

### MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Drug Treatment Courts in Canada have now seen over 350 participants complete our programs; about the size of a jail that would have housed them. Compound that figure with approximately 250 offenders who are engaged at any one time in a drug treatment court and you have a compelling argument for increasing the number of courts across Canada. Drug courts are decreasing the number of victims affected by the drug addicted offender's criminal behavior. The investigative costs of police services and subsequent costs to correctional facilities are reduced with the overall net cost to taxpayers exceedingly less than an investment in drug treatment court.

By far the most convincing rationale for increasing drug courts is seeing the people behind the statistics. Each court has compelling testimonies of those, who without drug treatment court, would never have been able to get clean from an addiction that immobilized their being and kept them in a deviant lifestyle. These once addicted individuals are now contributing members of society, working and paying taxes, attending school, and raising families without being a burden on society. They have taken the skills learned in the environment of drug treatment court and have used them to become productive citizens.

This year the opportunity affords me to visit each drug treatment court in Canada and thus far, my experience has been without regret. Having visited Ottawa (December), Toronto and Durham (Oshawa), it truly has been a marvelous educational experience. While each court is diverse in court operation and treatment delivery, the drug treatment court model is proving that a viable program can be reproduced anywhere with similar results.

Recently I have received a number of calls from parents, former colleagues, and addicts themselves hearing of people getting clean through drug treatment court and wanting to know how they can participate or send a loved one to the court. These cries for help are from those who have been through many treatment centres without lasting success. Those who attend drug court have similar stories of attending treatment many times but have found lasting success through the support of the drug court program.

Drug Treatment Courts work but we lack the resources to deal with all who come to our doorstep. We are seeing an explosion in those wanting to enter drug treatment courts but many, unfortunately have been turned away. It is regrettable that society has turned a blind eye to the epidemic of drug addiction. Recent statistics in Ontario noted deaths due to oxycodone alone exceeded fatality statistics associated with the H1N1 virus and HIV/AIDS, yet the funding directed to dealing with this addiction through the drug treatment courts pales in comparison.

Drug Treatment Courts are making a difference in the lives of those who are affected by this epidemic. Listen to these testimonies and hear the joy and life in their voices. Those who were once bound by addiction have now been made free. Those who were a burden upon society are now giving back. Drug court programming also reduces the investigative costs of police services and subsequent costs to correctional facilities that further results in a net cost savings to taxpayers. Drug Treatment Courts Work!

*By Doug Brady*



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## Durham Drug Treatment Court (Oshawa)

Durham's Drug Treatment Court became operational in November 2006 thanks, in large part to the vision and efforts of Justice Kofi Barnes. Since its inception it has produced seven adult graduates, the first having graduated in the latter part of 2007. Though the number of graduates may appear, at first blush, to be rather low, it must be kept in mind that the total number of participants is limited to seven at any given time. This is due to the fact that Durham's DTC is not a federally or provincially funded program. It operates thanks to partnerships which have been formed with various community service providers such as Pinewood Treatment Centre and Durham Mental Health Services as well as the tireless team members who meet each week on Monday afternoons. What is unique about Durham's DTC is that it includes a mental health component and therefore is able to focus on, address, and manage concurrent disorders.

Oshawa's DTC has the solid support of the region's Crown Attorney who has provided the much needed consistency of a dedicated (in every sense of the word) Assistant Crown Attorney. Recently, it formed a liaison with the Durham Regional Police Service in that it now dedicates one of its seven spots to a participant specifically referred to the program by the police

services newly formed Prostitution Target Team members. The significance of this new endeavour is that it shows that the police have bought into the DTC's program and are actively supportive of it. The lead officer came to the DTC team with his ideas and the team members worked with him to produce a positive relationship beneficial not only to the police but to the community as a whole.

