



The Eighty - Three

Volume 8, No. 2
October 2011

Area 83 Archives Newsletter

Our Area 83 history through the eyes of those before us... A legacy of gratitude

First Central East
Area Conference—
Kawartha District
Pt Two

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Kingston
Young Peoples
Group

First Central East Area Conference—Kawartha District

AA To Hold Conference

Three panels dealing with specific aspects of the program will highlight the first annual East Central Ontario Area Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous at the Empress Hotel, Peterborough, Sunday, June 24.

Some 500 members of AA and friends of AA from an area between Cornwall and Toronto are expected at the one-day meeting. The conference opens at 10:30 a.m. with a spiritual panel. Following a buffet lunch, a panel on recovery will get underway at 1 p.m.

Ontario County Crown Attorney Bruce Affleck will speak as a non-alcoholic in a panoramic panel which begins at 2:45 p.m. One speaker in this panel will deal with industry and the alcoholic employee.

Jack F., of London, will be guest speaker at a 5 p.m. banquet which will end the conference.

Those who have not already secured tickets may register at the Empress Hotel from 9 a.m. Sunday. Overnight guests will be entertained Saturday by members of Peterborough's five AA groups.

The conference is open to anyone interested in the AA program. Conference theme is the AA slogan, "First Things First."

AA Should Not Be Seen As Alternative To Punishment For Excessive Drinkers

People in serious trouble through excessive drinking should not be ordered to go to Alcoholics Anonymous as an alternative to some kind of punishment for their crime, Ontario County crown attorney Bruce Affleck, of Whitby, said in Peterborough Sunday.

Mr. Affleck was addressing close to 500 members of AA and friends of AA attending the first annual one-day East Central Ontario Area conference of the fellowship.

It was the second largest meeting ever held at the Empress Hotel and ended with a banquet at which the visitors were welcomed to the city by Ald. Bernice Graham on behalf of Mayor Stanley McBride.

Mr. Affleck said consistent drinking cost money and money shortage often led alcoholics into trouble. But drunkenness was no defence in law.

"Often I am asked to place people in the custody of AA. But I don't think AA can be considered an alternative punishment," he said.

Russ M., of Toronto, said AA service was the sharing of experience, strength and hope with alcoholics who still suffer from the disease.

There were two other panels during the morning session. In a spiritual panel, James L., of Sarnia said when he came to AA he believed in God but didn't trust him. "But I am now convinced the power that brought about my recovery was spiritual," he said.

Fran McC., of Agincourt said: "Prayer does work but I have learned that we receive God's will for us, not necessarily what we pray for." Her coming to AA was "an answer to all my problems expressed in a perfect manner."

BEGINNING OF MIRACLE
Gib McE., Ottawa, said the AA program is "truly the beginning of a miracle."

In a "recovery" panel, Ted, of Cobourg, said one of the great rewards in AA was the opportunity to help others.

Frank, of Chalk River, said it is necessary for the alcoholic to "let go and believe what people in AA say is true." It was essential to keep an open mind. AA, he said, had committed him to a moral and spiritual way of life.

Jim McL., of St. Catharines, said it had to be "all or nothing" for the alcoholic entering the AA way of life. "You are either in or you are out," he stressed.

Mac McK., of Hamilton said members of AA should have no hesitation in breaking their anonymity if it is in the interests of helping someone else. But anonymity should not be broken for self-glorification.

Jack F., of London, was guest speaker at the banquet. He said success in the program requires self-discipline and rigorous honesty. "But AA is like a jewel; it has many facets," he pointed out.

Several members of the clergy and local social workers attended the conference.

Of Special Interest

See the Archivist's Blog:
<http://archivist.area83.org/>

Contributions to 'The Eighty - Three' should be sent to:
archivisit@area83aa.org

First Central East Area Conference—Kawartha District

The first 8 **Central East Area** Conferences were held at the Empress Hotel. The first 4 Conferences were one day only, Sunday. The 5th and 6th were held on Saturday and Sunday and the 7th and 8th were held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The 9th and 10th were **Central East District** Conferences and were held at the Rock Haven Motor Hotel. Carl Burton had been Catering Manager at the Empress Hotel and then assumed ownership at the Rock Haven and took the Conferences with him, except for the 12th Conference, which went back to the Empress Hotel. Following is a list of all 50 Kawartha Conferences:

1. Central East Area, Empress Hotel, Sunday, June 24, 1962.
2. Central East Area, Empress Hotel, Sunday, June 16, 1963.
3. Central East Area, Empress Hotel, Sunday, June 14, 1964.
4. Central East Area, Empress Hotel, Sunday, Sept. 12, 1965.
5. Central East Area, Empress Hotel, Saturday & Sunday, June 18 & 19, 1966.
6. Central East Area, Empress Hotel, Saturday & Sunday, June 24 & 25, 1967.
7. Central East Area, Empress Hotel, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 21, 22 & 23, 1968.
8. Central East Area, Empress Hotel, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 20, 21 & 22, 1969.
9. Central East District, Rock Haven Motel, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, May 22, 23 & 24, 1970.
10. Central East District, Rock Haven Motel, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 18, 19 & 20, 1971.
11. (Kawartha District?), Unknown, 1972.
12. Kawartha District, Empress Hotel, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 1, 2 & 3, 1973.
13. Kawartha District, Rock Haven Motel, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 14, 15 & 16, 1974.
14. Kawartha District, Rock Haven Motel, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 20, 21 & 22, 1975.
15. Kawartha District, Rock Haven Motel, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 18, 19 & 20, 1976.
16. Kawartha District, Rock Haven Motel, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 24, 25 & 26, 1977.
17. Kawartha District, Rock Haven Motel, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 23, 24 & 25, 1978.
18. Kawartha District, Rock Haven Motel, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June , & , 1979.
19. Kawartha District, Rock Haven Motel, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 20, 21 & 22, 1980.
20. Kawartha District, Rock Haven Motel, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 19, 20 & 21, 1981.

First Central East Area Conference—Kawartha District

Summary Kawartha Conferences

21. Kawartha District, Rock Haven Motel, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 4, 5 & 6, 1982.
22. Kawartha District, Rock Haven Motel, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 24, 25 & 26, 1983.
23. Kawartha District, Rock Haven Motel, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, , 1984.
24. Kawartha District, Rock Haven Motel, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 21, 22 & 23, 1985.
25. Kawartha District, Rock Haven Motel, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, , 1986.
26. Kawartha District, Rock Haven Motel, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 24, 25 & 26, 1987.
27. Kawartha District, Rock Haven Motel, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, , 1988.
28. Kawartha District, Rock Haven Motel, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 16, 17 & 18, 1989.
29. Kawartha District, Rock Haven Motel, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, , 1990.
30. Kawartha District, Rock Haven Motel, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, , 1991.
31. Kawartha District, Rock Haven Motel, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 19, 20 & 21, 1992.
32. Kawartha District, Trent University, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 18, 19 & 20, 1993.
33. Kawartha District, Rock Haven Motel, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 24, 25 & 26, 1994.
34. Kawartha District, Rock Haven Motel, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 23, 24 & 25, 1995.
35. Kawartha District, Rock Haven Motel, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 21, 22 & 23, 1996.
36. Kawartha District, Rock Haven Motel, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 20, 21 & 22, 1997.
37. Kawartha District, St. Peter's Secondary School, Friday & Saturday, June 26 & 27, 1998.
38. Kawartha District, Baker's Hill Banquet Centre, Friday & Saturday, June 18 & 19, 1999.
39. Kawartha District, Holy Cross Secondary School, Friday & Saturday, June 2 & 3, 2000.
40. Kawartha District, Baker's Hill Banquet Centre, Friday & Saturday, June 22 & 23, 2001.
41. Kawartha District, , Holy Cross Secondary School, Friday & Saturday, June 14 & 15, 2002.
42. Kawartha District, Holy Cross Secondary School, Friday & Saturday, June 13 & 14, 2003.
43. Kawartha District, Holy Cross Secondary School, Friday & Saturday, June 18 & 19, 2004.
44. Kawartha District, Evinrude Centre, Friday & Saturday, June 17 & 18, 2005.
45. Kawartha District, Evinrude Centre, Friday & Saturday, June 30 & July 1, 2006.

