



# THE MASONIC FOUNDATION OF ONTARIO TORONTO 2003

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

To the Directors, Members and Friends of the Masonic Foundation of Ontario.

It is my privilege, as President, to present this report on behalf of the Board of Directors to the Fortieth Annual Meeting of the Masonic Foundation of Ontario, being held at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Ontario, on Tuesday, July 15, 2003.

### **Introduction:**

*"There is a wonderful mythical law of nature that the three things  
we crave most in life - happiness, freedom and piece of mind -  
are always attained by giving them to someone else."*

Peyton Conway March - 1864 - 1955

American General

Mythical or not, this quotation captures the "Masonic way" of helping others - a way of life that enables the Masons of Ontario, through their support of the Masonic Foundation, to reach out to those less fortunate members of our society and make their lives a bit happier and less stressful, and in so doing, gaining that warm peace of mind that comes from caring for others.

Your Foundation has accomplished much during the past year. Highlights of activities have been provided by the responsible program chairmen and form a part of this report. I encourage you to read each section to fully appreciate the extent of the charitable work undertaken and to inform Masons in your area of what the Foundation has been doing on their behalf. A copy of the Annual Report will be sent to each lodge and additional copies are available from the Foundation Office upon request.

The ability to communicate is one of the greatest gifts given to man - fully utilizing that gift is a continuing challenge. This past year your Foundation has striven to communicate with its Representatives and others interested in its charitable work by apprising them of the Foundation's activities and programs through workshops and letters to inform them about planned giving, the trickle-down effect of charitable benefits to local communities and the Sesquicentennial Program. In addition, the Foundation's section in both the Grand Lodge Booklet "0" and the "Masonic Manual" have been updated.

**Appreciation:** Again this past year, your Foundation has benefited from the devotion and dedication of the members of the Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen. Their involvement goes far beyond attending several meetings during the year; each program requires a continual overview and a guiding hand - a time commitment the remuneration for which is solely the satisfaction of assisting a particular segment of our society in need. I sincerely thank each one for their assistance and their individual contribution to making your Foundation successful and my duties a pleasure to fulfill.

Time necessitates change, and so it is with the Foundation; two new Directors were welcomed this past year: Hermann Waxl from Huntsville, and Douglas Conway, from Barrie. Their willingness to serve is greatly appreciated. Competing time demands necessitated Donald Campbell to tender his resignation as a Director, but he agreed to remain as the Liaison Officer with Council On Drug Abuse. The Foundation was pleased to

retain his expertise in dealing with the important Peer Education Programs that CODA undertakes on behalf of the Foundation.

My sincere appreciation is also given to the Foundation's "extended family" - those who act as the Foundation's main line of communication with the membership in taking its message to the individual District, the individual lodge, the individual Mason - the District Deputy Grand Masters, the many District and Lodge Representatives and the Lodge Secretaries who have made that extra effort to promote the work of the Foundation by word-of-mouth and messages in the Summonses; and the interesting articles on various aspects of the Foundation's programs written by Ted Morris for the Web page.

The close working relationship between Grand Lodge and your Foundation is the catalyst for much of the preceding support. In particular, the on-going interest of M. W. Bro. Terence Shand, Grand Master, is greatly appreciated. His attendance at meetings of the Board of Directors, his promotion of the Foundation's programs in his travels and his dedication of several of his messages in the D.D.G.M. Communiqué to the Foundation's work personify his long-standing involvement with the Foundation.

In last year's Report, I mentioned the untimely death of Director Bert Bell. His love for the Foundation was remembered this past year by his dear wife, Millie, who turned over Bert's three-volume set of "The Papers of the Canadian Masonic Research Association", to be passed on to one of the many donors to the Foundation in Bert's memory. The Foundation received \$1,515 directly in memory of Bert. Bro. Darrell Sewell was announced as the recipient of the papers, which he presented to Antiquity Lodge No. 571 for its library, thereby making these valued documents available to a wide audience.

As with any organization with interests spread across an area as vast as Ontario, administration plays a major role in your Foundation's operations. The daily requirements to ensure its smooth operations, the prompt issuing of receipts, the payment of charitable assistance, the answering of numerous questions and the quick response to appeals for assistance take a subtle, quiet, but organized skill. Such is the professional service your Foundation receives from the Secretary, Melvyn J. Duke, and his capable assistant, Marlene Victor. I express my personal appreciation and that of the Directors and Chairmen for the valuable service and advice so willingly given with professionalism and a sense of humour that makes working with them a pleasure.

