



Fall/Winter 2008/2009

A Little Big News

Mark your Calendars for these upcoming BIG events

From Big Brothers and Sisters of Parry Sound

Sat Nov15, 2008

Hidden Bay Leadership Camp, Low Ropes Course and Dinner

Sat Nov 29, 2008

Santa Claus Parade 4:30

Fri Dec 19, 2008

Big Brothers & Sister's Annual Christmas Party

January 31. 2009

Sleeping Beauty

Feb 28, 2009

Second Annual Trivia Challenge

On Another note

Thank you to Krystal Munn for providing great leadership to our Board of Directors. Krystal has stepped down from the board but continues to be a Big Sister with our organization.

We are currently looking to fill a Volunteer position of Treasurer on the board. If you, or someone you know may be interested please have them call the office at 746-7070

Big Brothers and Sisters of Parry Sound Gets a BIG Help from Trillium

With a little hard work, and great initiative, Rob Mens our current Executive Director was able to secure funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation over the next 3 years to help launch the In School Mentoring Program in areas schools.

A total of \$92,000 was granted to Big Brothers and Sisters of Parry Sound. The money will also be used to help with much needed awareness and volunteer recruitment.

You may have noticed our banner across Bowes St in September, our billboard on Hwy 124, or our new permanent sign on Church St.

These are just a few examples of how we hope to bring our message to the area.

In addition to the awareness campaign the grant has also allowed us to hire another part time Caseworker.

BIG things are happening for Big Brothers and Sisters of Parry Sound.

Together we can make a difference.

Many thanks to Lynn Middaugh for her tremendous help with the Trillium application.

Introducing Our New Caseworker

With our current Trillium funding in place, we were able to hire an additional Caseworker.

Please welcome Becca Rhodes to our organization. Becca has recently moved to the area from the Kingston area and is excited to be here.

Her ambition, energy and commitment make her a fine addition to our organization and we are very pleased to have her as part of our team.

If there is anything that you need, or would like to call and welcome Becca to the organization please do not hesitate to call or email.

Santa Claus Parade

Big Brothers and Sisters will be a participant in the Optimist Club, Santa Claus Parade happening on Saturday Nov 29, at 4:30pm. We need all our volunteers, Bigs, Littles, family and friends to join us. Please come dressed as a Christmas present or Christmas Tree.





A total of 7 Little brothers and Sisters had the opportunity to attend Hidden bay Leadership camp this past summer. This opportunity for our littles was funded 100% by Big Brothers and Sisters of Parry Sound. This camp is always a huge hit with our Littles, and a highlight of their summer.



Little Brother Justin:

"We don't do anything special, but everything we do is special."

Welcome our Newset Big Brother

Josh Bronicheski

Attention LITTLES YMCA Memberships

Attention Bigs and littles, if you have not done so already, please register with the YMCA for your membership. The membership is good for a year and every time you go you may bring your BIG, FREE of charge with you. There are cooking classes, yoga, basketball and open gym time.

This membership is only offered to the little's who have a Big. Big's are encouraged and welcome to go with them for FREE, provided you are with your little.

Little ages 6 and up are welcome to go to scheduled supervised programs on your own if you wish. During open gym times, it is expected that little's are accompanied by a parent, guardian or Big Brother or Sister.

A Big Brother or Sister is welcome to join the children for their programs, with the understanding that their own individual access to programs and conditioning room is not permitted.

Free Georgian Inn Pool Membership

The Georgian Inn continues to offer to all Big's and Little's FREE use of their pool!

Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Little's and guardians together are welcome to use the pool as often as you like. Little's must be accompanied by an adult. Please show the front desk staff our business card.

Please be sure to sign in and out as well.

Don't forget your towels!

Please give a **BIG** thank you to the Georgian Inn for making this possible.

This opportunity is available year round.

Sleeping Beauty

Parry Sound Big Brothers and Sisters is pleased to sponsor the classic tale of **Sleeping Beauty** presented at the

Charles W. Stockey Center on Saturday Jan 31, 2009 at 2pm.

Tickets can be purchased today.

Adults \$15, children \$10

Family pass of 4 people is \$32.

For 5 people it is \$32 plus additional \$9 for the 5th person.

Please plan to attend as proceeds to this event will be given to Big Brothers and Sisters of Parry Sound.

A Little Big Christmas Party

On Friday December 19 we will be holding our annual Christmas party for all of our Bigs, littles and volunteers. The evening features, pizza, snacks, games, prizes, activities and refreshments to name a few.

Word is that Santa just may pay a visit as well.

This is also an evening where we thank our hard working and committed volunteers.

We hope you can join us.

