



THE MASONIC FOUNDATION OF ONTARIO

ANNUAL REPORT 2007

For The Cause Of Good



MASONIC FOUNDATION OF ONTARIO

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THE MASONIC FOUNDATION OF ONTARIO

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Foundation was formed in 1964 by a special act of the Ontario Legislature. It is a public Foundation and is registered with the Canada Revenue Agency.

The objects of the Foundation set out clearly its charitable nature:

to receive, maintain, manage, control and use donations exclusively for charitable purposes within Ontario.

The Foundation is permitted to use its donations for the relief of poverty, the advancement of education and the advancement of other purposes beneficial to the community.

The Foundation is committed to funding bursaries, hearing research, drug and substance abuse education in the school systems and other specific and community projects which fall within its guidelines.

“FOR THE CAUSE OF GOOD”

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

...honouring the past, celebrating the present, shaping the future

Dr. Samuel Kalinowsky

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

It is again my privilege to present this report, on behalf of the Officers and Directors, to the Forty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Masonic Foundation of Ontario, being held at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in the City of Toronto, Ontario on Tuesday, July 17, 2007.

Introduction: Contemporary society is quickly advancing into an “Age of Unreality”. Everywhere we look, expediency is fast replacing practicality. The business world is in turmoil, its waters roiled by continuing scandals and violent market shifts. The political world is in upheaval, fuelled by a growing fear that our leaders and institutions are failing to cope and, in fact, are virtually paralysed by the complexity of the problems we face....global warming, cultural deprivation, religious intolerance....who is in charge? The answer appears to be, no one!!

In the consumer-oriented societies of the West, heroic and principled endeavour has been replaced by a “feel-good” psychology that tries to numb us into complacency and acceptance. This triumph of the therapeutic has infiltrated our educational and media institutions. Education is no longer about inculcating a desire for knowledge, but is instead aimed at propagandizing the self-righteous claim that we, as post-moderns, possess the final knowledge of how best to live.

Tolerance, diversity and inclusivity are the prevailing watchwords as distinct from, reason, judgment and prudence. In the media, the objective is to keep us entertained so we don't think too much. Our politics, religion, news, athletics, education and commerce have been transformed into show business. The result is that we are a people on the verge of amusing ourselves to death.

This world of unreality and cynicism makes it difficult for the Masonic Foundation of Ontario, and other private, voluntary, charitable organizations to function, to prepare themselves for a world in which the stakes are high, the changes are rapid and the stakeholders are more demanding and diverse.

This Annual Report highlights the regular, on-going activities of the Foundation, which have been described by the respective Chairmen and form the bulk of the report. I would suggest that you read the report in its entirety to fully appreciate the diverse nature of the charitable work undertaken and the measures taken by management to demonstrate its accountability to its many stakeholders.

Copies of this Annual Report may be obtained at the Foundation Display...please take several copies with you to be better informed about "The Foundation Story" and to enlighten the brethren of your lodge who may be absent today and to share with neighbours and friends alike who may be interested in various facets of the invaluable work of the Foundation.

As in past years, a copy of the 2007 Annual Report will be sent next month to every lodge in our Grand Jurisdiction; copies will also be included in the Resource Kits that will be distributed to the District Deputy Grand Masters and will be available from the Foundation Office in Hamilton, on request. In addition, the Annual Report will be posted on the Masonic Foundation Web Page at www.masonicfoundation.on.ca.

Appreciation: Change is inevitable; we welcome it one moment, we resist it another.

We constantly try to address the uncertain changes of an external environment while at the same time we adapt to internal changes. Again this year, we will be witnessing the departure of 2 Directors who have served their full-terms with dedication and distinction.

* J. T. (James) Cassie has completed almost two decades of service to the Foundation, during which time he made timely contributions as our historical reference guru, as our circumspect conscience and by serving as our investment and fiscal backbone. While no longer a Director, James will continue to liaise with BMO Nesbitt Burns, our investment counsel, and to provide continuing sound financial advice to the Foundation.

* A. D. (Douglas) Nichols has completed a full 6-year term as a Director and Vice-President of the Foundation. His financial and accounting expertise induced a sense of prudence and probity to all our deliberations. The Foundation will continue to avail itself of his special skills, as he will continue as our Treasurer.

Change in personnel notwithstanding, the Foundation has continued to enjoy and benefit from a highly competent cadre of Directors and Program Chairmen. They regularly sacrifice their time at no cost to the Foundation, contributing their many skills and professionalism to ensure that the trust reposed in us by our stakeholders has not been misdirected and that our programs are delivered with effectiveness, efficiency and economy.

Given that many of our stakeholders are drawn from the 50,000+ Masons of Ontario, it has been most gratifying to have had the unqualified support of our Grand Lodge and our Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Gary L. Atkinson, who regularly reminded the brethren of their charitable obligations. His admonitions were conveyed with passion and conviction which appreciably reinforced the notion that the Masonic Foundation was the “Charity of Choice” for all Freemasons in Ontario. His personal project, in

support of Crohn's and Colitis, was truly inspirational and raised in excess of \$ 25,000 for a most worthwhile cause.

In addition to the above, the Foundation recognizes and commends that veritable 'army' of individuals who regularly contribute to the objectives of the Foundation. These include the 44 District Deputy Grand Masters, the District and Lodge MFO Representatives, the Worshipful Masters and Secretaries of the almost 600 individual Lodges and you, the Brethren, who support and promote the work of the Foundation. Your continuing dedication and commitment to our noble cause is worthy of the highest commendation.

And finally, I believe that, inarguably, the smooth and effective operation of the Foundation Office in Hamilton, is a direct and clear result of the regular and invaluable contributions provided by our Corporate Secretary, Melvyn J. Duke and his assistant, Mrs. Marlene Victor. Their attention to detail, prompt and courteous responses and friendly demeanor have endeared them to our Directors, Chairmen and Brethren...thanks for everything.

Financial Matters: The Foundation is most appreciative of the contributions of A. Douglas Nichols, who assumed the important responsibilities of Treasurer in July, 2006. The capital investment portfolio performed satisfactorily under the over site of Director, James T. Cassie and the astute investment counsel of Mr. Edward Yablonski of BMO Nesbitt Burns, who personally briefs the Board of Directors at least once a year.

The Foundation depends, to a large extent, on the annual proceeds of our capital investment portfolio to fund its on-going operations and donations. Accordingly, our investment philosophy has dictated a conservative, risk-adverse strategy. Despite the negative impact of continuing low interest rates, the Foundation realized investment income of \$331,305, down from 2005-06, but sufficient to meet our cash-flow requirements during the year.

Unrestricted net assets at March 31, 2007 stood at \$7,948.239, up \$120,000 from the previous year. Total donations received through Yellow Envelopes were \$ 45,543.35 while other member and lodge contributions amounted to \$ 15,938.80.

A number of Lodges use the Grey Memorial Envelopes in memory of departed brethren, raising an additional amount of \$ 9,010.00. The total of these types of voluntary, personal donations amounted to \$70,510, equivalent to the previous year. Bequests, which are not budgeted for or included as revenue in our forecasts, were received from ten estates, amounting to \$122,626. From a budgeting perspective, it is gratifying to observe that the “bottom line” excess of revenue over expenses amounted to \$119,484, which is virtually the same as the value of bequests received. This serves to underscore the effectiveness of the Foundation’s budget-setting practices.

One of the primary responsibilities of a Board of Directors is to regularly and consistently demonstrate effective stewardship over the resources entrusted to it. During the past year, I am completely assured that your Board of Directors exercised their fiduciary obligations with loyalty, honesty and good faith and acted ethically in the best interests of the Masonic Foundation of Ontario, which they serve. They adopted the highest possible standards of personal behaviour and governance, thereby enabling them to deliver their mission with effectiveness and attachment and thereby making the Foundation more attractive to its donors and stakeholders.

And finally, I wish to commend the professionalism and assiduity of our new Auditors, Lepore and Company, Chartered Accountants, Professional Corporation of Hamilton. Their understanding of the Foundation’s activities and practices and co-operation with our staff warrant recognition and appreciation.