**The Work of the Foundation:** The Masonic Foundation owes its success primarily to the financial support of the Masons of this province. That support comes from cities, towns and villages all across Ontario - given in the true spirit of Masonic Charity to assist those less fortunate. Some might question what payback is enjoyed in the numerous small localities where Masonic lodges, and Foundation supporters, reside. Certainly, hearing research, which accounts for almost 40% of the annual budget, is concentrated in London, Toronto and Ottawa, and bursaries go to students attending universities and colleges in larger population centres.

We must recognize, however, that such support does not limit its benefits to the larger centres - students in need come from every corner of Ontario, hearing impaired infants and children, regardless of the size of their community, benefit from the VOICE itinerant auditory-verbal therapy program and will continue to benefit from the scientific

advancements that will come from the research funded by the Foundation. The Peer Education Drug Awareness Programs are available to any school board in the province that requests them. The new communication technology at Kerry's Place, supported by your Foundation, provides guidance and hope for families struggling to cope with the demands of an autistic member. The four Ontario delegates sponsored by the Foundation to attend the National Citizenship Seminar this year hailed from Chelsey, Jasper, Tavistock and Mildmay. Those honoured at the Queen's Venturer Award Recognition Ceremony supported by the Foundation came from Agincourt, Camlachie, Elmira, Guelph, Highland Creek, Lindsay, London, Newmarket, Oshawa, Port Dover, Richmond Hill, Ridgetown, St. Catharines, Smiths Falls, Toronto, Welland, Whitby and Windsor. Success? One example is that of a promising young figure skater – bursaries provided some 14 years ago enabled him to receive special schooling not available in his small hometown. Through the training made possible by that support, he went on to reach the pinnacle of pairs skating in Canada. Support of and by the Masonic Foundation truly does flow both ways - funds into the Foundation permit programs that support those in need all across the province.

At last year's Annual Meeting, I announced that the Directors had developed a Strategic Framework to serve as the blueprint for projecting the operation of your Foundation for the next five years, focusing on three key areas: Charitable Programs; Supplier Satisfaction; and Operating Efficiency. We can be pleased with the progress that has been made over the past year in achieving the goals set out in the Strategic Framework, including: initiating three research projects funded through HELP-2-HEAR; distributing a new "Planned Giving" brochure; updating of the Foundation section of the Grand Lodge Web page; Seminars for District Representatives and others interested in the work of the Foundation; articles on the Foundation in "the Ontario Mason"; upgrading the Foundation display booth; and opening of a Directors Meeting to interested observers.

These initiatives, complemented with others to follow, will solidify the future success of your Foundation. Of course, it is not just the programs emanating from the management core that makes the Foundation a major player in Masonic charity in our communities. Projects originating in the Districts and lodges and undertaken in conjunction with your Foundation continue to play an important role. Over \$83,000 was distributed this past year to nine local projects throughout the province to meet locally-identified needs.

**Financial matters:** Your Foundation continued to benefit from the dedication of our Treasurer, Jim Sutherland, to its financial operations, assisted in investment decisions with advice from Director James Cassie and Mr. Edward Yablonski of BMO Nesbitt Burns. The return earned on our investments continued to perform well in an unstable market and provided the cash flow scheduling required by the Foundation to meet the needs of our clients' programs. Through imaginative investment, income earned on the capital amounted to \$441,000 this past year.

At the outset of the HELP-2-HEAR Program four years ago, the Directors were aware that donations to the general fund through the Yellow Envelope and direct personal contributions would fall off during, and for a short period following the conclusion of, the campaign. This has proven to be the case. Contributions over the past year increased somewhat over the previous year, but have not yet returned to the pre-HELP-2-HEAR level - this is an area on which your Foundation must concentrate. Yellow Envelopes brought in \$42,600 and other member and lodge contributions amounted to \$13,300.

Each year, it is gratifying to learn that individuals have recognized the work of your Foundation by making arrangements during their lives to entrust a part of their estate to the Foundation when they have passed on. This past year, the Foundation received bequests totaling \$133,500 from the estates of Albert Foster Rodger, Charles A. Shedden, Irene Olive Dingwall, Kenneth L. Bingham, Olive Louise Boynton, Phyllis J. Diamond, Ronald M. Watson, Sydney James Parsons, T. John Arthur, Vera Annette Perrin and Violet P. Leavitt, varying in amounts from \$50 to \$103,750.

Memorial donations, such as those conveniently made through the use of the Grey Memorial Envelope, are being used by an increasing number of Masons and lodges to honour the memory of departed brethren. Last year, memorial donations totaled \$21,400.

Unrestricted net assets at March 31, 2003, amounted to \$7,404,500, an increase of \$186,400, or 2.6%, over the previous year-end. Program payments totaled \$387,000, the major contributions being: bursaries, \$94,000; the three projects under HELP-2-HEAR, \$105,000; research under Project H.E.L.P., \$50,000; Nip Drugs Peer Education through CODA and PAD, \$85,000; and VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children and Kerry's Place (Autism), \$15,000 each.

