

# Rayside Balfour Youth Action Network

*Empowering Youth*

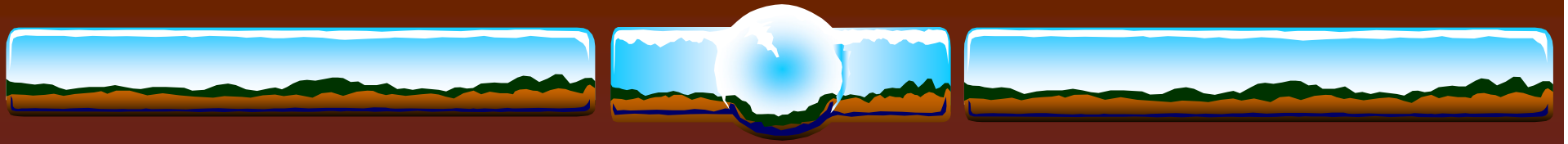




What's in it for us??

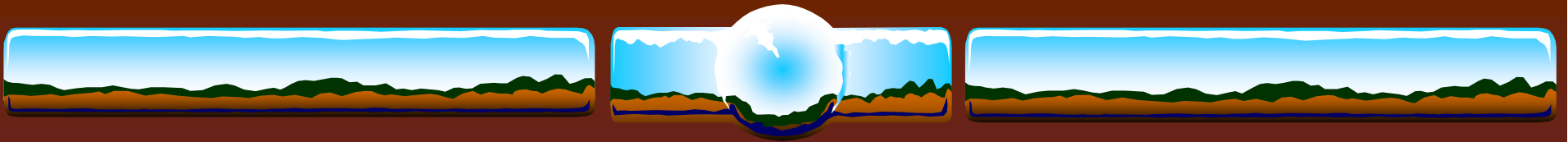
## Rayside Balfour





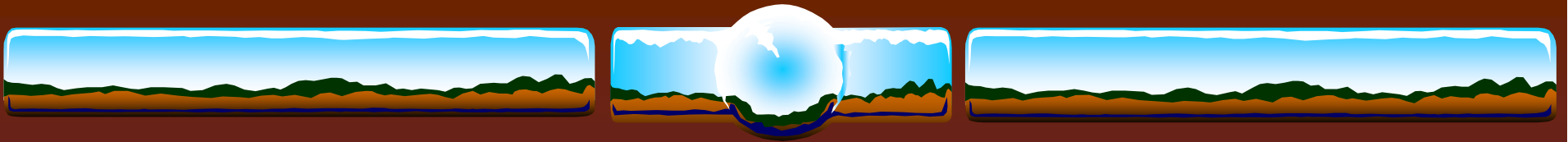
A healthy community is a town or village  
“which is **constantly improving** its  
physical and social environment and  
which, using the resources of the  
community, enables its citizens to help  
each other carry out their daily tasks and  
fully develop their potential.”

**Healthy Communities**  
Trevor Hancock (Founder)



## EMPOWERING YOUTH

- Take a few moments-go back a few years and think about what or who empowered you to take a little risk and do your own thing?
- This is the challenge that we are faced with today?



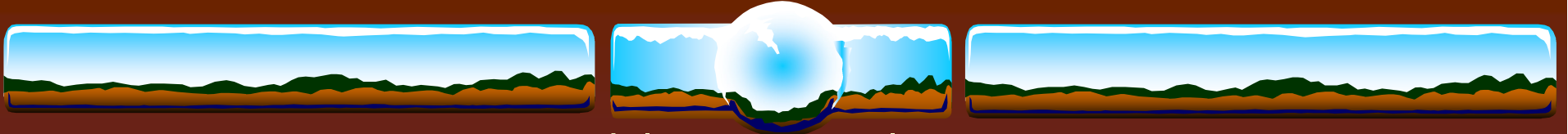
# My, My..... How time's have changed.....