The Work of the Foundation: Since the Masonic Foundation of Ontario was incorporated in 1964, there has been a continuous growth in our capital base and an increased capacity to respond to the growing need for

charitable assistance. During the last year, the total expensed on bursaries and donations was \$489,901, which included \$208,746 on District Projects. This represents a large drop from the record disbursement of \$1,203,462 in 2005-06, an amount which clearly underscores the financial impact of the Sesquicentennial celebrations, both in terms of community-directed district projects and the financial incentives provided by the Foundation in support of these projects.

During 2006-07, the Foundation, after winding down the celebratory activities of the Sesquicentennial Program, reverted to its ongoing charitable engagements. A short summary is being provided, noting that a narrative description of each program entity is contained elsewhere in this Annual Report. The Bursary Program, our first charitable outreach, again responded to the emergency situation of students in community colleges and universities by awarding 55 bursaries, having a total value of \$46,300. Our undertakings in the area of hearing research under Help-2-Hear was maintained through contributions of \$35,000 each to the Universities of Western Ontario and Ottawa and the Hospital for Sick Children (Toronto). Basic Hearing Research under HELP was accorded a final grant of \$30,000. The diversity of the Foundation's support was again reflected in its support to School Peer Education Programs (Nip Drugs in the Bud) delivered through PAD (Parent Action on Drugs) - \$35,000; Kerry's Place (Autism) - \$17,000; VOICE (Auditory Verbal Therapy Outreach) - \$10,000; Youth Organizations (4-H Council, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and Demolay) - \$16,000; and Other Donations, which include the Deputy Grand Master's Special Projects and Incentives for District Projects - \$17,555. A total of \$281,155 was disbursed in support of these worthy causes.

Our Administrative and Fund-Raising costs totalled \$123,802, a reduction of \$8,000 from the previous year. All voluntary, charitable organizations experience practical difficulty in differentiating between "pure" administration versus fund-raising costs. Your Board of Directors is confident that the allocation of our resources to these expenditure items is handled with utmost frugality and care.

We should note that our efforts to more effectively communicate the Foundation Story and the emergence of increased functionality of the MFO Website have at the same time fostered an increase in the number of requests being received for assistance.

Your Executive Committee and the Board of Directors will be compelled, more than ever, to exercise greater analysis and understanding of these requests to ensure that the Foundation continues to assist only the most worthwhile projects with the scarce financial resources available.

Other Activities: While your Foundation is engaged in its primary activity, which is charitable giving, the members of the Board of Directors and our Staff were also involved in planning, evaluation, liaison and communications activities, all of which are of utmost importance to enhance the philosophical position of the Masonic Foundation as the ‘Charity of Choice for Masons in Ontario.’

1) The **Masonic Foundation Display** continues to demonstrate the power of visual methods of communication. It was effectively used at Grand Lodge in July and at the International Ploughing Match in Keene last September. The more extensive and imaginative use of this Display affords an excellent opportunity to communicate the Foundation Story to large captive audiences of Masons and to the general public at large. I strongly encourage the use of the Foundation Display at shopping malls, at Open Houses and on Family Days....any venue where there is a significant interaction between the general public and Masonry.

2) **MFO Information Seminars** were conducted province-wide in 8 cities, namely Thunder Bay, Napanee, Toronto, Hamilton, Waterloo, London, Barrie and Sudbury during the period from September to February. There were some logistical and timing problems hence the attendance was varied but the reaction was consistently positive. What attendees were telling us was that they learned more in the 2 ½ hours than they had known heretofore.... that is about the Foundation!!! A recurring

theme was that they would like to see the development of a short, informative 3-5 minute clip that would be distributed as a CD to all Lodges in Ontario, to be used in various information and education sessions such as Committees of General Purposes, Masonic Education in Lodge, Open Houses, Brother-2-Brother and Friend-2-Friend Seminars.

3) **Resource Kits** containing relevant information that could be useful to Masons were distributed to most of the 44 District Deputy Grand Masters and to the District MFO Representatives. Information that was provided included the following: 2006 Annual Reports; History of the MFO; pamphlets entitled “What is the Masonic Foundation?” and “Planned Giving”; a supply of Yellow and Grey Envelopes; Guidelines for Bursaries; Guidelines on how to Develop and Apply for a District Project; and duties of the DDGM and District Rep re the MFO. The reaction to and acceptance of these Kits was extremely varied: some DDGMs distributed the contents to the Worshipful Masters of the District, who found the contents useful; other DDGMs never opened the boxes; while other DDGMs thought that the information was not useful at all. Notwithstanding these mixed reactions, it is apparent to the Board of Directors, from the types and frequency of questions we receive regularly, that the Resource Kits, should, again, be distributed to the newly-installed DDGMs for their easy reference, information and use.

4) **The Web Page** at www.masonicfoundation.on.ca has continued to evolve, slowly and sometimes painfully, but given the number of ‘hits’, appears to be making headway as a useful instrument of communications and information dissemination. Changing messages from the President, new and interesting articles by the Directors, using the Web Page as a Bulletin Board for the Seminar Series and other improvements were useful additions during the year.

It is our firm commitment that the process of developing new additions and improvements must and will continue in the new year and beyond.

BURSARIES

...helping to create opportunities and realize dreams

Donald L. Jagger

The Bursary Program was established in 1965 as the first charitable outreach undertaken by the then newly established Masonic Foundation of Ontario (MFO).

Professor James J. Talman, University of Western Ontario, was the Director in charge of the program from its inception in 1965 to 1981. Professor Wallace McLeod, Victoria College, University of Toronto, administered the program from 1981 to 1997. Donald R. Thornton served as Chairman from 1997 to 2006. Donald L. Jagger now administers the program.

The program was instituted to provide non-repayable financial assistance to full time students at Ontario Colleges and Universities who have encountered an unexpected financial emergency during the final term of a two or three year program or during the final term of years three or four of a four year program, who have exhausted all other sources of revenue and who may be forced to leave school before graduation. There must also be reasonable assurance that, upon receipt of this financial support, the applicant will complete his/her program of studies as a full time registered student and graduate. Applicants must be Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Ontario. The normal bursary awarded is \$800. Amounts from \$500 to \$1,000 may be given based on request and indicated need. Since inception, the Foundation's Bursary Committee has awarded over \$2,245,000 to help approximately 3,350 students to complete their studies.

This year \$46,300 has been awarded to 55 students in financial distress from universities and community colleges throughout Ontario.

The Bursary Program has been the Foundation's major charitable outreach, being especially unique as the only Foundation activity involving local members, from all Masonic Districts, who personally meet and present the bursaries to recipients. In the future, the Masonic Foundation will continue to assist students in financial need.

In addition to the bursaries administered by the Foundation, awards are made from special Masonic Foundation Bursary accounts of the *Ontario Student Opportunities Trust Funds*, established at some selected Universities and Colleges, through a one-time donation to the College or University, which generated matching funds from the Ontario Government. The institutions administer and present these MFO Bursaries annually, in the name of the Masonic Foundation of Ontario.

Bursary Funding Statistics – April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007

Applications received – 81

Applications denied – 26

Bursaries awarded – 55

Total value of bursaries awarded – \$46,300

**Applications were received from 8 Universities and
13 Community Colleges.**

From the many letters received from Bursary recipients expressing their grateful thanks, it is easy to see that the Bursary Program is filling a great need in enabling many students, who otherwise would not have graduated, to complete their programs, graduate, and fulfill their dreams. Brethren, this is a positive example of your donations at work.

HEARING RESEARCH (PROJECT H.E.L.P.)

...helping to extend the frontiers of knowledge

Dr Gareth R Taylor

The Auditory Science Laboratory at The Hospital for Sick Children continues its progress on hearing research with the funding from Project H.E.L.P. under the guidance of Dr. Robert Harrison. The funding from the H.E.L.P. initiative of the Masonic Foundation of Ontario provides support to a variety of basic laboratory science projects into hearing mechanisms (and deafness) as well as more applied clinical research on children in their cochlear implant program.

