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**Literature Hours:**  
**Tues. & Thurs 12-4**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Wednesday/mo**  
**5-7pm**

[www.barrieaa.com](http://www.barrieaa.com)

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*We are back in action!*

**Please notify me with any Info!**

**Thanks**

*Carol T.*

**The Hypocrisy of “Drinking Responsibly”**

How phony can the booze merchants & governments get? Very phony. When they lecture the public about “drinking responsibly” aren’t they really denying the disease of alcoholism? An alcoholic cannot drink responsibly. That’s why we are called alcoholics.. We are hostages to the dangerous drug called alcohol. To tell a practicing alcoholic to drink responsible is like telling someone suffering from diarrhea to control their bowel movements. It cannot be done & to make dumb admonitions like this to the public in the media is as phony as a 9 dollar Confederate bill.

There is still little understanding of the disease of alcoholism by government. We can’t kiss it away. We can’t jail it away. We can’t bribe it away. We can’t relearn how to drink. A chemical change has taken place. A two by four length of lumber can be cut & it is still lumber. A physical change has taken place. But it is still lumber. Yet if that length of two by four is burned, it will never be lumber again. Ergo a chemical change has taken place. That’s the way it is with alcoholism. A chemical change has taken place.

Let’s face it, governments make billions in tax revenue from booze. If all drinkers drank responsibly like the phone public service ads lecture on the electronic media, their booze revenue would dry to a trickle. Distillers would go out of business. Brewers would lay off thousands. Bars would have to close. The pseudo messages from Big Brother to control our drinking would not be needed. We know that’s never going to happen in our drug crazed society. To tell us to control our consumption of the most dangerous drug of them all, alcohol, reeks of hypocrisy. We are alcoholics. We know what alcohol can do. If anybody needs to be responsible, it is the advertising for booze consumption in the media aimed at the young. Now that’s irresponsible!

*- by Gord K., Cookstown Group*

**THE BRICK:** A young & successful executive was traveling down a neighborhood street, going a bit too fast in his new Jaguar. He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars & slowed down when he thought he saw something. As his car passed, no children appeared. Instead, a brick smashed into the Jag’s side door! He slammed on the brakes & backed the Jag back to the spot where the brick had been thrown. The angry driver then jumped out of the car, grabbed the nearest kid & pushed him up against a park car shouting, “What was that all about & who are you? Just what the heck are you doing? That’s a new car & that brick you threw is going to cost a lot of money. Why did you do it?” The young boy was apologetic. “Please, mister...please, I’m sorry, but I didn’t know what else to do” he pleaded. “I threw the brick because no one else would stop...” With tears dripping down his face & off his chin, the youth pointed to a spot just around a parked car. “It’s my brother”, he said. “He rolled off the curb & fell out of his wheelchair & I can’t lift him up.” Now sobbing, the boy asked the stunned executive “Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He’s hurt & he’s too heavy for me.” Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat *can’t pg 4*



**Barrie A.A. Central Office Twelve Step Work**

**August 2007**

12 <sup>th</sup> Step .....	6	Alanon/Alateen .....	0
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# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## September 2007

Name	Anniversary	Sober Date	To Be Celebrated	Meeting
Wendy K.	13 Years	10 September		Wasaga Beach Friday Night
Rob H.	5 Years	11 September	24 September	Alcona Serenity Group, Stroud
Bonnie K.	12 Years	15 September	27 September	Alliston Group
Craig D.	3 Years	21 September		Wasaga Beach Friday
Maria C.	7 Years	22 September	27 September	Alliston Group
Doug A.	4 Years	22 September	24 September	Alcona Serenity Group, Stroud
Joe T.	1 Year	23 September	24 September	Alcona Serenity Group, Stroud
Nancy S.	4 Years	26 September	24 September	Alcona Serenity Group, Stroud
Nancy Mc.	14 Years	26 September	27 September	Alliston Group
Anita D.	7 Years	29 September	24 September	Alcona Serenity Group, Stroud

## October 2007

Name	Anniversary	Sober Date	To Be Celebrated	Meeting
Mario R.	1 Year	1 October	29 October	Alcona Serenity Group, Stroud

## November 2007

Name	Anniversary	Sober Date	To Be Celebrated	Meeting
Elena N.	29 Years	11 November		Wasaga Beach Friday Night Step & Tradition Group



*Happy Birthday to those celebrating milestones of sobriety... those 24hrs add up!*



### *Tradition Nine*

9.) Each A.A. group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its Secretary, the large group its Rotating Committee, and the groups of a large Metropolitan area their Central or Intergroup Committee, which often employs a full-time Secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our over-all public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principle newspaper, "The A.A. Grapevine." All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.