## ● The 50's and 60's

- Chewing Gum
- Not walking single file
- Talking in hallways
- Late after the bell
- Skipping Class
- Wearing jeans
- Singing Presley/Cooper Songs
- Alcohol

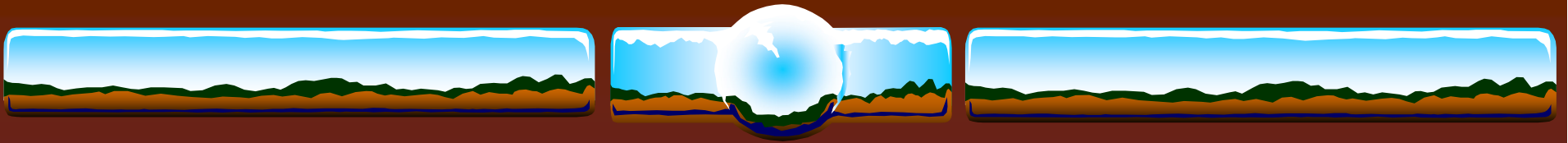
## ● The 2000s

- Alcohol
- Drugs
- Teen Pregnancies
- Suicide
- Guns and Knives
- Mass killings
- HIV/AIDS
- Joblessness
- Types of Crime



## Adolescent Development

- Brain is still developing
- Focus is largely on the "here and now"
- Peer influence and peer acceptance
- Autonomy from family is increasing
- Body image is key to self concept
- **Access to drugs and alcohol is greater**
- **Sense of invincibility often is present**
- **Puberty brings hormonal changes that have physical and social impacts**
- **Sense of identity is being formed/ strengthened**

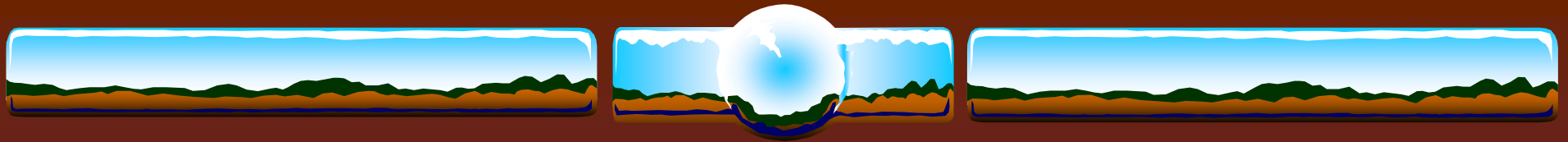


# Why Youth Services??

## Trends and Statistics

- 75,000 youth annually-found guilty court
- Suicides increased 300% from 1965
- 100 teenagers-daily-pregnant in Canada
- 150,000 are homeless
- 190,000 are not in school or working (Youth at Risk-MCCR)

Statistics compiled by Gary Michalak. Stats Can provides for stats info every 10 years.