Since the last annual report, Dr. Harrison's group has had 9 peer-reviewed publications. In addition, work supported in part by the Masonic Foundation has been presented at 11 scientific conferences both in North America and Europe. Dr. Harrison states, "The Foundation supported research back when we were trying to see which patients were most suitable and would benefit most from a cochlear implant (in one ear only). Together, we have gone from implanting 2 or 3 children a year to the present time when we now implant up to 70 each year. And depending on our current research results, we may be moving towards implantation of most children with two devices rather than just one. I am glad to have shared this evolution of hearing healthcare with you, the kind and generous representatives of the Masons of Ontario." The following is a summary of the highlights of the work that the Foundation continues to support.

BASIC RESEARCH supported by HELP funding

[A] *The development of the auditory system.*

In the area of *Basic Research* three projects are being conducted with support from the Foundation. A *study of the development of the auditory system*, is underway in an animal model. As previously reported, Dr. Harrison's group had discovered that in a neonatal subject, at the level of cerebral cortex, auditory neurons start out being responsive only to very simple sounds such as single tones or bursts of noise. Gradually, over time, and thus with exposure to the sound environment, these neurons form networks and become responsive to very complex sounds (such as those found in speech). The work over the past year has been a continuation of this research thread. The general idea here is that when animals (including humans) are born, the auditory system is only partly "programmed", or "wired-up" in a rather simple fashion. When the system is activated by environmental sounds such as speech, central regions (e.g. auditory cortex) become specialized for detecting the speech signals that the subject has been exposed to. We are interested in this developmental mechanism, and have been exploring it in an animal model (chinchilla).

Specifically, over the past year, one of Dr. Harrison's graduate students, Trecia Brown, has been working in this area towards her PhD thesis. She is doing experiments to see if sounds that are present in speech (specifically such as FM (frequency modulated) signals) directly cause neural networks in the auditory cortex to "wire up" or become programmed for the coding of FM signals.

A second area of research focuses on *Blood flow and oxygen supply to active parts of the auditory brain*. Dr. Harrison had previously developed novel methods to study blood vasculature in the brain and had found that blood supply is more substantial to those areas of the brain that require more oxygen (this includes areas involved in hearing). They continue to investigate the relationship between nerve cells and blood vessels that supply the neurons with oxygen.

Over the past year, they have been using a combination of transmission electron microscopy and light microscopy. Use of microscope facilities at the University of Toronto, and some of the lab technical support is directly supported from the H.E.L.P. funding.

The third study is the analysis of *Oto-acoustic Emission research*. For many, many years the Masonic Foundation has supported Dr. Harrison's research relating to oto-acoustic emissions (these are minute sound signals that come out of the ears and are generated in the cochlea by the sensory haircells). Dr. Harrison had previously reported that his group had been using a novel "real time" measuring device to record activity from the inner ear almost *instantaneously*. With new techniques, they have been experimenting on how the cochleas are controlled from higher centres of the brain. More importantly they have measured how input to one ear can change the sensitivity of the opposite ear. In other words, they have been probing the neural pathways that connect the two ears. This is very novel and exciting work. They have found that activity in each ear actually modulates the sensory transduction in the opposite ear and believe that this is acting like a balancing system to equate the sensitivity of both ears - just as one might alter the balance of a stereo speaker system. This system has an important role in tasks that require the delicate balanced input from two ears, such as sound localization.

This recent work has resulted in some good publications, and with more in the preparation stage. This work has been presented at a number of high profile meetings including, most recently, at The Royal Society of Medicine Meeting in London, UK. The work (done here) has made up an impressive Doctoral Thesis submitted and passed by the University of Oxford, U.K for trainee, Adrian James. In addition, another trainee, Dr. Alok Sharma is working on the latest experiments and plans to submit his Master of Science Thesis for examination at the University of Wales, Cardiff.

The *Clinical Research* component focuses on *Hearing brain development in children with cochlear implants*.

The basic methodology involves measuring evoked potentials (brain-waves) from children with cochlear implants. The project is a longitudinal study to test infants just after implantation and then at regular (yearly) intervals to track developmental changes. As has been reported previously, this method is a way of assessing the development of the auditory brain in infants with cochlear implants. Dr. Harrison has recently completed a number of key studies, and published the results, and presented data at various scientific meetings in the last year.

Using the same methodologies, they have also been looking at questions relating to cochlear implantation of both ears and are still in the middle of a clinical trial to see whether implants in both ears are significantly better than in just one. The lab is using evoked potentials to understand how well auditory input from two ears can be integrated in the central brain. This work is ongoing. The results will be very important to make policy decisions about whether to provide and fund two implants to all deaf children, as opposed to just implanting in one ear as is the case presently.

HEARING RESEARCH (HELP-2-HEAR)

...inspiring innovation and discovery

Dr. Gareth R Taylor

The three hearing research projects being supported by the Masonic Foundation, each receiving \$35,000 annually, are progressing well as indicated in the following reports:

Hospital for Sick Children: Most deaf children have a congenital hearing loss, meaning they are deaf from birth.

This category is made up of many different causes (etiologies) of hearing loss mostly of hereditary origin i.e. of genetic cause. Dr. Harrison's HELP-2-HEAR project asked: what genetic causes were responsible for the severe to profound deafness in children in the cochlear implant program?

They already knew of a number of gene mutations that contribute to hearing loss, and using gene testing technology at Sick Kids they have looked for those known genes, and have also found a novel gene mutation. For the testing, they have collected blood samples from over 360 children and found that over 50% of the children have a connexin gene mutation.

With this knowledge, they have made a further study on the relationship between connexin mutation deafness and cochlear implant function. Specifically asking whether infants with this mutation do better or worse with an implant and why. They have been particularly interested in whether children with connexin mutations have better survival of nerve cells in the auditory nerve than children with different genetic causes of hearing loss. They have indeed found that connexin mutation children have better nerve cell survival in certain areas of the cochlea compared to non-connexin children and were able to determine this result based on evoked potential studies in (often) very young infants. The part of the study that is ongoing relates to longer term outcome measures of behavioural performance (e.g. understanding speech discrimination tests, and measures of language development). This work will take a couple of years to complete (because the implanted infants have to reach 4 or 5 years of age before testing is possible).

During the past year, Dr. Harrison's group also made steady progress on the other project supported by HELP-2-HEAR, namely *Using magnetoencephalography (MEG) to explore auditory brain function in subjects with hearing impairment*. This past year, they have been in an intensive

“technical development” and “feasibility study” mode in relation to using MEG technology to image auditory function.

MEG studies involve measuring the minute magnetic fields that are produced by the electrical activity of neurons in the brain. These magnetic signals are millions of times smaller than the earth’s magnetic field, and also of any electrical device. So, during MEG recording, the presentation of sound stimulation through a standard headphone (electromagnetic or piezo-electric) is impossible. A graduate student in Dr. Harrison’s lab, Daniel Wong, has been working on presenting sounds by using a mechanical vibration transmission, and by activating the ear by bone conduction. (This by the way is how we hear ourselves speak – via bone conduction transmissions from the larynx to the cochleas.)

Daniel Wong has used his novel method to record MEG data from subjects, and has been analysing the data with various computational methods. For example, he has been able to measure the time-course of auditory information through different parts of the cortex of the brain. More importantly, he has used dipole source analysis and other methods to localize the activity regions. Scientifically, he is asking the question: do people with only one ear activate different central brain areas than subjects who have and use both ears?

University of Western Ontario

Introduction: The primary mission of the Child Amplification Laboratory at the National Centre for Audiology at the University of Western Ontario, is to develop state-of-the-art algorithms and procedures for the prescription, fitting and verification of the new generation of digital signal processing (DSP) hearing aids for infants and young children who are diagnosed to have hearing loss. They also ensure that the procedures and protocols developed and evaluated in the laboratory are made available through publications, presentations and workshops to hearing healthcare professionals throughout the world.

The funding that they receive through the Help-2-Hear Program of the Masonic Foundation greatly assists the group in meeting these goals. The following provides a brief description of the major activities and accomplishments during 2006. The proposed projects to the Masonic Foundation aimed to (1) develop procedures for predicting aided speech sound perception in children who use hearing aids; and (2) develop computerized displays of test results that are easily understood by hearing care professionals and caregivers. It is hoped that these two lines of research will help clinicians and families to better understand whether a given child is receiving appropriate levels of benefit from his or her hearing aids.

