



EMPATHIC PARENTING

Journal of the Canadian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

Volume 17

Issue 4
(Recession Format)

Autumn 1994

"...I became quite proficient, innovative, and cheerful about violence."

**Paul John Edge
Ex-Green Beret Major
Page 3**

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Every Woman and Every Man

"...there is no single effort more radical in its potential for saving the world than a transformation of the way we raise our children. They must grow up to be adults with only a fraction of our neuroses, or the world is in serious trouble. This is not the time to mimic our parents. It's a time to reverse the trend.

We can do it. I know we can. For we have had the time to think -- and many of us have -- about what we were not given and were not shown when we were children. And now with our kids, we have the chance to rewrite history, to parent them as we wish we had been parented. And thus does our own reparenting occur. We release the past as we release the future.

Children are not children. They are just younger people.

What could be more important for the future of our world than that we raise happy and well-adjusted, empowered and empowering children? They are the caretakers of tomorrow's world, and they will be ready for the job or not. This is not just a woman's issue; it is the issue most central to our society's healing and growth. Every woman and every man too, must take responsibility in their hearts for all children. As the parental generation, every child is our child. To ignore the state of our children is to ignore the state of our world."

Marianne Williamson

WHAT IS EMPATHIC PARENTING?

Being willing and able to put yourself in your child's shoes in order to correctly identify his/her feelings, and

Being willing and able to behave toward your child in ways which take those feelings into account.

Empathic Parenting takes an enormous amount of time and energy and fully involves both parents in a co-operative, sharing way.

EMPATHIC PARENTING
 Journal of the Canadian Society for the
 Prevention of Cruelty to Children
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Letters...

Empathic Parenting, Volume 17, Issue 2 is written clearly for parents and is meaningful and on the right track! Keep up the good work! - every parent should read this topic on "spanking"

Niagara Child Development Centre
Welland, Ontario

Please send me ten copies of **Motherhood and Career** - it is a wonderful booklet. Thank you.

Ada Tinkess
Coquitlam, BC

This is a late congratulation on your summer issue. Penelope Leach takes the position I was urging on you a year ago. She puts the issue so succinctly such as on page 22, "however honestly men seek solutions for women, a division between the sexes will prevent a true recognition of parenting as an issue for all people." Having the development of her thinking as you give it in that issue is a wonderful resource. Thank you. With much appreciation re this issue,

Harriet Heath
Haverford, PA

As a family studies teacher, I spend several hours in my senior parenting class discussing various disciplinarian strategies. It never fails that spanking is an alternate that students refer to as an effective means of controlling behaviour. That attitude mainly comes from their own experiences and I regret that in most cases it will perpetuate itself in generations to come. I was very impressed by the publication entitled **Spanking - A short-cut to nowhere...**, and would like to use it in class. Is it possible to acquire 35 copies for educational purposes? The content and pictures are excellent and would assist greatly in my message of non-violent

parenting practices. Please send the necessary order form and cost information as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your service.

Donna Osmun
Head, Family Studies Department
General Amherst High School
Amherstburg, Ontario

I run a parenting program at three women's shelters, as well as parenting courses and workshops. The issue around spanking always comes up. Your booklet has excellent reference material and examples to use when discussing "why we should not spank children".

Liz Corbett
Acton, Ontario

Invaluable information to educate friends and associates on the importance of consistent and loving care in early childhood - cites the research which is unavailable to the average person, which helps us justify what we intuitively feel - and live.

Michell Bentley
Ridgecrest, California

On behalf of the Sandwich Community Health Centre I would like to thank you for raising the communities' consciousness about the needs of children. Your booklet entitled **Spanking - a short-cut to nowhere...** is excellent. It relays a positive and non-judgemental message. I believe the information contained within it is vital information for every parent. I would appreciate either 100 copies of this booklet or your permission to duplicate it in whole. Please feel free to contact me should we need to discuss this further.

Vanessa Petrilli
Sandwich Community Health Centre Inc
Windsor, Ontario.

Paternal Legacy

Paul John Edge

I'm an ex-Green Beret major who feels like Emil Sinclair in Hermann Hesse's *Demian*, searching for The Other, for unity of spirit. I want to be whole again. I am very good at extremely technical violence. After a while it got tiring. I gave it up and rediscovered art and music. It may be true, what Eastern religions teach, that killing binds you deeply into Karma, a slavery to successive crummy lives. Mine's been crummy enough.

For me, terror was "normalized" at home. If you don't believe you're immortal, mistreat a child. Your demons will live on; that's the real meaning of reincarnation. My father was a vicious alcoholic who beat my mother and the kids (brother, sister, and me, in descending order) verbally and physically for years. That behaviour terrified me, yet I in turn re-enacted it. Of course, I had the back-handed decency to channel my capabilities for destruction against others outside my "family" -- toward foreign cultures and political systems. And I became quite proficient, innovative, and cheerful about violence.

If that kind of compulsion sounds unbelievable, read on. You get used to it. You like it, after a while. It becomes a paternal legacy. My father killed himself when I was ten. A bit of detective work and quiet prodding of my relatives showed that my father's father, also a severe man who likely had a drinking problem, killed himself as well. Interestingly, that happened when my father, like me the youngest of his family, was also ten years old. My father never coped. He just followed

the traditions he knew. **Hell is here on earth, folks. I know.**

I can't argue case-by-case whether wars are just or not. I'm not God. But I perceived things over my years as a soldier in ways that some others didn't. The most glaring example is that the military and the arms industry have made killing a remote science. We have a techno-priesthood with its own argot. This science-wienie jargon probably started when somebody figured out that when you drop bombs on people from airplanes, you conveniently can't hear the screams. That started in 1914. Listen to the way death is decreed by today's theoreticians: "Harmonize combat power to service target-rich environments" (plan well; kill a lot). "Catastrophic hull failure from a long-rod penetrator" (direct hit on a tank). Rest assured, the Freudian implications have already been studied.

In earlier days, enemies killed with swords at a range of two feet; they looked into each other's eyes as they killed. That's rare today -- but I was assigned to units that trained and thought incessantly in those terms.

*If you don't believe
you're immortal,
mistreat a child. Your
demons will live on . . .*

Special thanks to Paul Edge and Ms. Magazine for permission to reprint this article.

Keep that in mind. It used to arouse suspicion, if not anger, when I stood up at high-level planning sessions and said: "Hey, let's substitute the word 'kill' for 'service the target-rich environment' or any other tidy euphemism."

Embarrassed silence. Then I'd hear the judgmental whispers: "Oh, he's just a knuckle-dragger from Special Forces. They all have a chip on their shoulder."

Well, yes, dammit, I do. Don't wash your anointed-clean-conference-room hands of the fact that what you're proposing will leave mothers and fathers, sons and daughters of various nations lying in shreds covered with flies. A chip on the shoulder, all right -- but underneath I had a private torment that is so hard to express. I felt a peculiar loyalty to these Fearless Leaders. It wasn't just obedience. It was blood lust. I thought: You want bad things to happen to an enemy? Well, you picked the right guy. I've lived with violence all my life. I shut my eyes and hear a steady roar of pain. I can make it happen. I relish the role of terrorist.