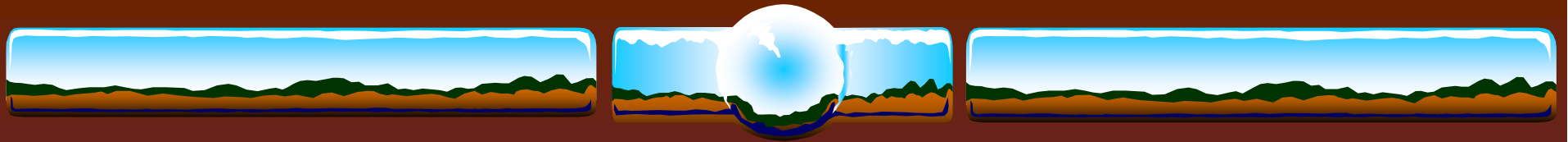


## Can We Afford to Sit Idle?

### ● At Risk Continuum

*Lower Risk ..... Higher Risk*

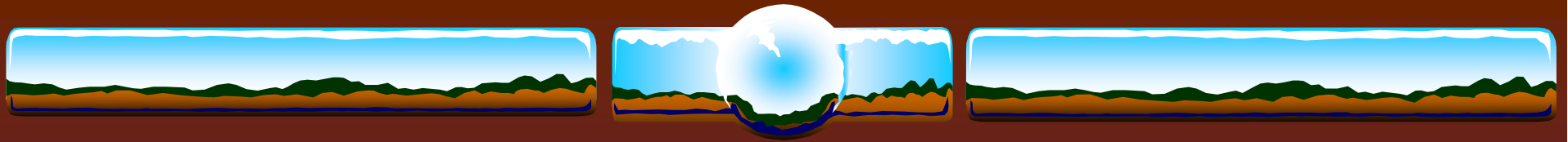
- Exp. Drugs ..... Substance Abuse.....Addiction
- Skipping School .....Chronic Truancy..... Drop Out
- Disobey Curfew ....Run Away..... Homeless
- Depression .....Attempted Suicide
- Unlawful Activity ...Vandalism .....Serious Crime
- Hanging Out .....Gang Involve.....Gang Violence
- Exp. With sex .....Promiscuity .....Prostitution



## Barriers to participation that young people face:

- Lack of money
- Lack of transportation
- Lack of information
- Program Structure
- Gender Bias
- Focus on Adult run programs
- Discrimination
- Lack of family support
- Lack of skills
- Other
- Focus on competitive sport

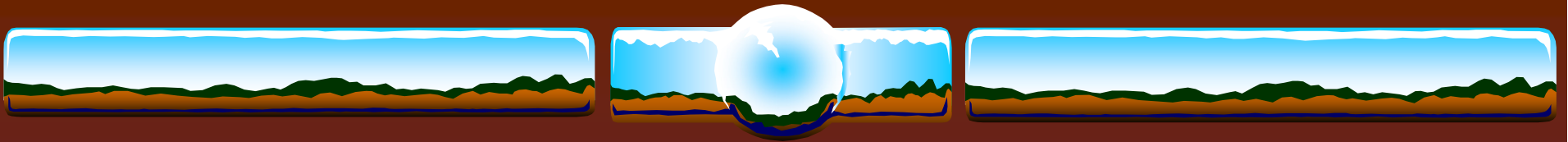
**This is where the Rayside Balfour Youth Action Network  
comes in.....**



# **Youth Action NetWork**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

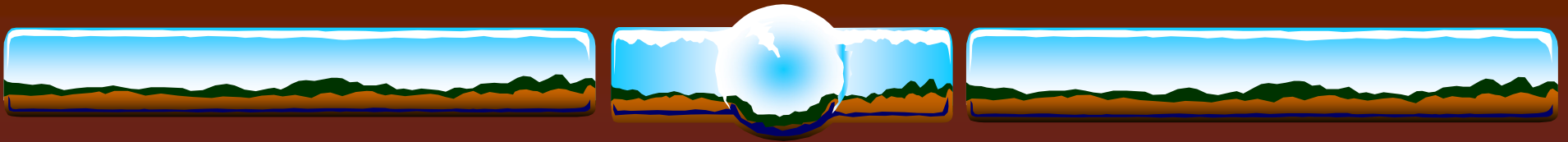
- **The Youth Action NetWork is dedicated to empowering a youth agenda that will ultimately improve the quality of life for the Youth of Rayside-Balfour.**
- **“Creating a Quality Lifestyle for the Youth of Rayside-Balfour.”**



## What Do Youth Really Want?

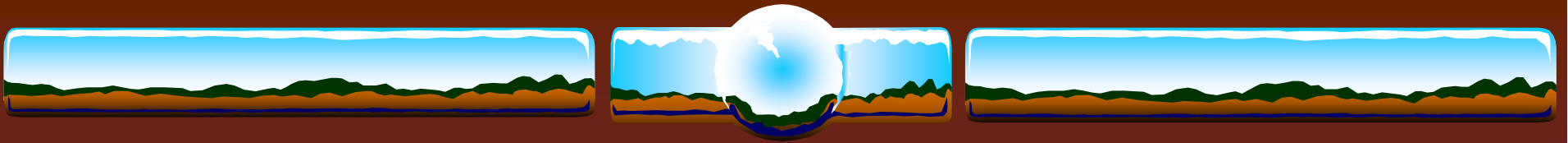
- Drop in Centres
- Variety of Programs
- Employment Opports.
- Education Opports.
- A chance to be heard
- Multi-Cultural Harmony
- A sounding board with peers/staff
- Improved family situations
- Change of Adult attitudes
- Positive Role Models
- Provide for less fortunate
- A safe environment
- A voice

