



SOROPTIMIST
FOUNDATION
OF
CANADA

CORNERSTONE

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Spring 2007

SFC BOARD IN TRANSITION

Please welcome our 3 new Board members
who start their service on July 1, 2007

CORINNE RIVERS

Corinne has a long and illustrious involvement in Soroptimist, having been a member of 3 different clubs – SI Cambridge, SI Hong Kong, SI Toronto and then back to SI Cambridge! In 1981 she was a charter member of SI Cambridge with a term as President two years later followed by serving on the Board of Eastern Canada Region. Corinne attained the position of 2nd Vice President of SI Hong Kong, during her 3 years there from 1987-89. On her return to Canada she became a member of SI Toronto, where she was a Board Member, Corresponding Secretary and PR Director in the early '90s. She returned to SI Cambridge in 1997 where she has been Chair of the Allocations Committee and voting delegate to the SFC AGM in 2004.

Corinne is a world traveller for Soroptimist as a delegate attending the SIA Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, the SI Great Britain and Ireland Convention in Glasgow and the SI Convention in Melbourne, Australia. She represented SI at the United Nations High-Level Economic Commission for Europe meeting in Vienna, preparing for the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1994. Corinne has contributed her expertise drafting and revising Laws and Resolutions at the SIA and ECR levels and presiding as parliamentarian for ECR and SI Cambridge.

SHIRLEY SANDERSON

Shirley joined Soroptimist International of Kamloops in 2000 and is currently serving as President for 2005-7. Starting in 2003 she became successive chairperson of the WCR Fall Area Meeting, Forum on Menopause and the 60th Anniversary Tea. Currently she is chairing the Career Choices for Young Women Conference, April 2007, aimed at high school and 1st/2nd year university students.

Her attendance at the SFC AGM in 2004 led to SI Kamloops receiving the second ever SFC Grants for Clubs. She chaired the "Mothering Conference" committee that brought this major community conference to reality.

Under her leadership SI Kamloops has brought back the presenting of the Violet Richardson Award after an 8 year hiatus and the Making a Difference for Women Award after a decade.

JANET SIMMS-BALDWIN

Janet has been a member of Soroptimist International Cambridge since 1993. She served as Secretary for a 2 year period and chaired the club's Allocations Committee for several years.

Janet served on the Finance Committee, was in charge of Public Relations for a two year period and was secretary to the Domestic Violence Committee for the duration of the Haven House Project. She also participates in ad hoc committees & activities.

As SI Cambridge's delegate to the SFC AGM in October 2006 she participated fully in the discussion regarding SFC finances and investment strategies. When the ad hoc committee on Investment Strategy was struck Janet was named chair.

SFC FINANCIAL MATTERS

SOROPTIMIST FOUNDATION OF CANADA INVESTMENT STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Janet Simms-Baldwin, Chair

At the SFC Annual General Meeting, October 28, 2006 there was a presentation by people from TD Waterhouse, the firm that has been serving as SFC Financial Manager of the Endowment Fund.

When the membership received the annual financial statements and viewed the presentation, concerns were expressed that:

- a) we were not generating sufficient revenue to meet expenses and the anticipated grant demands ie. \$30,000 for our 4 Grants for Women and \$5,000 for Grants for Clubs.
- b) we were struggling to reach the \$1 million mark which apparently will make it easier to get donations from sources other than our membership.

A committee was struck to review and revise, if necessary, our investment strategy. This review was to include exploring whether the Letters Patent constrained us. The committee is led by Janet Simms-Baldwin and has as members: SFC Treasurer, Dianne Hutchison, Donna Rediger, Patti Dolan, and Julaine Palmer. Flo Grant, SFC Chair sits ex-officio. Dianne, Janet & Julaine represent the ECR, and Patti, Donna and Flo, the WCR.