In addition to the above, and of equal importance given the current economic circumstances, the drug treatment team has recently been augmented by the addition of a new member, funded by Durham Mental Health Services. The new team member will be assigned to work one-on-one with those participants who have serious, complex mental health issues. In times when resources are slowly being eroded, this new team member provides us with additional reasons to celebrate our successes to date. We may not have funding but we have a will and have shown there's a way! Indeed our team has recently been invited to speak to and provide information to Judges and other community members from around the province who, undeterred by the lack of funding and bolstered by Durham's success, are looking to establish their own DTC programs.

*Justice Katrina Mulligan*

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## Ottawa Drug Treatment Court Good News Story

Lynn C.

Lynn was admitted into our program on 20 June 2006 and graduated 14 January 2008 . Lynn decided to return for more treatment in 2009 and then returned to a women's group of DTC to participate for her own self growth and to offer some seasoned feedback to greener clients of the group. Lynn continues to remain drug, alcohol and crime free.

Lynn's history is quite complicated and she was treatment savvy. Lynn had had previous residential treatments and was well known to community soup kitchens, outreach workers and health workers. Lynn's history as an IV drug user had complicated her health status with hospitalizations, complicated her mental health status and interfered with her receiving proper health care, diagnosis and medications.

Lynn entered our DTC program having been homeless for approximately 10 years. DTCO housed Lynn in the women's bed they had and she maintained that bed for a number of months. Lynn's treatment, however, was not without bumps along the way. Lynn was removed from that housing bed and returned to homeless status remaining in day treatment. Having firmly recovered from a brief relapse, she moved into supportive housing and graduated from the DTC.

Nine months after graduation Lynn relapsed and returned to treatment staff asking for help. Staff directed Lynn to the Intensive Out Patient long term program and had Lynn return to DTC Women's group. Lynn completed the Intensive program and continues with the DTC activities.

Lynn has both her children in her life today and is enjoying a satisfying relationship with their mother. Lynn works part time on a farm, continues to attend 12 step community meetings, and last October, moved into her own apartment, for the first time in 12 years. Lynn is a DTC Good News story.

*Ruth Mayhew-Ottawa.*



## The Moose Jaw Drug Treatment Court (MJDTC)

The Moose Jaw Drug Treatment Court (MJDTC) has been operating since April 2009 and does not receive any additional/special funding. It is an example of people working together to offer an alternative to the traditional court process.

The Court was established as one of the initiatives of the John Howard Society Restorative Justice Committee. Originally it was to discuss issues and concerns regarding the mediation/diversion process. One of the subcommittees, the MJ Drug Strategy Council was established at this time.

The MJ Drug Strategy Council is comprised of representatives of many agencies. The strategy focuses on four pillars; prevention, harm reduction, healing continuum and community justice. Cristen Ernest, Drug Strategy Coordinator summarizes the goals of the strategy is "... to significantly reduce substance abuse and addiction and their behavioral, health, social and environmental consequences by giving communities the tools to prevent substance abuse and addiction."

As a result of discussions at the Restorative Justice Committee meetings, a committee of representatives from various agencies was set up with a view to establishing a DTC in MJ.

In the Fall of 2008 a proposal was put forward entitled MJDTC pilot project. The objectives were: to reduce crime committed as a result of drug dependency; to provide better outcomes for offenders with abuse problems and their victims; to reduce relapse rates; to increase knowledge and awareness among criminal justice, health and social service practitioners and the general public about therapeutic courts and underlying problems connected with criminal behavior; and to treat offenders underlying issues. By November we were focusing on the actual mechanics of how the Court would work. Arrangements were made for many to attend the DTC court in Regina. Our thanks to Judge Cliff Toth and others with the Regina court for sharing their experiences and their helpful suggestions.

Finally, at our March 2009 meeting the final details were put in place and dates for the courts operation were scheduled.

The creation of this small court project in MJ was amazingly easy on the surface! The need for such an alternative was acknowledged by all groups. There was some good discussion from all agencies, voicing their hopes and concerns for this project. Everyone was prepared to proceed without additional funding or staff. This, of course, has meant additional responsibilities for existing personnel and agencies.