Update on Project 1: Calculation of Speech Intelligibility Index

Values for Children: *The amount of speech that is loud enough to be heard can be quantified using a single proportional value called the Speech Intelligibility Index (SII). The SII indicates how much of speech can be heard. However, SII values can also be used to predict how many speech sounds should be correctly identified. Therefore, the SII could be a very useful clinical tool in helping clinicians, parents and other professionals understand what a hearing aid is providing to a child. As such, the SII forms the scientific basis for both of the proposed projects. They believe that the SII could be a valid and useful clinical tool to assist audiologists in (a) providing better hearing aid fittings to children; and (b) providing better informational counselling to parents. To achieve this, they have begun developing and validating age-related SII corrections for a commercially available test of speech understanding. This project asks the following questions: (1) What is the relationship between SII, age, hearing loss, and the status of the child's vocabulary? (2) How accurately can they predict children's speech perception test scores? (3) Can this information be used in a clinically relevant and accurate manner?*

Results: Dr. Seewald's group has recruited fourteen adults with normal hearing (ages 22 to 28), fifteen children with normal hearing aged 6 to 18 ($M = 10.69$, $S = 3.42$), and fourteen children with hearing loss aged 9 to 16 years ($M = 12.06$, $SD = 2.35$) for participation in the current study.

Children with hearing losses were fitted with binaural hearing aids with nonlinear digital processing, using the DSL v5.0 Method. All participants were tested using a commercially available test of speech recognition in noise (the BKB-SIN Test, Etymotic Research). Data from each participant group were analyzed using nonlinear regression techniques. Group results clearly indicate that normative data from adults or children with normal hearing cannot be used to predict performance for children with hearing loss. These predictions accounted for more than 92% of the variance in the children's scores. It is encouraging that the standard SII methodology is able to measure this difference, as it will facilitate clinical application of this knowledge. This is the first study to use the widely-available SII to develop normative data for children who use hearing aids, for a commercially available speech test.

More detailed analyses of the data were also done. These indicated that additional measures of a child's vocabulary were not successful in improving the accuracy of the SII prediction, beyond the accuracy obtained using the child's chronological age alone. This facilitates the use of the SII technique in clinical settings, because the time required to perform the vocabulary testing is not required in order to obtain an accurate prediction.

Update on Project 2: Development of procedures for counseling of families and professionals: *More than 90% of babies with hearing loss are born to hearing parents who had no reason to suspect their child would have any degree of hearing loss (Kurtzer-White & Luterman, 2003). The successful use of amplification is apt to reflect the ability, as audiologists, to communicate and ensure that parents understand and accept their child's hearing loss and the requirements for appropriate amplification to ensure aided speech is audible. This project aimed to (1) develop computer-assisted displays of hearing aid function; and (2) develop and evaluate computer-assisted tests of children's abilities to hear and understand specific speech sounds.*

Update 1: Software-assisted displays of hearing aid function: Dr. Seewald's group has continued to work with hearing aid and real-ear system manufacturers from around the world to implement the Desired Sensation Level (DSL) Method for fitting hearing aids for infants and young children into their hearing aid and real-ear system software. This enables audiologists from around the world to have access to this method. Dr. Seewald's group has given numerous training sessions and presentations over the past year so that audiologists and others in the hearing health care field are informed of the revisions to DSL v5.0. As of March 2007, eleven companies have licensed the DSL v5.0 Method for implementation in their software. They also have companies from Asia interested in implementing DSL v5.0 which will mean an increased likelihood of children in Asia also being fitted using this method.

In their previous work, they have developed a graphic method for displaying hearing aid fitting, which uses a common reference scale to describe both the hearing loss and the hearing aid. This SPLogram, developed as part of the DSL Method, plots not only the minimal levels of sound a child can hear, but also plots the point where sounds can become uncomfortably loud for the child. The SPLogram can be used when counselling parents regarding their child's hearing loss, amplification needs and outcomes. SPLograms have been developed by an Ontario company that sells a hearing aid analyzer across North America. By embedding DSL displays in such a system, they can ensure that the methods are widely available.

The Child Amplification Laboratory researchers are working to continually improve this SPLogram display. DSL v5.0 has been used extensively in the laboratory as part of the research program. Specifically, adults and children with hearing loss who are participating in a clinical field trial are being fitted with hearing aids programmed to the recommended DSL v5.0 targets. Various outcome measures have been collected as well as a computation of the Speech Intelligibility Index (SII).

Acoustic measures include estimation of the peaks of individual speech sounds.

They are using these to predict speech recognition abilities of the particular sounds, in conjunction with the SII. The goal is to use individual speech sounds to predict speech recognition ability, adding more descriptive information to the SPLogram display.

It is hoped that this work will provide more detailed information for audiologists, and subsequently caregivers of infants who wear hearing aids, about what the child can hear while wearing the hearing aids.

Update 2: Computer-assisted tests of Specific Speech Sounds: Last year, Dr. Seewald reported completing development of a calibrated, computer-assisted implementation of the Ling Six Sound Test (Tenhaaf & Scollie, 2005). This set of sounds is very commonly used by auditory verbal therapists and speech-language pathologists working with young children who use hearing aids and/or cochlear implants. They are interested in pursuing this test because it conveys information about hearing (either with or without hearing aids) in terms of letters of the alphabet rather than in mathematical terms. Since then, they have applied the test to a sample of children with high frequency hearing loss who have been fitted with the DSL v5.0 prescription. Results are reliable, and show that the DSL v5.0 prescription is successful in making all six speech sounds heard to a hearing level of 40dB. This occurs even for the high frequency sounds, and even for the children with severe to profound hearing loss. Put in simple terms, the DSL v5.0 prescription allows children with severe hearing loss to hear speech sounds at the level of only mild hearing loss.

The foregoing research initiatives at the National Centre for Audiology at the University of Western Ontario, to assess and fit infants with hearing aids, were rewarded with a national award for Dr Marlene Bagatto. She was awarded a Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) Young Innovators Award by the federal government of Canada for her ground-

breaking work in transferring research in audiology into improved outcomes for children with hearing impairments.

“Research has shown that the earlier we can identify and address hearing impairments in children, the better able are the children to interact and communicate.” says Dr Bagatto.

In addition, at the American Academy of Audiology Conference in Denver, Colorado on April 19, 2007, Dr Richard Seewald was awarded the International Award, Academy Honoree. The award is given to honor and recognize achievements of international significance in audiology.

University of Ottawa: *The University of Ottawa/CHEO Research Institute Research Laboratory for Childhood Hearing houses a multi-disciplinary research group under the direction of Dr Andrée Durieux-Smith. A variety of completed and ongoing research projects have explored factors that can influence the development of children with a permanent hearing loss (PHL), including age of diagnosis of hearing loss, hearing technology such as cochlear implants and the type of intervention program in which the child with hearing loss and his/her family are enrolled. The funding received through HELP-2-HEAR provides a stable base of support that significantly assists the research group in carrying out its various projects.*

As part of the infrastructure for the various research projects, work is ongoing on maintaining a database on children who are diagnosed with hearing loss and followed at the Audiology Clinic of the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO). Data on audiological, medical, and family histories of children is monitored on a regular basis. In the last year, data on the birth cohort of children born 1980 to 2003 was analysed to determine the patterns in the age of diagnosis of PHL and the age of first amplification fitting for children who had been screened in infancy (through high-risk hearing screening or universal newborn hearing screening) or who were referred through traditional channels (with or without risk factors for hearing loss). Part of this work has also been

supported by a grant received from the Canadian Language and Literacy Research Network (CLLRNet (NCE)) for the study “*The impact of screening and case finding on the functional status of children with a hearing impairment*”

In summary, the data illustrate that over time, particularly since the advent of the Ontario Infant Hearing Program in 2002, the percentage of children that are identified through newborn hearing screening (NHS) has increased significantly. Children who have been screened in infancy are diagnosed significantly earlier than referred children with risk factors for hearing loss (e.g., with a family history of hearing loss) who in turn are diagnosed significantly earlier than referred children with no risk factors for hearing loss. In addition, there has been a significant decrease in the age of diagnosis over time for children who are not screened. For children referred with no risk factors, born from 1980 to 1985, the mean age of diagnosis was 61.5 months while for the group of children born from 1998 to 2003 the mean age of diagnosis had decreased by over 2 years to a mean of 35.4 months.

