



THE MASONIC FOUNDATION OF ONTARIO

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

For The Cause Of Good



MASONIC FOUNDATION OF ONTARIO

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“FOR THE CAUSE OF GOOD”

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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”



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-fifth 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 15, 2008.

Introduction: For the last several years, I have started the Annual Report with an environmental assessment, against which backdrop were presented the activities of the Foundation, the successes and failures and the challenges that lie before us.

This year, the obstacles that impede, the challenges that emerge are even more complex and intractable than ever before. A litany of issues and ills engulf us, suffocating, powerful and inter-related. On the financial side, the sub-prime mortgage fiasco threatens to bring down the entire banking system with its dire consequences. The galloping increase in the price of crude oil presages difficult times for air and truck transport, automotive manufacturing, heating, food production, etc.,...is there any sector that will be untouched? Global population pressures are challenging the world capacity for food production and distribution.

Terrorism on an international scale and hatred and petty crime on the domestic stage are commonplace.

Religious and political intolerance are creating discontent, schism and war. How do we find the perfect equilibrium between the myriad externalities and our sense of humanity, if we cannot discover or create anew an over-arching element of harmony and concord?

It is no small wonder, then, that a sense of frustration, cynicism and unreality tend to undermine honest effort and make it difficult for The Masonic Foundation of Ontario and other private, voluntary, charitable organizations, both large and small, to function effectively, to adapt in an ever-changing landscape, to adequately prepare themselves in an environment where the stakes are high and the stakeholders are more demanding and diverse.

This Annual Report highlights the regular, on-going activities of the Foundation, as described by the Directors, who serve as Chairmen or act a Liaison with our recipients. These topical chapters constitute the bulk of the Report. I strongly recommend for your perusal, the Report in its entirety to fully appreciate the diverse nature of our charitable undertakings and the measures taken by management to clearly demonstrate our accountability to our stakeholders.

Copies of this Annual Report may be obtained at the Masonic Foundation Display. I encourage you to take several copies to share with brethren in your Lodge and with friends and family.

What better way to be more informed about “the Foundation Story” and as a means to spread the word about the various facets of the worthwhile work of the Foundation, particularly to newer Masons?

As in the past, a copy of the 2008 Annual Report will be sent next month to every Lodge in our Grand Jurisdiction; copies will also be included in the Resource Kits which will be distributed to the newly-installed District Deputy Grand Masters in August and will be available from the Foundation Office in Hamilton, on request.

For easy access, the 2008 Annual Report will be posted on The Masonic Foundation of Ontario Website at www.masonicfoundation.on.ca

Appreciation: Voluntary organizations are constantly being affected by inevitable change...we welcome it as opportunity, we resist it as unsettling. Again this year, we bear witness to several individuals who have served the Foundation with dedication and distinction and are now moving on.

- Douglas A. Conway has completed a full 6-year term as a Director of the Foundation. As the convincing voice for Planned Giving, he has given us a better understanding of the nuances associated with wills and bequests and has been instrumental in spreading the word throughout the Grand Jurisdiction. His quiet professionalism and pointed commentary have benefited the deliberations at our Board Meetings. His oversight and liaison with Georgian North and South, Grey and Muskoka-Parry Sound Districts was performed with clarity and purpose.
- Terry A. McLean has served the Foundation as a Director and as Chairman of Communications. A strong proponent of listening, he has framed many of our communications efforts over the last number of years. Creating and then updating a 5-year Strategic Framework as a mechanism for accountability, the development of PowerPoint Presentations for our Grand Lodge and Regional Seminars and developing mechanisms to communicate “the Foundation Story” all featured Terry’s attention to detail, his acute sense of clarity and his dedication to our noble cause. His sense of humour and engaging personality will be missed.
- G.J. Hagenars (Candidus Solutions Inc) and Jason Calverley (Webmaster), over the last two years, have successfully migrated and redesigned the Foundation Web Page to better serve the needs of the Foundation as an instrument for communication and dissemination of information. The Foundation herein expresses its appreciation for their exemplary effort and service.

Aside from these contributors, the Foundation has benefited from the involvement of a highly competent group of Directors and Program Chairmen. They regularly contribute their many skills and professionalism, at personal sacrifice, 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.

The Foundation has also enjoyed the unqualified support of our Grand Lodge and our Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Allan J. Petrisor , who championed our cause with regularity, passion and conviction. His strong endorsement of the Masonic Foundation as the “Charity of Choice” for the 50,000+ Freemasons of Ontario has been most gratifying. His personal project, Early Detection and Awareness of Prostate Cancer, being complementary with our assistance for the da Vinci Surgical Robotic System, was truly inspirational and hit a resonant chord with his many audiences, raising in excess of \$30,000 in the first year of his tenure as Grand Master.

The Foundation recognizes and commends the “army” of individuals who regularly endorse and validate our objectives. These include the 44 District Deputy Grand Masters, the District and Lodge MFO Representatives, the Worshipful Masters and Secretaries of the almost 600 Masonic Lodges spread out across all of Ontario and you, the brethren, who support and promote the work of the Foundation.

Our recipients also, be they students, researchers, youth groups or other beneficiaries regularly acknowledge our help and generous support. Your continuing affirmation of our efforts establishes our Foundation as not only a beacon of hope for those in need, but also a beacon of inspiration to those who wish to exercise their charitable commitments.

And finally, our personal gratitude and appreciation to our Corporate Secretary, Melvyn J. Duke and his assistant, Mrs. Marlene Victor without whose constant attention to detail and process, the workings of our Foundation would not be as smooth and effective. Their unstinting dedication to service and cause have endeared them to our Directors, Chairmen and brethren throughout the province and to the public at large...thanks for your patience and understanding.

Financial Matters: Voluntary, not-for-profit, charitable organizations rely heavily on voluntary professional financial management advice to validate their program decision-making. The Masonic Foundation of Ontario is singularly blessed with “the best” We strongly commend the many and invaluable contributions of our Treasurer, A. Douglas Nichols. We recognize and appreciate the dedicated oversight of our capital investment portfolio by James T. Cassie and the astute investment counsel of Mr. Edward Yablonski of BMO Nesbitt Burns, who personally briefs the Board of Directors regularly.

The Foundation depends on the annual investment income from our capital portfolio to finance on-going operations and donations. Until this past year, our investment philosophy has been very conservative and risk-averse. In February, 2008, the Board of Directors approved the adoption of an Income Generation Strategy which will permit investment in blue-chip equities up to 40% of our portfolio. This change was necessitated, in part, by having to deal with continuing low rates of return on our bond portfolio.

In addition, under Planned Giving, donors are recognizing the benefits of transferring stocks to the Foundation as bequests, which the noted change will better facilitate. The Board of Directors is approaching the proposed change with cautious optimism, has directed Treasurer Nichols and VP Standish to work out principles, practices and philosophy with investment counsel and will regularly review the New Investment Strategy to prevent capital deterioration.

During 2007-08, investment income realized on our portfolio was \$404,267 (adjusted for Changes in Accounting Policy or \$305,321 unadjusted which is down from \$331,305 in 2007)

The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants adopted a new disclosure standard for the recognition and measurement of financial instruments and the inclusion in financial statements of investment income of unrealized investment holding gains and losses of financial instruments held for trading. The Foundation adopted this new standard beginning with the year ended March 31, 2008. "Marketable investments" are now shown at fair market value rather than cost. This change resulted in a one time adjustment of \$50,229 to the beginning "Unrestricted Net Assets" figure reported by the Foundation to reflect the difference in the opening fair market value and cost figures for "Marketable investments.". Unrestricted net assets as reported at the beginning of the year stood at \$7,948,239, which when adjusted for accounting changes (\$50,229) and for excess of revenue over expenses (\$161,804) now stand at \$8,160,272 at year ended March 31, 2008.