**BURSARIES:** Chairman Donald Thornton reports: a Masonic Foundation Bursary is a non-repayable grant to assist Ontario university and college students who have encountered an unexpected financial emergency during the final year of a 2- or 3-year program or the 3rd or 4th year of a 4-year program and, having exhausted all other sources of financial support, may be forced to leave school before graduation. The year 2002-03 saw a significant increase in the number of applicants.

When adjudicating requests for support, one is always conscious of the question from the North East angle - "*Would you give if it were in your power?*" Every effort is made to honour the promise that donations from our members will be "*gratefully received and faithfully applied for the cause of good.*"

***Statistics:***

April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003 - 150 bursary applications were received:

41 from university students

109 from community college students

Of these, 37 applications did not meet Foundation criteria and were denied.

Bursaries were presented to:

23 university students registered at 18 campuses

90 community college students at 22 campuses

**113 Bursaries were presented totaling \$ 94,150.**

In addition to the bursaries listed above, the following awards were made from the bursary account or from special Masonic Foundation Bursary Ontario Student Opportunities Trust Funds (OSOTF) established several years ago at selected universities and colleges:

***The A. Lou Copeland Trust Fund:*** bursaries valued at \$1,500 each were awarded to two students at York University;

***OSOTF:*** twelve OSOTF bursaries were awarded at the University of Toronto. Additional awards were made at Mohawk College - Hamilton, Seneca College - North York and Fanshaw College - London. These awards were presented by the individual Institution in the name of the Masonic Foundation.

***Letters of Appreciation*** illustrate the importance of extending a helping hand to struggling students. A past recipient, who worked to put herself through four years of university, wrote thanking the Foundation and informing us that she is now a lead therapist and supervisor working with families and providing behavioral therapy to autistic children, a most difficult and challenging occupation. Our support helped this young lady to now aid those suffering the tragic effects of Autism. Her dedication contributes in a very practical way to the Foundation's work with Kerry's Place Inc. As a small pebble is dropped into the water, it is interesting to see where the ripples wash up.

***Appreciation:*** District Deputy Grand Masters and local Representatives are thanked for personally presenting Bursaries - a most important duty. The Bursary Program is the only activity that directly involves local Masonic members from many Districts in the outreach of the Foundation through the presentation of awards to students at universities and colleges throughout Ontario. The inclusion of articles and photographs in *the Ontario Mason* and District newsletters is important and appreciated.

***Special Thanks:*** Melvyn Duke and Marlene Victor are thanked for their support and guidance.

## **HEARING RESEARCH:**

**Project H.E.L.P. (Hearing for Every Living Person):** Director Dr. Samuel Kalinowsky reports: the Auditory Science Laboratory at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, is one of Canada's leading facilities for research into hearing function and dysfunction. Although the Laboratory is **now** supported by a number of research funding agencies, its head, Dr. Robert Harrison, notes that special mention should be accorded to the Masonic Foundation for its courage, vision and pioneering insight in having provided continuous support for the past 23 years. Ongoing studies at the Laboratory cover a broad spectrum from basic neuroscience through applied clinical research. The Laboratory is set up to investigate the auditory system at the cellular level, the system's physiology level and the behavioural level - that is, all levels from the cochlea through the central auditory pathways to the cerebral cortex, and beyond.

During 2002-03, the Masonic Foundation provided \$50,000 to the Auditory Science Laboratory to continue the innovative research that was begun by Dr. Harrison and his team some twenty years ago.

On the *applied* or *clinical research* side, the Lab is currently involved in specialized "outcome measures" studies, primarily in children after they have received cochlear

implants. These studies include electrophysiological recordings, various psychophysical tests, e.g. speech understanding, language development and, most recently, acoustic analysis of voice production. Through these studies, questions about the real benefits of cochlear implants can be answered. The Lab is also involved in testing novel methods for the detection and diagnosis of hearing loss in children.

Two PhD graduate students are pursuing *basic research* in the following areas of hearing deafness and cochlear implants:

- Measuring electrically-evoked auditory potentials in children with cochlear implants. Objective measures are being used to follow developmental processes that occur in the auditory brain after an infant has received a cochlear implant device. Related studies have investigated how to program the speech-processing device (that feeds electrical stimulation to the implanted electrodes) automatically, without requiring the infant to make a behavioural response. This is essential, since very young infants, e.g. one-year-olds, are now being implanted and they often cannot respond to the new sounds that they hear.
- Studying the development of frequency representation in the auditory cortex using electrophysiological tools, but recording from individual neurons in the auditory areas of the cortex. Explained more simply, these studies examine how complex signals, such as speech sounds, are coded by the auditory brain and how these neural representations are "moved around" between various areas in the brain that relate to speech and language understanding. This research is providing, in part, some significant insights into the way in which speech understanding and language develop in children. More importantly, it can tell researchers how that developmental process can go wrong and lead to language delays and even illiteracy.
- Measuring contralateral suppression of otoacoustic emissions in neonates in the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. This project is using otoacoustic emissions to measure activity in the brain more central to the ears, e.g. brain stem and midbrain regions.

