

You don't need proof, just concern

Each of us plays a crucial role in ensuring that every child in York Region has a safe and nurturing environment in which to grow and thrive. At York Region Children's Aid Society, we have the skills and resources to help vulnerable children and their families.

But, the truth is, we can't help them if we don't know about them. That's where you come into the picture. Every person in Ontario has a duty to report concerns about the safety and welfare of children — to let us know if you suspect that a child is vulnerable.

You don't need proof. You don't even need to be sure. You just need to be concerned. And you don't even have to identify yourself.

When you call, we will want to hear your observations — what you have seen and heard that makes you think a child may be at risk. A trained and experienced staff member will talk with you to determine if the situation requires an assessment.

Very often, people who phone are concerned that they're over-reacting. They ask, "Is this something I should be reporting?"

The truth is we welcome all calls because, in most cases, we would never learn about a child who is at risk unless someone picked up the phone. Child protection and family well-being is



Patrick Lake

not the job of one person, but of many.

That's the view not only of Children's Aid Societies but of the people of Ontario. In fact, the 2011 Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies *Child Welfare Report, Children's Well-Being: The Ontario Perspective*, shows people in this province feel strongly about protecting children of all ages from abuse and neglect.

They believe child protection and care should be extended until children are at least 18, rather than 16.

They want children to find permanent homes. They want children in care to have access to the same levels of education as their peers. And they want Aboriginal children to have better lives.

Last year, we worked with 5,000 families. In the vast majority of cases, we were able to work with the family to create a healthy environment for the children. Sometimes, it's a matter of helping a fam-

ily struggling with serious issues, such as addiction or poverty.

And sometimes, frustrated parents without family or friends just need a connection to other parents so they don't feel so alone. Or it may only be a matter of explaining the law with regard to discipline.

The fact is, most parents — even those who have been reported — genuinely want to be good parents.

The fact is, once we know about a vulnerable family, we can help them make positive changes.

The fact is, only 3 per cent of children who come to the attention of the York Region Children's Aid Society have to come into our care and, increasingly, even in those circumstances, we are able to place those children more and more with extended family or other adults they already know and trust.

On behalf of the vulnerable children of our community, I ask that you call York CAS if you suspect neglect or abuse and help us rebuild a family. Call us at 905-895-2318 or 1-800-718-3850.

For more information about what Ontarians say and for child welfare resources, please go to www.oacas.org.

— Patrick Lake is the executive director of York Region Children's Aid Society. To contact York Region CAS, call 905-895-2318 or 1-800-718-3850.

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SAT., NOV. 5, 2011

8 pm - \$21+hst

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WALMART CORRECTION NOTICE

For our flyer effective Oct. 7-13/11; Page 1

The description for the Lay's Chips should read: Lay's Bag or Kettle Cooked Potato Chips. 180 g – 220 g. (#30059563/5/7/1/6.) Page 12. The Snow Joe 13.5 AMP/19" Electric Snow Thrower (#30188009) will be available at a later date.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

WATER PROBLEMS? HARD WATER? RED IRON? BACTERIA?



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Sale

Fri. October 14 to Thurs. October 20, 2011

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3.49 /lb .77/100g

Glacé Cherries whole & broken, red or green

3.79 /lb .84/100g

Turkish Apricots

4.79 /lb 1.06/100g

Natural Supreme Almonds California

4.89 /lb 1.08/100g

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If you are passionate and knowledgeable about an issue and can present a good argument, we invite you to write a guest column. E-mail tkibble@yrmg.com

Fri. Oct. 14th to Thurs. Oct. 20th

FOOTLOOSE (PG) NO PASSES
Evenings (Fri/Sat/Tue) at 7:00, 9:20; Evenings (Sun/Mon/Wed/Thurs) at 7:10; Sat/Sun Matinees at 2:00

THE THING (14A) NO PASSES
Evenings (Fri/Sat/Tue) at 7:10, 9:30; Evenings (Sun/Mon/Wed/Thurs) at 7:30; Sat/Sun Matinees at 2:20

REAL STEEL (PG) NO PASSES
Evenings (Fri/Sat/Tue) at 6:40, 9:10; Evenings (Sun/Mon/Wed/Thurs) at 7:00; Sat/Sun Matinees at 1:45

DOLPHIN TALE in 3D (G)
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comments to ibtst@bellnet.ca