Donations are received by the MFO through a number of donor mechanisms. Yellow Envelopes raised \$30,940 while other member and lodge contributions amounted to \$26,224 Grey Memorial Envelopes are used in memory of departed brethren and raised an additional \$12,383. The total of these types of voluntary, personal donations amounted to \$69,547 a slight drop from last year. Bequests, which are not budgeted for or included as revenue in our forecasts, were received from 8 estates amounting to \$114,897.

A Board of Directors is responsible for demonstrating effective stewardship over the resources entrusted to it. During 2007-08, I am totally satisfied that your Board of Directors exercised its fiduciary obligations honestly, faithfully and ethically in the best interests of the Foundation.

They adopted the highest possible standards of personal behaviour and governance in delivering their mission and objectives, thereby making the Foundation attractive to its donors and stakeholders.

And finally, I wish to commend our auditors, Lepore and Company, Chartered Accountants, Hamilton for their professionalism, understanding and cooperation in performing and completing their audit.

The Work of the Foundation: Since the Masonic Foundation was incorporated in 1964, there has been a gradual growth in our capital base and an increased capacity to respond to the growing need for charitable assistance. During 2007-08, the total disbursed for bursaries and donations was \$563,171, which included \$287,832 on District Projects.

During the year, given the funds available largely from investment income, the Foundation continued to support a number of continuing projects and initiated support for one new project. A short summary is provided here, noting that each of these projects/programs is fully documented in subsequent chapters of this Report. The Bursary Program, our first charitable outreach initiative, has again responded to the cries for emergency assistance from students at Universities and Community Colleges, by awarding \$43,600 to 40 needy students.

Our commitments in support of hearing research under Help-2-Hear was maintained through contributions of \$35,000 each to the Universities of Ottawa and Western Ontario and the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. The diversity of the Foundation's support was clearly reflected in its support of the following: School Peer Education Programs delivered through the Parent Action on Drugs organization-\$45,000; Kerry's Place (Autism)-\$17,000; VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children-\$13,500; Youth Organizations (4-H, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and Demolay for Boys)-\$13,000 and Other Donations in support of "one-off" projects and incentives for District Projects-\$23,239.

Our new initiative is a 3-year, \$15,000 per annum commitment in support of the da Vinci Surgical Robotic System at St Joseph's Health Care Centre in London. The total support provided amounted to \$275,339.

Our Administrative and Fund-Raising costs totalled \$151,568, an increase of \$27,766 which is largely attributed to a major bulk reprint of Yellow and Grey Envelopes and production of a video. 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 scarce resources to these expenditure items was handled with utmost frugality and care and does represent good value for money.

The reader should note that our efforts to more effectively communicate the Foundation Story and the emergence of increased functionality of the MFO Website have witnessed a significant increase in the number of requests for assistance being received. As a result, your Executive Committee and the Board of Directors will be called upon to exercise greater care and attention in reviewing them to ensure that we assist only the most +worthwhile projects with the limited financial resources that we have available.

Other Activities: In addition to being involved in our primary activity, which is charitable giving, the members of the Board of Directors and our Staff were also involved in planning, evaluation, liaison, communications, participating in fund-raisers, public speaking, attendance at cheque presentations and information seminars, all of which are of utmost importance in informing our varied stakeholders and the public at large and in enhancing our public image 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 again effectively used at Grand Lodge in July, at the International Ploughing Match in Crosby (where it was effectively manned by the brethren of the 5 Eastern Ontario Districts), Southern Western Ontario and at a 2-day Doors Open Event at the Masonic Centre in Ottawa. Various imaginative uses of this Display affords an excellent opportunity to communicate the Foundation Story to large captive audiences and to the public at large. I strongly recommend the use of the large Foundation Display and a smaller model that was donated to the Foundation by VP Ed Standish at large or small Masonic functions, at shopping malls, at Festivals, at Open Houses and on Family Days....any venue where there is a significant interaction between the general public and Freemasonry. Contact our Hamilton Office or Director Ken Campbell for details....it is free to borrowers and assistance can be provided for its assembly.

2). **MFO Information Seminars** were conducted at several locations : Woodstock, Pickering and Huntsville during the fall of 2007. The attendance was varied but the reaction was generally positive. These Seminars, and the two that were presented at Grand Lodge last July, provide an opportunity to tell the Foundation Story and to respond to the observations, criticisms and requirements at the local or community level.

3). **Resource Kits** containing useful information regarding the Masonic Foundation of Ontario were mailed to the 44 District Deputy Grand Masters in the August-September time frame. These kits contained a supply of 2007 Annual Reports (which we encourage the DDGMs to give to newly-initiated Masons), Pamphlets on the MFO and on Planned Giving, a supply of Yellow and Grey Envelopes, Guidelines on Bursaries, guidelines on how to develop and apply for a District Project and Duties of the DDGM and District MFO Representative re the MFO. The reaction to the distribution of these materials is extremely varied. Yet, it is apparent to the Board of Directors and Staff of the MFO, from the repetitive nature of questions being asked, that these materials, if used, would answer most of the questions.

Accordingly, resource Kits will continue to be distributed to all Districts in August-September of 2008.

4). **The Web Page** at www.masonicfoundation.on.ca continues to experience “growing pains” in terms of its basic content and usefulness. In February, 2008 the Web Page was migrated to Softcom Technology Consulting Inc., a privately held company headquartered in Toronto from Candidus Solutions Inc in Ottawa. Softcom, which has a significant Masonic connection, provides valuable Internet-based services to a worldwide customer base of consumers and businesses. Director Graeme Boyce is the new Webmaster. During the year the WebPage was used as a Bulletin Board for the Seminar Series, carried some new and interesting articles, had the 2007 Annual Report posted for easy access and had a Director’s Page for Agendas and Minutes. Plans are being considered to operationalize a safe and easy “To Donate” button. It is essential that the Foundation begin to optimize the potential of this technology for active communication with its stakeholders, for operational purposes for the Directors and Staff, for promoting and enhancing our image and presence and to increase our fund-raising potential.

5). **Development of a Short Video** was an initiative that had been recommended numerous times at many of our MFO Information Seminars over the last several years. A Proposal/Concept was presented to the Executive Committee in January, 2008 by Mindpress Design Communications so as to “introduce the MFO, its vision, mission, organizational personality...” This was approved by the Board of Directors in February at a cost of \$5,000. I am pleased to report that there is every likelihood that the Video will be released at the Annual General Meeting in July. We anticipate that it will be played at the Foundation Display during Grand Lodge and will be distributed, in August, to the new DDGMs and the Worshipful Masters of all Masonic Lodges in Ontario for their extensive use. The Video will also be available on the MFO Web Page.

6). **Policy and Communications Committee** was structured and tasked with: 1) developing a draft of a Vision for the MFO by examining past, present and future activities; 2) developing a plan for producing an information clip or CD on the MFO for use by Lodges and to examine the feasibility of producing other “multi-media” products; and 3) to develop a “think-piece” for a strategy and practical functions for a Communications Committee for the MFO. Work has commenced on this three-part initiative, with #2 essentially completed and will constitute one of our highest priorities in 2008-09.

BURSARIES

...helping to create opportunities and realize dreams

Donald L. Jagger

The Bursary Program, established in 1965, 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 the recipients.