I can't deny it. As a soldier, I have travelled the world and seen Evil in action, as when I patrolled the Iron Curtain and witnessed Czech escapees being shot in my sector. For 14 years, I've risked my life in some hair-raising situations. I've been through some dark nights of the soul (and body) and learned the value of simple things, like dry clothes or a kid's smile. But since I can't change what I've done, common sense tells me not to be so quick to disown it.

I started to reflect on deeper feelings during idle talk just prior to the 1989 invasion of Panama. I was talking with some colleagues, U.S. Navy SEALs (one of whom was killed in action several weeks

later). The SEALs are the Navy counterparts to Green Berets. We were discussing a third man, call him Jack, a SEAL officer whose exploits would fill several true-life adventure movies.

One of my friends had known Jack for years. He volunteered the fact that Jack's early life was abysmal, a real survival story against the odds of abuse. Suddenly inspired, he observed that a lot of guys "in our line of work" came from that kind of background. He went on to another topic. I did not. A lot of us who excel as soldiers were kicked around as kids and are mad as hell at the world. Some of us never catch on, though.

Back at my unit, I sound out some of my friends. Many had unremarkable upbringings. But a surprising number were almost overeager to talk about their violent childhoods. I'm no statistician or behavioural scientist, but I heard variations of my own history in the words of these men. One was in therapy; his childhood had centred on whisky and ass-whippings; he had travelled the world, killed, drank too much, and finally screamed "Stop!" I'm glad to say that this guy is beginning to feel more or less human again. Some of "us" are still stuck.

When Iraq invaded Kuwait, I found myself mentally calculating the number of Iraqis I could personally kill, and more -- those who I could help plan to kill. (By that time I was a reservist.)

Almost automatically, I came on active duty, out of loyalty to my comrades. My view had changed from offence to self-defence. I was worried about my comrades. (Believe me, in the fall of 1990, it looked like a war might kill a lot of GIs.) I'd risked my life before, now I risked losing a lot of my friends. I felt: take me, just don't screw with my comrades. After some weeks an inner voice

cautioned me: after all these years, it's time to change. Psychologically, it was like walking a tightrope. I described this to some friends from my eat-snakes-and-jump-out-of-airplanes days. They had sensed it in me. They surprised me. They encouraged me to think it through.

The internal conflict was tough. I began to understand how Eastern philosophy divides "masculine" and "feminine" concepts, how a person can work toward Unity (and sanity) by opening up and experiencing the joy of both. Today I am learning to draw, I listen with abandonment to woodwinds and strings, I find life in creating and not in destroying. I forgive my father, and pity him. But I can't tell him about my discovery. That is my greatest sadness.

I spoke earlier in this piece about reincarnation. Some philosophies believe that bad deeds bind you to successive hell-

ish lives. In the Hindu world, this is called Karma. I can't verify that souls leave and come back. But I now know that part of your essence is passed on to successive generations -- and that violence gets passed on the same way. I still endorse self-defence. But the "enemy" I sought to kill in hideous ways for years was me, an aspect of my own make-up. Hesse, yes, one of my favourite authors writes that Siddhartha finally found that love is all. I actually believe that. It's time to leave other people alone and get on with the complementary parts of my personality. From that perspective, the world looks different -- and I am supremely thankful. ☺

Paul John Edge, age 36, has a B.A. in Russian language and literature. He is a veteran of 14 year' commissioned service in the U.S. Army, having served with distinction in Europe and Asia.

I was beaten on the back and tortured at the rack

By a green and vicious monster from the sea,

I was made to swallow sand and burned with fire-brand,

'Till I begged the Lord of Death to set me free.

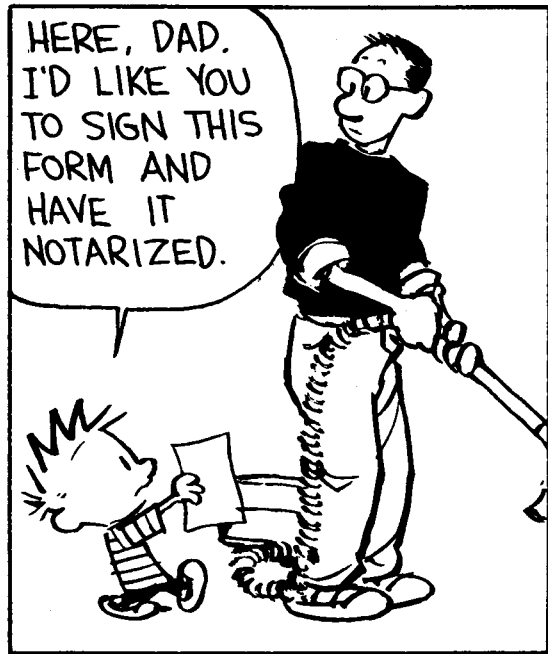
I was stricken on the head 'till the blood poured rich and red,

But that was not the worst of it you see.

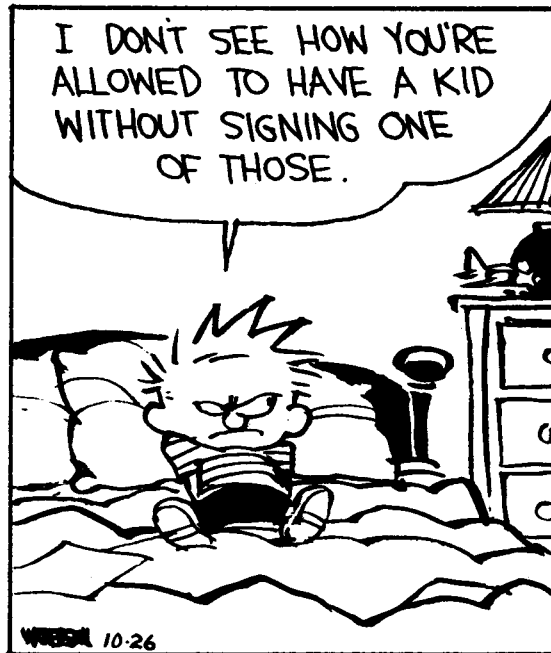
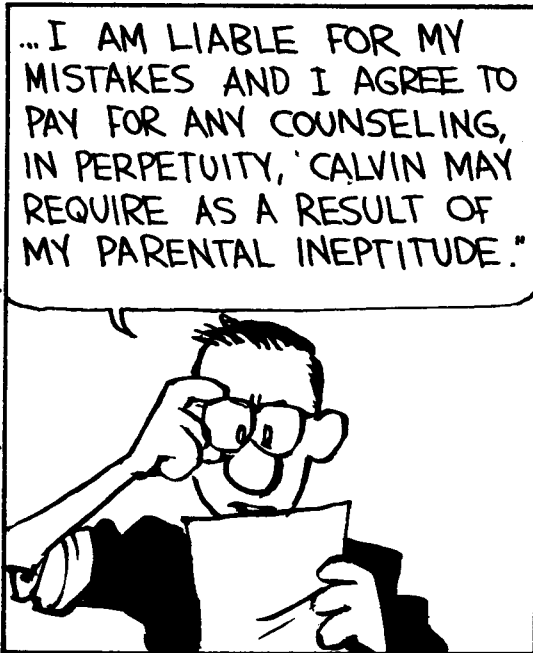
The horror of it all was when I looked and saw

That the monster with the whip in hand was me.