To date, we have reviewed the Letters Patent, the by-laws and the policies around our investment practice. We have also reviewed the legislation regarding the legal responsibilities of the Board for the Foundation's Endowment Fund management. We are now in the process of finalizing the draft of an "Investment Policy Statement" which goes to the Board for approval the end of April 2007. Then, it will go to the member clubs for review and direction to the voting delegates attending this year's AGM on October 27, 2007. If the policy is approved, the revised investment strategy will be implemented following the meeting.

As chair, I really appreciate the careful thought and time that is being given to this task by the committee members. Hopefully as an end result we will break through the million-dollar ceiling within a year or two.



**SOROPTIMIST
FOUNDATION OF CANADA**

Yes, I will donate to the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: (_____) _____ E-mail Address: _____

I have attached a cheque in the amount of \$_____.

This is a one-time donation This is quarterly donation This is a monthly donation

This donation is in the honour of _____

This donation is in the memory of _____

Mail this donation card to: Soroptimist Foundation of Canada, c/o 501-470 George St. S., Peterborough, ON, K9J 3E4
Registration #119156594RT001

WE ARE NEARLY THERE!

Dianne Hutchison, Treasurer – SFC

As I sit down to prepare this article, I think of just how far we have come in our Mission for a Million over the past 3 years.

I have gone back through some old issues of the Cornerstone and found this headline in the October 2004 issue **“We Only Need to Raise \$121,087.00 in order to bring SFC to \$1,000,000.00”**. In April of 2005, the magic number was \$96,625.00. In April of 2006 the number had only been reduced to \$92,348.00 due to much lower interest rates.

**Well this year, that magic number, as of March 31st, 2007,
is down to \$37,338.00 as our balance
in the Endowment Fund is now at \$962,662.00.**

This is no thanks to your treasurer, but to you, the Soroptimists, of both Eastern and Western Canada.

Up to April 1st of this fiscal year, our donation total is \$44,938.86.

This includes a bequest of \$25,000.00 from the estate of the late Gladys Wilson of S.I. Edmonton (see tribute article)

***Thank you to all Soroptimists in Canada,
I know that our magic number is very, very close!!***

***Then, we can work on “The Second Million” and
provide even more for the good of women & girls.***

Did you know that the capital gains tax has been eliminated for donations of marketable securities to charity?

Financial Summary at March 31st, 2007

Endowment Fund Balance	\$ 962,662.00
General Account Balance	\$ 38,983.00
Donations YTD	\$ 44,939.00

Visit our Website:
www.soroptimistfoundation.ca

SFC LEGACY

GLADYS WILSON

1917-2005

"A WOMAN AHEAD OF HER TIME"

Gladys was a respected long-time member of Edmonton's business community.

In the late 1930s Gladys caught the eye of Merrill Muttart while she was playing short-stop on a girl's baseball team. She soon became the lumber company's credit manager, a daunting position for a young woman. The story goes that she was able to skillfully handle a "burly, hatted, cigar chomping rough-and-tumble contractor who came in to sort out this blankety-blank credit business. In 30 minutes he marched out without his hat, his cigar and his facial colour. That was a pretty good trick back in those days."

Gladys became a founder of the Muttart Foundation, a philanthropic organization founded by Edmonton industrialists Merrill and Gladys Muttart. With the Foundation paying for half of the cost, she was instrumental in the conception of the Muttart Conservatory that opened to the public in 1976. The glass pyramids of the Conservatory have been a major attraction in the city's river valley ever since.

First Baptist Church also benefited from her expertise. When a real estate company wanted to buy the church and redevelop the property Gladys negotiated a \$500,000 non-refundable down payment. The real estate market went bust so the church was returned to the parishioners including the \$500,000. This money was used for the Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation and the Mustard Seed church. Gladys was made a life deacon of her church - a rare honour.

Gladys was one of the hardest working members of SI Edmonton. She was on the Board of Directors of the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada in the 1980s and this organization was one of her favourites. She spoke about "the Foundation" to anyone. She vigorously supported the SFC with "a few healthy donations over the years". These culminated in her very generous bequeath of \$25,000 to SFC. This gift has given the Foundation a significant step towards our \$1 million dollar goal.