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 a Canadian citizen and a permanent resident of Ontario. The normal bursary awarded is \$1,000. Amounts from \$800 to \$1,200 may be given based on the amount requested and indicated need. Since inception, the Foundation's Bursary Committee has awarded over \$2,275,000 to help approximately 3,360 students to complete their studies. This year \$43,600 has been awarded to 40 students in financial distress from universities and community colleges throughout Ontario.

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, 2007 to March 31, 2008

Applications Received 46

Applications Denied 6

Bursaries Awarded 40

Total Value of Bursaries Awarded : (% values are approximate.)

5 @ \$ 800 = \$ 4,000 9%

12 @ \$1000 = \$12,000 28%

23 @ \$1200 = \$27,600 63%

Total \$43,600

Applications were received from 2 Universities and 6 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 academic programs, graduate and begin to fulfill their dreams. Brethren, this is an example of your donations at work

HEARING RESEARCH (HELP-2-HEAR)

...inspiring innovation and discovery

Dr. Gareth R Taylor

HELP-2-HEAR: Director Dr. Gareth Taylor reports that these findings represent the first year of a third three year term for these research projects. All 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: Dr. Robert Harrison's support under the Help-2-Hear Program is for work specifically related to the investigations of otoacoustic emissions, described in detail below. In addition, he has until recently, also been generously supported from the original HELP campaign. Some of the work started under that support has recently been finalized, and he has provided a brief update on those investigations.

Otoacoustic emission research (HELP-2-HEAR): This work is ongoing and has evolved from some rather novel observations of the dynamics of otoacoustic emissions, to other interesting investigations. Dr. Harrison explains that otoacoustic emissions are literally sounds that come out of the ears.

That is, the hair cells in the inner ear (cochlea) are biologically active and actually produce very small movements which are transmitted as an acoustic vibration out of the ear, and can be recorded with a sensitive microphone in the ear canal.

In Dr. Harrison's early work, he took advantage of a novel methodology for recording these signals from the ear, which could allow him to measure otoacoustic emissions (OAEs) in "real-time". That means he can measure accurately the amplitude and the timing of these signals.

Recently, Dr. Harrison's group has found that if they stimulate, with sound, the opposite ear to that in which they are recording the OAE, it will change the OAE signal. This means that the two ears are linked with a neural system. They have spent the last year describing many of the characteristics of this neural pathway linking the ears. The same neural pathways are also involved when the central brain sends controlling signals to the ears. This is called descending control, and in this case may help in our "attending" to sounds and/or perhaps allow better sound localization. These are questions that Dr. Harrison's lab is currently investigating.

Also supported by the Help-2-Hear funding are studies to see if they can use these experimental recording methods in infants and children with disorders of the brainstem, or with certain types of hearing loss. For example, they have started pilot studies on babies with hyper-bilirubinemia (jaundice) to see whether these neural pathways in the brainstem are normal. They are also trying to characterize the neural pathways in children with auditory neuropathy, which is a disorder that involves a degeneration of nerves to and from the inner ear. This work is ongoing and rather slow because the recruitment of patients takes some time (e.g. not many infants that have auditory neuropathy). Dr. Harrison hopes to report more on these interesting clinical studies in the future.

Over the past granting period, a number of post doctoral trainees have been involved in this otoacoustic emission research. These include: Dr. Arie Gordin: 2007-present. He is from the Department of Otolaryngology, University of Tel Aviv, Israel, and is working on *studies ABR and otoacoustic emission studies of mouse auditory system* and Dr. Alok Sharma: 2006- present.

He has been investigating *contralateral modulation of otoacoustic emissions in an animal model*. This work has been written up as a Master of Science (MSc) Degree Thesis for Alok's home university: University of Wales (Cardiff) UK.

Dr. Harrison notes that one of the first researchers that the Help-2-Hear funding supported was Dr. Adrian James who is now one of the staff surgeons at Sick Kids. His work on *Contralateral otoacoustic emission suppression in real time* was written up as a Doctorate in Medicine Degree (DM) Thesis which was passed and was awarded by the University of Oxford U.K. in January 2007.

In addition to the doctoral thesis mentioned above, three publications arising directly from these studies have been published as well a number of presentations at local and international scientific meetings either as lectures or in poster sessions.

Dr. Harrison also reports that a number of publications that have resulted from our funding from project HELP have been finalized. This includes one novel line of research investigating the genetic causes of hearing loss in children who are eligible for a cochlear implant.

Other work started from HELP funding relates to voice production in children with hearing loss, and the effects of having a cochlear implant on that ability.

University of Western Ontario: Dr. Richard Seewald and Dr. Susan Scollie, Co-Directors, Child Amplification Laboratory.

In Ontario, up to 400 children are born every year with hearing impairment. Ontario alone spends over \$6M annually on early detection and intervention programs for infants and young children.

Research has shown that by the time a child with hearing loss graduates from high school, more than \$400,000 per child can be saved in special education costs if the child is identified early and provided with appropriate audiological, educational and medical intervention services. This reduction in societal costs underscores the importance of early selection and use of amplification so that these children become more productive members of our communities. It behooves us to support research and our leaders in research into communication disorders to ensure that the costs to society are managed in effective ways so children can develop to their fullest potential.

With this in mind, 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. We also ensure that the procedures and protocols developed and evaluated in our laboratory are made available through publications, presentations and workshops to hearing healthcare professionals throughout the world.

The funding that we receive under the Help-2-Hear Program greatly assists our group in meeting these goals. The following provides a brief description of our major activities and accomplishments during 2006. Our proposed projects are aimed at (1) studying the time course of children's acclimatization to new hearing aid signal processing; and (2) studying children's sound detection and localization with hearing aids.

It is our hope that these two lines of research will help clinicians and families to better understand whether and how a given technology can serve the hearing needs of a child who has hearing loss.

Update on Project 1: The time course of acclimatization to new hearing aid signal processing: children's needs for time and training Recent studies in our laboratory have evaluated the benefit of a prototype hearing aid that compresses the highest-pitched sounds in speech to a lower pitch region. This is done so that hard-to-hear speech sounds (e.g., "s", "sh") can be heard by the hearing aid user. This is a rather drastic measure, but is deemed necessary because conventional hearing aids are not always able to make these sounds available due to technology limitations. We have found that children with severe high frequency hearing loss benefit significantly from this technology. We have also seen that some time may be needed before children can make optimal use of the new speech cues they are hearing. Also, some children seem to require training to orient themselves to the new speech cues. The aspects of time and training were not the focus of our original study, and therefore were not systematically evaluated. The literature on adults who use hearing aids is clear that acclimatization to new hearing aids can take as much as three months. Early evidence is also emerging that training may enhance our ability to understand pitch-shifted speech. Little is known about how children acclimatize to new signal processing, nor whether the time course of change in speech recognition can be affected by training. In this study, we will use the pitch compression in this hearing aid as a means to provide new cues to children with hearing loss. We will follow these children in two-week intervals, reevaluating their speech recognition abilities at each visit. The effects of training will also be assessed. All children will serve as their own experimental controls, within a multiple-baseline case series study. This means that different children in the study will receive different treatments (hearing aids, training) at different times during the study. However, all children will receive the same type of treatment. This type of design is commonly used when treatment effects are studied in children, as it allows the researcher to quantify both maturation effects and treatment effects, and avoids the ethical problem of withholding treatment to some participants.

Progress: One of our Doctoral candidates (D. Glista) is currently designing the outcome measure test battery to be used in this project. She will be evaluating the effects of acclimatization in the early stages of this project. Outcome measures will include speech recognition testing and cortical evoked potentials (i.e., brainwaves). The first round of data collection commenced during early 2008, with two participants currently out on trial. In the first stage of this project, we will follow our original group of 24 participants to evaluate longitudinal changes in speech recognition and speech production. One of our Master's students (M. Polonenko) will continue to work on this project, analysing the speech production recordings.