**HELP-2-HEAR:** Director Dr. Samuel Kalinowsky is pleased to report that the three research projects supported by your Masonic Foundation for an initial three-year term, each receiving \$35,000 annually, have all started to generate positive and interesting results. A report on each follows.

Dr. R. V. Harrison is directing *neuro-imaging studies in children with hearing loss*. A number of pilot studies were initiated using Magneto-Encephalography (MEG) technology. This involves detecting the minute magnetic fields produced by neural activity in the brain through an array of some 150 sensors positioned around the head. The researchers have been studying activity patterns in the brain during various types of auditory stimulation. In particular, they are interested in sound frequency representation as well as some aspects of sound localization - these pilots have been completed and the results presented at an international science conference.

In addition, a new study has just been initiated in which parts of the brain are being examined to determine which are used in understanding verbal, spoken language and which are used in deaf children when they are using sign language. Importantly, this research wants to deduce if these separate areas merge, or become more connected when signing

children receive hearing aids or a cochlear implant and start to use hearing and verbal language in addition to signing.

As a result of funding provided under H.E.L.P. and HELP-2-HEAR, the research group headed by Dr. Robert Harrison, has reported its most recent findings in nine scientific and medical publications and attended 12 prestigious conferences to report its research findings.

Dr. Richard Seewald at the University of Western Ontario (London) is directing studies at the Child Amplification Laboratory *to improve the fitting of modern digital hearing aids in infants and young children*. The goal is to develop state-of-the-art methods for assessing hearing loss and methods and protocols for the prescription, fitting and verification of the hearing aids connected to tiny ears. A secondary goal is to ensure that the procedures and protocols developed and validated within the Laboratory are made available through publications, presentations and workshops to hearing healthcare professionals around the world.

Through the financial assistance of your Foundation, work has been focused in three major areas:

- *Applied research* into: the measurement of the acoustic characteristics of the ears of infants and young children; the evolution of procedures to measure the performance of modern digital hearing aids; and a comparison of children's performance with, and preference for, two different hearing aid prescription procedures - one developed in Sydney, Australia, and the other in London, Ontario.
- *Developmental research* has involved major revisions to the Desired Sensation Level (DSL) software, which was developed at UWO and released in 1997, and is now used throughout the world for prescribing and fitting hearing aids in infants and young children. Since 1997, there have been many advances in digital hearing aid technology, which necessitates major revisions to the software to ensure that it remains current. The last nine months have been spent in design work - it is anticipated that a new software system will be ready for distribution to clinicians within 12 - 18 months.
- Participation by the Laboratory research team in service activities such as: providing in-service workshops to working professionals and students across Canada, the USA and beyond; developing the hearing aid fitting protocol and providing in-service training for the new Ontario Infant Hearing Program; and providing support to hearing professionals throughout the world who use the DSL software for pediatric hearing aid fitting.

Dr. Andrée Durieux-Smith is directing a study at the University of Ottawa *to determine the impact of screening and case finding on the functional status of children with a hearing loss*. Permanent hearing loss in children causes a large burden of suffering in society. In the USA, legislation in more than 30 states requires Universal Newborn Hearing Screening (UNHS) programs. In Canada, UNHS programs are actively being developed in Ontario, Alberta and New Brunswick and are at different stages of development in other provinces. The Ontario Infant Hearing Program (IHP), which your Foundation was spearheading in Year One of the Millennium Project, started to systematically screen all newborns for hearing loss in 2002.

To be effective, such programs must lower the age of diagnosis of children with permanent

hearing loss and, equally important, the early identification must give rise to improved speech and language development. A review of current published evidence, however, indicates that findings are inconclusive and that there is criticism on the basis of research methodology and design. Accordingly, there is a critical need to conduct population-based studies. The objective of Dr. Durieux-Smith's long-term project is to investigate the impact of the age of diagnosis of hearing loss on child development in the domains of speech and language communication and social functioning.

