



Media Release

June 16, 2010

Kennedy tells Society's AGM that 2009-10 was a notable year...

In his remarks to the Society's 103rd Annual General Meeting this evening, HCAS Executive Director, Len Kennedy, said the past year has been a notable one with the Society's move into its new headquarters. Kennedy said the redevelopment of the properties at 363 and 375 Dundas Street West in Belleville into one complex of over 50,000 square feet means that for now, and the foreseeable future, the Society will have the accommodations it needs to continue its important work of providing care and support to the children and families of Hastings County.

On the financial front, Kennedy reported that Hastings CAS ended the year in a balanced position for the first time in several years, due largely to reduced residential care costs, particularly in group care.

However, Kennedy emphasized that the critical financial shortfall facing many other agencies was severe, with a year end shortfall of approximately \$30 million for the sector, despite an injection of an additional \$24.9 million in February by the Ministry. "As future funding remains uncertain, we will continue to advocate with the sector for the resources required to meet the core child protection mandate," Kennedy told those in attendance.

In regards to community partners, Kennedy noted that this past year the Society had developed a partnership with the Quinte Ballet School of Canada and has a number of youth who are taking dance classes through this partnership. "In addition," said Kennedy, "we have created opportunities for youth to experience farm life and horseback riding, to be part of outdoor leadership training weekends, to learn more about First Nation's traditions and generally, to be more active and healthy," said Kennedy.

In closing, Kennedy paid tribute to the Society's voluntary board, thanking them for their unwavering commitment in overseeing the governance of the Society. In particular, Kennedy recognized the contributions of Jan Richardson, Ann Brant, John Bonn and Matt Sager, who are leaving the board.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Loyalist College President, Maureen Piercy. In her *Address - Loyalist College...providing a brighter future for Society's youth* - Maureen Piercy talked about Loyalist's role in providing pathways to post-secondary success, including specific supports for young people who are currently in care or who have been in care in the past.

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The J.J. Kelso Award for 2010, an annual award presented by the HCAS Board of Directors in recognition of outstanding contributions by an individual or organization to the field of child welfare, was presented to Loyalist College.

"I am very pleased to accept this award on behalf of the Loyalist College team," said President Maureen Piercy, who accepted the award on behalf of Loyalist College. "We are delighted to join with other community partners, including the Hastings CAS, the Quinte Children's Foundation, the Kiwanis Club of Belleville and the Quinte Veteran's Association, to help establish endowment funds to support students with their post-secondary education. With the help of matching funds provided through the Ontario Trust for Student Support Program, we are able to establish endowed funds to support students throughout the future, and we are delighted to do this through our College Foundation. Loyalist is proud to serve the needs of individual learners throughout our communities, with a wide variety of post-secondary options."

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of a certificate marking a \$4,500 annual Clark Bursary for four years, representing a total bursary of \$18,000, to Nicholson Catholic College student, Jesse Ryan and the presentation of a \$1000 Clark Award to Jonathon Lindsay-McBain.

Other highlights included the presentation of the Dr. Clare Brant Award to Daymeon Robitaille; the Wilma McKnight Scholarships to Anthony Chambers; Harley Coates and Rhys Hardwick-McCarthy and the Evelyn Payton Memorial Achievement Award to Natasha Moon.

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