Update on Project 2: Sound detection and localization with directional hearing aids: effects in children with hearing loss. Studies in adults are very clear that directional hearing aids help people with hearing loss to understand speech in a background of noise. They do this by making the hearing aid more sensitive to sounds from the front, and less sensitive to sounds from behind. Very few studies of directional microphone benefit have been done on children. Those that do exist have used older technology, and have studied primarily laboratory performance on speech recognition tasks. The possible negative consequences of directional microphones for children are not well understood. Specifically, a directional microphone may make it more difficult for a child to detect traffic sounds from non-front directions. Also, some directional microphones “rove” their sensitivity to search for a talker in a background of noise. This very likely disrupts the normal cues needed to localize a sound source.

However, the degree to which children's sound localization abilities are, or are not, disrupted has never been evaluated. Simply put, we do not know whether directional microphones are safe for use by children with hearing loss, even while we know that they are likely beneficial in some environments.

In this study, we will recruit a sample of children who use hearing aids, and measure their abilities to detect sound and to find the location of a sound source. We will have them perform these tasks while using their own hearing aids, and while wearing laboratory hearing aids that use various microphone settings (i.e., non-directional, directional at fixed settings, directional at roving settings). Their scores on these tasks will be compared to a sample of children with normal hearing. The results will allow us to better understand whether directional microphones disrupt the normal cues used for sound source localization.

Progress: One of our Doctoral students (J. Crukley) has worked with our software engineer (S. Beaulac) to develop a sound localization test system. In his master's thesis, Mr. Crukley used the new system to test both children and adults, finding significant age-related differences. In his doctoral studies, Mr. Crukley is working on improvements to the scoring of this software system, and extending the system to include speech recognition testing. Data collection with children and adults is now underway, with eleven participants tested to date. The early stages of this project will complete the normative data set for the new system, allowing us to complete our study of directional hearing aids in children as proposed in this project.

Updates from past projects: Our DSL software system for hearing aid fitting in infants and children continues to be used worldwide. Our SII and speech sound research projects from the previous three year cycle have both been submitted for publication. Past Help-2-Hear funding has allowed us to support graduate student training, and has played a role in recruiting three talented young researchers (Crukley, Glista, Ng) to Doctoral studies in health and hearing research.

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, degree of hearing loss, additional handicaps, hearing technology such as cochlear implants, and the impact of service delivery models that are available to families after diagnosis of hearing loss. 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.

During the past six years, we have investigated the impact of Newborn Hearing Screening (NHS) on the age of diagnosis, the age of intervention and on the development of children with a permanent hearing loss (PHL). From this research, a number of themes have emerged which are being explored in further research.

Our research on the impact of newborn hearing screening (NHS) on the development of preschool children with PHL has led to a growing recognition that early diagnosis is not the only significant factor affecting outcomes. It has been recognized that appropriate services for families of children with hearing loss may have a direct impact on reducing the adverse effects of permanent hearing loss (PHL). Family-centred care is advocated as an important characteristic of best practices for infant hearing health services from identification through the intervention process.

In 2007, Elizabeth Fitzpatrick completed her PhD in Population Health and joined the Faculty of Health Sciences as an Assistant Professor. For her Doctoral work, Dr. Fitzpatrick explored other outcomes beyond communication development and, in the last year, she published a number of papers.

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.

Clinical Practice for Children with Mild and Unilateral Hearing Loss Another area, which has been identified by our 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. Current screening technologies make it possible to identify very mild hearing losses in infants, however, what constitutes “treatable” hearing loss has become a subject of much discussion. UNHS programs have adopted different case definitions and management approaches, and treatment ranges from a “wait and see” approach to intervention with hearing aids and language stimulation services. Before UNHS, children with mild/unilateral permanent hearing loss (PHL) were frequently not diagnosed until late preschool or elementary school age. Consequently, treatment decisions were largely based on the child’s speech-language and/or academic functioning. Dr. Elizabeth Fitzpatrick has received a grant from the University of Ottawa to do a pilot study in this area and this work is currently ongoing. The purpose of this population-based study is to document the prevalence of mild/unilateral PHL in a clinical population and to examine practices and outcomes regarding recommendations for amplification and language stimulation.

Data are being collected for a population of children diagnosed in the Ottawa area during a 16-year period (1990 to 2006) including the number of children with mild/unilateral PHL, age of identification, recommendations for intervention (amplification/therapy), as well as the uptake of these interventions. Relationships between route to identification, age of identification and amplification will be examined.

Other members of our team have been exploring 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 addition, a doctoral student on our team, Cyne Johnston, is developing and evaluating a decision aid, using current research, to help guide parents in their decision-making on bilateral cochlear implantation for their child.

Candidacy for Cochlear Implantation: How Much Hearing is Too Much? Technological advances in hearing technology such as hearing aids and cochlear implants have had a positive impact on the potential of children to develop spoken communication. However, in recent years, as children are diagnosed earlier through universal screening programs and outcomes for children with cochlear implants exceed early expectations, the decision of whether to implant children whose hearing levels fall outside typical criteria is an important one with little evidence to assist clinicians in decision-making.

Studies and clinical experiences suggest that a review of candidacy criteria for children with less severe degrees of hearing loss is indicated. Previous published work suggests that children with borderline hearing loss who received cochlear implants make significant gains in auditory capacity. The purpose of this research is to explore the issue of implantation of children with less severe degrees of hearing loss in the Canadian context.

Two different avenues have been explored. Canadian paediatric cochlear implant centres have been surveyed to learn about current decision-making practices for “borderline” candidates.

In addition, pilot data are currently being collected on a group of children with hearing aids at the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario; their performance in multiple domains will be compared to a group of children with cochlear implants. This will provide valuable information regarding an appropriate assessment protocol for the design of a larger scale multi-centre study aimed at increasing the evidence in the area of paediatric cochlear implant candidacy decisions.

Long-term Outcome after Pediatric Cochlear Implantation: Cognition, Language and Literacy There is now considerable research examining outcomes in children after cochlear implantation in the areas of speech perception and language. The present study was designed to examine literacy skills in individuals who had received cochlear implants as children or adolescents, and who had participated in auditory-verbal therapy. Standard measures of reading including word recognition, decoding, reading comprehension and spelling, as well as language and cognition were administered. The results indicate that scores were within the average range on nonverbal IQ, reading and spelling of isolated words. Reading comprehension scores were lower and related to language and verbal measures, which were below average based on test norms.

The results support previous research, which suggests that the positive benefits of implantation extend beyond speech perception and language measures to literacy. Findings of different relationships between language and components of literacy have implications for rehabilitation and educational programming.

Outcome in Children with Complex Disabilities While cochlear implantation has been demonstrated to be an effective intervention for children with severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss, early implantation was focussed on children who did not have additional disabilities. However, as the field has developed, and outcomes have become better understood, criteria for candidacy have expanded. Epidemiological studies indicate that additional disabilities are present in 30 to 40 percent of children with congenital hearing loss, and may be higher in children with severe to profound hearing loss. Currently, the presence of additional disabilities is no longer considered a contraindication to candidacy. Many cochlear implant centres are implanting children with a range of additional medical conditions, as well as developmental disabilities.