First Central East Area Conference—Kawartha District

Summary Kawartha Conferences

- 46. Kawartha District, Evinrude Centre, Friday & Saturday, June 30 & July 1, 2006.
- 47. Kawartha District, Evinrude Centre, Friday & Saturday, June 30 & July 1, 2006.
- 48. Kawartha District, Evinrude Centre, Friday & Saturday, June 30 & July 1, 2006.
- 49. Kawartha District, Evinrude Centre, Friday & Saturday, June 25 & 26, 2010.
- 50. *Kawartha District, Evinrude Centre, Friday & Saturday, June 24 & 25, 2011.*



50TH



Kawartha District A.A. Conference

“MEMORIES”

from the **1st** *Central East Area Conference*

held **June 24, 1962** at the *Empress Hotel* in Peterborough

to our **50th** *Kawartha District Conference*

5:00 PM Friday, June 24 & 8:00 AM Saturday, June 25, 2011

The *Evinrude Centre*, 911 Monaghan Road, Peterborough, ON

Featuring ... A.A. & Al-Anon Speakers

... Friday Night Dance

... Saturday Night Banquet

Registration \$15.00

Registration, Banquet & Dance \$30.00

Contact: Kawartha District Intergroup, 625 Cameron St., Peterborough, ON (705) 745-6111
<http://www.peterboroughaa.org/>

Keith F. and Dennis P. start the Kingston Young Peoples' Group 1967
A Group History told by Keith F.

'I had just come out of the Pen after eleven years. My first AA meeting had been inside; *The Liberty Group* at Joyceville Penitentiary. The other co-founder, Dennis P. was fairly young. He was in his 20s and still in the Army. He had been a member of the *Frontenac Group*. We saw a lot of young people coming in and they weren't staying. Dennis and I talked about starting a meeting. The old timers advised us to speak to other groups in Toronto, Montreal and New York City. There were only two open meetings in Kingston back then; one was the *Friendship Group*, the *Frontenac Group* was the other. *Fort Henry* was the closed meeting.

The first meeting of Kingston Young Peoples' was at the Armed Forces Hospital on the Military Base in February of 1967. It was not officially a group at yet. Dennis chaired the first meeting. I (Keith F.) spoke. The next week, Dennis would speak and I would chair. Then we would switch again the next week and so on for six months. It was amazing that we didn't kill each other. Ha-ha. We had a kettle and bottle of instant coffee. The Army gave us an ammunition box to put our things in. General Services Office in New York City sent us a start up package with the Big Book, a 12 & 12, and a half dozen pieces of literature. The meeting began at 8:30 pm. We closed around 10 pm and often went back to Dennis's house to play cribbage. It was kitchen AA back then. We did that for six months. I don't know how we stayed sober!

It was Dennis's connection in the Forces with an Army Doctor that helped us get the meeting space on the base. The Army Library had a ten person capacity. There was no smoking. The room had a bunch of medical books on the shelves. We sat around a table, five feet long. The chairs were wooden with nice, blue, leather seats. The old timers came after six months after the *Fort Henry Group* and *Friendship Group* closed. One night, a bunch of old timers came in; real doubting Thomas's and bleeding deacons from the *Frontenac Group* and from Watertown, New York. This one guy, Emerson, drove a Cadillac and smoked a big cigar. He had a lot of long time and asked me that night: "How long you been sober now?" They had no pity for you back then. They would give you money for a drink. Their feeling was: 'Go ahead! Don't waste our time.'

There were not a lot of young people coming to AA back then. It took a while. Slowly, one after another, the young people started to come in. I remember Paul, Audrey, and then Dick in 1973. Word of mouth and the name, "Young Peoples'" started to attract them. Eventually, they made it. GSO in New York City had advised me not to put an age limit on the meeting. In the mid 1970s, Nick N., a surrogate father and old timer who had belonged to the *Friendship Group*, looked after Kingston Young Peoples' Group till I returned from out West 1972. The Group was hung on by a thread.

KINGSTON YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUP GROUP HISTORY

Back then, GSO gave people in AA slips of paper to twelve step people who had written to GSO asking for help. People travelled a lot by train in those days and a man from New York City had got off in Gananoque to 12 Step a man named Ronnie who had requested a 12 step call. Ronnie was a lawyer who had been disbarred. After being in AA and recovering, he got his practice back and even went on to become a provincial judge. He was a great guy! Our first Group Anniversary was held in the AA Clubhouse in 1967 on Princess and Wellington. Ronnie spoke. I remember Mike, from Toronto, thanked the speaker by saying: "That's got to be the worst talk I've heard." Ha ha! We flew by the seat of our pants. It was basic - no hand holding or hugs. We drank coffee, smoked cigars and cigarettes. It was something all right.

In 1968 we moved to the Sydenham Street United Church. Dennis and I spoke to the Minister at that time. He was only too happy to help us. Since then, the rest is history. The Church has a great relationship with Kingston Young Peoples' Group. The Minister attends our Group Anniversaries and some birthdays to this day! We are so lucky. So blessed...."