

fall 2009

# newsbrief



## OUR MISSION

We believe that establishing a positive relationship between cops and kids at risk will strengthen our community today and for the future. By funding programs that bring local cops and kids together, we help create an environment of mutual understanding and respect.

Right: The girls are coached through the rope course during the Lumber Jills weekend.

Below: The police officers and girls work together to accomplish ambitious new tasks like tree climbing like real lumber jacks.

## Lumber Jills

32 Division, Constables Tania Kummer & Sarah Bernhardt



**The Lumber Jills Weekend, organized by Constables Tania Kummer and Sarah Bernhardt of 32 Division, offered young women the opportunity to push their physical limits and build their self-confidence during a weekend of lumber sports.**

Many of the 15 girls who participated live in a Toronto Housing Community in 32 Division that has seen several devastating acts of violence over the past year. The girls appreciated the chance to get away from their community and experience a weekend of fun sports, new friends and nature.

Constables Kummer and Bernhardt chose lumber sports because, like policing, the logging industry is predominately male. By trying the lumber sports and getting to know female officers on a personal level, the girls were exposed to two career options that they may have never considered before.

Throughout the weekend, the girls participated in various logger sports and games, a new experience for all of the girls. The activities were designed to sharpen their leadership and teamwork skills. The girls learned the sports of axe throwing and bow sawing. They went on nature walks where they learned to climb trees like lumber jacks, cross rope bridges high in the tree

tops and identify animal footprints. They also learned outdoor navigation and compass skills. They also had the opportunity to learn from professional arborists on the pruning and care of trees and other plant life.

At first the girls were shy, reserved and seemed very hesitant to interact with the officers. Constables Kummer and Bernhardt began working to break the ice during the bus ride to Blackdown Army Cadet Training Centre in Borden. The girls were also separated into smaller groups in order to get to know each other, as well as the officers. By the end of the weekend, the girls' attitudes towards the officers had completely changed. The girls were surprised at how friendly and approachable Constables Kummer and Bernhardt were and began to see them as real people.

The officers hope the girls came away from the weekend with a new image of police officers as friends and allies, rather than enemies. Constables Kummer & Bernhardt also hope that they showed the girls they have more career choices and that they won't dismiss options as "only a man's job". Most importantly, the officers hope they were able to boost the girls' self confidence levels and give them a new sense of pride in their abilities.



Photo: Tania Kummer



## ProAction Awards 2009

Left to right: Superintendent Ken Cenzura, police award winners Police Constables Robert Tajti and Diana Korn-Hassani, Chief William Blair and Staff Superintendent Mike Federico at ProAction's 2009 Annual General Meeting

**ProAction's annual awards were handed out at our Annual General Meeting in 2009. The recipients were:**

### **Jack Sinclair Award**

To the officer who creates the most innovative police-youth program funded by ProAction  
**Police Constable Robert Tajti, 14 Division MUSIC! Not Mischief**

### **Jim Sneep Award**

To the officer who shows the most remarkable commitment to police-youth programming funded by ProAction  
**Police Constable Diana Korn-Hassani – Community Mobilization Unit SMILE Camp and her body of work**

### **John Bitove Sr. Award**

To the corporation or foundation that stands out for its level of leadership in supporting ProAction via financial contributions or in-kind donations  
**Karrys Bros., Limited**

### **ProAction Youth Award**

To youth that have demonstrated a high level of personal growth and stand out as having benefited significantly from a ProAction-funded program  
**Christina Tahir** – Various 52 Division police-youth programs  
**Pamela Tahir** – Various 52 Division police-youth programs

### **ProAction Youth Leadership Award**

To the youth who has demonstrated the highest level of leadership potential from a ProAction-funded program  
**Stephanie Tahir** – Various 52 Division police-youth programs

*As part of the ProAction Youth Leadership Award, Stephanie Tahir attended Olympia Sports Camp in Huntsville, where she sharpened her leadership skills and met new friends. Stephanie had a great time at camp and wrote this letter about her experience.*

*"Dear ProAction Executive Board Members , Hi my name is Stephanie Tahir I would like to start with a huge Thank you. I had a great experience of a lifetime. I went to Olympia Sports Camp for 3 weeks and had the time of my life... I am applying for a job in January to work up at the camp next year... I did many different things and learnt a lot about leadership. I met a lot of new friends. We were assigned into groups and we studied 7 habits of highly effective teens. We learnt how to coach, referee, and to speak in front of people. We also did skits to teach us about speaking which was so amazing and got easier to speak to a group of people. There were many things that I have learnt from this course. I am a very shy person and this experience has help me to stand up in front of my class to talk to others in the room... Opening Ceremonies was a great experience, and Closing Ceremonies was fun. We got to do a sketch in front of parents and guests. Officer Mike and Officer Dale, my mom and my sister surprised me they came up for my Graduation...Once again Thank You very much for this opportunity; it was really a great experience of my life."*

## Upcoming! ProAction Events

ProAction Cops & Kids has a variety of exciting events taking place throughout the year. For more information on any of the following events, please contact Event Coordinator, Meredith Hopper, at 416-222-7011 or [meredith@copsandkids.ca](mailto:meredith@copsandkids.ca).

★ **Let's Do Lunch – CSI: Whitby – Benefitting ProAction's Durham Chapter**  
 Friday February 12, 2009  
 Cullen Central Park, Whitby

★ **Breakfast with Chief William Blair**  
 Wednesday February 17, 2010  
 The National Club, Toronto

★ **ProAction's Hamilton Chapter presents Tuesdays with Morrie**  
 Wednesday February 17, 2010  
 Theatre Aquarius, Hamilton

Chief William Blair with Youth Award winners: Stephanie, Pamela and Christina Tahir (left to right).





Left to right: Chief William Blair with Sergeant Brandon Price, Staff Sergeant Chris Boddy, ProAction President Jean Taillon and Deputy Chief Ken Leendertse of the Hamilton Police Service

## 13th Annual ProAction Cops & Kids Golf Tournament

ProAction's 13th annual golf tournament took place on September 17, 2009 at the beautiful Coppinwood Golf Course in Uxbridge. Over a hundred golfers came together for a great day on the course and to learn about the programs ProAction funds each year.

Highlights of the tournament included: the beautiful September weather, our Beat the Chief hole (where Chief Blair was an excellent sport!) and a very touching presentation from ProAction's Toronto Oxmen Football Club, resulting in over \$9500 in donations for that program alone!

ProAction is thrilled to announce that we netted over \$140,000 at the tournament for police-youth programs in Toronto.

A big thanks goes out to our very generous golfers and sponsors, as well as our Golf Committee who worked so hard to put it all together! See you next year on the course!

did you know?

ProAction Cops & Kids is completely independent from the Toronto Police Service and receives no government funding. We rely completely on financial contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations to fund over \$400,000 of police-youth programs each year in Toronto, Durham and Hamilton.

**Please donate now!**

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