

'Correction your responsibility'

When an inmate returns to the community, he needs the help and understanding of the people in the community if he is to remain there, rather than return to a correctional institution.

Director of the community volunteer program for the Ministry of Correctional Services, Bob Fox, speaking

before a crowd of about 200 people at the Monteith Correctional Centre open house, June 6, said what happens when an inmate comes back to you depends on how prepared you are to accept him and offer him employment opportunities.

"Correction is your responsibility, not ours.

Society makes offenders and has the responsibility for these offenders when they appear before the courts and are sentenced," he said.

People in the community must become involved in correctional centres so that there will be understanding and co-operation with the centre within the community.

"There are many ways to become involved if you are interested and you can contribute to the possibility that someone may leave this place and work back into society. It's a big step back for them to make and make a go of it," said Fox.

Fox said the Ministry of Correctional Services is

first offenders as well as serving as correctional centres for people people who have been sentenced before and are doing less than two years.

Presently at Monteith, there are several inmates active in the Community Works Programs. Seven inmates are working with the Ministry of Natural Resources clearing

Council also learned from the Ministry of Correctional Services that it sells picnic tables for \$45. These tables are made by inmates of correctional centres.

Iroquois Falls Council was advised of the open house at the May 28 council meeting.

Monteith Correctional Centre will hold open house June 6. Guest speakers will be Robert Fox, co-ordinator of volunteer programs. He will speak about ways Monteith inmates can assist community projects.

Monteith plans open house



responsible for 35,000 people, 5,000 of which are in institutions such as Monteith. The rest, he said, are working in the community or on parole. The Ministry is responsible for all people who appear before the courts and are sentenced to two years or less of imprisonment. Fox said beyond that, they have to enter the federal penitentiary system.

"The correctional centre is also a gateway into the system. If someone is remanded into custody, they come into one of the institutions, pending the processes of the courts," said Fox.

He added there are also adult training centres at these institutions for the young and

land and preparing land for reforestation. Two inmates are presently working with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications picking up litter, sweeping intersections and planting trees along area roadways. Two inmates are working with local retarded adults. Another inmate is working with local senior citizens.

When Fox had finished speaking, the crowd was divided into small groups and taken on a tour of the facilities at Monteith. The tour included the greenhouses, the different shops and classrooms, the jail and the dormitories.

The evening concluded with a buffet served in the administration building.

*Monteiths Correctional Centre
"Open House" - about 200 people attend.*

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