For children who are not screened, there is a significant relationship between degree of loss and age of diagnosis. In both of the referred groups, children with severe to profound hearing loss were identified significantly earlier than children with lesser degrees of hearing loss. Children with moderate to moderate-severe hearing loss were identified significantly earlier than children with minimal to mild hearing loss.

As well, the study “*The impact of screening and case finding on the functional status of children with a hearing impairment*” investigated the relationship between newborn hearing screening (NHS), the age of diagnosis (significantly lower in children who were screened) and the development of language in children with PHL. Over the course of the study 76 children with hearing loss were enrolled in both Ottawa and Toronto. In addition, a total of 51 hearing children were enrolled in the control group at the Ottawa site. The children were followed from 2002 until mid 2006. In total, over 300 assessments were completed.

The development of children with PHL, identified with and without NHS programs, was compared. The children identified early through screening did not perform better than children identified later without screening on several measures of communication development. Previous literature has suggested that age of diagnosis has a significant impact on communication development, although recent studies have shown mixed results. These results suggest that other factors, such as degree of hearing loss, use of technology such as cochlear implants and the availability of quality intervention services may have a greater impact on communication development than age of identification.

These results prompted Dr. Elizabeth Fitzpatrick to explore other outcomes beyond communication development including qualitative research to explore the other benefits of early diagnosis from the parents' perspectives as well as the parents needs when a hearing loss is diagnosed. In addition, she investigated what attributes of service provision best met the needs of parents and identified the desired attributes of service delivery from a parents' perspective. Her findings indicate that the benefits of early diagnosis resulting from screening include early access to hearing and to audiology services. Parents whose children are diagnosed late noted that they felt frustration and a need to catch up. Other findings found that parents expressed a need for coordinated care, for support from other parents and easy access to timely information. These findings stress the importance of considering the models of service delivery as important factors in the early diagnosis and management of children with PHL.

Another area of research has been the type of intervention received by children with PHL following diagnosis. While the Auditory-Verbal Therapy (AVT) approach has been practiced since the 1940s, few empirical studies have evaluated outcomes for children who have participated in this intervention approach. The existing evidence has been criticized for its anecdotal nature and a lack of scientific rigour in the methodological designs adopted.

The results of this study have also provided longitudinal data on children enrolled in AVT programs compared to their hearing peers. The results indicate that a significant proportion of children enrolled in AVT can achieve outcomes across all domains assessed that are commensurate with those of their hearing peers. Analyses conducted to date indicate that over 50% of participants with hearing loss score in or above the normal range on the speech and language measures used in this study, independent of age at assessment, hearing age, and type of hearing technology utilized. These results have been presented at peer-reviewed conferences, manuscripts have been submitted for publication, and others are in preparation.

Of the children with hearing loss enrolled in the study, 33 have a cochlear implant. This subgroup of participants has also provided us with data on the development of children who use this technology. The results on the group of children with cochlear implants have led some of the team to apply for and receive additional research funds to study the impact of cochlear implants on language and literacy in school-aged children, the benefits of cochlear implantation for children with complex disabilities and the implantation of children with less severe hearing loss.

In 2006, team members presented 6 peer-reviewed papers at scientific meetings, including the International Newborn Hearing Screening Conference in May 2006 and the AG Bell conference this past summer. In addition, a number of publications have been submitted for publication and more are being completed.

The plans for 2007 are to continue to explore the data from the CLLRNet study and submit a number of papers for publication. It is expected that the data collected through the current research projects will provide for the development of grant applications that will extend this research program. One area, which has been identified by the team as in need of future research, is the impact of minimal and mild hearing loss on the development of children. These types of losses are included in the target

disorders to be identified by screening by the Infant Hearing Program in Ontario as well as by other universal hearing screening programs on an international level. The impact of these losses is as yet unknown and therefore management strategies for children with these types of losses remain unclear.

More detailed information regarding these studies is available from the Masonic Foundation website at www.masonicfoundation.on.ca

VOICE

...helping to give children the voice of sound

Donald L Jagger

VOICE For Hearing Impaired Children is a not-for profit charitable organization that has thrived since its formation in 1963 by parents and professionals. It provides much needed emotional and technical support to families of hearing impaired children.

VOICE's objective is two fold:

1. To provide hope for parents of hearing impaired children.
2. To inform the public that deaf children can learn to listen and speak.

VOICE responds to the needs of parents and their children by providing Parent Support, Auditory-Verbal Therapy, Educational Workshops and Conferences, Information Resources, Speaker's Bureau and Advocacy, all with the view of enhancing the quality of life for hearing impaired children.

VOICE offers hope, support, and practical assistance. Through consultation and advocacy with government and school boards, VOICE

speaks for children with hearing impairments so that they have the chance to speak for themselves.

The Masonic Foundation of Ontario's support of VOICE has impressively spanned across one quarter of a century and has reached a financial level of over \$300,000. During the last ten years, well over \$100,000 has been donated towards VOICE's Auditory-Verbal Therapy Program, whose object is to teach deaf children to use whatever usable hearing they have in order to acquire speech and language, thereby enabling them to become fully integrated and independent members of the community. This is a specialized type of therapy designed to teach a child to use the hearing provided by a hearing device or a cochlear implant for understanding speech and learning to talk. It teaches deaf children how to listen. Because of the Auditory-Verbal Therapy sponsored by the Masonic Foundation of Ontario, over 30 children have learned to speak and have become independent members of society.

Because of the Ontario Provincial Infant Hearing Program, which was instituted by the Ontario Government indirectly as a result of the Masonic Foundation's fund raising program, Help-to-Hear, tests are now performed on all newborn infants for hearing loss. These tests show that about three to four in 1,000 babies are found to have a hearing impairment or will develop a hearing impairment in early childhood. In fact, since VOICE has been appointed as the Auditory-Verbal service provider for the Infant Hearing Program, and as early detection through infant screening increases and more severe to profound children will be receiving cochlear implants, the future demand for VOICE's Auditory-Verbal Therapy will also be on the rise and VOICE's Internship Program for Auditory-Verbal Therapists will also need to be increased. The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto has expanded its implant program to include in excess of seventy (70) implants per year and VOICE provides the oral rehabilitation (Auditory-Verbal Therapy) for many of their recipients. VOICE's Auditory-Verbal Therapy Program has doubled in size over the past three years and is expected to continue to increase in size each year to

accommodate the ever growing need and permit VOICE to fulfill its objective – **“We give deaf children a voice for life.”**

**SCHOOL PEER EDUCATION PROGRAMS
PARENT ACTION ON DRUGS (PAD)**

...addressing the issues of substance use/abuse

Allan C Dvorak

Director Allan C. Dvorak, an ex-officio director of PAD, states that the Board of PAD is continuously evolving in an effort to meet the needs of teens due to the pressures and demands being set by today’s society.

The CBC – Challenges, Beliefs and Changes Peer Education Program, which is funded and supported by the Masonic Foundation, has continued solidly this year. The training sessions involved hundreds of trained “peer leaders” the program delivery involved thousands of grade 8 and grade 9 students all across Ontario. In April, 2007 a consultant review will allow for a revision and update of the program manuals in accordance with current best practices and relevant information.

New for this year: Building on the results from pilot testing a new peer-delivered program on the risks of marijuana use in seven high schools (three in Toronto and four in Grey-Bruce), PAD will now be widening peer education program to include the “marijuana-specific” concept. Marijuana has been identified by school and public health professionals as a significant problem among students, posing risks to their school performance and interfering with the achievement of their potential. The “What’s with Weed” peer-delivered program offers schools a choice of peer education, providing a one day workshop for peer leaders, following an initial assembly with senior students. School Boards have requested

PAD increase the peer program to include grade 10 students, not only grades 8 and 9, as they are also at their most vulnerable stage of their lives.

