

The 10 Faces of OJEN



Justice of the Peace John Guthrie

Justice of the Peace John Guthrie's office is immediately opposite OJEN's office in the Thunder Bay Courthouse. When OJEN's Program Manager, Bryn Bamber, moved in a year ago, he made a point of introducing himself and welcoming her to the building. He has been a friend of OJEN ever since.

Apart from being a good neighbour, His Worship has been a strong supporter of justice education for youth, sitting on the Thunder Bay OJEN Committee, and chairing of the Association of Justices of the Peace (AJPO) Bursary Program. He was a popular presenter at OJEN's 2011 Northwestern Ontario Law Institute for

Teachers, explaining the ins and outs of bail court and answering teachers' questions about how to bring a Mock Bail program into the classroom.

"I have a keen interest in young people," Justice of the Peace Guthrie comments, "being a parent of four grown children. Youth is a very important time. OJEN programs help to develop the mind at a stage in life when youth are making decisions about their future and are keenly interested in a lot of different things."

Justices of the Peace play a significant role in many of OJEN's justice education programs. They participate on panels engaging with youth in community-based projects that build confidence in the justice system. Many preside over OJEN's Mock Bail programs for English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. Justices of the Peace at the Brampton Court House have organized a successful annual Mock Bail Tournament for high school students in Peel region which has run for the past six years.

"The Association of Justices of the Peace of Ontario has a desire to help young people learn about the justice system and to feel comfortable in the Courthouse", says His Worship Guthrie. "It is encouraging to me personally to see so many youth taking part in OJEN's programs."

His Worship recently became the chair of the AJPO Bursary Committee, which provides bursaries to high school students entering post secondary studies leading to a career in the justice sector. Each year, one student from each of the seven regions of the Ontario Court of Justice is awarded \$500. Now

in its fourth year, the bursary assists students who demonstrate academic excellence and financial need make the transition from secondary school to college or university.

“The Association believes that students are our future” His Worship explains. “The bursary program is just getting started, but it has the potential to be a change agent. It’s a way we can give back to the community.”

OJEN is happy to partner with AJPO on this bursary, the first of its kind. As His Worship Guthrie explains, the partnership with OJEN allows AJPO to access the student demographic. It is a win-win situation for everyone.

The deadline for applying to this years’ AJPO Bursary is April 30th. For more information, [click here](#).

“I love working with OJEN because of the youth,” says His Worship Guthrie. “By working with youth we keep ourselves young.”



Association of Justices of the Peace Bursary presentation – Toronto 2011

