



SHANNON FRASER/HEALTH SERVICE VILLAGE

The Douglas Lions Club has turned out in support of the Renfrew & Area Health Service Village's Doctor Recruitment Campaign in their usual generous style. Vice chair Peter Emon accepts a cheque for \$1,000 from Lion Bill McLeod. The RAHSV has recruited seven of 14 doctors they have committed to bring to our area by the end of 2015. With generous support from community groups, corporate sponsors and the public, they hope to fulfill that mandate. In late 2012, the RAHSV adopted the slogan "Invest In Your Health" to help illustrate to residents of Horton, Greater Madawaska, Renfrew and Admaston-Bromley that this campaign will benefit all residents when a full complement of doctors is practicing here. Pictured left to right are Terry McHale, Barbara May, Melissa Vanderwal, Otto Schreiber, Donna Bimm, Kevin VanWoezik, Eve Dale, Peter Emon, Harold Gallagher, Ken Bimm, Billy McLeod, Hubert Wilson, Dave Quenneville and Duncan McQuitty. Missing from photo Garth Jackson.

Jim Gilchrist, who died late last year, was a veteran member of the Douglas Lions Club. At the club's 50th anniversary, he accepts a plaque for his contributions from then-president Kevin Van Woezik.

PHOTO BY CHARLENE VAN WOEZIK



DOUGLAS

Continued from front

As with other service clubs in the Renfrew area, it's more difficult these days to maintain a strong fundraising force. Membership dropped to 13 with the December 2012 death of long-time and outstanding club member Jim Gilchrist. However, two new members are expected to bring membership up to 15 in the next little while.

Kevin Van Woezik was president when the club celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1998. At that same celebration, the club's last active charter member, Terry O'Neill, was recognized with an award by District A-R Governor Jim Duff.

"Some of the guys I looked up to, like Steff Heebink and Jim Gilchrist, asked if I wanted to join," said Van Woezik, thinking back to when he joined the club in 1991.

"They were guys who did a lot for the community. They always seemed to be helping people, and that's what the Lions Club is all about," added Van Woezik. "It's a good feeling to be able to help your community. It's really an honour."

The once all-male membership now includes females. In fact, three generations of one family were members until

Gilchrist's recent death, the other family members being his daughter Donna Bimm and granddaughter Melissa Vanderwal.

Vanderwal says her grandfather said Lions Club membership was all about community involvement and getting yourself "out there to give back to the community. He always felt volunteering was important."

Over the years, the club used bingos and the sale of Nevada tickets as major fundraisers, but that has evolved in recent years. The bingos and Nevada sales are gone, while pancake breakfasts and chip wagon sales at such prominent events as the St. Patrick's Day Parade account for most of the fundraising.

Recently, the club has provided donations for Renfrew and Area Health Services Village doctor recruitment, Hospice Renfrew and the Pembroke Regional Hospital's MRI fund.

The current club president is Harold Gallagher. His father (Harold Sr.), brothers (Paul and Tom) and brother-in-law Ray English have each been members, but Harold didn't get around to joining until later.

Now 66, the Douglas native says, "I thought I was too busy when I was growing up. The trouble is I missed a whole lot. I missed out on a

whole lot of camaraderie."

Much of that camaraderie was enjoyed by the club's 31 charter members. For the record, they are: Arnold O'Neill, D.C. McEachen, Duncan McLeod, Stanley Bolger, Carl Scott, Robert McNab, Martin McHale, Joseph Breen, T.M. Neville, Cecil P. Simpson, Malcolm McNab, D.S. McEachen, Jerry Sheehan, Gordon Crogie, Percy James, Roy McGregor, Lornie McGregor, Michael O'Neill, Anselm O'Neill, Joseph McHale, Larry Moriarty, Cameron Stokes, D. Lynch, Wilburn Neville, Harold McQuitty, Alex James, James Purdie, Joseph Neville, Harold McEachen, John McDonald, Ira Richards, Neil H. Livingston, Allan Stewart, Stewart Ryan, Merrit Morton, Eddie Beach and P. Redmond.

