



Caring Through the Years

The Society's mission, purpose, goals and objectives have evolved over 125 years, but what has remained from the original constitution of 1893 is a steadfast commitment to the safety and well-being of children, youth and families.

"It is only because of CAS that I am able to turn my life around. I really appreciate the support they provided." – service recipient

"They helped me over Christmas. I was a Crown Ward. I have no family of my own. If you guys are there, I feel that I have family. You know my past, and still don't judge me." – former Crown Ward

"My workers listened to me without judging. They didn't make opinions based on my situation. They understood my situation and I felt comfortable when they visited my home." – service recipient

"My worker was amazing. The most important thing is that when I was at my lowest and really needed somebody, she was there. I don't know who could have helped me if it hadn't been for them. My son is safe today because of her." – service recipient



"I feel like a team member and that I am able to make a difference in children's lives." – care provider

"The CAS does its best, in my opinion, to foster dreams while always making every effort to honour and respect everyone...I love being part of this." – volunteer driver



"It was scary and embarrassing to seek help of public services for parenting our daughter. You feel very inadequate as a parent when you seek help. But CAS was very helpful. They led us in right direction and we were able to keep our daughter safe. She was running away from home and we didn't know where to turn to. We really needed support and CAS was able to provide that." – family service recipient

© 2018

THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF LONDON & MIDDLESEX

Est. 1893

November 13, 2018

Children's Aid Society of London Opens Its Doors

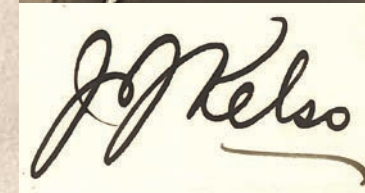
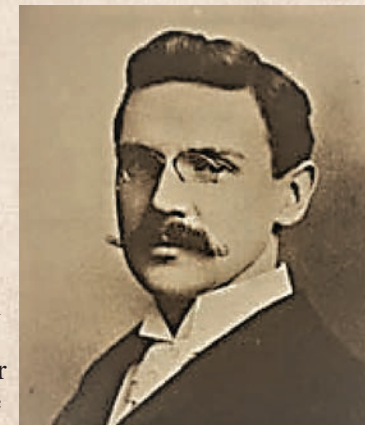
The nature of Canadian society as a whole was changing, which was most apparent in Ontario cities and towns. There was an increase in concern for the plight of children needing to be "saved" or "rescued" and a growing conviction that better provisions for their welfare must be made.

A new philosophy about children, their nature and how they should ideally be raised was emerging. Children who suffered the loss of their parents or who were born out of wedlock or whose parents were unable to deal with the problems of life in the industrial towns and cities faced numerous hazards. Increasing numbers of children were reported to be growing up virtually uncared for and with little prospect of becoming "useful members" of the community.

On November 5, 1893, John Joseph Kelso, Superintendent of Neglected Children for Ontario, visited London. Kelso was a man of vision and strong opinions. In his early twenties, Kelso was a newspaper reporter in Toronto who was concerned about the cruel treatment of horses and donkeys on the streets. He was equally if not more disturbed by the plight of newsboys of tender years, homeless, ill-clothed and ill-fed. Although Kelso initiated measures for improving the condition of animals, he soon found himself devoting more effort towards improved conditions for delinquent and destitute children. Kelso came to symbolize and personify child welfare in Ontario for the next fifty years.

On November 13, 1893, London's Mayor Essery convened a public meeting of concerned citizens. Kelso addressed the meeting with his persuasive rhetoric about child saving work and the need for good Christian homes for destitute, deprived and abandoned children. Kelso's passionate plea resulted in the passing of the following resolution, "In the opinion of the meeting, it is highly desirable to establish a Society in London similar to that provided for in the Children's Protection Act of Ontario." The Children's Aid Society of London was therefore founded on November 13, 1893. By February 2, 1894 the Society was incorporated under its first constitution.