PAD continues its outreach to regions beyond southern Ontario to bring peer education programs to broader jurisdictions, upon their request; a workshop being delivered at the annual symposium of the Ontario Drug Awareness Partnership in May will allow for a connection with representatives from 100 different regions throughout Ontario.

Directions for 2007-08: It is clear that school-based programs should increase the options offered to schools for their involvement. The CBC program began to do this when PAD increased the option from delivery at the Grade 8 level to a choice between a Grade 8 or Grade 9 delivery. A further option was developed with the “What’s with Weed ?” program, providing a focus on problematic marijuana use and outreach to all of the senior students in the high schools, by providing a single day workshop for peer leaders and extending delivery to students in Grade 9 or 10. PAD will be initiating a new peer-education option for helping youth from high-risk backgrounds to make informed decisions about substance use based on the identification of harm to themselves, their families and their communities.

KERRY’S PLACE (AUTISM SERVICES)
...enhancing the quality of life of persons with Autism

A.J. (Tony) Hope

The number of persons diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) continues to rise at an alarming rate. With 1 in every 250 persons in North America diagnosed with some form of ASD, the need for services, similar

to those provided by Kerry's Place grows increasingly more imperative. Yet, there are many individuals in Ontario, and elsewhere, who, for a variety of reasons, are not receiving the supports that they so desperately need.

The Enhanced Support Model was developed in 2003 in response to the helplessness and frustration felt by both Community Outreach and Family Support at Kerry's Place in not being able to provide funded supports to families/individuals in desperate need. The Model was developed on the assumption that small amounts of money and/or resources could be made available to those in the greatest of need, who could not access critical services from other sources.

The Enhanced Support Committee reviews requests from individuals and families for crisis prevention, crisis intervention, seed money and training. Quite often, significant crises can be addressed or even averted by a small amount of funding applied with a great degree of sensitivity, creativity and compassion for the family.

For the last four years, the Masonic Foundation of Ontario has lent its support to Enhanced Support Services. During this period, the Committee has reviewed 107 requests (32 requests during the last year) and provided assistance of over \$100,000 in support of needy individuals and their families.

Dr Glenn Rampton, Chief Executive Officer of Kerry's Place states: *“Without the help and generous support of organizations such as yours, our mission would be compromised. It is the ongoing support of our members and friends that enables us to continually enhance the quality of life for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other pervasive developmental disorders. Kerry's Place Autism Services' vision is to become the Centre of Excellence for Autism supports and services in Ontario, and through the ongoing support we receive from our community partners we are committed to making this vision a reality”*

CHARITABLE REQUESTS

...making a difference in the lives of those with 'special' needs

Dr Allan J. Petrisor

Requests for charitable assistance continue to be received by the Masonic Foundation of Ontario. Many of them originate from large and well-funded special interest groups. There are other specific and one of a kind individual requests unique in their nature, that are taken into consideration by the Special Requests Committee of which the Deputy Grand Master is the Chairman. Since its inception in 1964, certain guidelines have been adhered to in considering the requests received:

- *All funds must be used in Ontario (as per the Articles of Incorporation);*
- *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 situations;*
- *Funds must be used in support of a specific person, activity or project;*
- *Funds from this source are not to be used to support either capital building projects or the operating capital funding of established charitable organizations.*

With the above perspective in mind, the following requests were approved for assistance:

- *Nova Vita Domestic Violence Prevention Services-helps to rebuild families every day, one individual at a time by creating violence-free living.*
- *Counter-Act, an anti-vandalism program for children 4-11, sponsored by the Mississauga Crime Prevention Association.*
- *Woodview Manor Autism Support Services and Oxford Centre for Child Studies.*

- Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Foundation to sponsor one Crown Ward for one term.
- Sudbury-Manitoulin Children's Foundation-to send four children to camp.
- Oxford Learning Centre to aid a nine year old with a "working memory problem"

Several letters of thanks have been received and the following example makes one realize how valuable our assistance can be and how much it is appreciated.

TO: Masonic Foundation: "My husband and I would like to take this opportunity to send a huge thank you to everyone who opened their hearts to our family in helping our child continue with the Special Learning Program and the assistance he will receive in learning how to cope with a working memory problem. Our words won't even express how grateful we are for your generous donation to him at this time. As parents, it has lightened the load for us knowing that he will have additional one-on-one instruction enabling him to hopefully gain enough knowledge and confidence to hold his head up high and be proud of who he is and what he is able to accomplish on his very own. Thank you so very much for your generous gift that in our eyes will keep giving from this day forward. We look forward to seeing a more permanent smile on our son's face as he picks up a book one day or even a birthday card and can read.....Sincerely

My thanks are extended to Mel Duke, Foundation Corporate Secretary and Marlene Victor at the Foundation Office for their great assistance in administering this special Charitable Requests Program. Their willingness to obtain the extra information, and, in confidence, enlighten the Chairman in making an informed decision was very much appreciated.

To the Masons of Ontario, I would like to ask that if you are aware of a young person with a "special" need that doesn't fit the norm in your District, please advise this Committee through the Masonic Foundation Office. We just may be able to provide some help!

ALSO, please remember that your District Projects, with a Masonic Foundation Project Number, automatically will receive a further 10% of the amount collected, up to a maximum of \$1,000 from the MFO, through this Committee. On behalf of those whom we have assisted, I offer you, my brethren, my sincere thanks for your many continued donations to the Mason's 'charity of choice', which funds this valuable charitable service.

DISTRICT /LODGE PROJECTS

...responding to local community needs

Barry J. Hutton

Masons throughout Ontario continue to support projects to help those in need, for the "Cause of Good". This year has seen a return to assisting many local charities, many with sizable goals. It has been encouraging to see, throughout our jurisdiction, more and more Masons making the Masonic Foundation of Ontario their "Charity of Choice".

The following projects demonstrate the diversity of activities that Masons across Ontario have chosen in a continuing effort to benefit their communities. The total amount of assistance that was provided through District Projects in 2006-07 totalled \$208,746.

Bruce	Outdoor Education Facility - Bluewater School Board
Frontenac	Obesity Education & Awareness
Georgian North	Simcoe County Awareness
Georgian South	Canadian Diabetes Foundation

Grey	James Fund - Neuroblastoma Research at Sick Kids
Ontario	Hearth Place Cancer Support
Ottawa 1 & 2	Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation
Ottawa 1	Roger' House
Ottawa 2	Prostate Cancer Research
Prince Edward	Crohn's & Colitus Foundation
Sarnia	Crohn's & Colitus Foundation / Heart & Stroke Foundation
St. Lawrence	Colon Cancer
St. Thomas	Victorian Order of Nurses St. Thomas Elgin Hospital
Toronto Don Valley	Diabetes Research
Toronto East	Windreach Farm
Toronto Humber	Cinnamon Toast - Dignified Housing for Disadvantaged Women
Toronto West	Shelters for Abused Women & Children
Victoria	Grandview Children's Centre 5 Counties Children's Centre
Waterloo	National Service Dogs
Wilson North	Crohn's & Colitus Foundation

PLANNED GIVING
...a Mason's legacy of giving

Douglas A. Conway

The American capitalist, John D. Rockefeller said that, having been born with a tremendous ability to make money, he had a moral obligation to give some of it to charity. "Having been endowed with the gift I possess," he said, "I believe it is my duty to make money and use it for the good of my fellow man according to the dictates of my conscience."

A poll released by Ipsos-Reid in August shows that many Canadians feel much the same way Rockefeller did, with 74% of respondents saying that there is an increasingly vital need for private philanthropy primarily because social priorities are not receiving adequate funding.

An attractive option for your personal charity is to provide for your Foundation by means of planned giving. This can take many forms: final bequests, life insurance, transfer of shares or real estate, gift annuities, gifts of RRSP's & RRIF's, stock transfers just to name a few. All gifts increase our capital base and continue to give long after the brother is no longer with us.

The Foundation is particularly grateful to the widows of those departed Brethren who have also kept us in mind when making their plans. These total efforts have significantly added to your Foundation's ability to meet our giving objectives.