A final story about Gladys. She will be "remembered roaring around town in her red convertible, top down and fur coat flying!"

Our hats off to you Gladys – many thanks – a true Soroptimist!

Submitted by Carrell Wingrave, SI Edmonton

SAFETY THROUGH CAR KEYS

Put your car keys beside your bed at night. If you hear a noise outside your home or someone trying to get in your house, just press the panic button for your car.

The alarm will be set off and the horn will continue to sound until either you turn it off or the car battery dies.

If your car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break into your house odds are that the burglar or rapist won't stick around.

After a few seconds all the neighbours will be looking out their windows to see who is out there and sure enough the criminal won't want that.

And remember to carry your keys while walking to your car in a parking lot. The alarm will work the same way.

Would also be useful for any emergency, such as a heart attack, where you can't reach a phone.

Contributed by Karen Wilson

GRANTS FOR WOMEN

Jean Violette our National SFC Grants for Women Manager for 2007 has submitted the following three articles.

2006 GRANTS WINNER CHRISTINE KOBELKA SPEAKS AT SI NORTH AND WEST VANCOUVER AWARDS DINNER

The Soroptimists of North and West Vancouver invited Christine to be a speaker at our awards night on March 8th. Christine is currently attending the University of British Columbia studying for her Masters of Science majoring in Genetic Counselling. She has dedicated herself to studying genetics so that she can make a difference for women in the future. Her studies are preparing her to be a health care professional, who is providing information on causes, implications and recurrence risks of genetic conditions.



She was one of 6 students from a group of 75 accepted into this very expensive program that costs \$30,000 for the two years involved. Needless to say she is most appreciative of the financial help from our Foundation. She wrote "I am honoured to be among such a passionate group of women who are working in diverse fields to improve the quality of life for so many women."

All the clubs' award winners for the Violet Richardson Award, the Women's Opportunity Award, Ruth's Special Recognition Award and the SFC Grants for Women were most inspiring. What a wonderful way to celebrate International Women's Day!

Canadian Soroptimists can be justifiably proud of our SFC Grants for Women program that is making a difference for Canadian women.

2007 GRANTS FOR WOMEN QUALIFYING APPLICATIONS ON A NATIONAL LEVEL

We received 91 complete and eligible applications in both regions of the country with 58 in the East and 33 in the west. They were judged by our Soroptimist Judges,

There were a further 37 applications received that were not judged as they did not qualify. Eighteen were disqualified (9 in both the East and the West) with 16 incomplete applications (6 in the East and 10 in the West) and 3 having material submitted too late in the East.

This means the total number of applications processed was 128 with 76 in the East and 52 in the West.

2007 SFC GRANTS FOR WOMEN MEET OUR NATIONAL NON-SOROPTIMIST FINALS JUDGES

After the initial screening by Soroptimist judges in the East and the West, 10 finalists are selected for the final non-Soroptimist judging. This year the final judging takes place in the West.

We are fortunate to again to have **Margaret Landstrom**, who was a judge in 2005.

Margaret is currently Director of Learning and Development for the Children's and Women's Health Centre of B.C. Margaret has held many administrative positions at York University, the University of Windsor and the University of British Columbia. Her work has encompassed Admissions and Prior Learning Assessment, Academic advising, Continuing Education administration, and Distance Education. Being a Grandmother figures high on her list of interests.

Our second judge for this year is **Barbara Kroon**, R.N. Barbara's work experience includes Executive Director Action Line Housing Society, Regional Seniors Services Coordinator, North Shore Health Executive Director, North Shore Community Health Services, March of Dimes and Victorian Order of Nurses. Volunteer activities include McCreary Centre Society, Women's Health Collective and YMCA. Barb's interests and hobbies include grandchildren, reading, golf, and dogs.

Our third and final judge is **Emily Davies**. Her work experiences include business development, event marketing and sales, and she is currently working in production for television commercials. Her hobbies and interest include running, cooking, watching films and writing screenplays.