In the first year, a pilot study was carried out to refine the administration of the assessment protocol and recruitment of families of children with a hearing loss was initiated. For statistical analysis and comparison, the research group will include children identified through the IHP, as well as children who were born prior to the IHP. The sample, therefore, will include one group identified through screening and another identified through the traditional referral route. This longitudinal study will require testing over an extended period of time if it is to yield meaningful and scientifically valid data - a necessary investment of time, effort and money that will ultimately result in a brighter and "sound-filled" future for the children of Ontario.

The Masonic Foundation of Ontario, with its ongoing commitment to fund Canadian research, proudly congratulates the three research groups for their dedication in expanding the frontiers of knowledge and for their continuing and noteworthy dissemination of research information - all for the cause of good.

**VOICE PROGRAM:** Director Don Jagger reports: the VOICE mission statement is, "To ensure that all hearing impaired children have the right to develop their ability to listen and speak and have access to services which will enable them to listen and speak."

To carry out its Mission, fifteen Chapters have been formed across Ontario, as well as in Winnipeg and Calgary. The VOICE office is located in Toronto and assists families with hearing impaired children all across Ontario in four main areas: Education; Resources; Health; and Auditory-Verbal Therapy (AV) Outreach Program.

For the past several years, the Masonic Foundation has been the major contributor to the Auditory-Verbal Therapy Outreach Program, enabling many children with severe to profound hearing loss, ranging in age from 12 months to 2 years, to receive this training.

The AV Therapy program was initially developed in response to the need for AV intervention, which was expressed by VOICE families. Few communities in Ontario offered funded auditory-verbal therapy programs delivered by certified professionals. Some families traveled hours to a major centre, such as Toronto or Ottawa, to access AV therapy in a hospital clinic.

VOICE's AV therapy outreach program's goal was, and continues to be, to ensure that VOICE families, who could not otherwise access AV therapy through their local hospital or school, are able to receive this type of intervention in their own community.

The VOICE Auditory-Verbal Therapy Program currently has the capacity to accommodate

73 families. At the moment, seven Ontario chapters – Halton/Hamilton/Niagara, London, North Bay, Simcoe, Toronto, Wellington/Waterloo, and Windsor - are offering AV intervention. There are 11 VOICE therapists providing direct auditory-verbal therapy to families, as well as consulting and providing liaison services to health and educational professionals in their local communities.

The VOICE AV therapy program has a history of collaborative alliances with universities, school boards, hospitals, and government programs. VOICE also sponsors a yearly conference that attracts approximately 200 attendees. This year's conference featured all 11 VOICE therapists presenting workshops on the AV approach. Topics addressed issues of interest to professionals and parents of children with hearing loss.

For further information concerning VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children, its Aims and Objectives, Programs and Services, please visit the organization's Web Site at [www.voicefordeafkids.com](http://www.voicefordeafkids.com)

### **SCHOOL PEER EDUCATION PROGRAMS:**

**COUNCIL ON DRUG ABUSE (CODA):** Chairman Donald A. Campbell reports: as established in the operational plan for year 2002-2003, CODA focused the school peer-based programs on the high-risk and drug-involved. A major aspect of this emphasis is to follow up school events with relevant reinforcement information for concerned teachers.

Participating schools have been those that have identified and requested support for addressing the risk factors in students not expected to graduate. Some high schools requested programming because of concerns about the lethargy of a significant number of students dependent on 'strong' marijuana. One troubling detail dominates program schools and student opinion surveying this year: the 'blind faith' that a significant proportion of at-risk students have put in Canadian marijuana as a 'medicine' advocated by 'the government'. (Indeed, in 2001, as medical research evidence grew concerning links from today's strong marijuana to schizophrenia, cancers of the head and neck, epilepsy, depression and ischemia, health officials frequently made such statements in the media.) Many of these impressionable young people are vulnerable to drug dependence because of family histories of alcoholism and depression.

At a high school in northern Ontario, a concerned special education teacher (and wife of the town's physician), asked that there be extra sessions added for her non-academic students. When they were asked to list (and submit) advantages and consequences of using marijuana, they included 'cancer treatment', 'improves my Dad's Parkinson's' and 'calms you down' as benefits. The only consequences they could envisage were 'bronchitis' and 'kills brain cells'. It's 'not addictive'. A principal stated, off the record, that he believes 80% of students in his school are harmfully involved with alcohol and marijuana. Combinational use of alcohol and marijuana is high, but no student was aware of the three major short-term risks for safety.