This past year, the Foundation received bequests totalling \$122,625.95 from the ten estates. These bequests varied in amounts from \$ 107.31 to \$ 71,450.84.

A pamphlet on Planned Giving has been produced and is available to the Brethren for educational purposes.

To would-be donors, being completely informed about the many options available, is critical to good decision-making. A charitable gift, through a will or trust, is an opportunity to leave a lasting legacy, but it also can have a significant tax benefit.

Charitable giving is a personal decision....we can only ask that you keep the Masonic Foundation of Ontario in mind when contemplating your annual donations and your estate-planning. All donations, regardless of size, will be “gratefully received and faithfully applied.”

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS *...revealing the Foundation Story*

Terry A. McLean & Kenneth Campbell

“Listening is one-half of a Conversation” The Communication and Public Relations Committee spent 2006-07 doing just that“Listening”

We listened to the many visitors at the International Plowing Match in Keene where Ken Campbell managed the Masonic Foundation Display Booth.

We listened to the Craft Membership at the Eight Regional Seminars held in Thunder Bay, Napanee, Toronto, Hamilton, Waterloo, London, Sudbury, and Barrie as Craft Masons gave their feedback on the MFO Power Point Presentation about what the Foundation is and what it does.

We listened to our President talking about the MFO VISION for 2010 and 2014 (our 50th Anniversary). We listened to the MFO Directors and their

ideas on how to enhance the MFO STRATEGIC PLAN to the year 2012.

We listened to feedback on the Masonic Foundation Website @ www.masonicfoundation.on.ca

In actual fact we never stop listening to the current charities we support, new charities that need our help, the donors who give generously. As your Foundation, we will endeavour to operate most effectively and efficiently

It is said successful organizations focus on the one thing they do Best! And for 2007 and beyond, you will see the results of our listening to the feedback, challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.....through concerted **ACTION.**

“Change can make you happy because it brings you something new.”

THE MASONIC FOUNDATION WEBSITE

... worthwhile investment in powerful communications

Paul E. Todd

Continual information upgrades and user friendly improvements are the distinguishing characteristic of another successful year for the Masonic Foundation Website www.masonicfoundation.on.ca

One measurement of the success of the Website is the statistic that in six months the site was visited (“hits”) nine thousand, eight hundred and seventeen times, mostly from Canada but interestingly enough, it was also visited by citizens of one hundred and twelve countries. If one of the aims of the Website was exposure for the Masonic Foundation of Ontario then

we have been successful.

Information regarding Seminars and articles from the Directors of the Foundation on their area of responsibility are updated monthly by at least two Directors.

The President of the Foundation, Samuel Kalinowsky updates his message bi-monthly and we have been fortunate to have the “Musings” of Past President Ronald K. Campbell, all of which makes for an interesting and informative read.

The objective of the Website remains as stated before, to communicate the work of the Foundation to the Masons and to citizens of the world. A secondary objective would be to allow easier access to the Foundation for those who wish to donate for the cause of good and finally to assist Lodges and Districts of our Grand Jurisdiction to apply for and receive approval for new or continuing Masonic Foundation Projects.

The future holds an endless number of options for the Masonic Foundation Website some of which include the following. We hope to go from a “user friendly donation form” to donate, to simultaneous “secure” credit card donations; from limited use of the Directors section to “paperless” movement of information between Directors and office staff and from limited graphics of presentations to larger, brighter more graphic pictorial reminders of the work of the Foundation.

One may sometimes wonder what value is a Website to our Foundation? Perhaps we should note that most Foundations use a Website to promote their image, and enhance their public relations activities as opposed to traditionally controlled messages being sent out by Newsletter or Annual Reports and paid advertising was the only way to send out your message to a mass audience. However, the Masonic Foundation must keep its Website current with up-to- date articles and innovative ideas to provide an informative, user-friendly mechanism to reach new audiences and become the” **Masonic Charity of choice for the Cause of Good**”.

LOOKING AHEAD

...matching actions and aspirations in shaping the future

Dr Samuel Kalinowsky

It has been said that “you can’t do much about your ancestors, but you can certainly influence your descendants enormously”.

We, the Board of Directors of the Masonic Foundation of Ontario have a responsibility for the present and the future and we take it seriously.

During the current year, the Directors and Staff of the Foundation will focus , in addition to the oversight of our ongoing activities, on enhancing our communications efforts and taking a major step forward in planning for the future by creating a Vision for 2010/2014 that should be useful in addressing some of society’s most challenging issues.

Communications: How can we motivate the Masonic family and the general public across Ontario to become more fully engaged in the life and work of the Masonic Foundation of Ontario?

The answer to this question lies, in part, in our ability to develop communications strategies and information-sharing tools, mechanisms for transmitting unambiguous messages and information to our stakeholders.

During 2007-08, your Board of Directors will undertake the following initiatives:

1. A Communications Committee is to be struck with a clear mandate and mission.

2. The MFO Webpage is to be further improved to harness the fullest potential of information technology for widespread information dissemination and for more effective internal use.

3. Resource Kits, scaled down in size, will again be distributed to all DDGMs as reference materials for the execution of their on-going responsibilities.

4. Information Seminars on the MFO: (2) will be presented at Grand Lodge in July.

5. Information Seminars will be presented in several locations with the objective of covering the whole province in two years.

6. An MFO Information Clip or CD of 3-5 minutes will be developed for distribution to all Lodges in the province to be used in group information-sharing sessions at the local level. They will cover vital information about the Masonic Foundation, its mandate, membership, resources and programs.

7. Regional Responsibilities for Directors will be continued to provide a more decentralized Masonic Foundation presence for general oversight, information dissemination, public relations and liaison.

8. A Speakers' Bureau will be continued to make presentations on aspects of the Foundation's programs and activities.

Shaping the Future/Creating a Vision The future is **now**...the dream is beginning to take shape.

During the last year, much effort was expended on researching and thinking about how to more clearly identify and document options for **possible future intervention** by the Masonic Foundation of Ontario. Some of the areas which continue to attract our attention are: prostate

cancer research; Alzheimers and other dementias; Autism and other learning disabilities; child obesity...to name a few.

A more fundamental issue is the question of brand identification. To date, an estimated 80% of our assistance has been directed into youth/children programming while focusing our attention towards areas that were the subject of highly successful and targeted campaigns..."HELP" and "HELP-2-HEAR" (hearing disabilities and research) and "NIP DRUGS IN THE BUD" (peer education in alcohol and drug abuse).

Whither are we directing our course? Central focus vs diversified? Overarching programs vs grass-roots, community directed? Children vs Children and the Family? Many successful Foundations, including a number in the Masonic Family, have a clearly defined focus and are readily identifiable to their stakeholders and to the public at large. I daresay that our Foundation cannot be said to have such a "readily evident theme or focus".

By beginning to create a Vision for 2010/2014, we may be creating an Agenda for Change. I, therefore, foresee a process which entails the preparation of "discussion drafts" followed by extensive consultation for the purpose of consensus-building, not to perpetuate competition but to foster convergence and mutuality of interest.

As President, I am fully committed to the examination process, the articulation of alternatives and the consultative process that will be required to arrive at a final Vision...a beacon to guide us on our journey, with an increased measure of confidence and comfort.

Working together, we will succeed...**for the cause of good.**

This is your Masonic Foundation

This is your Legacy for the betterment of future generations

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Acts 20:35

All of which is respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board of Directors, Officers and Committee Chairmen of The Masonic Foundation of Ontario: J. Ault, J. D. Bell, H. N. Britton, D. A. Campbell, K. Campbell, R. K. Campbell, J. T. Cassie, D. A. Conway, C. E. Drew, M. J. Duke, A. C. Dvorak, A.J. Hope, B. J. Hutton, D. L. Jagger, T. A. McLean, I. Millar, A. D. Nichols, A. J. Petrisor, G. R. Taylor, P. E. Todd.

Samuel Kalinowsky, President

TREASURER’S REPORT

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

It is a privilege and pleasure to present my first Treasurer’s Report for The Masonic Foundation of Ontario for the year ended March 31st, 2007. I am grateful to past Treasurer, James C. Sutherland, for his guidance and advice over the last year.

