

QUOTA INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS OF 2008



Anne Sinclair

Quota International of Collingwood

Anne has been a valued member of Quota International of Collingwood since 2004. Her enthusiasm and steady involvement in Quota projects has been a real asset to the club.

In 2005, Anne became the Chair of the Publicity Committee. Anne has written detailed articles about Quota projects and events which have been printed in local newspapers. In the local library and town hall, she has displayed Quota Memorabilia in celebration of May's hearing month. Anne is a Hearing Resource Teacher with the Simcoe County Board of Education. Because of her involvement with children who have hearing impairments, she has been able to encourage interested students to attend. The Bob Rumball Camp for the Deaf in Parry Sound. She is an excellent contact and advocate for Quota International. Our club has been able to send many boys and girls to this facility. Thanks to Anne more people have become aware of Quota's mandate.

To promote Quota's Canada Area hearing awareness campaign, Anne visited several primary and junior classrooms to provide in-service to teach how important our sense of hearing is to all of us. Anne's presentation called Safe Listening explains the ear function and the dangers of permanent hearing loss. She showed Sound Sense, a Canadian Hearing Society video which provides an entertaining way to teach young listeners about protecting their hearing. Following the presentation, the children were given a handout with the alphabet in American Sign Language and a set of ear plugs to use in their everyday lives as they listen to loud music and imagine what it is like for a deaf person. The children thoroughly enjoy the hands-on approach and Anne is planning to make return visits to the classroom in the coming year. She invites all Quotarians to join her in this worthwhile cause.

The Quota International of Collingwood has nominated Anne Sinclair for Volunteer of the Year. She embodies the spirit of the District because of her school awareness project which reflected upon the organization as a whole. We want to give a special thank you to Anne Sinclair for influencing our younger generation to protect their hearing.

As a young girl, Anne first became interested in working with Deaf children after watching the movie "The Miracle Worker" about the life of Helen Keller. At the age of 16, she sent a letter to E.C. Drury School for the Deaf in Milton Ontario to find out how to qualify as a Teacher of the Deaf.

Since that time Anne has completed my Honours Degree at the University of Western Ontario, a one year teachers Certificate from the Toronto Teachers' College, a Specialist Degree in Special Education from York University and a one year Certificate as Teacher of the Deaf at the Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf in Belleville Ontario.

Anne has enjoyed 30 years as a teacher working with Special Needs children, including Deaf and Hard of Hearing. She has worked in classrooms and as an Itinerant teacher for the Ministry of Education at E.C. Drury School for the Deaf, In Trillium Lakeland District School Board and for Simcoe County District School Board. In 1991, she was honoured with the Recognition Award from the Council for Exceptional Children for Outstanding Service and Support of Exceptional Children and the Award for the Development of an Innovative Educational Program for Exceptional Children.

Anne has enjoyed working with Deaf students from the ages of 4 years to 18 years. Every child presents different challenges and also numerous rewards. Her responsibilities included supporting children with multi-exceptionalities such as Deaf with ADAD, Deaf with Learning Disabilities, and Deaf with Intellectual Exceptionalities. The rewards of helping a young child make the initial connection between sign language and communication is just as exciting as helping a Deaf teenager complete their high school diploma or receive acceptance into a College or University.

Her role as Teacher of the Deaf also gave her opportunities to mentor Teachers' in Training, and provide co-op placements for College Students interested in the field of Deaf Education. She was able to gain experience providing in-service to staff at the school level, to groups of teachers, administrators and educational assistants at the system level and to parents and community members.