We are grateful to these busy women who have chosen to create the time to be on our national grants selection committee.

One Flaw In Women



Women have strengths that amaze men.
They bear hardships and they carry burdens,
but they hold happiness, love and joy.
They smile when they want to scream.
They sing when they want to cry.
They cry when they are happy
and laugh when they are nervous.
They fight for what they believe in.
They stand up to injustice.
They don't take "no" for an answer
when they believe there is a better solution.
They go without so their family can have.
They go to the doctor with a frightened friend.

They love unconditionally.
They cry when their children excel
and cheer when their friends get awards.
They are happy when they hear about a birth or
wedding.
Their hearts break when a friend dies.
They grieve at the loss of a family member,
yet they are strong when they
think there is no strength left.
They know that a hug and a kiss
can heal a broken heart.
Women come in all shapes, sizes and colors.
They'll drive, fly, walk, run or e-mail you
to show how much they care about you.
The heart of a woman is what makes the world keep
turning.
They bring joy, hope and love.
They have the compassion and ideas.
They give moral support to their
family and friends.
Women have vital things to say
and everything to give.

HOWEVER, IF THERE IS ONE FLAW IN WOMEN,
IT IS THAT THEY FORGET THEIR WORTH.

GRANTS FOR CLUBS

SI CAMBRIDGE "EVERY BODY IS A SOMEBODY" PROJECT

By Karen Wilson, SI Cambridge

What do 90 painted clay torsos, artist Cheryl-Ann Webster from Ottawa and SI Cambridge have in common? A half-day workshop, entitled Every Body is a Somebody, where women of all ages, embraced an interactive exploration of the Beautiful Women Project.

The Beautiful Women Project challenges popular images of beauty and opens a dialogue about the link between self-worth and society's attitude toward physical appearance. Initially meant to demonstrate to young girls that beautiful bodies come in all shapes and sizes the artist came to realize that body image issues are complex and ubiquitous.

This Every Body is a Somebody workshop on March 4, 2007 was sponsored by SI Cambridge, the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada, the YWCA Cambridge and the Cambridge & North Dumfries Foundation. It hosted 50 women from the local community along with 21 members of SI Cambridge. Club members participated in the Sunday afternoon workshop and helped with setup, registration, workshop/gallery hosts, refreshments and cleanup. Some club members helped sponsor the uncrating of a torso! Extensive media coverage included Rogers TV, The Record of Kitchener and the Cambridge Times.

The funding from the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada Grants for Clubs is gratefully acknowledged.

The SI Cambridge project was an excellent launch for the Beautiful Women Project that was on display from March 5 – April 7. Our attendees set a strong foundation for the participation of community, school and neighbourhood groups. The exhibit drew more attendees to the gallery at the Cambridge Centre for the Arts than any other show. Two thousand bookmarks, created by SI Cambridge that publicized that Body Image is Not Black and White, were distributed during the display.

For more information on the Beautiful Women Project check Cheryl-Ann's website
<http://www.websterwood.com>

Shield of Courage



The casting process meant so much to **Shield of Courage**; she felt the warm protective layer to be a safe breast plate - a shield to deflect what had harmed her before. Furthermore, she felt that the rough plaster cast with its lumps, bumps and tattered edges reflected her life before recovery. She embraced it all.

The black background speaks of a past that she is moving away from, while the shield celebrates all that she is, all that she wants to be and all that she can be.

The Clarion Hotel and Suites
 1445 Portage Ave, Winnipeg
 will welcome the 44th Annual Meeting of the
 Soroptimist Foundation of Canada
 On Saturday, October 27, 2007

Come and meet your new Board!
 Vote on the Investment Strategy Report

Meet and greet new and old friends whose aim is to advance our
 Grants for Women and our Grants for Clubs
 through our own Canadian Soroptimist Foundation

You can access the hotel's web at
www.clarionhotelwinnipeg.com

Editor: Alison Sanders
 Thanks to our web master Dina Correia