Judge Kovatch and I are impressed with the support and

enthusiasm of the DTC team. This was shown by several of the team including provincial and federal Crowns attending the Round Table discussions in Regina in November 2009.

In October 2009 Judges Kovatch and Gordon were acknowledged for their role in establishing the DTC. Each received a Leadership Award of Excellence. As Judge Kovatch remarked, this court was only possible because of the dedication and hardwork of all the individuals involved.

Currently there are 4 participants in the court, with one person progressing to stage 3 and 2 others doing very well. (maximum 5 adults). Some have dropped out of the court stating it was too hard for them at the time. Another has said, while not completing the program, he benefited from and liked the team approach and support provided to him.

MJDTC is an example of dedicated people including both the federal and provincial crowns. Our committee will be meeting later in March for our own one year review and looking at ways to improve the court. In addition, we will talk about ways to make the wider community aware of the court and that it is an important sentencing alternative.

*Judge M. Gordon*

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## Regina Drug Court: Participants Say Farewell

On Friday March 12, 2010 the participants of the Regina Drug Treatment Court Program prepared and hosted a farewell for their Crown Prosecutor, Kim Jones. "Wanted Posters" bearing the face of Mr. Jones were posted and once he was taken into custody, Mock court was held with participants playing the parts and passing sentence. Kim had been with the court since January 2008 and was presented with a completion certificate of 2 years and 59 days, and his sentence was a gift certificate from Chapters which was purchased with participant donations.

Pictured from left to right are Judge M.J. Hinds, current participant, Kim Jones, Graduate, Completer, Pastor Bob, current participant, in middle of tables is probation officer Aryn Steele.



Participants spent 2 weeks planning the event and their imaginations ran wild, from the jail house décor – authentic to the cells in the old Regina Correctional Centre – to the presentation of the gift in the fish bowl which is what they draw from for their own rewards.

Lunch consisted of Chinese food and ice cream cakes decorated with a “get out of jail free” cards. A memorable and unprecedented event in the relationships between crown prosecutors and those charged with crime. Parties of any sort do not occur between these two groups.

It definitely shows how Drug Treatment Courts change people in a positive way.

*Submitted by Judie Birns,  
Manager, Regina Drug Treatment Court*



## CALGARY DRUG TREATMENT COURT UPDATE



As of March 30, 2010 we have 2 spots available to reach our maximum of 16 participants. We have graduated 3 participants to date, and have our fourth coming up soon. Not bad when you consider that our early participants spent an average of 20 months in our program before graduating, and we've only been in existence for two and a half years.

Our priority continues to be focused on money, and in particular to secure the necessary funding that will allow our program to survive for 2010 and into 2011. We have just received word from the Safe Communities Initiative of the Provincial Government of significant funding that allows the CDTC to survive and operate until April 2011. We are thankful for the commitment of the Alberta Government, specifically Alberta Justice for their understanding of the importance of drug treatment courts..



We have developed a CDTC Participant Handbook that is now available for each of our participants when they first enter our program. This has been useful as a way of improving a participants understanding of what he/she has committed to when they enter our program, and offers them a reference to refer to at times of confusion about what is expected. This has been a useful tool for us.

Of particular interest was the participation by seven members of the CDTC Team, last November, in a week long training experience for professionals at The Betty Ford Center in Palm Springs. This was an incredible opportunity that was made possible by the generosity of The Norlien Foundation, to fund 7 members of our Pre-court Team to go down and experience first-hand what “treatment” for addiction looks like, at one of the premier treatment facilities in the world.

This experience offered our Team the opportunity to acquire a common understanding of good treatment and all that goes into successful recovery for life for someone struggling with the disease of addiction. It gave us a common language from which to operate from at future Team meetings and ultimately created a Team that works more effectively and collaboratively as a result of this time together.

It was a once in a lifetime experience not to be easily forgotten by any of us. We've provided a photo of the 7 Calgary Team members after a day of learning!