While children with complex disabilities are now being considered for implantation, there is limited information about outcome. The purpose of this research was to examine outcome after CI in these children. A retrospective chart review was undertaken of 188 children implanted at CHEO between 1993 and 2004 to identify patients with complex disabilities at the time of implantation. Auditory abilities were assessed pre-and-post-operatively using measures appropriate to the child's abilities. Cognitive and developmental data were obtained. This study has found that children's communication outcomes, as measured by functional auditory abilities, are highly varied and are related to developmental status.

In addition, outcome from the perspective of their parents, in a group of children with significant multiple handicaps, has been explored. Parents participated in semi-structured interviews examining outcome after implantation. Data were independently coded by two investigators and themes identified. Themes included potential benefit in areas related to audiological functioning, social interaction, and general quality of life.

These findings provide evidence of outcome from the perspective of parents, and have implications for counselling and candidacy in the future.

Outcome in French-Speaking Children with Hearing Loss
Consistent with CHEO's bilingual mandate, the Cochlear Implant Program at the University of Ottawa is one of a few Canadian centres with the capacity to provide services to French-speaking children and their families. In addition to service provision for local children, the program has provided direct care and consultation to French-speaking children from New Brunswick and Manitoba.

The purpose of this summer research project was to identify outcome measures for children with hearing loss who use French as their primary language. This is an important question because of the number of children in the Canadian context whose primary language is French, as well as the potential for more children with severe to profound hearing impairment to be enrolled in French Immersion educational programs. The objectives of the summer studentship were to: 1) develop a compendium of assessment measures in French in the domains of interest for our research program: speech recognition, speech production, oral language, literacy and cognition, and 2) to develop an instrument to survey service providers in the fields of interest. During the summer of 2006, the paediatric cochlear implant research student compiled a comprehensive list and description of assessment tools through conventional literature searches and through interactions with experts in the field. Following this work, a survey with clinicians working in French to identify commonly used French measures for children with hearing loss was completed.

Composite Checklist of Communication Skills: Baby Benchmarks
As our research program has progressed, the clinicians from the Audiology Clinic at CHEO are increasingly becoming involved in research.

Dr. Deirdre Neuss, an auditory-verbal therapist and Dr. Andree Durieux-Smith have received a Faculty of Health Sciences - CHEO Research Institute grant for a study that will examine early communication skills in very young children who have received cochlear implants at 12 to 15 months of age. The purpose of this study is to create a checklist that will be used to document the early communication skills that babies with cochlear implants develop. This will lead to an external grant application to study the communication skills which children with CI develop at specific post-implant intervals, using the checklist. These benchmarks will help parents and auditory-verbal therapists better understand the communication progress that is made by babies with cochlear implants.

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. This database allows us to track the characteristics of the population of children with hearing loss in the Eastern Ontario region, which allows us to identify areas for ongoing and future research.

In 2007, team members presented two invited presentations and 6 peer-reviewed papers at scientific meetings, including the International Conference on Cochlear Implants in Children and the British Society of Audiology conference. In addition, a number of papers have been published or submitted for publication and more are being completed.

VOICE

...helping to give children the voice of sound

Donald L. Jagger

VOICE was established forty-five years ago by parents to provide emotional and technical support to families of hearing impaired children. These parents wanted their hearing impaired children to be educated alongside their hearing peers in regular schools. By working collectively they could make this a reality and also have the tremendous benefit of sharing information and providing support to one another. As a charitable organization, VOICE has thrived over the years and has developed into a successful organization that is recognized as one of the largest parent-support organizations for families of hearing impaired children. VOICE's presence is well regarded within the Canadian Health & Education sectors and is considered as a model parent-support organization that is emulated throughout North America. VOICE maintains approximately 1,000 members in 17 Chapters within Ontario, Alberta, Manitoba, and Quebec.

A Board of Directors composed of individuals representing all chapters, as well as individuals concerned with the well being of hearing impaired children, governs the organization. A Central Office located in Toronto, oversees the entire organization. The annual operating budget is over half a million dollars.

The Masonic Foundation of Ontario's support of VOICE has impressively spanned across over 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.

Auditory-Verbal Therapy is a process of developing language, which gives hearing impaired children the tools to develop speech and auditory skills. The therapy operates on the principle that usable hearing is common to 95% of all hearing impaired children. Babies with normal hearing learn to communicate by becoming aware of sound, mimicking the sounds they hear and, through interacting with family members, learn that sounds have meaning. Hearing impaired babies can learn language in the same way but they need to be taught how to become aware of sound. This is what auditory-therapy does – it teaches them how to listen. The approach is parent-centred and the auditory-verbal therapist's main tasks are to assess the hearing and language capabilities of the child and to teach the parent/care giver to encourage the child's emerging skills in listening, speech, and language. Hearing impaired children who learn to listen and speak, have the opportunity to be integrated into regular classes in their neighbourhood schools, learning alongside their hearing peers. For further information about VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children, its Aims and Objectives, Programs and Services, I would recommend that you visit their Web Site at www.voicefordeafkids.com The Masonic Foundation of Ontario is proud to help VOICE fulfill its goal.

“We give deaf children a VOICE for life.”

SCHOOL PEER EDUCATION PROGRAMS PARENT ACTION ON DRUGS (PAD)

...addressing the issues of substance abuse

Allan C. Dvorak

PARENT ACTION ON DRUGS: Director Allan C. Dvorak reports: PAD was founded over 24 years ago by a number of parents who were concerned about the lack of information available to young people on the effects of drugs and other substances. PAD's mission is to address these issues among youth through outreach, prevention, education and parent support. In today's modern society, it has never become so vital for the PEER Education programs offered by PAD, to counter the detrimental onslaught our youth are facing which exploits their vulnerability. The Masonic Foundation of Ontario has proudly supported the evolution of programs of PAD, over these many years, to counter and address substance and drug abuse, through prevention, before treatment is required.

PAD has worked with a single program training thousands of high school students in a two-day workshop to deliver a packaged program about substance use and decision making to younger students in a three-part curriculum.

During this year we have examined new options for our peer education programming in accordance with many schools' reported need for new and flexible curricula.

Programming may be directed at an identified problem in the school such as marijuana use. A shorter delivery format by the peer leaders and/or a program involves the entire school rather than being restricted to just one grade.

For the past three year period, PAD was able to pilot test, evaluate and produce a new program addressing marijuana use among high school students. This program was introduced to respond to high levels of marijuana use among high school students, resulting in poor school attendance, performance and social behavioural problems, and future addiction problems. This new program is called “Marijuana Risks and Realities” (or alternatively labelled “What’s With Weed?”).

Testing of a third PEER education option is ongoing in Toronto schools. This program follows the Peer Empowerment Program model originally developed by PAD to promote resiliency among at-risk youth in community (non-school) settings. In this application, the program combines a motivational presentation in an assembly for the entire high school, emphasizing coping skills and resistance to drugs, bullying and discrimination.

Directions for 2008-2009: Following the success of the trials of new program options within the PAD Peer Education program in 2007-2008, PAD will put forward an “Integrated Peer Education” (IPE) program which promotes this approach for schools throughout Ontario.

The important underlying constant with all program options is the involvement of trained peer leaders to deliver important factual information, explore attitudes and help younger students learn skills related to making decisions about alcohol, marijuana and other drugs.

At this time, PAD finds that schools are inundated with both problems related to alcohol and drug use among their students as well as related problems of violence. Limited resources, however, make it difficult for schools to take on programs which they recognize have merit. PAD has several Peer Education Instructors available for the delivery of its programs, who are both generalists and specialists.

Their current cadre of Instructors allows them to meet the demands of schools throughout Ontario for specific and diverse programs, all under the umbrella of the Peer Education Program, which is supported and funded by the Masonic Foundation of Ontario.