Written by a 17 year old patient in
Ontario's Maximum security mental hospital



"I, THE UNDERSIGNED DAD, ATTEST THAT I HAVE NEVER PARENTED BEFORE, AND INsofar AS I HAVE NO EXPERIENCE IN THE JOB,...



A Proposal to Prime Minister Cretien on Behalf of Crime Prevention

Dear Mr. Chrétien

The gist of what I have to say about crime prevention is that we need to have a focus that is not on crime prevention. We need to focus on building a nation of citizens who can live cooperatively and affectionately with one another.

I think that's an achievable goal if we set ourselves to do it. I think other approaches to crime prevention simply will not work because they do not deal with the fundamental problems. What fundamental problems? We have a society that does next to nothing (compared to what could be done) to help parents nurture their children, and we have a society that encourages and rewards envy, selfishness and greed.

We should set ourselves in a concerted way to effect two changes. First, to see that each new child that's born has its emotional needs met -- so that it will develop the *capacity* for trusting and affectionate relationships. Secondly, shift our society to one that deliberately aims at rewarding and enhancing affectionate behaviour and a sense of communion among its citizens.

As an approach to crime prevention, that probably sounds like the visionary dream of an idealist. I think it's more visionary and idealistic to believe that crime prevention is possible without achieving these two objectives.

I believe that the present measures to control crime are going to be more and more necessary during the next fifteen years, though ever more obviously inadequate. We could change that. All we have to do is begin to put in place programs aimed at the two objectives of

which I have spoken: To nurture all new children adequately (at least during their first three years), and to shift our entire culture to one which aims at enhancing the affection among us. These two initiatives will not only result in a progressive reduction in crime over the next 15 years, but build a nation of citizens living cooperatively and affectionately with one another.

By taking such bold initiatives we would also be holding out a light to other nations, and in the doing, have an impact in the world out of all proportion to our population.

More Hands and More Voices to the "Parenting Industry" ¹

Corporations keep complaining, correctly, that the young workers who present themselves on their doorsteps are undertrained. A large part of what they mean is a deficiency of character and an inability to control impulses, defer gratification and commit to the task at hand. If businesses would co-operate with parents to make it easier for them to earn a living and attend to their children, the corporate pay-offs would be more than approbation: They would gain a labour force that is much better able to perform. The community, too, would benefit, by having members who are not merely more sensitive to one another and more caring but also more likely to contribute to the commonweal. Last, but not least, parents would discover that while there are some failures despite the best intentions and strongest dedication, and while there are

no guarantees or refunds in bringing up children, by and large you reap what you sow. If people dedicate a part of their lives to their kids, they are likely to have sons and daughters who will make them proud and fill their old age with love.

The community - that is, all of us - suffers the ill effects of absentee parenting. According to a study by social scientist Jean Richardson and her colleagues, for example, eighth grade students who took care of themselves for 11 or more hours a week were twice as likely to be abusers of controlled substances (that is, to smoke marijuana or tobacco or to drink alcohol) as those who were actively cared for by adults. "The increased risk appeared no matter what the sex, race or socioeconomic status of the children," Richardson and her associates noted. And students who took care of themselves for 11 or more hours per week were one-and-a-half to two times more likely "to score high on risk-taking, anger, family conflict and stress" than those who did not care for themselves, a later study by Richardson and her colleagues found.

Travis Hirschi reports in *Causes of Delinquency* that the number of delinquent acts, as reported by the children themselves, was powerfully influenced by the children's attachment to the parents. The closer the mother's supervision of the child, the more intimate the child's communication with the father, and the greater the affection between child and parents, the less the delinquency. Even when the father held a low-status job, the stronger the child's attachment to him, the less the delinquency. Other factors also contributed to delinquency, such as whether the child did well in and liked school, but these factors were themselves affected by family conditions.

Other studies point to the same

conclusions.

Gang warfare in the streets, massive drug abuse, and poorly committed work force, and a strong sense of entitlement and a weak sense of responsibility are, to a large extent, the product of poor parenting. True, economic and social factors play a role. But a lack of effective parenting is a major cause, and the other factors could be handled more readily if we remained committed to the importance of the upbringing of the young. The fact is, in poor neighbourhoods one finds decent and hard-working youngsters right next to antisocial ones. Likewise, in affluent suburbs one finds antisocial youngsters right next to decent, hard-working ones. The difference is often a reflection of the homes they come from.

The Psychopath's Favourite Playground: Business Relationships ²

"Uninvolved with others, he coolly saw into their fears and desires, and manoeuvred them as he wished. Such a man might not, after all, be doomed to a life of scrapes and escapades ending ignominiously in the jailhouse. Instead of murdering others, he might become a corporate raider and murder companies, firing people instead of killing them, and chopping up their functions rather than their bodies."

Up until the early 1987 Wall Street woes involving insider trading, white-collar crime was largely not something we focused upon. Certainly, the "penalties" administered in the business world are far less severe than those for "blue-collar" crimes." As Houston Police Chief Lee Brown reports in the book *Crimewarps*, "Police do not devote their efforts to get the white-collar criminal. The crimes we devote our efforts to are

...cruelty to the young appears to be a rare occurrence outside of the human race.

the ones the public is more concerned about -- street crimes. I don't foresee that changing."

Of course, the consequences to the average citizen from business crimes are staggering. As criminologist Georgette Bennett says, "They account for nearly 30% of case filings in U.S. District Courts -- more than any other category of crime. The combined burglary, mugging and other property losses induced by the country's street punks come to about \$4 billion a year. However, the seemingly upstanding citizens in our corporate board rooms and the humble clerks in our retail stores bilk us out of between \$40 and \$200 billion a year."

Concern here is that the costume for the new masked sanity of a psychopath is just as likely to be a three-piece suit as a ski mask and a gun. As Harrington says, "We also have the psychopath in respectable circles, no longer assumed to be a loser." He quotes William Krasner as saying, "They -- psychopath and part psychopath -- do well in the more unscrupulous types of sales work, because they take such delight in 'putting it over on them', getting away with it -- and have so little conscience about defrauding their customers." Our society is fast becoming more materialistic, and success at any cost is the credo of many businessmen. The typical psychopath thrives in this kind of environment and is seen as a business "hero". Authors Norman Mailer and Michael Glenn recognized the

increasing presence of this type of individual in society and have warned that this Trust Bandit may be better adapted to meet the goals we have now set for ourselves in defining "success."