### **Masonic Program Locations in 2002-2003**

Programs were held across Ontario, but primarily in the Northern region, where the

percentage of drug involvement continues to be the highest provincially:

- Glengarry High School, Alexandria
- Atikokan (secondary and senior elementary schools)
- W. C. Eaket High School, Blind River
- Cardinal Newman Catholic High School, Toronto
- Geraldton District High School
- Hornepayne High School
- Rothwell-Osnabruck District High School, Ingleside (Cornwall)
- Lively District High School (Sudbury Region)
- Naughton (Sudbury Region)
- Almaquin Highlands Secondary School, South River

The program leader in drug education updates and individual support provided the highest level of voluntary time to date this year to teachers across the Greater Toronto Area and Northern Ontario. These are school staff previously involved in formal training events. This outreach also included considerable voluntary counseling, family visits and staff guidance at Cardinal Newman High School, a program school in 2001-2002.

### **Statistical Summaries for 2002-2003**

• High school students receiving Masonic Foundation Programs:	2,848
• High school teachers of drug education receiving in-service programs:	150
• Teachers & other staff participating in school student programs:	52
• Native youth leaders participating in on-reserve peer mentoring:	36
• School admin counselors & teachers receiving Masonic Drug Education:	68
• Drug-involved students requesting & receiving support:	56

**Impact:** evaluation outcomes for this last program year are distinct from previous years. Students involved are non-academic young people with high-risk for leaving school before graduation and drug dependence. Consequently, some evaluation responses may reflect the experience of ambivalence about their behaviour. Not surprisingly, the highest ratings tended to be seen when they were asked how beneficial the program would be to 'other students'.

**Summary:** now more than ever, CODA's programs are needed in communities throughout Ontario; the numbers of requests for peer education presentations have increased by approximately 29%. The support of the Masonic Foundation makes it possible for CODA to deliver its message and provide a consistent, credible supply of information to Ontarians. Our partnership is invaluable.

**PARENT ACTION ON DRUGS (PAD):** Director Douglas Nichols reports: this year has been one of several accomplishments for PAD. It celebrated its 20th anniversary, produced a new video for the younger teenage audience, developed a new Grade Nine Program (*CBC9*), implemented the use of the peer-led program into the Grade 12 Peer Helping Credit Course at a secondary school, and increased the number of high schools trained in its Peer Education Program.

PAD's program initiatives have both expanded and consolidated. The organization has expanded its library of materials in its never-ending mission to educate our youth on substance abuse. The demand for PAD's videos, curriculum materials and brochures has reached an all-time high. At the same time, the programs have become more focused and, with experienced facilitators and teens helping teens, more young people are aware of the dangers of drug use. It has developed new partnerships with complementary organizations to make sure its message reaches the widest possible audience.

PAD was formed 20 years ago by parents to help parents, educators and health-care workers assist youths in making informed and rational choices about possible substance abuse. The anniversary year was celebrated with significant achievements and the Masonic Foundation of Ontario is pleased to have been able to fund the *Challenges, Beliefs and Changes (CBC)* program for the last 15 years.

*Skeletons in the Closet* was produced this year by PAD with filming done by students at Ryerson University. This video follows on from the first film, *For the Record*, and is aimed at early teenagers. The film was developed after extensive research and consultation with both educators and teens, and indications are that it has been very well received. This new film complements other materials in the *Challenges, Beliefs and Changes* program and will become a key part in the awareness program.

Program activities during the year included completion of *Family, Friends and Feelings Supplemental Resource Package*. This package is a supplement for the social sciences curriculum and explores the challenges that youths face in adolescence. It includes eighteen segments of exciting, creative and challenging classroom activities. The program is packaged in a CD-ROM, with links from the index to make it particularly user friendly.

*Challenges, Beliefs and Changes* is a stalwart program of PAD. It engages high schools throughout the province to participate in two-day training and then reach out to Grade 8 students in the context of the program. This year 18 high schools from Thunder Bay in the north to Windsor in the south, participated in 15 training sessions. The new program, *CBC9*, is currently undergoing final testing.

During the year, the web site was revamped and updated. PAD now has a stronger presence on the web, located at [www.parentactionondrugs.org](http://www.parentactionondrugs.org). The site contains facts on tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, key information for parents, as well as information on PAD's many resources and how to access them.

PAD is very proud of its achievements over the last 20 years and is looking toward the future with great enthusiasm and energy to carry out its mandate.

**KERRY'S PLACE (AUTISM):** Director Tony Hope advises that, based on recent studies, the reported prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorder has increased steadily and alarmingly in recent decades. At an incidence of more than one in 250 of the population, it is now recognized as being more prevalent than better-known conditions like Juvenile Diabetes. While no one knows for certain the reason for this increase, many experts feel that it is

probably due to a combination of better diagnosis and an environmental origin.

Many individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder have various levels of intellectual and perceptual disabilities. A few individuals such as Raymond Babbitt, portrayed by Dustin Hoffman in the movie "*The Rainman*", have highly developed special skills. A common problem in virtually all individuals with this disorder, however, is difficulty with adaptive, social skills.