KERRY'S PLACE (AUTISM SERVICES)

...enhancing the quality of life of persons with Autism

A. J. (Tony) Hope

Imagine living in a world that perceives and communicates much differently than most people. Imagine the frustration and challenges you would encounter trying to communicate your needs. This is the world that individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) live in and these are the challenges that Kerry's Place Autism Services (KPAS) strives to combat in order to enhance the quality of life of the individuals being supported.

Our experiences have shown that these feelings of frustration with communication and sensory processing (which includes external and internal stimuli) commonly lead to extremely stressful situations for both the individual with ASD and their family unit as a whole. In many cases, the build-up of extreme stress within a family can lead to a breakdown and disintegration of the familial relationships.

Individuals with ASD rely on their families and support networks for structure and continuity in their daily lives and therefore a crisis in this relationship can result in major challenges for the individual with Autism.

In recent years, Kerry's Place Autism Services began to regularly encounter situations in which crisis was imminent for a family. In most cases, the family did not have the financial resources to combat the level of stress. KPAS identified that with just a small amount of one-time funds, they could help the family to recover from the stressful situations. In response to these findings, in 2003, Kerry's Place Autism Services developed the *Enhanced Support Model* which is focussed on providing short-term, small amounts of funding to families and individuals in a crisis situation.

The *Enhanced Support Model* included the creation of an Enhanced Support Committee, which is responsible for the review of each request. The committee meets on a monthly basis (unless an urgent request arises) to review the requests brought forward by KPAS employees. Each request is given careful consideration and once it has been determined that all other sources of funding have been exhausted for the situation at hand, the Enhanced Support Committee approves the request.

Since the *Enhanced Support Model's* inception, the Enhanced Support Committee has approved a total of 113 requests and has expended a total of \$143,014.00 for individuals and families throughout the province.

Enhanced Support Model Categories

Respite Support Respite support is defined as a short-term, temporary relief (or rest) for the family or primary caregiver. Typical respite opportunities may include the removal of the individual with Autism from the family home – some examples have been to attend a summer camp or simply for a trip to the nearest shopping mall. Caring for an individual with autism is a constant responsibility and can therefore make it very difficult for the caregiver to perform the smallest household tasks. Given time and intensity, these tasks can build up to cause undue stress on the family unit.

Providing respite at the point of extreme stress, provides the caregiver with the opportunity to tend to these duties or simply to recuperate or have time to themselves. Unfortunately in many situations, the respite is required because the primary caregiver is ill and must attend to their own health concerns for a period of time.

In the last year alone, with the assistance of the Masonic Foundation of Ontario, KPAS has been able to fund a total of 9 respite opportunities with a total of \$9,093.00 provided to individuals

Below are 2 examples of respite opportunities, which were provided in 2007:

- Hiring a temporary employee to provide respite for an individual whose caregiver was hospitalized.

- Payment of fees for an individual to attend a summer camp, which resulted in much needed respite time for the family.

Consultation The Enhanced Support Model also provides short-term funding for individuals and their families to access various types of consultation services. Individuals with Autism often experience sensory challenges, which if left un-managed, can lead to extremely problematic behaviour. For example, KPAS works closely with Occupational Therapists, who are able to intervene in crisis situations. The Occupational Therapists are able to work with the individual and their family to develop a plan which will ease the sensory challenges encountered by the individual with Autism.

KPAS is also committed to developing Person-Centred Plans (PCPs) for the individuals we support. These PCPs are created, monitored and adjusted completely around the interests, needs and desires of the individual with Autism. The Person-Centred Plan is regularly reviewed and updated dependent on the current needs and future plans of the individual.

PCPs also aid in crisis prevention since the planning process targets those areas of the individuals' life that are most needed, such as a change in environment. In 2007, the Enhanced Support Model approved 6 requests for consultation services, which resulted in a total fund allocation of \$5,024.00. These requests included sessions with an Occupational Therapist and regular visits with a clinical psychologist.

Seed Requests The *Enhanced Support Model* also provides funding for creative initiatives on a short-term basis. These types of supports provide the individual with the opportunity to explore their creativity and are expected to operate independently of Enhanced Support Funding following the initial allocation amount. This type of short-term funding has proven to be very successful in several situations. In recent years, the Enhanced Support Model funded the purchase of art supplies and training for one young man and since then, his art career has flourished - he now has his own business cards and shows his pieces at various art shows.

The *Enhanced Support Model* is expecting to receive a very exciting seed request in 2008. There is a current KPAS program called the "Best Friends Kids and Dogs Group" which currently partners with Aurora Siberian Husky Rescue Group. The Best Friends Kids and Dogs Group provides children with Autism with the opportunity to interact with Siberian Huskies in a social setting. KPAS has seen improvements in the following areas for the children with Autism:

- Increased self-confidence
- Building of relationships incorporating trust
- Formation of caring, reciprocal and two-way relationships
- Improved motor skills
- Improved hand/eye coordination
- Increased feelings of companionship.

The *Enhanced Support Model* will also look at providing funds directly to families which are interested in adopting a dog for their child with autism (the fee is \$300 per adoption) and will also provide funds to cover the cost of an outside consultant (who is presently working with families who are interested in adopting a dog for their child).

In 2007, The *Enhanced Support Model* provided funds in the amount of \$5,267.00 for seed programs. These activities included supporting an individual who walked to Ottawa to raise awareness for Autism Spectrum Disorder, supporting an individual who is attempting to swim across Lake Ontario in summer 2008 and also covering the fees for an individual to enter a program, which will result in positive changes in his quality of life.

Prior to 2007, the *Enhanced Support Model* approved almost \$6,000.00 for various seed activities.

The Importance of the Enhanced Support Model The *Enhanced Support Model* not only serves to prevent crisis, but also to keep families together. In many situations, the small, short-term funding provided by the *Enhanced Support Model* provides much needed rest, consultation or counseling services for the family. In turn, KPAS has seen the mending of familial relationships. KPAS strongly believes that in the majority of cases, keeping the family together is the best situation for the individual with Autism. The *Enhanced Support Model* enables KPAS to meet the critical needs at crucial points in an individual's life.

“The successes demonstrated in this report would not have been possible without the ongoing support of The Masonic Foundation of Ontario. On behalf of the individuals we support and their families, we thank you for your generosity and tremendous contributions. The requested amount of \$17,000.00 for 2008/2009 will enable us to continue to fund critical situations through the *Enhanced Support Model* and we look forward to working with

The Masonic Foundation of Ontario while making a difference in the lives of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder throughout the province.”

On behalf of those whom we have assisted, we offer you, the Masons of Ontario, our sincere thanks for your continuing donations to the Mason’s ‘charity of choice’, which funds this valuable charitable service.

CHARITABLE PROJECTS

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

Raymond S. Daniels

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. However, there are other specific, one-of-a-kind individual requests, unique in their nature, that are reviewed by the Special Requests Committee of which the Deputy Grand Master is the Chairman. Since the Foundation’s inception in 1964, a number of guidelines have been adhered to in considering the requests received:

- All assistance must be used in the Province of 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/administrative requirements of established charitable organizations.

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

- Oxford Learning Program to aid a ten-year old with a “working memory problem”.
- Wayside House, in Hamilton, to assist their education program through the purchase of relapse prevention texts for 25 men.
- A number of individuals were assisted in the purchase of a companion wheelchair.

The assistance of Mel Duke and Marlene Victor in the Foundation Office in administering this Program is gratefully acknowledged. Their willingness to obtain extra information and to provide critiques, in confidence, greatly assisted in making informed decisions.