*Linda Edney*



## VANCOUVER DRUG TREATMENT COURT



My name is Ken Halton and I am 44 years old. My story of drug addiction starts back in the late 1980's when I first tried cocaine and believed that I enjoyed it. My drug use never got too bad until around the year 2000 when I tried crack cocaine for the first time. From then on I began a downward spiral and my life

soon became unmanageable. I went through job after job due to my inability to keep any stability in my life. Not only did I lose jobs, but also family, friends and all of my worldly possessions. Little by little I began to lose myself. I ended up homeless from time to time. Sure, there were periods of trying to stop my drug use, but it never worked because I didn't have the tools or help that I needed to help myself.



I finally got to the point of constant drug use. I started stealing to support my habit but found that this still wasn't enough. I then turned to selling drugs to support my 8 ball a day habit. As my habit grew even bigger I began to sell drugs constantly. During last spring and summer there were periods of up to 4 days when I didn't even leave "The Alley" because I had to feed my monster. I was hardly "there" mentally and emotionally. I felt like a shell of myself. Things were surreal. I saw things happen to other people that thankfully most others never had to see. People were getting beat up, stabbed, and attacked over drugs. People were robbing other people. Young people coming to "The Alley" to use crack cocaine being unaware of how you lose control and end up down there. I saw people selling sex, selling cans and bottles, selling cigarettes, lighters, pipes, brillo, selling stolen merchandise, selling any conceivable item but worst of all selling each other out, just for that next hoot.

After several arrests for possession with intent to traffic and failures to appear for my charges I was arrested one last time and given the choice - go to jail or go through the drug

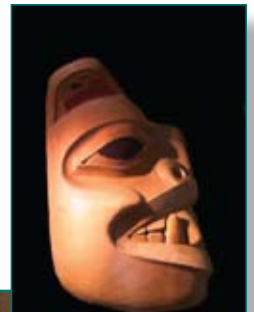
treatment court program. Well, of course I took option number two, I mean, who wouldn't, right? Get out of jail free card. Well, I began the program. It didn't take long before I began realizing that the program was interesting. Through treatment I began to find out things about myself. There became a sense of wow, that's me the lessons are talking about. Things began to make sense. I have to say that the team of DTC are a remarkable crew. Their positive attitudes, respectfulness, and caring have been key to my progress. I have gone through some ups and downs. It hasn't been easy seeing myself and my problems but DTC has given me the tools to prepare myself for both the present and upcoming trials I must face in life. I have been in the program a little over 5 months now and happy to say that I am 5 months and 1 week clean. I work part time and regularly attend DTC 3 days a week as well as attend court once per week.

More recently, I have gotten back into my favorite pastime, taking pictures. I am an avid photographer and my work is currently being featured in an Art Exhibition in Vancouver.

Due to my progress in treatment, the building up of my self-esteem, self-confidence, and my support systems I am moving forward in my life. This February I have taken on my first commercial job as a photographer. It's pretty exciting. DTC is definitely working for me and I have been fortunate enough to see it working for others as well. DTC is a solid program. Whereas so many have turned their backs on drug addicts, DTC has opened their arms and in doing so have helped me to realize my possibilities. I have come to believe that I am a worthwhile person and that I deserve to have a full and healthy life just as much as the next person. I am only telling you the tip of the iceberg here, there are so many more wonderful things happening in my life. I am back with my family, my friends and I wake up looking forward to my day!

I would like to leave you all with this last thought. As a drug addict and a drug dealer I could have gone to jail, however, because of having the choice of doing jail time or taking the drug court treatment program I have been able to address my personal issues, better my life and become a productive member of society once again.

*Thank you Ken Halton*



## Graduation!

It is March 23, 2010 and we are honoring two participants graduating from Winnipeg Drug Treatment Court (WDTC).



Graduation....a time to celebrate a journey. T's journey began 15 months ago while M's began 24 months ago. The difference in time it took for these two to come to this place, speaks not to success or failure, but, to the unique nature of their journey.

This journey, initially motivated by a desire to stay out of jail, shifted for both participants, it became more personal a hope for a better life.

