Externally Restricted Fund Balances

Year ended December 31, 2008, with comparative figures for 2007

			2008	2007
	A.M. Kirkpatrick Award Fund	JHS Ontario/ MacFarlane Scholarship Fund	Total	Total
Fund balances, beginning of year	\$ 50,670	\$ 23,049	\$ 73,719	\$ 71,409
Interest income	1,520	692	2,212	2,310
Fund balances, end of year	<u>\$ 52,190</u>	<u>\$ 23,741</u>	<u>\$ 75,931</u>	<u>\$ 73,719</u>

JohnHoward
SOCIETY OF ONTARIO

111 Peter Street, Suite 603
Toronto, ON M5V 2H1
Phone: 416.408.4282
Fax: 416.408.2991

www.johnhoward.on.ca