The Diseases of Non-Attachment ³

...The distinguishing characteristic of the diseases of non-attachment is the incapacity of the person to form human bonds. In personal encounter with such an individual there is an almost perceptible feeling of intervening space, of remoteness, of "no connection". The life histories of people with such a disease reveal no single significant human relationship. The narrative of their lives reads like a vagrant journey with chance encounters and transient partnerships. Since no partner is valued, any one partner can be exchanged for any other, in the absence of love, there is no pain in loss. Indeed, the other striking characteristic of such people is their impoverished emotional range. There is no joy, no grief, no guilt, and no remorse. In the absence of human ties, a conscience cannot be formed; even the qualities of self-observation and self-criticism fail to develop...

...Some of these men and women are to be found in institutions for the mentally ill, a good many of them are part of the floating populations of prisons. A very large number of them have settled inconspicuously in the disordered landscape of a slum, or a carnie show, or underworld enterprises, where the absence of human connections can afford vocation and specialization. For the women among them, prostitution affords professional scope for the condition of emotional deadness. Many of them marry and produce children, or produce children and do not marry. And because tenderness or even obligatory pa-

rental postures were never a part of their experience, they are indifferent to their young, or sometimes "inhumanly cruel", as we say, except that cruelty to the young appears to be a rare occurrence outside of the human race.

A good many of these hollow men remain anonymous in our society. But there are conditions under which they rise from anonymity and confront us with dead unsmiling faces. The disease of emotional poverty creates its own appetite for powerful sensation. The deadness within becomes the source of an intolerable tension - quite simply, I think, the ultimate terror of non-being, the dissolution of self. The deadness within demands at times powerful psychic jolts in order to affirm existence. Some get their jolts from drugs. Others are driven to perform brutal acts...

...But if I have emphasized the potential for crime and violence in this group, I do not wish to distort the picture. A large number of these men and women distinguish themselves in no other way than their attitude of indifference to life and an absence of human connections...

...They become, of course, the permanently unattached men and women of the next generation. But beyond this, we have made an extraordinary and sobering discovery. An unattached child, even at the age of three or four, cannot easily attach himself even when he is provided with the most favourable conditions for the formation of a human bond. The most expert clinical workers and foster parents can testify that to win such a child, to make him care, to become important to him, to be needed by him, and finally to be loved by him, is the work of months and years. Yet all of this, including the achievement of a binding love for a partner, normally takes place, without psychiatric consultation, in ordinary homes, and

with ordinary babies, during the first year of life...

We have a society that does not even attempt to reward or enhance the affection among us. There is an absence of any encouragement to live by those values. In sharp contrast what we live with is an incessant and pervasive bombardment of the values of consumerism: envy, selfishness and greed.

What *Could* Be Done to Help Parents Nurture Their Children

Our model of prevention has focused on trying to detect the next mass murderer (and lesser variants) at a young age and provide treatment early.

The notion of spotting the problems early and treating them then has been the traditional approach and is still the approach, because one can measure cost efficiency more clearly if you pick a high-risk group and pour in the service. I think it's a model that is flawed. It has great popularity because there's a lobby for it and it gives everyone the feeling that something is being done about 'the problem', and the only impediment to solving 'the problem' is the shortage of resources.

Unfortunately, there is no lobby for the children that will be born next year.

I don't think you can pick off the Clifford Olsons or the Hillside Stranglers of the next decade at a young age. You may be able to, but many kids you'd pick off who show symptoms at that age will not go on to be Clifford Olsons or Marc Lepines and no-one can tell which ones will. If your plan is to pour resources into treating all of them, there will never be enough treatment resources, let alone the money to pay them. Twenty-five percent of five year old boys in Montreal are

The Canadian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

The basic premise of CSPCC is that the worst of all possible cruelties is to inflict permanent emotional damage on another human being.

Given the evidence that such permanent emotional damage can be inflicted relatively easily during the very early years of life, our concern is with ignorance of, or indifference to, the emotional needs of very young children.

By permanent emotional damage we do not mean only the psychological illnesses of adults which are recognized as having their roots in early childhood. More importantly we mean the less recognizable and measurable deficient capacities for trust, empathy, and affection.

To prevent such permanent emotional damage, the CSPCC is working toward higher status for parenting, greater support for parents with young children, increased emphasis on trust, empathy and affection in the adult world, and vastly improved preparation for parenthood.

By preparation for parenthood we mean that, prior to the age when conception is a possibility, both girls and boys should understand and appreciate:

- The permanent emotional damage that can result if the emotional needs of a young child are not met,
- The ways in which our appetite for consumer goods and services can become so insatiable by the time children are conceived, that satisfaction of consumer cravings and status and careerism based on these are easily rationalized as having a higher priority than nurturing one's children,
- That remaining childless may be the most sensible option, given one's interests and priorities,
- That any parent who feels inadequate or inferior is handicapped in providing optimal child nurture; thus, prevailing patterns of arbitrary male dominance threaten the well-being of children, while mutual support and respect between parents enhance their child-rearing abilities,
- The meaning and significance of empathic parenting, namely: being willing and able to "put oneself into one's child's shoes" in order to correctly identify the child's feelings, and being willing and able to behave toward the child in ways which take those feelings into account,
- That empathic parenting takes an enormous amount of time and energy and fully involves both parents in a co-operative, sharing way,
- The importance of a father who is able to relate to his wife and child in a non-arbitrary, co-operative, empathic way,
- The wrong reasons for having children: proving one's masculinity or femininity, making or patching up a marriage or relationship, having a son and heir, having a weapon to use against the other parent, obtaining the love and affection one has been unable to get from the adult world, fulfilling a need to dominate and control,
- The permanent damage to the child that can result from poor nutrition, poor health, inadequate medical care, and substance abuse during pregnancy,
- The birthing practices which facilitate attachment, bonding and engrossment of babies, mothers and fathers,
- Up to date knowledge of early human development to the greatest extent possible for their age,
- The importance of breast-feeding and child-led weaning,
- The potential dangers inherent in the care of infants and toddlers by changing, shared, hired substitutes,
- The greatly increased difficulty in meeting the emotional needs of infants and toddlers that are closely spaced,
- The need for a network of relatives, friends and organizations such as playgroups, which enable parents to share with other mothers and fathers the stresses, the hard work and the joys that are an inevitable part of the empathic care of infants and toddlers.

If Our Credo Makes Sense to You...

- Join the CSPCC to:** Strengthen an organization that is dedicated to a renewed emphasis on the values of Trust, Empathy and Affection.
- Join the CSPCC to:** Learn more about the prevention of emotional damage: better preparation for parenthood, greater concern for proper care during pregnancy, birthing practices which facilitate bonding, attachment and engrossment, a higher priority for the empathic care of infants and toddlers, higher status for mothering and breast-feeding, greater awareness of the potential difficulties of closely spaced children and stronger community support for parents with young children.
- Join the CSPCC to:** Keep in touch with others who share these concerns by receiving the Society's quarterly journal **EMPATHIC PARENTING.**

Snug Like Alcoholics in a Brewery

Physical violence against little children is easy. A small skull crushes like a cardboard box.