WDTC staff remained patient and supportive as we challenged the individuals through their travels. Both initially used their stubborn determination to fight the journey until somewhere along the way, they chose to use this determination to battle their demons. Both participants slowly began to open up and their wounds began to heal. In the case of T, as life's pieces came together, she was uncertain about how to feel. Today, T prides herself in her new found employment and stable housing. T's children were returned home and her once lost dignity appears within grasp. Today, T is 15 months clean and learning to deal with life on life's terms. As for M, he has become

more confident in himself and also has full-time permanent employment and stable housing. Most of all, having given up using and dealing in drugs, his relationship with his family has been repaired. Trust has once again been rebuilt and he now enjoys spending time with them.

In the courtroom, the graduates bring their supportive family and friends. Winnipeg Drug Treatment Court staff and participants are also present. The Honorable Judge Guy is presiding. The presiding Judge, Defense Counsel, Crown Attorney and the Counsellors who have worked directly with the two participants all have encouraging words to say to the two who are graduating this day. The judge then steps down from his chair to give the participants their Certificate and a warm, firm hand shake.

Both staff and clients return to the Winnipeg Drug Treatment Court site. While there, another ceremony takes place. A key chain is passed around and everyone has an opportunity to speak words of respect and praise to the graduates. We continue to celebrate, clean and sober with food and soft drinks.

This has been their journey... the one they have only begun.

*Athena Berard*  
*Rehabilitation Counsellor, WDTC.*



## The Role of Community Supports in Rehab

As part of its program, Winnipeg Drug Treatment Court has a Community Support component to it. After being on the program for three months participants will usually have moved into the Intensive Phase of the program where the aim is to increase the participant's individual awareness of his/her drug dependency and criminal and addictive thinking pattern and to begin addressing them through the development of a personalized and intensive treatment plan. Integral to this phase is attending Community Supports.

This is where Participants are required to find a support system outside of the program and within the community that they can attend in order to help them maintain their sobriety. Once they have identified this support system they are to attend it at least twice a week and show that they have done so by getting a pre-prepared Community Support form dated and signed by

the leader of the group with the name of the group also listed. The idea behind this requirement is that Participant's will have somewhere to go within his/her community when he/she is going through a particularly challenging time to stay sober when they are no longer a part of the Drug Treatment Court (DTC) program. In addition, it is also a way of making it become a part of their lifestyle where they see themselves being able to help and support others who may be in a similar place to where they have come from.

These Community Supports may take on a variety of forms. Individuals are encouraged to become involved in something they find interesting and would be comfortable with it becoming a part of their lifestyle after they have finished treatment. In Winnipeg DTC, activities such as becoming a part of a church community, linking up with a sports club, (ie. a sponge hockey team, soft ball or a touch football team) adopting a healthier lifestyle by weekly visits to the gym, becoming more involved in Aboriginal traditional culture, attending sweats, along with the more traditional AA, CA and NA groups that are held throughout the city, are some of the Community Supports that Participants have pursued.

Feb. 2010

What my life was like before Drug Court? Scary, chaotic and dangerous. I learned to survive at a very young age. I blamed my mom for taking her own life and I blamed God for letting it happen. I am so hurt today for missing out on the years I did with my children. But I still wouldn't change a thing. My children are my pride and joy. I still walked away "ran away" numerous times. "That poem" I believe is from an anonymous writer, the so many for instances. Well I'm the for instance Mother who forgot how to parent because of drugs, alcohol and street life. No matter how much I loved my children I couldn't be that protector, confidence giver, side line supporter with the unconditional love a parent is to freely be to their child (ren).

Right from the beginning I punished myself. Everything I went through out there I thought I deserved. I rationalized like this; in this world we have rich, poor, lower class, middle class, higher. We have people who can use and put it down and then we have me, a "problematic citizen". I was actually saying to myself that that was my role in this world.

