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FEATURE STORY

Westmorland Institution Gets Early Start with Restorative Justice Month

Each year, the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) joins with its partners in the community to celebrate a vision of justice that offers healing to all: victims, offenders and the community.

Restorative Justice Week is an educational and inspirational initiative designed to promote the principles and values of restorative justice in everyday life by strengthening the community and by breaking the cycles of violence and victimization in our society. The week serves to encourage people to reflect, pray, discuss and act in ways that enhance life and especially the lives of those touched by the criminal justice system. As well, it provides opportunities to share experiences and approaches that are consistent with the restorative justice paradigm.

While faith communities find the goals of restorative justice at the heart of their spiritual traditions, interest in learning more and doing more has also been growing among people for whom restorative justice resonates in other ways, be they inside or outside prison.

CSC Chaplaincy, along with members of the Interfaith Committee - itself a partnership of Canada's faith communities - works with the Restorative Justice and Dispute Resolution Unit each year to offer resources for the week to the community at large. Drawing from a variety of individuals with interests and expertise, these resources (resource kits, leaflets and posters) are designed to empower people to take the initiative and be creative in their own settings.

This year Restorative Justice Week will be observed from November 12 to 19, with Harmony and Healing - Broken Wings Take New Flight as its theme. Inspiration for this theme came from a song written by an offender, and the printed material being prepared include a powerful drawing, done by another inmate, of a wounded eagle soaring to new heights.
Westmorland Institution in Dorchester, New Brunswick will get a head start on the upcoming celebrations and will be holding its first annual Restorative Justice Month in September, complete with workshops, presentations and ceremonies slated to take place throughout the month.

A conference whose theme is “Restoration – Catch the Dream” was held September 12, and focused on promoting restorative justice by educating community members, staff and inmates on the various aspects and principles of restorative justice. Conference organizers believe that if offenders can be given knowledge, ability, courage and support, they will have a better chance of becoming productive members of society.

Members of the Restorative Justice and Dispute Resolution Unit at National Headquarters also attended the conference and provided training on restorative justice. As well, members of the Citizens’ Advisory Committee made presentations on resources available in local communities to increase involvement in restorative justice activities.

The conference participants were encouraged to bring their enthusiasm to an event that featured forums where participants engaged in discussions and dialogue about restorative justice with both the speakers and with each other.

Scheduled for September 23, Westmorland Institution and The Hilltop Group of Alcoholics Anonymous organized an Open AA Roundup open to which the community is invited. The event will include guest speakers from Montreal and North Carolina, with a barbecue in the afternoon. In conjunction with this event, the institution’s Inmate Welfare Committee will hold a fundraiser, with proceeds being presented to Crossroads, a children’s victims’ group in Moncton, New Brunswick.

On September 26, Westmorland Institution will celebrate Jubilee 2000 – A Service of Reconciliation and Forgiveness, with special guests, including the Regional Chaplain, the Archbishop of Moncton and a Native Spiritual leader.

For more information on Westmorland Institution’s Restorative Justice Month, contact: Ian Carr at (506) 379-4614, e-mail carrid@csc-scc.gc.ca

For more information on the national Restorative Justice Month, contact: Scott Harris at (613) 947-4980, e-mail harrissc@csc-scc.gc.ca
ACROSS THE SERVICE

ATLANTIC REGION

Bike Patrol at Westmorland Institution

- On July 14, an innovative way to conduct dynamic security was set in motion at Westmorland Institution, in Dorchester, New Brunswick, when correctional officers began ground patrol on mountain bikes.
- In addition to monitoring the 2,700 acres of institutional land, the officers also patrol the town of Dorchester.
- Although "bike patrol" had been talked about for many years, it was Robert Myers who, with the support of Warden Mike Corbett, was able to get the project off the ground.
- The patrol has resulted in a tremendous boost to moral and self-professionalism of staff members, with 20 correctional officers volunteering to work on one of the ten available positions.
- The patrol enhances dynamic security by increasing contact with the offenders during recreation time, improving the monitoring of offenders working on the farm and, most importantly, the increased contact with the citizens of Dorchester.
- This increased visibility within the community will help alleviate the concerns expressed by the residents of Dorchester in those instances when offenders have left the institution and entered the town.
- Some of the offenders smile as they begrudgingly compliment the project with the recurring comment: "We don't see or hear them coming now."
- For more information, contact: Chantal Albert via e-mail albertch@csc-scc.gc.ca

Above from left to right are COII Gilles Leger and COII Mike Belliveau.

Above from left to right are COII Mike Belliveau, the Mayor of the Village of Dorchester Wayne Feindel and COII Gilles Leger. The Mayor of the Village of Dorchester has said to be very supportive of the Bike Patrol initiative.
QUEBEC REGION
Leclerc Institution’s Inmates Help Handicapped Children
- Inmates from the SOS group at Leclerc Institution recently organized a day of activities for many handicapped children which attracted volunteers from community organizations and some 80 inmates.
- In addition to organizing the day of activities, the institution’s Inmate Welfare Committee donated $625 to each of the two community organizations which helped make the day a success, “L’amis du deficient” and “la joie des Enfants”.

Regional Reception Centre (RRC) Inmates Return to School
- Thanks to an agreement between the RRC and the Milles-Iles School Commission, inmates awaiting a transfer to an appropriate institution can now begin their schooling.
- As of July 10, there were fifty inmates registered in this program.
- For more information, contact: Francine Jourdain at (450) 967-3373, e-mail jourdainfr@csc-scc.gc.ca.