CITED FROM A YOUTH VISIONING EXERCISE WITH G. MICHALAK



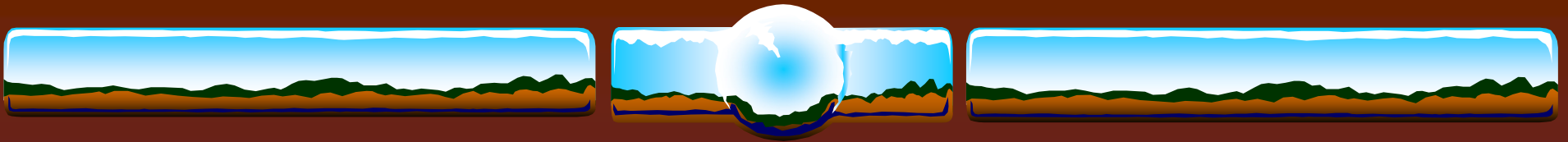
## How does the Centre meet the needs of youth and community?

- According to the 'Child and Youth Poverty In Sudbury Study' by Dr. Adje vande Sand, 1999, "the percentage of poor children under the age of 18 in Rayside-Balfour was 23.6%". This was higher than the Provincial rate of 19%, Canada's rate of 21%, and even higher than the Sudbury Region rate of 20.4%.
- This means that many families face hardship and are simply not able to provide their children with opportunities for leisure, self-esteem/leadership development, vocational skill development, etc. Parents who must work multiple jobs in order to survive can rely on the centre to welcome their teens during evening hours.
- The Rayside-Balfour Youth Action Network provides a site and program opportunities to youth between the ages of 11 and 17 years. The youth come together at the centre to socialize, participate in organized activities, and develop a sense of self in a safe, supervised, pro-social environment.



## Major Goals

- Youth identify their key issues
- Collaborative problem solving (youth, centre, community partners)
- Promote healthy lifestyles
- Maintain a quality, safe youth centre
- Advocate for necessary funding
- Advocate on behalf of youth – debunking myths
- Provide programming and resources to meet needs (socializing, homework, teen issues, employment readiness, and community awareness/partnering)



## **CENTRE OPERATIONS:**

### **STAFFING:**

- 1 Program Coordinator
- 4 part-time Supervisors

### **OPERATING BUDGET:**

2008-\$69,000

We work to raise the  
additional \$30,000

### **SITE:**

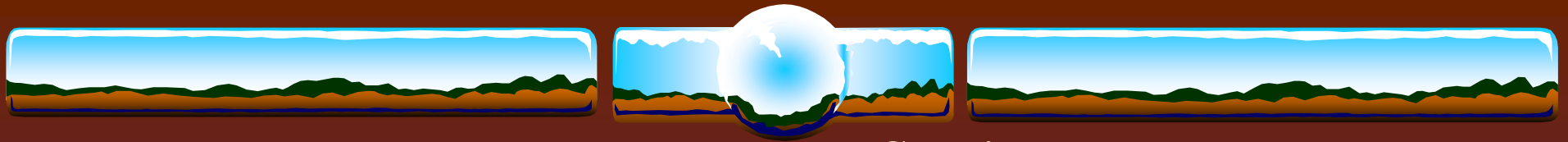
•214 Cote Street  
Chelmsford, Ont  
(705)855-5230

### **FUNDING:**

- Annual grant from the City
- Fundraising
- Donations
- Services Canada - summer

### **CONTACT INFO:**

Supervisor1@raysidebalfouryouthcentre.ca  
Hours: Mon-Thurs 5-9  
Summer: Mon-Fri 1-9