Accepting God into my life and then being accepted into the Calgary Drug Treatment Court program changed that belief. I was created for so much more. I've been actively in the program

since Aug. 4th 2009. There have been ups and downs, but my life is so much simpler now. I still have bad days, the difference between now and before is today I know I don't have to use or drink. I'll still do whatever it takes to remain sober. I have supports everywhere. Calgary Drug Treatment Court Team is my family, "My parents". I know it may seem discouraging thinking the next year to two I have people who monitor pretty much all

I do, but they are my safety net, out for my best interests. I am truly blessed I've been clean now for over nine months, it will actually be one year on May 13th off all mind altering substances. I have a nice apartment that I live in, I have my beautiful daughter with me, and I just graduated from phase one in Drug Treatment program yesterday. I have regular contact with my other children and a lot of family members who've never stopped hoping and praying for me. I have an awesome sponsor, I attend

meetings regularly. I read daily meditations every morning, AA and NA. I am healthy, alive, sober and am on most days, solution oriented because I want to remain "being the change". Today I can be content and proud in my own skin.

I am a grateful recovering addict.

*Louise C.*

### "That Poem"

Make a mother and a housewife;  
a whore, drug dealer and a criminal.  
Make a preacher not wanna preach;  
a teacher forget how to teach.

*-Anonymous*

## Toronto Drug Treatment Court

Toronto Drug Treatment Court has been committed to providing alternative options to incarceration for Torontonians who face criminal charges related to drug addiction since 1998. This voluntary program is a joint partnership between the Centre For Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), the Ontario Court of Justice, Federal Department of Justice, Legal Aid Ontario, Ministry of the Attorney General, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, Public Prosecution Service of Canada, Toronto Bail Program and other community stakeholders.

Individuals entering the program are offered the tools to help transform their lives into positive members of the community. Since the last CADTCP Newsletter was published in November 2009, TDTC has graduated six clients.

One such person who successfully graduated from Toronto Drug Treatment Court Program on September 15, 2009 is Billy G. Since his graduation, Billy has enrolled himself in the Redirection Through Education (RTE) program at George Brown College (GBC). While maintaining steady employment, he has given back to the community through his volunteer work with the Gerstein Crisis Support Centre and Youth Assisting Youth Mentorship Program. As a student, Billy was asked to serve as a representative of the RTE program that helped co-ordinate the Annual Mental Health Conference at George Brown College. Billy's future goals are to enroll into the Social Services Program at GBC and eventually enter the helping profession to assist in the process of making positive changes in the lives of others and his own.

TDTC is currently serving roughly 70 clients and we have had approximately 125 people graduate from the program.



Often the initial response of the Participants to this aspect of the program is one of reluctance and even resistance. Community Supports is initially often seen by them as having to attend AA meetings, which many say they do not accept or believe in because of one of the basic tenets of that philosophy which is a belief in a higher power, or, God. This is addressed by encouraging them to become creative in their thinking about an activity they think will support them in their desire to remain drug free, along with the explanation that for AA the idea of God or a higher power is left to how the individual wishes to conceive of such a being. This ensures that no-one is left out or exempt from engaging in some form of Community Support.

The value of this aspect of the program speaks for itself. As mentioned above, it enables the Participant to establish and know there is a place in their community to which they can go in order to receive continued motivation, incentive and support in maintaining a drug free lifestyle. This helps the person to realize they are not alone in going through their recovery experiences. Along with that, another important and crucial role that Community Supports play in a Participant's rehabilitation is the new people, or contact that is made within such groups. One of the major challenges that Participants often cite as having to face in their rehabilitation is dissociating themselves from old "using" friends and finding new ones who live a drug free life. Their life can suddenly become lonely and empty when old friends have been left behind, which can be quite scary, especially when some of the people that they are encouraged to distance themselves from are family members. Community Supports provide new friends who can relate to where a Participant is coming from and are much more ready to discover new interests and activities to become engaged in together.

Another advantage of Community Supports is the social or people network one can build. Introduction to other people from

various walks of life (for drug addiction knows no boundaries) not only serves to widen the social contacts Participants can make, it can also put them in contact with people who can present them with new opportunities. Help with work opportunities, living accommodation, educational support and introduction to financial and family support systems, are some of the spin offs that can be advantageous to Participants as they emerge from a substance abuse and active criminal lifestyle to establish a new web of people and social contacts.