Psychological violence, the perversion of small minds, is easier still and much safer for the criminal. The damage is not seen until years later, when the victim cannot remember what hit him, even if he knew in the first place.

A perverted mind, either in a child or an adult, does not mean a peculiar mind. Perverted means what most of us become. Perverted means lacking in trust, empathy and affection.

We daily suffer and inflict commonplace inhumanities, most importantly upon our children.

For the first time in history, we have certain knowledge of the means whereby the capacity for trust, empathy and affection can be shattered in the first three years of life.

This knowledge is timely because the means to destroy each other is at hand as never before. Quite apart from the question of whether or not trust, empathy and affection are better than mistrust, indifference and hate, the world will not survive many more generations of suspicious, hardened, affectionless individuals. If we are not to die, we are to change. Our survival depends upon the care of our children. They will drop the bombs, release the germs, use the poisons or not.

Nothing can be more urgent. It cannot be postponed.

Even if this means abandoning most of the institutions, habits and beliefs we now cherish, snug like alcoholics in a brewery.

Michael Mason
Founding Member of the CSPCC
April 1975

Our model of prevention has focused on trying to detect the next mass murderer (and lesser variants) at a young age and provide treatment early.

already identified and destined to become antisocial dropouts.

The other problem with early identification of high-risk cases is that your treatment doesn't always work. I've examined a kid who killed two people, and his family was in therapy before he was born. Besides all that, you can't force treatment on a family who doesn't want it just because you're sure they're child (and the parents) need it.

I think we have to change our vision to look at the culture at large – at every child born, and get away from only targetting the high-risk groups. We have to change that vision.

It is a very different approach to decide that every child in Canada is going to have its needs met.

These society-wide programs or the templates for them exist.

For example: parenting education programs running from kindergarten to grade eight operating in some school systems. There is no reason why every boy and girl, by the time he or she is biologically able to conceive children, can't have at least a thorough intellectual understanding of what is required to raise a healthy child.

For example: The Canadian Association of Toy Libraries and Parent Resource Centres and The Ontario Association of Family Resource Programs have some 500 family resource programs. Superb, but not nearly enough. Centres where a parent with a preschool child is welcome and catered to. Centres where parents can meet other parents, share in-

formation, have fun, learn of other community resources.

For example: Many changes could be made in the tax system to encourage quality in the care of children, rather than quantity.

Penelope Leach ('Britain's Dr. Spock') has been writing and speaking for fifteen years about the specific changes needed for a more child friendly society. Her first book *Who Cares?* in 1979 has sixty pages of detailed plans for immediate help for families, and twenty-two pages of long-term plans. Time magazine (May 9/94) gave a two page spread about her latest book *CHILDREN FIRST What our society must do – and is not doing – for our children today* in which she gives chapter and verse on what to do and how to do it: "ideas that *have* been instituted, somewhere, sometime, for a few people, *and they worked.*"

And the cost? "...we could do all that for all children out of beer and cigarette money..."

What we need to do is to reward and empower parents to nurture their children. The vision to do it nationally, for all parents, for all children, rather than for the high-risk people is not there.

We're fixing breakdown products while we're maintaining a system that ensures us a steady supply of new breakdown products. The system ignores what it does that produces breakdown products. That's the problem. So if we don't turn off the tap and attempt to think 15 years down the road we will have a steady stream of new 15-year old disturbed kids

coming along every year.

But if we ask ourselves "What can we do for every baby that's born in Canada a year from now?" If we make a high priority of meeting the emotional needs of *all* children, and supporting *all* parents in the myriad inexpensive ways that that is possible, we would see the results in the kind of 15-year olds we will have 15 years from now.

Those of us who are therapists, who can see the pathology of a sick society most clearly in its victims, seldom have the time, the energy or the guts to indict what's wrong with society, what's not rewarded, what ought to be rewarded. We plod on, treating case after case, with big caseloads, and live out our lives fixing the breakdown products without venturing into the more dangerous political or sociological territory. What I'm saying is that for many reasons we can no longer afford the "luxury" of that approach. It will not work to just continue fixing breakdown products.

I think it's the crime prevention people who are going to be first in our society to say, okay, we're going to shift the model. I don't think it's going to be the Children's Aid Societies although they would agree with you, or the child psychiatrists, although they would agree with you; it's going to be the people who worry about how many people are getting robbed and raped, and how they can't stop it.

In light of the increase in crime levels in this country, it is not surprising that a number of witnesses⁴ expressed the view that traditional policing methods work imperfectly. And the point was made that increases in police resources, both human and financial, can not keep up with increases in crime rates.

A recent Statistics Canada report

reveals that the number of police officers in Canada has doubled since the 1960's, while Criminal Code offences reported to the police were five times greater. Total operating expenditures for police services, which account for the largest proportion of justice expenditures, were \$5.3 billion in 1991. Lorrain Audy, President of the Quebec Association of Police and Fire Chiefs and Director of the Hull Police Force, expressed his view of increased police workloads and limited resources:

We have hit a plateau. Public security costs can't keep on increasing. The crime rate won't decrease if we increase the number of police officers.

What we need are approaches to prevention that are global, that target all of society.

If you think you and I are all right, and it's just the uncaring parents and the criminals we have to do something about, then how do you explain the amount of pain in all Canadians, not just the obviously disturbed. What about the pillars of society, like the provincial cabinet minister who was convicted of hiring someone to kill his wife? And it won't tax anyone's mind to think of many more examples of crime by "good" guys. Why so much white collar crime? Why such a ready market for stolen goods. Why so much prejudice, bigotry, sexism, racism.

If we are all so OK why so much alcohol consumed? Why such a need for tobacco? Why so many tranquilizers, antidepressants and sleeping pills? Why so much psychosomatic illness?

Why such a demand for pot, for hash, for cocaine?

Why the third highest youth suicide rate in the world?

To quote Newt Gingrich's most memorable line: It is impossible to main-

tain civilization with 12-year olds having babies, with 15-year olds killing each other, with 17-year olds dying of AIDS and with 18-year olds endig up with diplomas they can't even read." His solutions would appear to be quite different from what is being said here.

Is This a Culture We Can Afford to be Complacent About? ⁵

...Finally, we must consider our economy, increasingly gambling its success or failure on consumption by the instalment plan. Has anyone since Veblen asked what would happen to such an economy if the masked neurotic ingredients in human nature were by sudden magic to be eliminated?... Consider the exploitation of hypochondriasis through the drug houses and even our more elite publishing houses. Take also the endless whetting of consumer craving, the exploitation of the "gimmies" of childhood by transmuted them into the "gimmies" of adult life. Consider the ministering to neurotic needs through size and power: the knight of old replaced by Casper Milquetoast in General Motors armour, complete with chromium, unneeded size, unused seating capacity, and a pointless illegal, and unusable capacity for speed. Or consider the search for happiness anywhere else than where one is, whether it is an adolescent with his hot-rod, or the travel industry selling vacations on the instalment plan.