Quota has played an important role in Anne's life since moving to Collingwood eight years ago. She first became aware of the services that Quota provides through several of the students she worked with. Quota has played a very major role in the lives of many young deaf and hard of hearing children in the area. Quota has provided funds towards hearing aids, and special needs equipment for a young deaf boy in the area who has been struggling with serious health issues since birth. Another young child received funds for hearing aids and a special alarm system that vibrates under her pillow to wake her in time for school. As well as providing funds for the many requests for auditory equipment that helps the children become more confident and successful at school, the Quota club has provided experience for numerous children to attend the Ontario Camp of the Deaf in Perry Sound Ontario. The interaction with other children facing the same challenges as they are is so crucial in promoting self-confidence and acceptance. The opportunity to submit the names of the children receiving the camp experiences has been very rewarding for her. She also enjoyed working with a group of children interested in sign-singing. The group, the Cameron Street Sign Singers and were able to perform the song "What a Wonderful World" at the local Theatre during the ceremony accepting the Quota Clubs generous donation of the 5 Senheiser FM Systems for use by hard of hearing patrons at the Theatre.

As part of an on-going Quota Service Incentive Anne has launched a program through the local School Board that provides in-service to classrooms promoting Safe Listening. Quota members are welcomed into the classrooms to give a fun yet informative presentation on protecting your hearing from hazardous listening situations. She explains how the ear functions and the dangers of permanent hearing loss through noise pollution. (ie. Loud volumes on I-Pods, MP3 players, cell phones etc.) The Canadian Hearing Society has produced an excellent video and kit called "Sound Sense" which provides a fun way to get across an extremely important issue. Following the presentation the children receive a set of the Quota Ear Plugs. No other generation of young people have faced the potential of permanent hearing loss due to prolonged listening to devices attached to their ears for most of their waking hours. Significant increases in hearing loss have already been discovered in children as young as grade 4. She feels strongly, as a Quotarian that it is our duty to inform and protect our young people with regards to protecting their hearing. Quota and Safe Listening go hand in hand in our Community.



Jean Eyre
Quota International of Orillia

Jean has been volunteering since the age of 14. While in England, Jean worked with her mother on the Market Harborough chapter of the Muscular Dystrophy Association. She continued volunteering with the Market Harborough Ladies Circle, eventually becoming President

Jean joined the Quota Club of Orillia in November 1983 and has held numerous positions, including President.

She always finds time in her busy life to give back through volunteering. Jean is often one of the first members to put her hand up offering gifts of honey from her business, the Beeworks, for guests and speakers. She shares her life with her husband Dave and they recently returned to England to renew their vows, after 25 years of marriage.

Jean also has an interest in photography. She was instrumental in creating our Fund Raising Calendar I 2006 as well as producing our DVD "Cooking with Quota" in 2007.

In 1990 while serving on the International Community Service Committee she introduced the successful Teddy Bear Program.

Jean will celebrate 25 years as a Quotarian in November, 2008. We are proud to have Jean as a member of the Orillia club and as our Volunteer of the Year 2008.



Patricia Kirk
Quota International of Ottawa

Patricia Kirk joined Quota in 1984. Over the years, she has served as Treasurer and a Director and on many occasions, she has been the Club's auditor. Pat has been very active in many of the fund-raisers of the Club.

For many years, Pat was responsible for the Club's sale of Entertainment Books. She handled this job with much enthusiasm and commitment. Pat is involved with Cheese Sales which is a small fundraiser for the Club. This requires collecting orders and distributing the cheese after the order has been delivered. She plays an active part in our service event – New Orchard Lodge (Extendicare) Christmas Tea. When the Club held Golf Tournaments, she assisted with door prizes and hole-in-one prizes. Along with providing door prizes and selling numerous tickets, she never fails to part-sponsor a race at the Club's Annual "Night at the Races" fundraiser. Pat has generously donated the entrance fee for many Canadian Hearing Society Dart Tournaments which enabled a Quota team to participate. For over 14 years, the Ottawa Club worked in a Bingo hall every second Friday. Pat was there to help out.

Patricia accompanied her late husband to many different countries where they worked and lived. She also worked at the National Film Board. She has attended many Conventions and conferences. She was a Registrar at a Conference held in Ottawa.

We consider Patricia to be a true Quotarian because of her dedication, generosity and commitment to work to better the lot of the deaf and hearing-impaired and disadvantaged women and children.