The areas cited above are those that many Participants find challenging when making the transition from a drug dependent world to a drug free lifestyle. These challenges can be made less stressful as a result of attending Community Supports and building up a network of individuals who are not involved with drugs.

Many graduates from Winnipeg DTC along with some who have been on the program for an extended time, end up speaking about the positive role Community Supports play in their rehabilitation; highlighting the importance and value they have received from embracing this aspect of the program. It is a segment of the program that can have a lasting effect as it can almost literally give Participants a new life, or at least a new lease of life. The role of Community Supports in rehab is an important one if abstaining from drugs is to become a reality and a permanent part of the life of a WDTC Participant.

*Michael Anderson*  
*Rehabilitation Counsellor*  
*Winnipeg Drug Treatment Court*



### **New Logo!**

This newsletter is highlighting our new logo designed by Paul J. Radoslovich, the husband of Allison Perrie-Radoslovich from our Durham Drug Treatment Court. Thanks to Paul and Allison for their efforts in creating this design.

# CADTCP *professionals*

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## What Lives Free From Drugs Can Accomplish!

The potential of a human life cannot be realized when someone is bound under the chains of addiction. Free that person from that addiction and what a change it can produce.

The Edmonton Drug Treatment and Community Restoration Court (EDTCRC) is honoured by the recent honours given to three graduates of our program who have turned their lives around and made a difference in the community. All three of these people had been initially denied entrance into the drug court program. Two were denied due of the severity of their offences and one because it was felt she was not serious about dealing with her addiction. All had someone who pleaded on their behalf: one mother and two concerned lawyers. They saw potential; potential that was developed by all those involved directly and indirectly with in the Edmonton Drug Treatment Court.

Marcella Wright, Pamela Spurvey, and Oliver Weymann all had serious addiction problems. Each one has a different story but all have an outcome of continued sobriety. And each one has been rewarded for their achievements.

Marcella returned to school to upgrade her education. She faced a lot of adversity and had financial difficulties, personal hardships and challenges. Others in the same position may have been discouraged and quit; but not Marcella. With persistence that also saw her complete a marathon, she completed her education and graduated from Norquest College in April. Combined with her volunteer work for the college and her school achievements, she was nominated for the Women of Distinction Award. In June, she will be attending the awards banquet where many of her supporters will be in attendance. We are very proud of her. In September, she will be attending the University of Alberta in Native Studies.

Pamela Spurvey is an amazing woman who, in March of this year, was a keynote speaker along with Oiler's Head Coach Pat Quinn at a "Mac and Cheese" fundraising dinner for the United Way. Over 700 people were in attendance to hear Pamela speak about how the drug court saved her life and gave her family back to her. She is a dynamic speaker who credits the EDTCRC

with giving her dignity and respect back in her life. Beginning May 31, the EDTCRC is privileged to having her working in the drug court as a Peer Support Worker.

Oliver Weymann in April of this year won the very prestigious Edmonton Rotary Club's "Integrity Award" given to a community member who exemplifies the Rotary Club's Four Way test for community leadership. A banquet was held in his honour at the Sutton Place Hotel where family, friends and Rotary members were in attendance. Oliver, whose drug addiction alienated him from his family, friend and community, worked tirelessly to re-established family ties, supported those in recovery, and is an ardent and continuous supporter of the EDTCRC.

*Doug Brady, Executive Director*

*"Edmonton Drug Treatment and Community Restoration Court"*

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## Edmonton Drug Court's Four Year Celebration



On Friday, January, 22, 2010 The Edmonton Drug Treatment and Community Restoration Court celebrated its four year celebration at the Trans Alta Arts Barn. There were 84 people in attendance at the celebration which included; participants, alumni, staff, and community agencies.

