



MEDIA RELEASE - Tuesday, April 3, 2018

15th Annual Child Witness Centre Youth Symposium Will Welcome 3,000 Grade 8 Students from Across Waterloo Region, Guelph and Wellington County

The Child Witness Centre will be welcoming 3,000 Grade 8 students, and their teachers, to the 15th annual Youth Symposium. This day-long event, held on April 17th for Guelph and Wellington County students and April 18th for students from Waterloo Region, features some of Canada's top speakers sharing personal stories around goal setting, community citizenship, healthy dating and more.

Who: Child Witness Centre

What: 15th Annual Youth Symposium

**When and Where: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at Galaxy Cinemas, 485 Woodlawn Rd. W., Guelph
Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at Landmark Cinemas, 135 Gateway Park Dr., Kitchener**

Time: 9:30am to 2pm

"Our goal in offering this program is to expose Grade 8 students to a variety of perspectives and topics that address the challenges and opportunities facing them as they transition into high school – which is such a key time in their development," said Laura Muirhead, Executive Director of the Child Witness Centre.

Fourteen speakers will share their stories across the two days, including:

- **GUELPH POLICE SERVICE/WATERLOO REGION POLICE WITH SEXUAL ASSAULT/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TREATMENT CENTRE:** students will hear from trusted experts on topics that include healthy dating, cyberbullying, human trafficking and consent.
- **SCOTT HAMMELL:** A four-time Guinness World Record holder for stunts including World's Highest Blindfolded Skydive and World's Highest Suspended Straightjacket Escape, Hammell speaks to the importance of challenging yourself to do the unthinkable and the rewards that come with being tenacious in the pursuit of personal goals.
- **BECKY KELLAR-DUKE:** Olympian Becky Kellar-Duke competed in the first four Olympic Winter Games in which women's ice hockey was included, winning one silver and four gold medals. Kellar-Duke will be speaking about the roles that goal setting and self-determination played on her road to the Olympics.
- **RICK OSBORNE:** Once one of Canada's most-wanted criminals, Osborne spent almost 25 years in 33 different penitentiaries for crimes involving assault, weapons and narcotics. He'll share with students how victimization early in his life led to involvement with street gangs and how he decided to change the trajectory of his life – earning his B.A. in Psychology from Queen's University and dedicating his life to supporting others.

The Child Witness Centre hosts the annual Youth Symposium with the goal that students will leave with: the ideas, tools and motivation needed to overcome obstacles in their daily lives; a better sense of the power they have in decision making and the impact of those choices; and the inspiration to grow into their community and global citizenship, all while supporting the work and messaging shared by teachers in the classroom.

Below, please find a schedule of speaking times for the April 17th and April 18th events. Presenters can be available throughout each day for interview and photos (advanced notice of interview/photo request, if possible). Please note, photos of students are not permitted at this private event.

Tuesday, April 17th – Galaxy Cinemas, 485 Woodlawn Rd. W., Guelph

		Speaking Times	
Presenter	Title	#1	#2
Guelph Police Service	Healthy Dating Relationships	9:50 - 10:40	11:45 - 12:45
Nick Foley	How Do You Want to be Remembered?	10:50 - 11:50	1:00 - 2:00
Scott Hammell	Get Paid to Breathe	9:50 - 10:40	12:45 - 2:00
Becky Kellar-Duke	Pursuing Excellence	9:50 - 10:50	12:45 - 2:00
Rick Osborne	A Journey Through Addiction, Crime and Prison	9:50 - 10:40	12:45 - 2:00
Mike Pearse	Making A Positive Difference	10:50 - 11:50	1:00 - 2:00
Stu Saunders	Take the Risk – Be STUpendous	9:50 - 10:50	11:45 - 12:45
Andy Thibodeau	Get Your Hands Up	10:50 - 11:50	1:00 - 2:00
Ian Tyson	Hero Inside	9:50 - 10:50	11:45 - 12:45

Wednesday, April 18th – Landmark Cinemas, 135 Gateway Park Dr., Kitchener

		Speaking Times		
Presenter	Title	#1	#2	#3
The Beanstalk Project	Your Circle of Control	10:50 – 11:50	12:45 – 1:45	
Orlando Bowen	Resilience	9:50 – 10:50	11:45 – 12:45	
Nick Foley	How Do You Want to be Remembered?	10:50 – 11:50	12:45 – 1:45	
Scott Hammell	Get Paid to Breathe	10:50 – 11:50	1:00 – 2:00	
Joel Hilchey	Finding Your Voice	9:50 – 10:50	12:45 – 1:45	
Becky Kellar-Duke	Pursuing Excellence	11:05 – 12:05	1:00 – 2:00	
ONE Movement	Move Forward	9:50 – 10:50	1:00 – 2:00	
Rick Osborne	A Journey Through Addiction, Crime and Prison	9:50 – 10:50	1:00 – 2:00	
Mike Pearse	Making A Positive Difference	9:50 – 10:40	11:45 – 12:45	
Stu Saunders	Take the Risk	9:50 – 10:50	1:00 – 2:00	
Andy Thibodeau	Get Your Hands Up	9:50 – 10:40	11:45 – 12:45	1:00 – 2:00
Ian Tyson	Hero Inside	9:50 – 10:50	11:05 – 12:05	
WRP with Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centre	Youth Dating Relationships	9:50 – 10:40	11:05 – 12:05	

For more information regarding this event or event speakers, please contact Linda Mark at linda.mark@childwitness.com or 519-744-0904 ext. 15.

About the Child Witness Centre:

The vision of the Child Witness Centre is a community where children and youth are safe, valued and heard, empowering them toward strong futures. Our caring, compassionate professionals walk with young people, and their families, through the criminal justice process, helping them have a voice and fostering healing, hope and wellbeing.

Media Contact:

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