

2018 - 15th Annual Child Witness Centre Youth Symposium

A unique and exciting program for Grade 8 students throughout Guelph and Wellington County.

Tuesday, April 17th

Galaxy Cinemas, 485 Woodlawn Rd. W., Guelph

9:30 am – 2:00 pm

This program is organized and hosted by the Child Witness Centre as an outreach and helps support our work with children and youth who are victims and witnesses of abuse or crime, and their families.

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This program is made possible by: Cambridge & North Dumfries Community Foundation – Steele Family Fund, Cineplex Entertainment, Guelph Community Foundation, Landmark Cinemas, RBC, Sertoma/LaSertoma Foundation of Waterloo Region, RBC, Rotary Club of Cambridge (Preston-Hespeler), Rotary Club of Fergus-Elora, Rotary Club of Guelph-Trillium, Sherwood and The Co-Operators.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND? Grade 8 students, and their teachers, in public, Catholic and independent schools in Guelph and Wellington County. We can accommodate up to 1,800 students.

COST, REGISTRATION AND LUNCH

- \$8.00 per student for registration.
- Optional food vouchers can also be purchased (between \$8 and \$9 for pizza, hot dogs or fries, all including a drink).
- To register, please go to this link for on-line registration:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1hFPtO5-G2z-yNrn9oTR5n4jqfiJ3CYkmE5KycAEg9PE/viewform>
- You will be asked for your contact information, number of classes, and to select your top four presenters that you would like your students to hear.
- You will receive confirmation of your registration request within two business days of your request. You'll then receive a second email from us by **February 27th** confirming your status as either registered or on our wait list. If your registration is confirmed, we will send you all the information you need, including lunch arrangements, the final program and any other pertinent information. If you are on the wait list, please know that we'll be working quickly to accommodate all requests and will follow-up with you shortly.
- Each class remains together throughout the Symposium and must be supervised in the theatre by their teacher.
- Because of the seating capacity of theatres, you may attend only those sessions for which you registered.
- Students are encouraged to purchase a food voucher in advance to save time in the line-ups. Vouchers purchased ahead of time will be at a discount rate, but please note food vouchers will also be available for purchase on event date. Students may also bring their own lunch.
- Teachers are responsible for reserving their own buses along with any costs incurred.

WHAT IS THE YOUTH SYMPOSIUM?

There are great risks and challenges for youth today: drug and alcohol use; harassment and bullying; self-image and confidence problems; coping with the demands of school; and dealing with the implications of social media just to name a few. Some deal with these issues better than others, but all young people are at risk of making bad choices or having difficulty coping in today's social climate. Daily, they are inundated with negative messages, bad examples and influences.

The Youth Symposium addresses many of these issues, at a key time in Grade 8 as students are preparing for their transition to high school. Through inspirational and well-informed speakers, who can engage an audience of students and serve as good role models, the Youth Symposium provides a strong, positive influence on youth.

Goals of the Youth Symposium are to:

- Better equip students with ideas, tools, motivation and confidence to cope effectively with their daily challenges
- Educate students so they can make better choices in their life
- Help students to grow to become better citizens – both in their community and globally
- Build on themes that support the work and messaging taking place by teachers in their classrooms

KEY MESSAGES INCLUDE:

- You can be change!
- It only takes ONE to make a difference
- Step outside your comfort zone and try new things!
- If something doesn't go your way, keep moving in a positive direction!
- Be an 'energy giver', not an 'energy taker'!
- Find the HERO inside!

PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS

- a. ANDY THIBODEAU: Get Your Hand UP - Participate in Class, in School, in Life!** Ask Questions! Answer Questions! Try Your Best! Volunteer and get involved in school activities! Take advantage of your time in school to LEARN and have FUN! This powerful message will entertain and inspire students by encouraging them to bring back their Grade 3 enthusiasm and "get your hand up". The overall moral of this message is to remind students to "take advantage of your time in school to both learn and have fun!" www.andypresentations.com
- b. MIKE PEARSE: Making a Positive Difference!** Often students need encouragement to see just how simple it is to truly make a difference in the lives of others, in the life of their school and community, and in their own lives. It doesn't take much; it doesn't take long; BUT, the effects may be profound and everlasting. Through humour, dramatic storytelling, tangible, meaningful examples, AND a whole lot of play, Mike will prove to every participant in this workshop the ease and power of "Making a Positive Difference". www.tawingo.net
- c. SCOTT HAMMELL: Get Paid to Breathe!** The Guinness World Record Holding magician teaches his highly effective techniques for turning dreams into reality. Magic and message are fused together to deliver a high impact, high energy show! www.PaidToBreathe.com
- d. IAN TYSON: Hero Inside!** This session will help students overcome obstacles and personal tragedy, step outside their boundaries, balance their time, respect themselves and others, find a motivation in life, find the "Hero" in themselves and MUCH MORE! Ian's high-octane presentation will take students on a hilarious journey from childhood to high school and beyond, while also leaving them with words and thoughts to live by. www.iantyson.ca
- e. RICK OSBORNE: A Journey Through Addiction, Crime and Prison!** Rick Osborne connects with students about his life as a former gang member and his 23 years in the prison system. Rarely does someone survive Rick's past with both the ability and the motivation to make a difference in so many young lives. www.truthforteens.com
- f. DEBB BODKIN: Global Citizenship and the Experience that Moved Me to Action!** Debb was a Sergeant with the Waterloo Regional Police Service for 23 years. She has had three overseas experiences in Kosovo, Chad and Sudan working for international organizations as a Scenes of Crime Officer and Investigator. Debb will speak about her experiences, the incredible people she met and the need for all of us to challenge crimes against humanity.

g. BECKY KELLAR-DUKE: Pursuing Excellence! Becky competed at the first four Olympic Winter Games in which women's ice hockey was included, winning one silver and three gold medals. Come listen to her experiences and lessons learned in pursuing her goals and dreams.

h. STU SAUNDERS: Take the Risk – Be STUpendous! A hilarious and inspirational look at the challenges that young people face on a daily basis, with real tools that students can use to make the right choices. Stu Saunders is one of Canada's most experienced youth speakers. www.ylcc.com

i. GUELPH POLICE SERVICE: Youth Dating Relationships! Youth are bombarded with media images and pressure to be in dating relationships – from “hanging out” to “hooking up”. This session will touch on consent, domestic violence, cyberbullying, human trafficking and controlling personalities, providing youth with an understanding of what makes for healthy, respectful dating relationships.