The party will take place at 25 Church St, upstairs in the Children's Aid building from 5-7pm



Second Annual Trivia Challenge

On Saturday Feb 28, from 7-10pm we will be holding our Second Annual Trivia Challenge.

This is one of our Biggest and Best fundraiser of the year and we need you! We are expecting over 200 Trivia Challengers' to attend the event.

There will be 10 categories of 10 questions and the prizes are Fantastic! We will be selling pizza, snacks, and refreshments'. There will also be a silent auction table and 50/50 draws. We wouldn't be able to run this event without volunteers.

Call Joelle or Becca, if you can help out this night. 746-7070

Mark the date and Get your teams Ready. This year promises to be bigger and better!

Registration forms at the office, 25 Church St, Children's Aid Building or on line.

www.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/parrysound

Giant Tiger is a prime Sponsor



A Very Special Thank You to Children's Aid

Children's Aid is a huge part of the success of Big Brothers and Sisters of Parry sound. What you may not know is that through their generous support, they allow our organization the use of office space in their building.

This is a tremendous help to our organization not only financially but as well awareness in the community.

They are a wonderful group of

people and we are very fortunate to have their support.

A **BIG** thanks to Brian Middaugh for making it possible.

Tammy Stephenson who is always so helpful, and all the staff for being so welcoming and supportive.

Congratulations to our Newest In School Mentors

Annemarie Powell

Tricia Stuart

Stephen Parrick

Janine Toombs

Lloyd Taylor

Sharon Beauvais

Brandy Harris

Caroline Kingston

Jennifer Wettlaufer

Hidden Bay Leadership Day

On Saturday November 15, 2008, please join us at Hidden Bay Leadership Camp. We will have the opportunity to participate in several activities including a low ropes course.

The day will run from 1pm to 6pm and please plan to stay for a delicious an apetizing dinner. Please dress appropriately for the

weather as several of the activities will be held outside.

All Bigs, Little Volunteers, parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

You must RSVP for this event ASAP.

Please call 746-7070 or email us mentoring@bellnet.ca



A Special Thanks to Best Start

Through hard work and great initiative again our Executive Director Rob Mens was able to secure a Best Start Grant from Parry Sounds District of Social Services Administration Board in the amount of \$17,500. This funding will help support Casework activity as a result of our successful awareness campaign and initiatives! Thank you Best Start.



Dragon Boat Festival

Big Brothers & Sisters has partnered with the Rotary Club to together bring the 8th Annual Dragon Boat Festival to Parry Sound on June 20th, 2009. We are really excited about this because it will bring so much more awareness to us and what we do for children in our community. We also hope to make over \$10,000 from the event because all of the pledge money raised will be donated to Big Brothers & Sisters. We hope you will all be there to join us and have fun!

Heritage Festival

Another big event Big Brothers & Sisters are partnering with the Town of Parry Sound, the Chamber of Commerce, Georgian Bay Country Tourism, the Downtown Business Association and the Heritage Committee in is a major heritage festival that is happening Sept. 19, 20 and 21, 2009 at Wabuno Beach. The whole beach will be converted to a re-creation of a village recreating what Parry Sound was like 100 years ago. This will include all kinds of shops and a saloon as well as a Strong Man Competition, bringing back Logging Days and all kinds of kids events that Big Brothers & Sisters will be organizing.



In School Mentoring

Attention In School Mentors

Here are some helpful ways to ensure time well spent.

Ask the School to have your email address added to the School Newsletter email list. This will help keep you stay up to date with school activities and events.

Please call ahead to ensure your student is at school

Plan what you might like to do for your next visit so that any needed supplies or equipment can be gathered. Need something? please ask Joelle

SHARE a little
MAGIC.

As many of you know, last year we ran a very successful In School Mentoring program at St. Peters School and we continue to do so this year as well.

The feedback from staff and students about our volunteers was overwhelming.

This year we have expanded the In School Mentoring Program at Victory Public School and McDougall Public School.

During the In School Mentoring program students enjoy one to one

time with their mentor.

An hour away with nothing to do but focus on some fun and sharing!

We will be looking for more wonderful volunteers over the coming months to help with the number of students enrolled in the program.

If you know anyone who may like to be an In school Mentor please have them call Joelle or Becca at 746-7070 or mentoring@bellnet.ca

Our Website

Our Website is updated regularly and has some great information about upcoming events, past events and ways to get involved. It is also a great reference for ideas of things to do with your Big or Little

If you have something that you would like to add or share on the site, please let us know, we would be happy to post it for you.

Check it out

<http://www.bigbrothersbigsisisters.ca/parrysound>

