

# ELIZABETH FRY NEWSLETTER



Elizabeth Fry newsletter

25 October 2012

**ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETY OF PETERBOROUGH**

## Justice Lisa Cameron at Annual General Meeting

We had our Annual General Meeting June 20th and were honoured to have Justice Lisa Cameron share about her experience as the presiding judge over the Community Support Court (CSC) in Peterborough and City of Kawartha Lakes.

Justice Cameron spoke with compassion and wisdom about her career and CSC. She spoke of the importance of seeing people as people when so often people who commit an offence are seen as merely criminals.

She began her career as a lawyer working with clients with mental health problems. Discovering how to best serve her clients without sounding like she knew better than them was an early lesson learned that has informed her role as judge.

As Justice Cameron sees it, there are three categories of people with a mental illness that find themselves in the courts. The first group includes those that are too unwell to understand what is happening. The second group are those deemed "Not Criminally Responsible" because of their state of mind at

the time the crime was committed. These two groups are regulated under the Criminal Code. But the third group — those who are well enough, are criminally responsible, but have had their behaviour impacted by their mental health — are not officially supported by the Criminal Code or any other regulation. It is this group that is seen by CSC.

Justice Cameron believes the point of court is to make things better. She asked, "What is the point of us being there if we don't improve the situation?"

Traditional court focuses on punishment in order to teach a person the consequences of breaking the law, but CSC recognizes that approach doesn't always work for people — that contact with the Criminal Justice System can actually exacerbate a person's behaviour when they have a mental illness. CSC therefore is about getting to know the person. It has higher expectations for accountability and involvement than in the traditional court despite having clients that have the most challenges to deal with in life already.



"What I see in [CSC]," said Justice Cameron, "is really a model for what we should aim for in all our courts."

"We're not letting the system run the process. We are fully and meaningfully working on these matters."

"For many of these folks, I will never see them again in the courts. And that is what I believe is the measure of success."

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### Community Support Court 1st Anniversary!

On September 7th, Justice Cameron and the rest of the attorneys, police, probation officers, and pertinent community agencies celebrated the 1st anniversary of the Community Support Court.

Ontario  
Trillium Foundation



Fondation Trillium  
de l'Ontario

## Thank You Trillium Foundation

We are pleased to announce that we have been awarded a Trillium Foundation Grant.

Our grant will provide us with funds over the next three years that will

be used to boost our fundraising and outreach efforts. Our new Outreach Coordinator, Beth Dowell, is already hard at work creating opportunities to increase our presence in the community.

## Staff Changes

Over the summer, we found ourselves in a place where we had to bid farewell to a co-worker and welcome two new staff.

Samantha Gervais has begun studies this fall at York University. She is taking her Masters in Social Work. She had been a great member of the EFry team and had also been indispensable for our clients. She is missed by

both staff and clients. We wish her all the best.

Taking over for Samantha is Debbie Carriere, our new Support Counsellor. Debbie has a Masters in Psychology and has smoothly transitioned into her new role. Previously, Debbie had been providing court support along with Jordon Hale. We are very fortunate to have her on staff.

Beth Dowell is also new to us and has taken on the new position of Outreach Coordinator. She has previously done similar work for the Heart and Stroke Foundation and the United Way in Lindsay. Beth has already been very busy organizing fundraising events and we look forward to the successes she will bring for us.



  
Fleming College

## Placement Student Reflections

**From  
Pamela  
Madill —  
student  
(now  
graduate) in  
the Drug  
and Alcohol  
Counsellor  
program at  
Fleming  
College**

My placement experience with the Elizabeth Fry Society has been nothing but fulfilling and rewarding on an educational level. What I have learned at this agency I will carry with me for the rest of my career in the field. The tools I have been taught to use at a professional level while I'm still in my placement has been a tremendous honour for me. Each member of the Elizabeth Fry Society has been open and welcoming to help me learn and con-

tinue building my skills in placement.

My placement at EFry wasn't just a placement for me, but a home where I could feel comfortable enough to ask questions and receive help in directing clients to meet their goals.

While I was at placement I advocated for and supported women who are, or have been involved with the criminal court system. I met some of the most wonderful women I'll ever come

across in my life. I have helped co-facilitate some of our community programs and have witnessed the bonds between women and how they come together while taking our groups.