To repeat, what would happen to our economy if we were to get well? And what does the exploitation of neurosis by so many forces in our culture do to the neurotic process itself? **Is this a culture that breads health?** Is this a culture that we can afford to be complacent about? Or have we allowed the enormous creative potential of private enterprise to be

The crime rate won't decrease if we increase the number of police officers.

enslaved to neurotic processes...

Lest we think that I am singling out our culture, our economy for attack, I repeat that I do not believe that human ingenuity has yet devised any political or economic system that does not exploit, intensify, and reward much that is neurotic (potentially even psychotic) in human nature. If the profit-driven economies exploit subtle manifestations of neurotic self-indulgence and short-term needs, so do totalitarian systems, whether Fascist or Communist, exploit power needs and power fantasies in an even more primitive fashion, rewarding the sadistic lusts and the paranoid components of human nature...

A Sense of Communion ⁶

By "Sense of Communion" is meant essentially the feeling of ease, comfort and at-homeness with other people. It implies all that is comprised by the time-honoured term "empathy" in its positive aspects, without any taint of stress, anxiety or tension communicated from one person to another. It is interpersonal in its reference, and reflects the joy and satisfaction of "shared-experience."

Many of the words and phrases which reflect the core-values of society and of culture are in reality based upon true communion, words like "family", "home", "hearth", for example. The French word "foyer" is artistic in this regard, and therefore untranslatable. It means more than a mere sense of belonging, since "belonging" may be experienced as "being accepted" -- for reasons of so-

cial obligation only, paternalism or custom. It means more than "being acceptable" — for reasons that imply acceptability to an established group, with the further implication that while we might not have met the standards for that group, somehow or other we have...

Communion is a felt partnership, despite all social symbols of prestige, such as age, professional or other status, or "authority"...

The principle of communion is basic, without reference to any age, racial or other differential.

Think about the degree, now, of an individual's sensitivity to communion, and of the degree to which any social situation (such as your work arrangements), takes this important aspect of society into consideration.

In terms of the development of human beings, according to their own needs as persons, I would put this first-stated need as first. Without a sensitivity to communion, the human being is not.

Various members of your entourage will show differing degrees of interest in communion. You must expect this. An honest interest in fostering Communion, as first requisite of decent progressive human relationships, is basic to any organization of people, whether it be family, school, community, factory or office; in any society.

It's clear that you're trying to create a Canada in which all things serve to enhance the affection among us, then you ask some pretty blunt questions about violence in entertainment for example. And blunt questions about myriad other activities — activities whose sole justification is that they are making money for someone. The problem is that they are also encouraging envy, selfishness and greed at best,

indifference to, theft from or violence to others at worst.

What *Could* Be Done to Enhance the Affection Among Us — to give us all a Sense of Communion

There is expertise available to help us enhance the affection among us, to help us all to develop more mutually satisfying, affectionate relationships with one another. That expertise is there, and the Coca-Cola Company and Molson's Breweries know how to use it very effectively. I refer of course to marketing strategies in general, and more specifically what has become known as societal marketing.

That expertise could be used, if you wanted it to, to nudge us all towards a way of life that is kindlier and more supportive of cooperative behaviour than the one we have now.

The problem is that the marketing experts who are so skilful they can even get us to buy stuff that is totally useless and/or harmful are not being hired to encourage us all to do the things we ought to do, know we ought to do, but never quite find the time to do. Who else but government, with its mandate to better the lives of all citizens has so big a stake in achieving what can be achieved this way. The problem itself is not that difficult. The problem lies in making the decision to do it. Social marketing is quite capable of changing values and priorities.

What would be the effect for example if during the Grey Cup game or the Super Bowl you saw a 30-second ad about the value of prenatal care, or breast-feeding, or fathering? Marketing experts are skilled at getting us to value and pay ridiculous prices for ridiculous things. And not just pay the money, but spend ridiculous amounts of time to earn that money.

Or steal it. Or in worst case as we have seen, kill for it -- a pair of running shoes given high status through "effective" marketing. Turn those experts loose on things that people in their hearts want, and they'll have us doing it. I don't think I'm naive in that. Coca-cola does not spend \$100,000 on an ad as a charitable operation. It pays. It works. Advertising can create a need or a desire in people to do what the makers of those ads want us to do. If you turn social marketing people loose with the objectives I'm talking about: to create a society that will enhance the affection among us and create a society in which parents will want to nurture their children, they'll do it. They know how to do it, and they'll make us want to do it.

Parents do want to nurture their children, but they get next to no help or encouragement to do that presently, and enormous pressure to do other things.

In my visionary moments I see TV spots that would end with "A message from the Solicitor General of Canada in the interest of Crime Prevention," like the warning on a package of cigarettes.

There's never been any attempt with the energy and ability of every large corporation that advertises to market those values that all of us in our quieter moments know are the real values. I don't think it's an impossible task at all to get us all wanting to be the best we can for each other and our children, rather than drink more Coca-Cola than Pepsi.

I don't pretend to understand how political decisions are made. Engineers like to say that dreams do not make bridges -- but no bridge is made without one. My hope, Mr Chrétien, is that you might be captivated by this dream of tomorrow's Canada. Perhaps particularly you, who

have both the charisma and political expertise to make it the dream of all Canadians. The vision of a nation whose citizens want to live cooperatively and affectionately with one another.

In my apolitical mind I believe you would have a mandate for that vision from every voter in the country. Why? Because we all have a stake in not being afflicted by the costs both personal and financial of all the miseries that are endemic in this society, let alone the fear of being raped or robbed. ☹

Adapted from testimony presented by the CSPCC to the Standing Committee on Justice and the Solicitor General of Mr. Mulroney's government and excerpts adapted from the following:

1. *The Spirit of Community: Rights, Responsibilities and the Communitarian Agenda.* Copyright © 1993 by Amitai Etzioni. Crown Publishers, Inc.