ONTARIO REGION
Boat Cruise Raises Money for CSC’s Museum
- On September 6, the Friends of the Penitentiary Museum at Kingston Inc. hosted a cruise aboard the Island Star as a fundraising event and to aid in the further development of the museum.
- Member of Parliament Peter Milliken joined the members of the group to enjoy a relaxed and informative evening on the waters of Lake Ontario, near Kingston, while listening to a presentation by museum curator David St. Onge.
- One of the highlights of the cruise came when the view from the Island Star provided a rare look at the south wall of Kingston Penitentiary as it appears from the water.
- The Friends of the Penitentiary Museum would like to thank members of their group, members of the community and the volunteer retired staff members who contributed so much towards making this a record year for the museum.
- For further information on becoming a “friend” of the museum, contact: Connie Cookman at (613) 547-7510, e-mail cookmanca@csc-scc.gc.ca.

PRAIRIE REGION
Staff from Provincial and Federal Corrections Raise Money for Children
- On July 22, 2000, correctional officers from Stony Mountain Institution, along with their colleagues from Provincial Corrections in Manitoba, participated in a fundraiser "Correctional Officers Care for Kids" for the Children’s Wish Foundation of Manitoba.
- The officers and other participants could either shave their heads, colour their hair or get a wacky hairdo (some did both) to raise funds; a silent auction was also held at an appreciation social that evening.
- The committee for these events consists of officers from both federal and provincial institutions who raised $15,500 this year.
- The event was featured on local radio and television stations and the organizers are already working on next year’s fundraiser.
The CSC staff who helped organize this year's events included: Delaine Figur (Rockwood Institution) Doug Zawada (Stony Mountain Institution) Charlene Shepell (Stony Mountain Institution) and Delinda LaRiviere (Stony Mountain Institution).

For more information, contact: Delinda Lariviere at (204) 344-5111, ext. 5841.

Staff join with colleagues in Law Enforcement Torch Run

On June 16, 2000, several staff members from Stony Mountain Institution, Rockwood Institution, and Winnipeg Parole, joined forces with the RCMP, Provincial Corrections and the Sheriff's Department to participate in the Law Enforcement Torch Run, with the money raised going to support the Special Olympics.

Participants also took part in the opening ceremonies for the Special Olympics and all staff should be commended for their contributions.

For more information, contact: Janalee Bell-Boychuk at (204) 344-5111 ext. 5849.

PACIFIC REGION

Ferndale Institution Hosts Golf and Barbecue for Community Group

On August 23, 2000, Dianne Brown, Warden of Ferndale Institution, hosted a Golf and barbecue for the Mission Rotary attended by approximately 32 Rotary members and six staff members from Ferndale Institution.

While some of the members golfed, others toured the facility, which included the Native Sweat Grounds and the offender houses.

Warden Brown opened the event with an overview of Ferndale and the programs available, with the Chairman of the Inmate Committee giving an overview from an inmate's perspective and the President of the Rotary speaking of her experience as a Citizens' Advisory Committee member.

Judging by the positive comments received by the Rotary, the event was a complete success and enjoyed by all who attended.

Composting Project at Ferndale Institution Helping Nature Bloom

Composting of waste materials is seldom a pretty site, but offenders at Ferndale, under the supervision of Ron Charuk and Aaron House, rose to the challenge and transformed the grounds surrounding the in-vessel composter into a thing of beauty.

Using "recycled" materials and plants pulled from waste collected for composting, the beautification project was done at no cost to CSC. They even managed to construct a small fountain, surrounded by flowers and a manicured lawn at the entrance to the building.

Ron, Aaron and the crew should be congratulated on a job well done!

For more information, contact: Arlene Thygesen at (604) 820-5755, e-mail thygesenaj@csc-scc.gc.ca.
Matsqui Institution’s Staff Publish a Cookbook for Charity

- As mentioned in an earlier issue of Contact, staff at Matsqui Institution have compiled "the best of the best" recipes they could find into the Matsqui Millennium Cookbook.
- The cookbooks are now available at $10 a copy, with proceeds going to the "Adopt a Family" program.
- For more information, contact: Barb Clease at (604) 859-4841, ext. 8400, e-mail cleasebc@csc-scc.gc.ca.
UPCOMING EVENTS

National Associations Active in Criminal Justice (NAACJ) Consultation Session
Ottawa, Ontario, September 19
Contact: Shari Kulik at (613) 992-8390, e-mail kuliksh@csc-scc.gc.ca

Canadian Police and Peace Officers’ Memorial Service
Ottawa, Ontario, September 24
Contact: Lise Traversy at (613) 996-1424, e-mail TraversyLM@csc-scc.gc.ca

Senior Management Meeting (SMM)
Gray Rocks, Quebec, October 11-13
Contact: Catherine Cox at (613) 995-1310, e-mail coxca@csc-scc.gc.ca

Citizens’ Advisory Committee Annual Conference
Montreal, Quebec, November 3-5
Contact: Shari Kulik at (613) 992-8390, e-mail kuliksh@csc-scc.gc.ca

Restorative Justice Week
November 12-19
Contact: Scott Harris at (613) 947-4980, e-mail harrissc@csc-scc.gc.ca

Contact is produced in collaboration with the Regional Managers of Communications in the Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, Prairie and Pacific regions, and is available on CSC’s Infonet site. Additional Information about the Correctional Service of Canada is available on the Internet web site at http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca.

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