

Kids we can't forget

Boyd Merrill

RCMP Media Relations B Division

- ▶ Background – Who is Boyd Merrill

How many of you?

- ▶ NBYTC
 - Beach kid
 - Go kart
 - Closet fire
 - Table manners
 - spend your life between 12 – 18 behind bars?

How many of you?

RCMP

Have arrested kids for...dog dish.

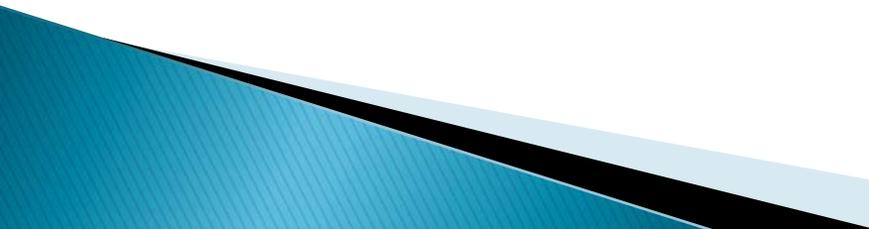
Have condemned homes . Describe?

Have watched kids do everything they could to be good but had to give up?

How many of us know...

- ▶ How much court cost for an hour.
 - ▶ Per case.
 - ▶ For probation.
 - ▶ How much Social Services supervision costs.
 - ▶ For committal to custody in Youth Center.
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Ladies and Gentlemen we have failed some kids!

- ▶ It is our fault
 - ▶ We concentrate on the best. Best skater, best scorer, best runner, best looking...
 - ▶ We don't look at the worst and wonder if they could be the best
 - ▶ Our focus is on the path of least resistance
 - ▶ More and more we focus on those close to us only
 - ▶ We need to look behind the rink not in it!
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Here is how we can look around to see the real kids who need sports

- ▶ Ask Social Services employees
 - ▶ Check food bank workers
 - ▶ Check local police
 - ▶ Talk to clergy
 - ▶ Ask teachers
 - ▶ Ask store owners – they know them as loiterers
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Here is what we do when we find them.

- ▶ Concentrate on their good points
 - ▶ Positive re-enforcement.
 - ▶ Offer to coach a team and ask them to join.
 - ▶ Make sure they can join.
 - ▶ Acquaint them with Jump Start, Kiwanis, Lions clubs, Churches.
 - ▶ The barrier to sport for any kid can never be money!!!!!!
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We fail when:

- ▶ Another youth who can outrun police doesn't see a track meet.
 - ▶ A youth who has "quick hands " for stealing food never gets to outshoot a goalie.
 - ▶ A youth who can out yell a teacher never gets to be a referee or umpire.
 - ▶ We let fed kids play while those who are hungry can't even afford to see the game.
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We win by:

- ▶ Recognizing there are kids who are talented but disadvantaged
 - ▶ Recognizing our courts are full of good runners and strong debaters but lost in the shuffle
 - ▶ Offering programs where all kids are treated equal...really equal
 - ▶ Making sure everyone gets into sports
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Sports teach us all lessons!

Sports teach kids:

- ▶ to get along
 - ▶ to compete
 - ▶ to share
 - ▶ to respect others
 - ▶ to try harder
 - ▶ to accept limitations
 - ▶ to understand teamwork
 - ▶ to set goals
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Sports remind Adults:

- ▶ what it was like to be a kid and how we felt when...
- ▶ we were small and affected by adults. (Video)