Before coming to EFry I wasn't confident in my role as a counselor. Coming to the end of my placement I feel more confident than ever with the life skills this agency has given me on helping clients help themselves.

### Successes in the Past Year

Our AGM gave us an opportunity to look back on the success we have had in the past year. Here are some highlights.

Positive regard for EFry programming and services continues to grow at court with our continued presence. Several lawyers now routinely refer women to our court support worker; the Crown's office is frequently open to solutions or diversion options offered by EFry; and several Judges have now formally accepted, recognized or complimented our agency's role in improving women's lives. The Court Support Program is able to effectively

combine the anxiety reducing kindness of support with the real results of advocacy in our work to improve the lives of women.

The new Community Support Court has given us new opportunities to positively impact the lives of women. Community Support Court clients and their case manager must appear before the Judge every 2 weeks to report on their progress.

In the past year we have created a 4 hour workshop about Restorative Practice and how to apply the concepts of Restorative Justice to everyday living. We have offered the group 7 times

to community partners at no cost and have recently had requests for further workshops on a fee for service basis. We have also twice offered our services to facilitate Restorative Justice Conferences in the community and we hope to expand this service in the future.

In the first 18 months of our Pre-charge diversion program for shoplifting, there have been 80 women diverted. The program offers women with no previous record an opportunity to learn from what happened without being charged. Without a charge marring their record, women are able to continue working and

leading a full and productive life. This program has been an important link for some women as they have later returned of their own accord to take further programming at E. Fry.



### Volunteer Appreciation and Tag Days

Volunteers are very valuable to our agency. Our volunteers give us over 1000 hours a year of their time and their efforts translate into better services for our clients — ultimately leading to a healthier Peterborough.

Our charitable Bingo efforts directly support our

Prisoner Advocacy at Central East Correctional Centre.

August 24th and 25th were our first Tag Days! Volunteers were out in our community raising funds that will further help our mandate. Volunteers were tagging at Canadian Tire, Chapters, East City

Foodland, Loblaws Superstore, and Walmart.

Tag Days were a success and we raised \$2000!



### Peterborough Restorative Practices Network

The Peterborough Restorative Practices Network (PRPN) consists of representatives from the Elizabeth Fry Society, the John Howard Society,

Peterborough Lakefield Police Victim Services, Peterborough Community Chaplaincy, and the Kawartha Pine-Ridge District School Board. It

exists to raise awareness of and encourage participation in restorative justice and restorative practice.

November 18 – 25 is Restorative Justice Week and the PRPN is currently planning an event to coincide with this week. More information will follow.





## Vote for the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies

**Shop at The Body Shop!**

With each purchase at **The Body Shop** you receive a vote for 1 of 3 Canadian charities including the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies!

And when you buy the new **Dragonfruit Lip Butter**

**100%**

of profits will go to the charity of your choice!



Vote for free on-line. No purchase necessary.  
<http://www.thebodyshop.ca/en/votewithyourlips>

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PETERBOROUGH**

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We are committed to advocating and providing services for all criminalized and imprisoned women, as well as those at risk of coming into conflict with the law. We recognize the rights of women to dignity and respect in all aspects of their involvement with the criminal justice system. We are committed to working with other agencies and all levels of government with similar principles and objectives.

Women's rights are human rights. Women are entitled to equality. This means the right of access to equal opportunities and programs in the justice system, justice without fear of prejudice or discrimination on the basis of such factors as gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, age, religion, and social or economic conditions. Women who are criminalized should not be imprisoned and all efforts should be made to prevent women from being incarcerated, and to facilitate the earliest community reintegration of those who are sentenced to a term of imprisonment.



Like us on [Facebook!](#)

**Upcoming Events****Fall 2012 Programs:****Anger Solutions:**

October 11 — December 13  
Thursdays: 1-3PM

**Women & Integrity: Solutions for Theft, Fraud & Breach of Trust**

September 26 — November 14  
Wednesdays: 1-3PM

**Self Esteem**

October 23 — December 11  
Tuesdays: 1-3PM

**Taking Control: Making Healthy Relationship Choices**

November 5 — December 10  
Mondays: 1-3PM

**Restorative Justice Week:**

November 18-25

**Tag Days:**

December 1 & 2; 15 & 16



**United Way**  
Member Agency