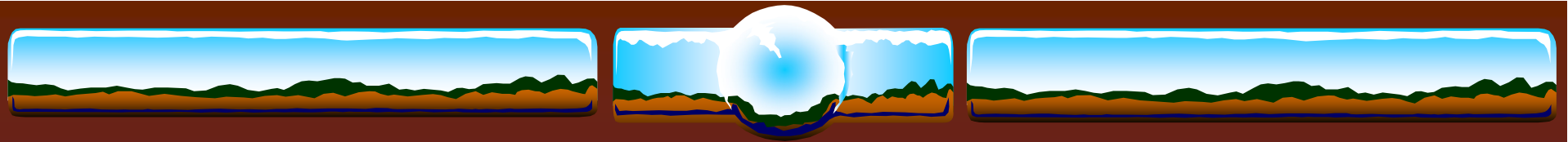
## **Programs and Services:**

- Daily supervised programming/supervision in a safe site – offering a positive alternative for ‘wandering’.
- Pool, fooze ball, ping-pong, bingo, arts and crafts, table games
- Electronic games (Xbox, PS2, Rock Band, Kareoke)
- Computer stations for homework, safe-net browsing, job readiness (resume’s, cover letters, job research)
- Special Events (Tournaments, Themed holiday celebrations)
- Trained supervisors to sit and talk with (not counselling), and can refer to community services
- Full-time summer program (pending approval) 5 days/week
- Thematic presentations by community speakers



## **Community Partnerships:**

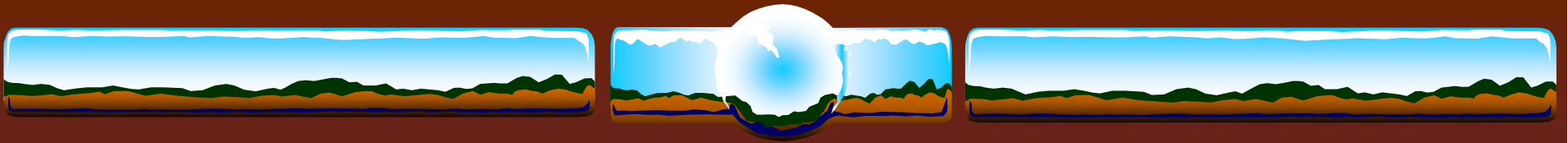
- Youth Walk for a Cure
- Battle of the Bands
- Community Beautification Project
- Volunteering at local Lions Clubs events (Western Days)
- Volunteering at local family tournaments (jug curling, family hockey)
- Providing high school students with venue for earning community hours
- Guest speakers (police, Access Aids, Gambling, etc...)
- Autumn Fest Botannical Gardens
- Breakfast with Santa – Club Optimist
- Sudbury Wolves



In Development:

## Supervisor in Training (S.I.T) Program

- An opportunity for youth ages 15 to 17 to develop leadership skills
- Theory and practical experience in a Youth Centre
- Senior supervisors and Program Coordinator work with a SIT participant to plan and implement activities, develop program proposals and budgets.
- All applicants are interviewed by the Program Coordinator
- TARGET DATE: SEPTEMBER 2009



# KEEPING THEM BUSY/.....

- The centre is servicing approximately 35-50 young people a night.
- The Network's goal really is to keep as many young people from spending their leisure time on the streets. Loitering, vulnerable to drug dealers, and crime.
- By attending the centre and experiencing the positive experience of being mentored, the teens get the message to mentor others themselves – “giving it back”

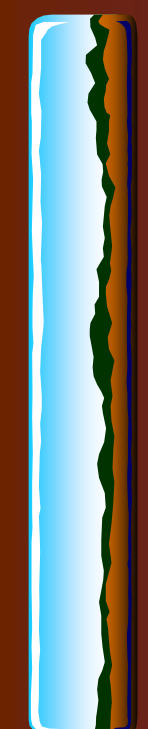
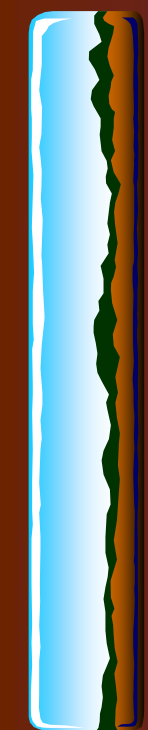


# Cote Park Youth Centre



Built and opened in June 1998





Together we can make it happen...



Thank you!