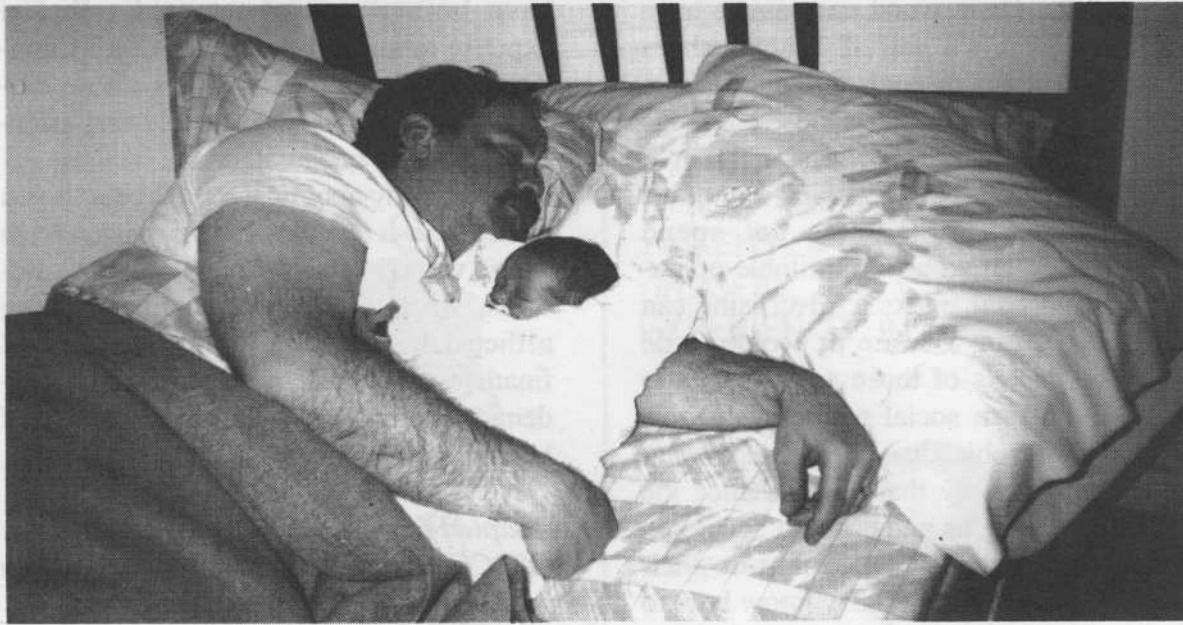
2. *HIGH RISK: Children Without a Conscience*, by Dr. Ken Magid and Carole A. McKelvey. Copyright © 1987 Ken Magid and Carole McKelvey. ISBN 0-553-05290-X Reprinted with permission of Bantam Books, a division of BANTAM, DOUBLEDAY, DELL PUBLISHING GROUP, INC.

3. *Every Child's Birthright: In Defence of Mothering* by Selma Fraiberg. Basic Books Inc., 1977. All rights reserved.

4. *Crime Prevention in Canada: Toward a National Strategy Twelfth Report of the Standing Committee on Justice and the Solicitor General, Dr. Bob Horner, M.P. Chairman. February 1993 page 18.*

5. "The Eagle and The Ostrich" by Lawrence S. Kubie, M.D. Archives of General Psychiatry, Vol. 5, No. 2, August 1961. At the time of writing, Dr. Kubie was on the faculty of the New York Psychoanalytic Institute, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry (Emeritus), Yale University School of Medicine, Director of Training, The Sheppard and Enoch Pratt Hospital, and Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, University of Maryland School of Medicine.

6. *William Line: Professor of Psychology, member of the Senate of the University of Toronto, Consultant to the Canadian Mental Health Association, Consultant to the World Health Organization and to the United Nations secretariat on personnel policies, Consultant to the International Institute of Child Study established by UNESCO, President of the World Federation for Mental Health and President of the Canadian Psychological Association. His main psychological studies are to be found in the learned journals of Canada, the United States, England, France and Germany.*



Dear Ethan:

We were having dinner, just you and I when the phone rang. It was grandma telling me that a dear family friend was in a Calgary hospital and not expected to survive much longer.

As I sat down at the table rather stunned, you looked and said "what's the matter Mommy? What's wrong?" Tears were streaming down my face as I told you about grandma's call.

You immediately put your hand on my shoulder and said "Daddy home soon, it's OK." You jumped off your chair, got kleenex and helped dry my eyes.

You gave me a really big hug and asked if I wanted the blue bear (normally for owies). When I declined you continued to hug me, kiss my tears and remind me that Daddy would be home soon.

When we started to eat, you pulled your placemat and plate right beside mine and climbed onto my lap. With one hand on mine you continued to turn around and give me that wonderful smile of yours (between mouthfuls of dinner).

I told you of my friend who was ill. You listened and supplied kleenex and hugs.

When your dad got home you went running up to him (forgetting your usual big hugs and kisses) announcing "Mommy was crying." You stood quietly as dad comforted me, then joined in for hugs.

Later that evening as you were asleep and all cozy in bed, I stood in the doorway and looked with amazement. Tonight you had acted like a young man and not my 2 1/2 year old little boy. My heart swelled with pride and my eyes with tears as I recalled your actions earlier in the evening.

Your gentle caring manner and concern was such a comfort to me. As life goes on, at times at a rapid pace, it is a joy to acknowledge and remember these special moments.

My wish for you Ethan? Continue to be the caring, sensitive, loving, happy confident boy.

I LOVE YOU SON!

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE DIRECTORS

The CSPCC is a small organization. We don't spend much time fundraising, marketing, analysing our past or projecting our future activities. It's my impression that there is a growing interest in what we have been saying. There just may be "a tide in the affairs of men" (and women), (and children)...

The number of requests for the items we distribute is really quite staggering -- 20,000 Spanking - a short-cut to nowhere... booklets tops the list. Kind of sad in a way -- hitting kids seems so gross a deviation from empathic parenting. More encouraging is the increasing number of requests for the films JOHN and The Importance of Substitute Mothering. They're tough to watch. They're the strongest statement of what needs to happen for kids.

If you're wondering about what looks like a \$6,000 surplus last year -- it's a product of accounting procedures. How I wish we actually had it in the bank! We're getting by -- just -- with a great deal of voluntary help. Postage, costs are a killer.

Our vision remains unaltered: A world in which children, especially infants and toddlers, have their emotional needs met in societies that make that a priority - - societies whose aim is to enhance the affection amongst their citizens.

I often think of Dostoyevsky's "Dream of a Ridiculous Man" -- not the ridiculousness, but the dream. To me there is no other, as Mike Mason so eloquently spells out in the centrefold of each issue of Empathic Parenting.

It always surprises me as each issue of our journal takes shape (usually late!) that there can still be, after about seventy issues, an excitement about its contents. There are more than enough people

out there who express their ideas well that what is basically a reprint journal can easily select articles that freshly and vividly express different aspects of our vision.

To me there are many signs of hope. That may be more a product of my mind than reality but: child abuse, at least in its grosser forms has decreased in the last 2000 years; the rising crime rate has at least the possibility of making voters question some previously unquestionable assumptions about our way of life; the increasingly dangerous religious/tribal conflicts in the world just may force us to look at the "Essential Unity of All Religions" (the subject of a future issue). It is inconceivable to me that Time Magazine (May 9, 1994) would or could have given a two-page spread to Penelope Leach (who writes so lucidly about our vision) even five years ago, let alone ten or twenty.

The final irony? An organization that indicts excessive consumer addiction as a symptom and cause of child neglect has always received the major part of its funding from Canadian Corporations. We tend to ignore the fact that corporations are run by real people -- parents, grandparents, abuse victims in therapy etc. -- people who clearly understand what we are saying and why.

Want to hear more? A group of dedicated golf enthusiasts having fun doing what they love most, and wanting to do something "for kids" while they're doing it, have been our largest single financial supporter for each of the last four years.

A big thank you for the encouragement provided by all those who share our vision -- your letters and phone calls mean a lot.

And a special thanks to all of you who are able and willing to support that vision financially in a big or small way.