The Masons throughout Ontario are reminded to be constantly aware of the needs of young people in their communities, who may have “special needs” that do not fit the general programming of the MFO. Please advise this Committee through the Masonic Foundation Office.....we just may be able to provide some help!

IN ADDITION, please note that your individual District Projects, approved by the Masonic Foundation (with a 4-digit number), will automatically receive a further 10% of the amount fund-raised, up to a maximum of \$1,000 from the MFO.

DISTRICT /LODGE PROJECTS

...responding to local community needs

Barry J. Hutton

Again this year, the Brethren of many Districts across Ontario have worked enthusiastically, in cooperation with The Masonic Foundation of Ontario, to help relieve suffering, enhance a person's living standards or support disease research. These fund-raising projects, whether well-known charities or local, addressed worthwhile community-based needs, and were strongly supported by members and their families, all for the *Cause of Good*.

Well over \$265,000 has been targeted, as summarized in the following list. These Projects, limited in scope only by the imagination of DDGMs and the Brethren of each District, vividly demonstrate the diversity of activities that Masons across Ontario have chosen in a continuing effort to benefit their communities.

District	Project	Target
Bruce	Outdoor Education Facility Bluewater School Board	\$1,500
Frontenac	Child-friendly clinic Kingston Hospital	\$15,000
Georgian N	Barrie Cancer Clinic	\$12,000
Georgian S	Defibrillators - Heart & Stroke	\$15,000
Grey	Prostate Cancer Research	\$4,000
Hamilton C	Cancer Assistance Program	\$5,000
Ionic No. 461	Equipment Rainy River Hospital	\$10,000
Muskoka-Parry Sound	Multiple Sclerosis Society Muskoka	\$ TBD
Niagara A	Diabetes Research	\$10,000

Niagara B	MFO Yellow Envelope Campaign	\$ TBD
Oak Branch No, 261	New walker for a special needs child	\$4,000
Ontario	Charles H. Best Centre (Diabetes)	\$10,000
Ottawa One	Prostate Cancer Research	\$ TBD
Ottawa Two	Bone Cancer Research	\$5,000
Peterborough	Victoria Quilts Canada	\$15,000
Prince Edward	Sick Kids Foundation	\$60,000
St. Thomas	Assist a child with Beckwith Wiedemann Syndrome	\$5,000
Toronto Don Valley	Children's Wish Foundation	\$15,000
Toronto East	Windreach Farms & Autism Durham	\$10,000
Toronto Humber Valley	Kerry's Place	\$10,000
Toronto West	Shelter for Abused & Battered Women and Children	\$20,000
Toronto West	Student Bursary Program	\$1,000
Toronto York	Juvenile Diabetes - Sick Kids	\$10,000
Waterloo	Kids to Camp (Diabetes)	\$12,000
Wilson North	Dialysis unit - Woodstock Hospital	\$10,000

DA VINCI SURGICAL ROBOTIC SYSTEM

...on the cusp of a revolution in surgery

Dr. Samuel Kalinowsky

The Masonic Foundation of Ontario has made a \$45,000 pledge over 3 years to St Joseph's Health Care Foundation in London, Ontario. The donation is in support of the da Vinci Surgical Robotic System, a minimally-invasive tool that can play a key role in the treatment of prostate cancer. The da Vinci robot provides surgeons with high-resolution viewing, three-dimensional screens and precise surgical instruments allowing surgeons to work on an organ, such as the prostate, where access is difficult. "The robot becomes an extension of my hands, but with 7 millimetre instruments, it can facilitate manoeuvres that even my hands can't," says Dr Stephen Pautler, urologist at St Joseph's Health care, London. "Our hospital is only one of a few in Canada using da Vinci technology."

The da Vinci robot, aside from being used for prostate cancer, has been used in the treatment or removal of cancers of the bladder, colon and pancreas. Patients benefit from robotic minimally-invasive surgery because of reduced trauma to the body, less anaesthesia, less post-operative pain and discomfort, less risk of infection, less scarring, shorter hospital stays, faster recovery and return to normal activity...but perhaps the most important benefit to men is a greatly reduced risk of sexual dysfunction and incontinence, factors that sometimes deter men from having surgery at all.

Why is Prostate Cancer of such a great concern for a fraternity, whose more than 50,000 members are all men?

In 2007, an estimated 22,300 Canadian men will have been diagnosed with prostate cancer and some 4,300 will die of it. One in about 7 men will develop prostate cancer during his lifetime, mostly after age 60. One in 27 will die of it. Prostate cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer in Canadian men.

Our assistance to the da Vinci Surgical Robotic System, in the grand scheme of things, may appear to be small, but symbolically and as a starting point, it recognizes in a significant way, the tremendous potential of minimally-invasive surgery in the treatment of this dreaded disease.

The Masonic Foundation also recognizes and salutes the complementary initiative of our Grand Master, M Wor Bro Allan J Petrisor with regard to his personal project, the Early Detection and Awareness of Prostate Cancer. It is significant that early detection, through a Digital Rectal Examination or the PSA Test, is vitally important in defeating prostate cancer. The Grand Master has already raised more than \$22,000 in support of this most worthwhile initiative.

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."

But all of us are not Rockefellers, Carnegies, Buffetts or Gates.....

Without a doubt, the best kept secret in philanthropy is how very ordinary donors are transforming their favourite charities with extraordinary gifts. There are literally millions of 'little' donors in Canada who quietly send their \$35 or \$50 every year to their charities of choice. These gifts, and the donors that send them, are the backbone of charitable giving in Canada today.

Canadians are a very giving people. According to the most recent statistics from Statistic Canada's 2004 *Canadian Survey of Giving, Participating and Volunteering* over 85% of Canadians over 15 years of age made a charitable donation in 2004, totalling almost \$8.9 billion (45% went to religious organizations), with an average donation of \$400.

Many of these donors are from the pre-Boomers, the "Civic" or "Quiet" Generation, born before 1946. They grew up before TV, they respected their elders and believed in the golden rule.

In their no-muss, no-fuss style, and with nary a peep, they have quietly done their moral duty to make tomorrow's world a much better place for generations that will tread in their footsteps.

A 2007 study by the FLA Group, a consulting group, whose principals co-authored "Iceberg Philanthropy" yielded information about Planned Giving, that is bequests, that is nothing short of amazing:

Over 1 million Canadians (about 7% of those that have wills) have left gifts to charities in their wills-and an equal number are considering making legacy gifts in the future.

These still living Canadians have made charitable bequests totaling an estimated \$42 billion.

Direct mail donors are more than twice as likely to make charitable bequests than people who don't give to charity through the mail.

56% of Canadian adults have a will (about 15 million Canadians),.....only 13% of Canadians under 30 have wills, compared to 94% of those over 75 years (and 92% of direct mail donors have wills)

Women (58%) are more likely to have wills than men (53%).

Surprisingly, educational attainment did not influence will-making but did influence likelihood of making charitable bequests; yet, income and employment status were not significant influences on charitable bequest –making.

Single and widowed Canadians are twice as likely to include charities in their wills as are those who are married, divorced or separated.

Canadians over 50 years of age are more than three times more likely to make charitable bequests than those in the under-30 age bracket.

The Masonic Foundation of Ontario in continuing its efforts to communicate with its many stakeholders, the Masons, families and friends. Our Yellow Envelope Appeal is transmitted annually through the Ontario Mason Magazine. The Grey Envelopes, to encourage 'In Memoriam' are available at most funeral homes in Ontario. An informative pamphlet on Planned Giving has been produced and is available to the brethren and their families to assist with their bequest decisions.

