

## **Youth in Gardiner**

On July 16, 2005 the Kennebec Journal printed an article titled Teens stole to have money to eat. This article sparked the concern of in many area citizens and city officials regarding this age group.

On July 19, 2005 another article was printed titled Gardiner angling to feed runaways. This article stated that the community was willing to do what we need to do to support our youth.

On July 19<sup>th</sup> there was meeting between Jeff Kobrock, Jim Toman, Julian Harwood and Ingrid Stanchfield. The focus of this meeting was to discuss what had been printed in the Kennebec Journal and how we could feed the kids. The police stated that food is not the real issue. Kids running away from home, drugs and lack of respect are the real issues we are dealing with. Another meeting was set up to discuss the real issues and who should be involved.

On July 21, 2005 the following people met to discuss the issues youth and community face. Attendee were Jeffery Kobrock (City Manager), Chad Kempton (High School Principal), Jackie Pare (High School Vice-Principal), Pat Gilbert (City Services Director), Anne Davis (Library Director), Julian Harwood (School Resource Officer), Jim Toman(Police Chief), Vicki Lachance (Parent), Tony Guysinger (Youth), Bobbi Ogborn (Youth Probation Officer) and Ingrid Stanchfield (BGCGG Executive Director).

In this meeting we discussed the issues that need to be address:

- Theft
- Repeat offenders
- Lack of respect for adults
- Consequences for behavior
- Early intervention
- Coordinated community service
- Mental Health Issues
- Substance abuse issues
- Parent Support Groups
- Communication
- Violence
- Shelters
- Attendance at school

We discussed what we already have in place and the community and what is missing. What programs would work to turn kids making poor choices in the right direction.

Ingrid stated that we already have a Drug Free Community Support Program grant that is working on strengthening our community coalition. This is a perfect example of the issues the coalition works on.

Julian, Ingrid, Jackie and Bobbi Ogborn will meet with a group of youth on Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss the issues we are all facing. Dinner will be provided. Once we meet with youth we will plan a community wide meeting to discuss the issues and brainstorm solutions.

Tony agreed to invite other youth to the meeting and let Ingrid know if anyone needed a ride.

On July 21,2005 the Kennebec Journal printed an other article entitled Gardiner's hungry teen do have lawful ways to get food.

Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup> meeting was held with youth at the BGCGG.

### **LIST OF CONCERNED COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

Mayor Rines

Jeffrey Kobrock

Jim Toman

Anne Davis

Ingrid Stanchfield

Julian Harwood

Vicki Lachance - Parent

Bobbi Ogborn

Jackie Pare

Chad Kempton

Rebecca Malinowski

Inez Kelley

Kathy Pelletier – Gardiner Food Bank

Matt Hoenshell – Parent

Maggie Smith

Bob White – Business Owner

Pat Hart

Elder and Sister Russell – Substance Abuse Recovery

Sara Shead – Southern Kennebec Healthy Communities

Karen Sparrow – Social Worker, Organic Farmer

Linda Matychowiak – Gardiner Main Street

Holly Stover – DHHS

Chris Landreth – DHHS-Bureau of Family Independence

Tony Veit – Youth Advocate Youth & Family Sevices

Matt Whitt – Christ Church

Jean Dellert

Norma McDonough – Business Owner