Elliott Barker

McCREADY & WHITE

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

P.O. Box 182
288 King St.
Midland, Ontario
L4R 4K8

Telephone (705) 526-5418
Fax (705) 527-0362

AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Directors of
Canadian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

We have audited the balance sheet of Canadian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children as at April 30, 1994, and the statement of financial activities for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the company as at April 30, 1994 and the results of operations for the year then ended, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Midland, Ontario
June 16, 1994

"McCreedy and White"

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

(Incorporated under the laws of Ontario)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT APRIL 30, 1994

| | 1994 | 1993 |
|--|------------------|-----------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT | | |
| Bank | \$ 5,518 | \$ 352 |
| Accounts receivable | 1,551 | 738 |
| Prepaid expenses | <u>787</u> | <u>767</u> |
| | <u>7,856</u> | <u>1,857</u> |
| CAPITAL ASSETS, at cost (Note I (b)) | | |
| | 31,613 | 31,613 |
| Less - accumulated amortization | <u>(25,660)</u> | <u>(24,172)</u> |
| | <u>5,953</u> | <u>7,441</u> |
| | <u>\$ 13,809</u> | <u>\$ 9,298</u> |
| LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | | |
| OPERATING SECTION | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | \$ 1,815 | \$ 1,560 |
| Surplus, operating section | <u>6,041</u> | <u>297</u> |
| | <u>7,856</u> | <u>1,857</u> |
| EQUITY IN CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 1 (b)) | | |
| Balance, beginning of year | 7,441 | 9,302 |
| Less - amortization | <u>(1,488)</u> | <u>(1,861)</u> |
| | <u>5,953</u> | <u>7,441</u> |
| | <u>\$ 13,809</u> | <u>\$ 9,298</u> |

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
OPERATING SECTION - GENERAL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 1994**

| | 1994 | 1993 |
|---|-----------------|---------------|
| SUPPORT | | |
| Membership fees and donations | \$ 34,287 | \$ 30,634 |
| Sale of publications and tapes | 261 | 1,193 |
| Interest and foreign exchange income | 368 | 190 |
| | <u>34,916</u> | <u>32,017</u> |
| EXPENSES | | |
| Equipment operating costs | 607 | 984 |
| GST expense | 557 | 753 |
| Legal and audit | 1,350 | 1,350 |
| Office rent | 6,240 | 6,240 |
| Office and general | 2,388 | 2,219 |
| Postage | 1,389 | 1,971 |
| Public information - brochures and tapes | 4,037 | 6,557 |
| Publication costs - Journal | 7,020 | 3,654 |
| Salaries | 4,227 | 4,116 |
| Telephone | 1,357 | 581 |
| | <u>29,172</u> | <u>28,425</u> |
| NET REVENUE | 5,744 | 3,592 |
| SURPLUS (DEFICIT), beginning of year | 297 | (3,295) |
| SURPLUS, end of year | <u>\$ 6,041</u> | <u>\$ 297</u> |


**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT APRIL 30, 1994**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Society follows generally accepted accounting principles as applied to non-profit organizations which include the following:

- a) Membership fees and donations are taken into revenue in the fiscal year received.
- b) Capital assets are charged to operations in the year acquired. However, to recognize the value of equipment on hand, the equipment is capitalized and amortized on a 20% diminishing balance basis with an offset to "Equity in capital assets".

APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

 Director

 Director

Thank You!

A. George Wakil and Company
Aldergrove Legion
Avco Financial Services
Avon Canada Inc.
Bank of Montreal
Bank of Nova Scotia
Bata Retail
Bell Canada
Border Paving Ltd.
Brass Craft Canada Ltd
Cadbury Beverages Canada Inc.
Canada's Wonderland Limited
Canadian Marconi Company
Canadian Pacific Enterprises Ltd
Cara Operations Limited
Castrol Canada Inc.
Champlain Industries Limited
Chauvco Resources Ltd.
Continental Insurance Mgmt. Ltd.
Corby Distillers Limited
Craig's Machine Shop
Cyanamid Canada Inc.
Encyclopaedia Britannica
Enron Oil Canada Ltd.
F. K. Morrow Foundation
Florence Hallum Prevention Fund
Fundy Gypsum Co. Ltd.
Gendis Inc. and Associate Corps.
Gillett Canada Incorporated
Gold Bar Investments Ltd.
Hollinger Inc.
Horne & Pitfield Foods Ltd.

I.G.A. Canada
Imasco Limited
Imperial Oil Limited
Indal Limited
Jervis B. Webb Company
John Deere Limited
Kingsway Kiwanis Club
Kimberly-Clark Canada Ltd.
McCormick Canada Inc.
McDonald's Restaurants
Minto Foundation Inc.
Moss, Lawson & Co. Ltd.
NEBS Business Forms Limited
Pioneer Hi-Bred Limited
Power Corporation of Canada
Robin Hood Multifoods Inc.
Royal Bank of Canada
Royal Insurance
Schlumberger of Canada
Sony of Canada
The Co-operators
The Equitable Life Insurance Co
The Ontario Jockey Club
The Royal Canadian Legion
The Toronto Dominion Bank
The Toronto Star
Toronto Hydro Employees Fund
UAP Company
Union Gas Limited
United Farmers of Alberta
W.K. Buckley Limited

During the last four years funds totalling

\$20,500

were generously donated to the CSPCC

by

SWING FOR KIDS

an annual invitational golf tournament
organized by

Bruce MacDonald (Allstate Insurance)

David Quibell

Lawrence Finn (Travel Trust International)

Ed McGrath (Quest Courier)

Emilio Tacconelli (Dimensional Media)

**Very special thanks to the many friends and golf enthusiasts
whose help and participation
make this charitable fund-raising event so successful.**

These funds have enabled us to:

Print 13,000 copies of "Spanking -- a short-cut to nowhere"

Print and distribute eight issues of EMPATHIC PARENTING

Send Empathic Parenting to 750 Canadian Secondary Schools

Print 3000 copies of "Motherhood or Career"



Recognizing that the capacity to give and receive trust, affection and empathy is fundamental to being human.

Knowing that all of us suffer the consequences when children are raised in a way that makes them affectionless and violent, and;

Realizing that for the first time in History we have definite knowledge that these qualities are determined by the way a child is cared for in the very early years.

CREDO



WE BELIEVE THAT:

- The necessity that every new human being develop the capacity for trust, affection and empathy dictates that potential parents re-order their priorities with this in mind.
- Most parents are willing and able to provide their children with the necessary loving empathic care, given support from others, appropriate understanding of the task and the conviction of its absolute importance.
- It is unutterably cruel to permanently maim a human being by failing to provide this quality of care during the first three years of life.

THERE IS AN URGENCY THEREFORE TO:

- Re-evaluate all our institutions, traditions and beliefs from this perspective.
- Oppose and weaken all forces which undermine the desire or ability of parents to successfully carry out a task which ultimately affects us all.
- Support and strengthen all aspects of family and community life which assist parents to meet their obligation to each new member of the human race.