# THE BIG BOOK INDEX

## The Principles of the Program

Step 1 Honesty  
Step 2 Hope  
Step 3 Faith  
Step 4 Courage  
Step 5 Integrity  
Step 6 Willingness  
Step 7 Humility  
Step 8 Brotherly Love  
Step 9 Justice  
Step 10 Perseverance  
Step 11 Spirituality  
Step 12 Service

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## Mark Your Calendar

### New meeting:

#### Love and Service Group

Innisfil Community Church  
1571 Innisfil Beach Rd, Alcona,  
8:00 pm [C]

#### Barrie & Area Intergroup Meeting

Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 7:00 pm  
\*[Central United Church](#)  
54 Ross Street, Barrie

#### Georgian Bay South - District 8 District Committee Meeting

Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 1:30 pm  
\*[St. George's Church](#)  
Burton & Granville Street, Barrie

#### Collingwood Sunday Night Group

Celebrates 60 years of service on  
September 16<sup>th</sup>

#### Hamilton and Districts A.A. 39th Annual Autumn Leaf Roundup

Sheraton Hamilton Hotel  
14, 15, 16 September 2007

#### District 7 and 8 of Area 86 present a day of Recovery, Unity and Service

Ferndale Banquet Hall, Barrie  
22 September 2007

#### Check the web:

[barrieaa.com](http://barrieaa.com)

for a detailed listing of events

### ...from pg 1, *The Brick*

He hurriedly lifted the handicapped boy back into the wheelchair, then took out a linen handkerchief & dabbed at the fresh scrapes & cuts. A quick look told him everything was going to be okay. "Thank you & may God Bless you," the grateful child told the stranger. Too shook up for words, the man simply watched the boy push his wheelchair-bound brother down the sidewalk toward their home. It was a long, slow walk back to the Jaguar. The damage was very noticeable, but the driver never bothered to repair the dented side door. He kept the dent there to remind him of this message: "Don't go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention!" God whispers in our souls & speaks to our hearts. Sometimes when we don't have time to listen, He has to throw a brick at us. It's our choice to listen or not.

...submitted by Joe S., Alliston

**Subject:** How it works??????

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship designed and administered by a bunch of ex-drunks whose only qualification for membership is that we finally realized that we couldn't hold our liquor and wanted to stop trying to impossibly learn how to hold it successfully.

It has no rules, dues, or fees, nor anything else that any sensible organization seems to require.

At meetings, the speaker starts on a subject, winds up talking about something entirely different, and concludes by saying he doesn't know anything about the program, except that it works.

The groups are often broke; yet always seems to have money to carry on.

We are always losing members, but seem to grow.

We claim AA is a selfish program, but always seem to be doing something for others.

Every group passes laws, rules, edicts, and pronouncements, which everyone blithely ignores.

Members who disagree with anything are free to walk out in a huff, quitting forever, only to return as though nothing had happened and be greeted accordingly.

Nothing we discuss in AA is planned in advance, yet great results are born from the things we share with each other, and our lives get better.

How can we survive like this?

Perhaps it's because we have learned to live and laugh at ourselves and with each other.

God made us. He made laughter too.

Perhaps he is pleased with our disorganized efforts and makes things right no matter who pushes the wrong buttons.

Maybe God is pleased with our simple yet sincere efforts to do what's right for others and us.

Maybe he is pleased with our trying to be nobody but ourselves.

We don't know how it works, but it does, and members keep receiving their dividend checks from their AA investment.

It is wise to be sober, and it is much easier, my friend, to stay sober than to get sober.

Submitted by Maureen M.

### Thoughts to consider...

...the road to recovery is always under construction....

...losers make promises; winners make commitments...

...newcomers are the lifeblood of the program, but our old timers are the arteries...

... God can't hand you anything new until you let go of what you're holding...

...Yesterday is so far in the past I can't see it; tomorrow is too distant in the future to be seen. So I'll take a good look at what I can see – today...

... Every AA meeting is a payment on your sobriety...