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Newsletter

February 2014

Giddy **U**p and Grow with **U**s

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

I think that by now everyone who isn't a diehard snow sport enthusiast is tired of winter. Comedian Carl Riener put it rather succinctly. "A lot of people like snow. I find it to be an unnecessary freezing of water."

Unfortunately, the beginning of first session was delayed by Mother Nature, but we are now really pleased to be back on schedule. We hope that you are as eager to be back as we are.

In a separate statement enclosed with this newsletter, I have attempted to explain why SpEqTRA finds it necessary to hold fundraising events throughout the year. Please, take a minute or two to read this explanation so that you fully understand why we need your support for these events.

We are grateful for the support that we have received in the past from the Trillium Foundation, the Lions Club and the CAW locals 444 and 244. However, there are many other worthy charities out there that are also vying for support from these organizations and their funds only go so far. They try to help as many different groups as possible. Our greatest difficulty is covering operating costs and many organizations do not wish to give money for that purpose.

If you have any questions, please ask Liz at 519-322-2463 or Dorothy at 519-326-4373.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting for the year 2013 will be held on **March 10, 2014 at A-1 Chinese Restaurant**, Erie Street South, Leamington; social time at 5:30, dinner at 6:00 and the meeting at 7:00. All members of SpEqTRA are permitted to attend this meeting. Members are volunteers, students, parents and/or caregivers, or anyone fourteen years of age or older who has paid the annual membership fee of \$10.00 per family or \$5.00 per individual.

A DATE TO REMEMBER

On April 14th, 2014, treat yourself to A-1 Chinese food and benefit SpEqTRA at the same time. All day on the 14th while you are enjoying their wonderful buffet, if you mention to your server that you are there to support SpEqTRA we will receive a portion of the days receipts. We have done this for two years from the establishment in Essex with great success.

ANOTHER VERY IMPORTANT DATE

Mark this date on your calendar. **June 14, 2014** is our **Pig Roast and Hoedown** at the Leamington Marina.

OUR LITTLE FAMILY HAS GROWN

Our instructor, Sheena gave birth to a little girl on January 22. Vanessa is a little sister for brother Wyatt.

BOWLATHON



On November 23, we held our Bowlathon. The switch to November in the hopes of getting better weather paid off for this year. Given how the weather is going the Arctic Vortex might decide to return in March. We all had a great time with a really good turn out of students and adults. The winners for collecting the largest number of donations were for the sixth time in a row, Jessi and Sarah Harrington. Liz Windsor was second and Dorothy St. John was third.

CHRISTMAS PARADE



We had quite a challenge creating float for this year's Christmas Parade. Acquiring a trailer to use was our first challenge and the very cold weather on the days that were scheduled to decorate added to our difficulties. We persevered and entered a float with the theme, "*Give the Gift of time. Be a Volunteer.*"

We were delighted to place second in the Not for Profit category considering the challenges involved. Our considerable thanks goes those who risked hypothermia to make it happen and a special thanks to PJ Trailers.

WITH OUR THANKS

We would like to acknowledge a recent donation from the Leamington Lions Club to purchase equipment for our programme. We are very grateful for their support.

Grooming: The process whereby the dirt on the horse is transferred to the groom.

Volunteers Always Needed