A review of operations indicates that there was an excess of revenues over expenses of \$119,484 which was largely the result of bequests received totalling \$122,626. The unrestricted net assets of your Foundation are now approaching \$8 million.

The investment income reflects the challenge faced with low interest rates. The investment portfolio consists mainly of high investment grade bonds reflecting the conservative investment philosophy of capital preservation. Investment income declined about \$60,000 to \$331,305 as a number of higher interest bearing bonds matured and were replaced with lower yielding bonds. It is expected that long term interest rates will remain relatively stable for most of the next year.

Donation revenue remained stable this year at \$70,510. In 2006 a large number

of District fundraising charity projects were completed and closed out resulting in a payout of funds raised of \$780,697. For 2007 District Projects resulted in payments for charitable purposes of \$208,746.

This compares favourably to \$196,416 for 2005 and \$175,223 for 2004. District Deputies and their fundraising committees are working hard for the betterment of their communities.

Administrative and fundraising expenses totalled \$123,802, a reduction of about \$8,000 from last year. Administrative expenses are being held in check; this despite increased costs incurred in presenting information seminars in several locations in Ontario.

Bursaries and donations expense totalled \$489,901 compared to \$1,203,462 for 2006. As previously mentioned, a number of District Projects were completed and closed out in 2006; also your Foundation supported the 150th Anniversary Projects in our sesquicentennial year resulting in the “blip” in this expense category. The comparable figures for 2005 and 2004 were \$617,307 and \$558,668 respectively.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Mr. Ed Yablonski, investment advisor, of BMO Nesbitt Burns for his expert and professional advice in the management of the Foundation’s investment portfolio and Jim Cassie, our retiring Director, who has given much of his time and wise counsel over many years, not only to the Foundation in general, but also in providing guidance with portfolio decisions. I would also like to thank Mel Duke, Secretary, and Marlene Victor, Office Secretary, for the efficient management of the Foundation’s financial affairs.

A. Douglas Nichols, FCA

The Masonic Foundation Office is available to serve you:

Regular Hours: Monday to Friday -
9am to 2pm

An answering machine will take messages when staff are not available. A Facsimile line is available 24 hours, 7 days a week.

Administrative staff: Melvyn (Mel) James Duke, Marlene Victor

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361 King Street, West,
HAMILTON, ON L8P 1B4
Telephone: (905) 527-9105 Facsimile: (905) 527-8859
Web site: www.masonicfoundation.on.ca

AUDITORS' REPORT ON SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Members of The Masonic Foundation of Ontario

The accompanying summarized statements of Financial Position and Revenue, Expenses and Net Assets are derived from the complete financial statements of The Masonic Foundation of Ontario as at March 31, 2007, and for the year ended March 31, 2006 on which we expressed a reservation of opinion regarding the completeness of donation revenue because we were unable to satisfy ourselves concerning the completeness of that revenue. The fair summarization of the complete financial statement is the responsibility of the Foundation's management. Our responsibility, in accordance with the applicable Assurance guideline of The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, is to report on the summarized financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements fairly summarize, in all material respects, the related complete financial statements in accordance with criteria described in the Guideline referred to above.

These summarized financial statements do not contain all of the disclosures required by Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purpose. For more information on the Foundation's financial position, results of operations and cash flows, reference should be made to the related complete financial statements.

Lepore & Company Chartered Accountants
Professional Corporation

Authorized to Practise Public Accounting by the Institute of
Chartered Accountants of Ontario

Hamilton, Ontario
May 24, 2007

**THE MASONIC FOUNDATION OF ONTARIO
SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
MARCH 31, 2007**

		2007	2006
Assets:			
	Cash	\$ 196,243	\$ 80,335
	Accrued investment income	64,483	97,356
	Marketable investments	7,779,917	7,718,039
	Other	8,844	3,405
		\$ 8,049,487	\$ 7,899,135
Liabilities:			
	Payables and accruals	\$ 12,000	\$ 15,601
	District project funds for disbursement	89,248	54,779
		\$ 101,248	\$ 70,389
Unrestricted net assets		7,948,239	7,828,755
		\$ 8,049,487	\$ 7,899,135

**SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSES
and NET ASSETS YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2007**

	2007	2006
Revenue:		
Investment income	\$ 331,305	\$ 391,847
Bequests	122,626	139,738
Donations	70,510	70,034
District project funds	208,746	780,697
	733,187	1,382,316
Expenses:		
Administration and fund raising	123,802	131,936
Bursaries and donations	489,901	1,203,462
	613,703	1,335,398
Excess of revenue over expenses	119,484	46,918
Unrestricted net assets, beginning of year	7,828,755	7,781,837
Unrestricted net assets, end of year	\$ 7,948,239	\$ 7,828,755

Audited copies of the financial statements as at and for the year ended March 31, 2006 may be obtained by contacting The Masonic Foundation of Ontario at 361 King Street West, Hamilton Ontario L8P 1B4

THE MASONIC FOUNDATION OF ONTARIO
DIRECTORS, OFFICERS and COMMITTEE
CHAIRMEN

President	-	S. Kalinowsky
Vice-Presidents	-	A. C. Dvorak
	-	G. R. Taylor
Directors	-	J. Ault
	-	J. D. Bell
	-	D. A. Campbell
	-	K. Campbell
	-	J. T. Cassie
	-	D. A. Conway
	-	C. E. Drew
	-	I. Millar
	-	A. J. Petrisor
	-	P. E. Todd
Secretary	-	M. J. Duke
Treasurer	-	A. D. Nichols
Assistant Treasurer	-	D. L. Jagger
Committee Chairmen	-	A. J. Hope
	-	T. A. McLean
Honourary Chairmen	-	H. N. Britton
	-	R. K. Campbell

CELEBRATING FORTY THREE YEARS OF SERVICE

OUR LEADERS 1964-2007

John Irvine	June-July 1964
Russell Treleaven	1964 - 1968
Clifford Ashforth	1968 - 1974
William Bailey	1974 - 1986
Richard Richards	1986 - 1990
John Woodburn	1990 - 1992
Alan Newell	1992 - 1993
Wallace McLeod	1993 - 1994
John Arthur	1994 - 1996
Neil Britton	1996 - 1999
Ronald Campbell	1999 - 2004
Samuel Kalinowsky	2004 -

“On behalf of the Ontario delegates who attended this years 4-H Citizenship Seminar, I would like to thank you and the Masonic Foundation of Ontario for your support. Our delegates had a wonderful time and the event was great.”

“The 4-H week long conference allowed me to make many new friends and I learned a lot. I learned that it is a great privilege to be a Canadian citizen and that as a citizen we have many responsibilities. Thanks for making it possible for me to attend this great opportunity.”

“Thank you so much for the generous bursary you kindly awarded me last month. Because of your help, I was able to successfully complete my program, and I will be participating in a grad show for my program at the end of the month.”

“I wish to express my gratitude for providing me with a very generous bursary. I not only feel grateful to have received help from the MFO but I have learned a lot about your organization and all the good things you and the brothers are doing throughout the Province of Ontario. Again thank you very much for helping me on the road to achieving my goals and dreams.”

“Thank you for ensuring that I am able to complete my studies successfully and pursue the career I have worked so hard for.”

“Due to your generosity of this award you have allowed me to continue to follow my dream and allow me to be financially stable.”

“You have granted me the gift of a promising future. I applaud your bursary program and your wisdom to support those of us who must upgrade our education at a very challenging phase in our lives.”

“Thanks for making it possible for me, a single mother, to give my children everything they deserve and more. My purpose for working so hard and not giving up, is to show my children there is hope and you should never give up on something you really want and can have, with a little work. Once again my children as well as I thank you very much for all your support.”

“The Masonic Foundation of Ontario’s visionary investment and ongoing funding has played an integral role in the development of our program, the largest centre for paediatric cochlear implantation in North America. Your dedication to children suffering profound hearing loss has made possible the success of this program.”

– SickKids Foundation

“The entire Camp Quality family of volunteers, children and families wish to thank you once again for your continued support and commitment. Thanks for helping us reach our goal of “Lifting the Spirits of Children with Cancer.”

– Camp Quality, Northwestern Ontario