The first staff member of the Children's Aid Society of London, known as the Inspector, was Mr. Joseph Sanders who also had temporary duties as Secretary. The first annual report indicated that he oversaw 40 families, with a total of 90 children. He continued as Inspector for just over twenty-five years. His involvement in the lives of children and their parents became legendary. Letters indicate his strong advocacy for the proper placement and care of children.



Per the Constitution, the new Society had the following general purposes and objectives:

- To protect children from cruelty;
- To care for and protect neglected, abandoned or orphaned children;
- To provide such children as may be lawfully committed or entrusted to the Society with suitable homes in private families;
- To watch over and guard their interests and promote their happiness and well-being;
- To secure the enforcement of laws relating to neglected and dependent children or juvenile offenders and generally to advocate the claims of neglected, abandoned or orphaned children upon the sympathy and support of the public.

The Children's Aid Society is incorporated under the "Children's Protection Act of Ontario."

It assumes the guardianship of all dependent and neglected children.

Its officers enquire into all cases of juvenile depravity and endeavor to find a remedy.

Its Officers have statutory authority to remove all children from surroundings likely to lead them to follow idle, vicious or dissolute lives.

The Society is supported by voluntary contributions, and any money, food or clothing forwarded to the Officers as above (City Hall) or sent to the Society's Shelter, 109 Wharncliffe Road, will be very gratefully accepted.

Contributions in food or clothing will be sent for if desired.

The Society endeavors to find eligible foster homes for all children taken under its care.

The Society has statutory power for securing to foster parents the control of children, and such children can, by proper instrument, be made over absolutely to such foster parents.

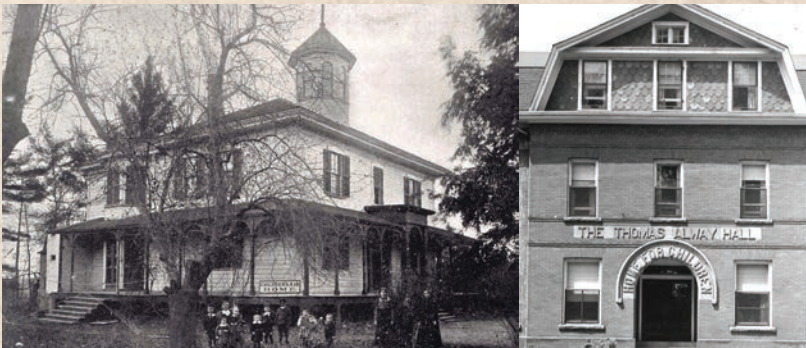
Blank forms of application for children sent on application to the Secretary.

JOSEPH SANDERS,
Secretary and Executive Officers.



1893 - 1945

1893- The Children’s Protection Act came into effect throughout Ontario.
1893- The Children’s Aid Society of London was founded on November 13.
1894- Joseph Sanders was appointed as the first staff person known as Inspector.
1900- The Kent Homestead at 105 Wharncliffe Road South was purchased to be used as the Children’s Aid Society “Shelter.”
1905- The Thomas Always Hall Home for Children opened; over the next 45 years, until 1960, hundreds of children spent time there awaiting “the right home.”



1919- Walter Kelly was appointed Superintendent of the Society.
1920- Ontario Association of Children’s Aid Societies (OACAS) was established.
1921- The Unmarried Parents Act and the Adoption Act were passed, the latter enabling a child to acquire the status of a legal Crown Ward, be adopted and granted rights as a full member of the family.
1923- Fire in The Thomas Always Hall resulted in children being evacuated to neighbours and foster homes; the home was rebuilt, modernized and reoccupied within a few months.
1931- The first Minister of Welfare was appointed.
1934- Free foster care for Society Wards ended. A policy of paying a daily rate was introduced. The 1934 Annual Report indicated the number of children in paid foster homes as 45 and the rate as \$.50 per diem.
1935- Margaret Griffiths of London was appointed to manage the new foster care program. She was the first professionally qualified social worker to be employed by the Society.
1935- The Children’s Aid Society of London and Middlesex replaced the earlier incorporation of the Children’s Aid Society of London.
1939- Fred Cristall was appointed Superintendent following the retirement of Walter Kelly.
1939-1945- The Second World War resulted in much additional work and the placement of a number of “war guests.”