The process for helping individuals with Autism cope with what they must perceive as a bewildering and frightening environment is frustrating and exhausting for the families involved. The incidence of family breakdown, and other issues associated with family stress, is high in families supporting individuals with Autism. For those people who are being supported, the quality of life they experience is sometimes far from their potential. This, in turn, results in high levels of frustration and negative behaviours, limiting the individual's ability to assimilate into the community. The downward spiral can seem endless.

For many years, your Masonic Foundation has realized the special requirements of individuals with Autism and their families and, since the 1980's, has provided funding to help address some of their unmet needs, which have included: assistance towards the expansion of support services through the acquisition of various residential and other properties; support of a special fund to allow individuals and families in crisis to obtain assessments to assist with the management of dysfunctional behaviours; and, most recently, support for enhancements to the communication systems infrastructure.

In 2002, the Masonic Foundation provided \$15,000 to allow Kerry's Place Autism Services to develop a new "enhanced" model of support that would assist individuals and families in greatest need to access a broad range of direct and non-direct support available. For further details, see its web page at [www.kerrysplace.org](http://www.kerrysplace.org).

In communication with the Masonic Foundation, Kerry's Place Autism Services applauds the Foundation for recognizing the importance of providing the support that it has in the service of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder long before this growing need became highlighted in the professional literature and popular press as it has now. The support has helped enhance the quality of life of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder in ways that would not otherwise be possible. Kerry's Place and the people they support are very grateful and appreciative of that continued interest and support.

**CHARITABLE REQUESTS:** Director Donald H. Mumby reports: while charitable requests continue to be received, the number this year was down significantly. Whereas 70 such requests were received and dealt with last year, only 55 were received this year. As in previous years, the greater percentage of requests emanated from large and well-funded interest groups. This notwithstanding, there were 11 requests that fell within our established guidelines and, therefore, could be supported.

The established guidelines for supporting such requests are as follows:

- All funds must be used in Ontario (as per the Charter);

- Children and young people are to receive primary consideration;
- Individuals or small groups who have no access to other support may be given assistance in emergency cases;
- Funds must be used in support of a specific person, activity or project;
- Funds of this Committee are not to support capital building projects, or the operating capital of an established charitable organization.

Most of the endowments this year were directed towards young people in need of specialized hearing aids and/or devices that will enable them to communicate with others. This is an ever-present need, as hearing aids and other devices for children must be replaced as the child grows.

Your funds have also assisted others, including, but not limited to: a group that uses oil painting and other art forms as a medium for assisting troubled youth; the provision of much needed assistance to a young man who, through no fault of his own, was left destitute; the provision of funds to a group that assists stroke victims to regain the ability to read, write and otherwise communicate; aiding a child who required specialized dental treatment in order to overcome disfigurement; and the provision of computer-related communication devices for an autistic child.

While fewer requests were received this year, the need remains acute. Your generosity has made a difference in the lives of so many, and on their behalf, we thank you.

Thanks also are extended to Marlene Victor and Mel Duke, whose tireless efforts have been of such value. Mel's understanding and compassionate manner and his overall concern for the welfare of others serve this Foundation well. I am personally so thankful for his assistance.

**DISTRICT PROJECTS:** Chairman Tom Bourret reports: another eventful Masonic year has come and gone. Having just completed my review of our Districts' current efforts to relieve suffering, to enhance another human being's standard of living, to continue to fight against disease through research, leaves me moved and proud, as well as anxious and excited to see and hear what new and challenging projects our Brethren will, undaunted, accept and be successful with, because it is all for the cause of good. The following is a testimonial to that cause:

<u>District</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Goal</u>
-Muskoka Parry Sound District	Research for Prostate Cancer	\$3,000
-Peterborough District	To furnish a Multifaith Centre in the Regional Health Centre	\$30,000
-Georgian South District	Assist a family with an Autistic Child	\$10,000
-Toronto District #4	Food for the Hungry	\$25,000
-Hamilton Masonic District "C"	Build a wheelchair access ramp	\$8,000 – 10,000
-Toronto District #3	Cancer Research at Sick Children	\$10,000
-Toronto District #2	Arthritis Self-Management Program	\$18,000
-Ontario District	Heroes of Hope Cancer Campaign	\$7,500
-Prince Edward District	Prostate Cancer Research	\$10,000

**PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Director Terry McLean reports: the Masonic Foundation's vision is "**To be the Charity of Choice for the Cause of Good in our Community**". To this end, the Public Relations Committee focused on the Strategic Plan "*Preparing for the Future*" and delivered on five key projects to enhance our internal and external communications, continually shared the good works of the Foundation, enhanced our image and spread the message across Ontario for the Cause of Good. My thanks to the Directors for your contributions and delivering on this doable plan. In 2002-03, we accomplished the following:

Upgrades to the Masonic Foundation Display Booth that will give us the visible opportunity to communicate the good works of the Foundation in our communities.