The Foundation encourages our stakeholders to consider the options available to them through Planned Giving....final bequests, life insurance, transfer of shares or real estate, gift annuities, gifts of RRSPs and RRIFs are some examples. All gifts increase our capital base and continue to give long after the brother is no longer with us. Aside from leaving a lasting legacy, these measures usually bring a significant tax benefit.

During the past year, the Foundation received bequests totalling \$114,163.63 from 8 estates, varying in size from \$852 to \$73,571. Several large bequests are awaiting due process.

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

LOOKING AHEAD

...matching actions and aspirations in shaping the future

Dr. Samuel Kalinowsky

The noted philosopher George Santayana stated “..those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it”

The Masonic Foundation of Ontario started its 45th year on March 25th, 2008. Much has been accomplished over the previous 44 years and we have much to be proud of. We must carefully digest what has been good and what has been bad, what has worked and what hasn't. We cannot hawk expectations like a snake oil cure and we shouldn't place totally unfair expectations on adolescent ideas. It is true that at times I have become impatient with the seeming lack of progress in the evolution of a new Vision for the Foundation We must approach the future with calm and deliberate steps, examining all options that are available to us , marshalling the best ideas and best opportunities as we embark on the next 5 years leading to our 50th Anniversary.

In summary, the next 12 months should see the following:

- 1 Further calculated work by the Policy and Communications Committee in developing a first draft of a Vision document and a thinkpiece on a Communications Strategy for the MFO
2. The MFO Web Page is to be further improved to harness the fullest potential of information technology...we must become more receptive towards the bounty of tomorrow's technology and more adept at learning and adapting to its use.
3. We must review and understand the implications and potentials of operationalizing a "To Donate" button on our Web Page.
4. Scaled down in size, Resource Kits will be distributed to all DDGMs as reference materials for the execution of their on-going responsibilities.
5. Information Seminars will be presented in Brockville, Peterborough, Chatham, St Catharines and Newmarket or alternate sites to provide updated information to DDGMS, MFO Reps, Worshipful Masters, other Brethren and the public to cover Districts in the proximity of these selected sites. Information and details to be communicated as soon as possible on dates and venues and also to be on the MFO Web Page Bulletin Board.
6. MFO CD will be distributed extensively in August or sooner.
7. In consultation with BMO Nesbitt Burns, review the present investment strategy to ensure it conforms to the policy adopted by the Board.

The onus of responsibility is on us, the Board of Directors and Stakeholders of the Masonic Foundation of Ontario, to enhance and extend the benefits of philanthropy to as wide a base as is possible within the limitations, financial or otherwise.....the need has never been greater.

Our engagement is multifaceted and deliberate.....we must nurture leadership and commitment that respects all mankind but also bridges geopolitical, social, cultural and economic divides.

Working together, in harmony and with purpose, we will succeed.....**for the cause of good.**

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, G. Boyce, H. N. Britton, D. A. Campbell, K. Campbell, R. K. Campbell, R. J. S. Daniels, J. T. Cassie, D. A. Conway, M. J. Duke, A. C. Dvorak, A. J. Hope, B. J. Hutton, D. L. Jagger, T. A. McLean, I. Millar, D. H. Mumby, A. D. Nichols, A. J. Petrisor, H. E. Standish, G. R. Taylor, P. E. Todd.

Samuel Kalinowsky, President

The Masonic Foundation Office is available to serve you:

Regular Hours: Monday to Thursday 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, Mrs Marlene Victor

**Address: The Masonic Foundation of Ontario,
361 King Street, West,
HAMILTON, ON L8P 1B4**

Telephone: (905) 527-9105

Facsimile: (905) 527-8859

Web site: www.masonicfoundation.on.ca

**THE MASONIC FOUNDATION OF ONTARIO
SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008**

	2008	2007
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 86,162	\$ 196,243
Accrued investment income	67,801	64,483
Marketable investments	8,147,542	7,779,917
Other	5,117	8,844
	\$ 8,306,622	\$ 8,049,487
LIABILITIES		
Payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 16,900	\$ 12,000
District project funds for disbursement	129,450	89,248
	146,350	101,248
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	8,160,272	7,948,239
	\$ 8,306,622	\$ 8,049,487

**SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008**

	2008	2007
REVENUE		
Investment income	\$ 404,267	\$ 331,305
Bequests	114,897	122,626
Donations	69,547	70,510
District project funds	287,832	208,746
	876,543	733,187
EXPENSES:		
Administration and fund raising	151,568	123,802
Bursaries and donations	563,171	489,901
	714,739	613,703
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	161,804	119,484

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008**

	2008	2007
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS, beginning of year as previously reported	7,948,239	7,828,755
ADJUSTMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS STANDARDS	50,229	-
RESTATED NET ASSETS, beginning of year	7,998,468	\$ 7,828,755
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	161,804	119,484
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS, end of year	\$ 8,160,272	\$ 7,948,239

Auditors' Report on Summarized Financial Statements

To the members of The Masonic Foundation of Ontario

The accompanying summarized statements of Financial Position and Revenue and Expenses and Changes in Net Assets are derived from the complete financial statements of The Masonic Foundation of Ontario as at March 31, 2008 and for the year ended March 31, 2007 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 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 account principles. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes. 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 Practice Public Accounting by the Institute of
Chartered Accountants of Ontario

Hamilton, Ontario May 6, 2008

Audited copies of the financial statements as at and for the year ended March 31, 2008 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 AND OFFICERS

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

CELEBRATING FORTY TWO YEARS OF SERVICE

OUR LEADERS 1964-2008

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 -

“I would like to extend my gratitude to you for providing me with financial assistance during this time. Your kindness and donation is greatly appreciated and will be used towards living expenses. Thanks again.”

“Please convey my sincere appreciation to your foundation for this bursary. It’s taken a great weight off my shoulders. It’s difficult when you have to worry about finances while still facing the challenges of going to school and striving to achieve great marks. I’ve made it through the biggest challenge of my life thus far with your help.”

“These funds will help me a great deal to complete my undergraduate studies. After that, I hope to be able to enrol in medical school and become a physician. I can assure you that the Foundation has made a good investment in awarding this bursary. Once again, thank you very much. I am extremely grateful for your support.”

“What I want to say is thank you all who helped me out with this generous bursary award. It makes me happy knowing there are people like you who help those in need, especially when they need it the most. You’ve made a difference for me, and thank you again.”

“I am so grateful for this gift from you. It is so much needed and appreciated. I sincerely thank you. “

“It is few times in ones life where a person gets such a generous gift which changes so many things. This gift will ultimately be one of the greatest and most memorable in my life. I do from the bottom of my heart thank the Masonic Foundation for such an amazingly kind gift.”

“From the bottom of my heart I thank you for this amazing gift and all it will allow me to accomplish. Your generosity it truly a Blessing and I will be forever Grateful.”

“Thank you so very much for your help with this bursary. This was definitely my last resort and I don’t know what I would have done without you. You have changes my life and I will never forget this. Once again I thank you.”

“Giving out these bursaries might well be the highlight of my year as DDGM. Every student has shown great appreciation and you get the feeling that the money will, indeed, be well spent. Everyone I’ve met would be welcome in my home - either as my own guest or the guest of my children. I’d like to express my thanks to the Foundation for giving me this opportunity.”

“I would like to thank you for your support in my studies. This money will help me in my placement in Toronto. This money is greatly appreciated by myself.”

“I would like to take this time to state how appreciative and grateful I am for your unwavering support toward my endeavours both on a professional and personal aspect. Be assured that I will take full advantage of this prosperous opportunity you have afforded me.”