Lions Club six major objectives include the fostering of a spirit of understanding in the world; promotion of good citizenship; and the encouragement of service-minded citizens to serve in their community without personal financial reward.

*\*The author of this story is the grandson of Harry A. Newman, who became the first Canadian president of Lions Club International. He served as president for the 1924-25 term. He died in 1976.*



STEVE NEWMAN/METROLAND

Veteran Douglas Lions Club member Terry McHale holds up the charter plaque containing the signatures of the club's 31 charter members.

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Conference Explored Opportunities for Economic Prosperity through Tourism at Calabogie Peaks Resort February 13th.

Pembroke, ON. The Ontario's Highlands Tourism Organization (OHTO) brought together economic developers, destination marketers, funding partners, and government organizations for a day of collaborative discussion around strengthening the tourism industry in Ontario's Highlands. The conference included a presentation of the Ontario Tourism Investment Strategy, the OHTO Tourism Development Partnership Program and a workshop delivered by the Tourism Café from Victoria, BC, on how to enhance the visitor experience by focusing on what the traveler wants instead of selling what a destination has to offer.

"It is no secret our rural communities have been struggling to revitalize their economies," but Nicole Whiting, Manager of OHTO stated "momentum is building around exploring ways to support growth in the tourism and hospitality sector. More and more of our community leaders understand the significant economic impact a visitor has on a community both in terms of their immediate visit, but also in terms of the potential to convert that visitor into a resident or business owner. We were very excited to provide a forum to learn about what we need to do as a destination to become more appealing to the visitor." Attendees were surprised to learn this may not mean investing more in advertising. Nicole explains, "Competition in the tourism industry is fierce and successful destinations are not necessarily the ones that have the biggest marketing budgets. These destinations understand the importance of creating positive memorable experiences for the consumer and this "experience" is a combination of their stay accommodations, the activities they take part in with operators, right down to the service they receive at a local gas station. If the visitor leaves feeling valued and has experienced something truly unique, not only will they be back, but they will be sharing their stories with their friends and family."

The conference provided attendees with the information they need to understand how they can work together collaboratively to ensure their communities meet the needs of the visitor. Sources of support available to organizations looking at developing programs around destination development were also shared.

The OHTO is a not-for-profit organization mandated by the Province of Ontario to increase tourism within the counties of Haliburton, Lanark, and Renfrew and portions of Frontenac, Hastings, and Lennox and Addington. The OHTO works in collaboration with eight sub-regional marketing organizations, tourism agencies and authorities including: Algonquin Nation, Bancroft & District Chamber of Commerce, ComfortCountry.ca, Haliburton Highlands, Lanark County Tourism, Land O' Lakes Tourist Association, Ottawa Valley Tourist Association, and the Rideau Heritage Route Tourism Association. Find out more about the OHTO at <http://www.ohto.ca>

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Arnprior-McNab-Braeside United Soccer Club  
**AMBUSC**  
**SOCCER REGISTRATION**  
 Dates: **Thurs Feb 28** from 7PM-9PM  
**Sunday March 3** from 10AM-1PM  
**Tues, March 26** from 7PM-9PM  
 Place: Nick Smith Centre, Arnprior  
 Cost: U4-U6 \$80  
 U8-U19 \$90  
 Adult \$130  
 Family rate - 3 or more children \$215  
 Tax receipts will be available on registration nights.  
 If you are born between 1993-2001 and are a "new" player please bring a wallet size picture with your registration form. Registrations will not be processed without payment, pictures and proof of ID. Download your registration forms [www.ambusc.ca](http://www.ambusc.ca) or pick up at the Nick Smith Centre Information Desk. Cheques made payable to AMBUSC. Fees will increase by \$20 to regular rate after March 31, 2013.