Three of our alumni spoke at the celebration and shared stories of not only their experiences in the Drug Court but of their personal journeys before they began Drug Court. Their stories are not only courageous but encouraging and insightful. As the speakers spoke of their struggles with addiction, crime and homelessness we cried with them. We could feel their pain as they spoke about their feelings of hopeless and despair at the hands of the drugs that consumed them and took them away from everything that meant anything to them. We also heard how their lives had now changed. Oliver, an alumni, is now a successful businessman who owns his own company and has several employees. He also recently just bought his first home. Maria is a participant who recently got her three children home permanently and has a new outlook on life. Adrian is now

employed full-time and will be going to school in the fall to be a Bakers Apprentice and Cody, a participant who is reunited with his family and doing very well in the program.

Our Master of Ceremonies was Michelle Boden, radio personality and host of "The Inside Story" from 630 CHED. In 2009 she completed an award winning documentary for her story "Inside Drug Treatment Court". She has been a huge supporter of the Drug Court and has done a follow-up story on the alumni since her initial story.

Our guest speaker was MLA, Dr. Raj Sherman, the Parliamentary Assistant for Alberta Health & Wellness and a supporter of Drug Courts. He had some great ideas about how the Drug Courts could connect to more of the community and reach out to "those who think they cannot be affected by addiction".

In closing, it's hard to believe we have already celebrated four years in operation but incredible to see the difference that the Edmonton Drug Treatment Court has made to the participants and their families. There have been nine healthy babies born in the last four years, five to participants in the Drug Court, four to

participant's partners and there is another baby expected from a participant in May of 2010. Families have been reconnected, children have been returned to healthy homes and most importantly our participants have their lives back on track and



are contributing members of society. We can only hope that the powers that be see how important Drug Courts are and how many more individuals are positively impacted by just one participant's participation.

*Debbie O'Neil-Nugent, RN, BScN, Treatment Case Manager,  
Edmonton Drug Treatment Court*

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## Canadian Drug Treatment Court Listings

### **Toronto Drug Treatment Court**

**Robin Cuff**

c/o Centre for Addiction and Mental Health  
33 Russell Street, Room 3080  
Toronto, ON M5S 2S1

### **Durham Drug Treatment Court**

**Allison Perrie-Radislovich**

Pinwood Centre  
Suite 125, Office Galleria  
Oshawa Centre  
419 King Street West  
Oshawa, ON L1J 2K5

Phone: (905) 571-3344

### **Regina Drug Treatment Court**

**Judie J. Birns, Manager**

2024B Albert Street  
Regina, SK. S4P 2T7

Phone: 766-6303 direct line  
judie.birns@gov.sk.ca

### **Drug Treatment Court Ottawa**

**Ruth Mayhew**

c/o Rideauwood Addiction  
and Family Services  
312 Parkdale Avenue  
Ottawa, ON K1Y 4X5

### **Winnipeg Drug Treatment Court**

**Wayne Lloyd**

c/o Winnipeg Drug Treatment Court  
Unit C – 165 Gary Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1G7

Phone: (204) 470-8254

### **Moose Jaw Drug Treatment Court**

**Judge Margaret Gordon**

Provincial Court House,  
Room 211, 110 Ominica Street West,  
Moose Jaw, SK S6H 6V2

### **Calgary Drug Treatment Court**

**Linda Edney – Executive Director**

#604, 620 – 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.W.  
Calgary, AB T2P 0Y8

Phone: (403) 476-4700

[lindaedney@](mailto:lindaedney@calgarydrugtreatmentcourt.org)

[calgarydrugtreatmentcourt.org](http://calgarydrugtreatmentcourt.org)

### **Edmonton Drug Treatment and Community Restoration Court**

**Doug Brady – Executive Director**

[Dougb.edtcrcc@shawlink.ca](mailto:Dougb.edtcrcc@shawlink.ca)

### **Drug Treatment Court Vancouver**

**Deborah Hines or Pat Hoogeveen**

1141 Melville Street  
Vancouver, BC

Phone: (604) 775-0144