Communicated the Masonic Foundation story through available communication vehicles, such as *the Ontario Mason*, Website, and District Representatives. These are extremely valuable vehicles to share the good work of the Foundation and create a feeling of inclusiveness by all Masons of Ontario with the Foundation's charitable endeavours. Once again, my thanks to the Dave Dainard, Brian Bond, James Kirk-White and Ted Morris for their effort and assistance with these media.

Reinstituted the District Representatives' training course with seminars in Waterloo and Napanee. District Deputies and the Masonic Foundation representatives gathered to receive education on how the Foundation works, what it does and tips and handouts on how they can spread the word to their individual lodges and members.

Rotated Masonic Foundation Board meetings and invited District Representatives, creating a great vehicle to locally network with Board Directors, District Reps. and visitors to discuss and dialogue on the operational matters of the Masonic Foundation.

Enhanced support by the Foundation over the next two years of District Projects that raise funds locally to address local needs. This Masonic Foundation initiative in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Grand Lodge has already been well communicated by our President.

As we look to 2003-04, the Public Relations Committee initiatives will include executing the Masonic Foundation initiative to celebrate Grand Lodge's 150th anniversary, creating a communications committee, publishing appreciation letters, developing a speakers bureau, placing information on the website about how to link with other Masonic Foundation programs, and circulating the annual report better to our donor base.

I trust from these accomplishments you can visibly see that "*What we have here is a failure to communicate*" **IS NOT OUR MOTTO.**

**LOOKING AHEAD:** Much of the Foundation's widespread support within communities across the province is invisible to the casual observer. To thank Masons for their generous assistance in past years and to help them celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Grand Lodge, as well as to make local support by the Foundation more visible, your Foundation wants to take Masonic charity to the grassroots of Ontario - to the local communities where Masons live and work and from which support of the Foundation has been generated over the years. To achieve this goal, your Foundation has initiated a Sesquicentennial Program to promote a charitable project in every District during 2004-05 to financially support a local need as identified by individual Districts.

The Foundation will commit a minimum of \$150,000 to be used by the Districts in support of a local project, selected by the individual District in line with the criteria within which the Foundation must act. Of this total, each District would be provided \$1,500 outright. Should the District choose not to undertake a fund-raising project to supplement the amount from the Foundation, the \$1,500 would still be available for donation to a local charitable cause. The main goal of this Sesquicentennial Program, however, will be to promote the presence of Masonry in the community through a District-wide fund-raising project in support of the local cause. To help achieve this goal, in addition to the \$1,500, each District will receive an added amount of 25% of the funds raised, up to a further \$2,000 per project. This is a major financial commitment and your Directors recognize that this one-time undertaking could necessitate reducing the Capital Account of the Foundation.

While it is envisaged that the District project implementation and fund-raising would occur during the 150th Anniversary Celebration of Grand Lodge from July 2004 to July 2005, selecting the appropriate local cause, obtaining the Foundation's agreement, organizing the campaign team and establishing the fund-raising phase will require much planning during the 2003-04 Masonic year. ***Let the planning begin now!***

The next two years promise to be exciting; however, the Directors must also look beyond this major initiative. The Strategic Framework will continue to be implemented; "Planned Giving" will be promoted; and "personal giving" through the Yellow Envelope campaign, memorial donations and other lodge and individual contributions must be encouraged to boost contributions to levels equal to and beyond that achieved prior to the HELP-2-HEAR Campaign, to recoup any dip in Capital due to the Sesquicentennial Program and to enable the Foundation to meet the community's ever-increasing need for assistance.

While we reflect on past achievements of the Foundation with pride, let us also look to its future goals with purpose, and remember that our efforts are done, often without fanfare or public recognition, to assist those less fortunate than ourselves - ***for the cause of good.***

***Your*** Masonic Foundation of Ontario...

***Your*** legacy for the betterment of future generations.

All of which is respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board of Directors, Officers and Committee Chairmen of the Masonic Foundation of Ontario: J.T. Bourret, D.A. Campbell, J.T. Cassie, D. A. Conway, C.E. Drew, M.J. Duke, T.W. Hogeboom, A.J. Hope, D.L. Jagger, S. Kalinowsky, T A. McLean, P.J. Mullen, D.H. Mumby, A.D. Nichols, J.C. Sutherland, D.R. Thornton and H. Waxl.

**Ronald K. Campbell**, President