1945 - 1990

1945- The concept of “emotional neglect” was put forward by a keynote speaker at that year’s OACAS Conference.
1947- The Children’s Aid Society occupied new quarters at 164 Albert Street.



1947- The Annual Report indicated 169 children in paid foster homes with the rate of \$.65 per diem.
1962- M.T. O’Brien was appointed as Local Director of the agency. He was expected to “fully modernize” the Society and meet the demands of growth, new legislation and provide a high quality of service.
1965- The new Child Welfare Act provided for expansion of services to children in their own homes and sanctioned preventive work long held to be of primary importance by the Society.
1967- Amalgamation of Children’s Aid Society and Family Service Bureau resulted in expansion of services to families and children under one Board of Directors and unified staff, known as Family and Children’s Services of London and Middlesex.
1970-1980- New programs included specialized family services, community work and group homes.
1978- The Child Welfare Act was revised.
1980- A Volunteer Program was formally established.
1984- The Child and Family Services Act was passed.
1985- John Liston was appointed as Local Director of Family and Children’s Services of London and Middlesex.
1985- The Holiday Giving Campaign was established.
1988- Computer software was custom developed in house and supported by a programmer. Typewriters were predominant and only four computers were in place to process data.

1990 - 2000

1990- The Board voted to revert to the name, the Children’s Aid Society of London and Middlesex (CASLM).
1990- Budget cuts and constraints were introduced by the Social Contract initiated by the NDP government. A number of services were reduced or eliminated because of the dire financial situation.
1992- The Agency had six group home programs in operation, all licensed to accommodate up to seven individuals aged 12-17.
1995- The new building at 1680 Oxford Street East opened.



1998- The Ministry of Community and Social Services spearheaded a comprehensive, three year overhaul of the Child Welfare system known as the Child Welfare Agenda, which included a new funding framework, development and implementation of an Interactive Database for CASs, introduction of the Ontario Risk Assessment Model, improvement to the Foster Care System and amendments to the Child and Family Services Act (CFSA).
1998- The Board of Directors identified a need for more fundraising efforts to support prevention programs.
2000- The CFSA was further amended.
2000- The Battered Women’s Advocacy Clinic and CASLM were leads in developing a provincial training curriculum for staff in the Child Welfare and Violence Against Women Service Sectors.
2000- The Child Welfare Information System launched.

2000 - 2018

2000-2003- Teams at CASLM were redesigned with specific areas of service focus to develop expertise, community relationships and best practice.
2001- The Sisters of St. Joseph established the Bright Futures Bursary Program, affording opportunities for youth in care to access funds for post-secondary education.
2002- Educational strategies were developed to improve the achievements of children receiving Society services.
2002-2003- Several groups were established with Merrymount Children’s Services to improve parental support.
2003- Funding for a Youth in Transition Program was developed and placed in the core budget.
2005- John Liston retired, Jane Fitzgerald was appointed Executive Director (ED).
2006- The Ontario Looking After Children (OnLAC) tool and the PRIDE & SAFE home study assessment and training tools were introduced; eForms Information System launched.
2007- Kinship Service Standards were implemented.
2012- Funding for group programs at the Agency ended.
2015- Jane Fitzgerald retired, Regina Bell was appointed Interim ED.
2016- Chris Steven appointed ED; One Vision One Voice project launched to address the over representation and experiences of disparities faced by Black Canadians coming into contact with the Child Welfare system.
2017- Child and Family Services Act changed to the Child, Youth and Family Services Act and the age of protection increased from 16 to 18 years.



2017- OACAS acknowledged and apologized for the harmful role Child Welfare played in the lives of Ontario Indigenous children, families and communities; CASLM along with the Ontario Child Welfare sector agreed to eight commitments towards Reconciliation.
2018- Youth Response Unit was initiated as the Agency’s commitment to protective services for youth, strengthening their family systems and family based supports.
2018- CPIN (Child Protection Information Network) launched.

Children in Care • Adoptions Completed • Staff Numbers • Annual Funding

