

Community

Amnesty International celebrates anniversary

By KARYN MCGILVRAY
Herald Special

Amnesty International groups across Canada are holding special events to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of Amnesty International. Among some of the activities that will be going on are community displays, benefit concerts and dinners, and radio and television interviews.

One spectacular event will be the Artists Network. The event takes place June 14-16 at Harbourfront with celebrity speakers, theatre events, films, bands, musicians, clowns, jugglers, face painters and more. Nobody will want to miss out on this 30th anniversary special.

Amnesty International was founded by Peter Bannenson, a British lawyer, after he read about two Portuguese students who were sentenced to seven years in jail after raising their glasses in a toast to freedom.

Bannenson wondered how ordinary people could help to free these innocent so-called "prisoners of conscience". Groups of people who showed concern for these people could form groups who would "adopt" prisoners and write appeal letters to authorities.

On May 28th, 1961 the London, England newspaper Observer carried a story which announced an "Appeal for Amnesty, 1961."



The following day, major newspapers world-wide wrote about "the forgotten prisoners."

Soon letters and donations began to pour in. By the end of 1961 several Amnesty International groups were formed in a dozen countries.

The campaign became a movement, taking on the name of Amnesty International.

Today there are over 700,000 members internationally. Halton Hills has recently formed an Amnesty International-Halton Hills Group. The next meeting will be June 19, 7:30 p.m. in the library at St. Francis of Assisi School on Duncan Drive.

For more information call Cheryl Broughton at 873-0331 or Lynn Kingston at 873-3383.

Happy anniversary, Amnesty International!



Lions help out

The Lions Club of Ontario helped out the Georgetown chapter of the Canadian Diabetes Association with a cheque for \$1,800 at the Georgetown Lions Club on Monday. Russ Fedun, district governor of the Ontario Lions Club (left)

and Don Coghlan, Diabetes awareness chairman for Lions District A-11, present the cheque to Lisa Burrows, president of the local diabetes association. (Herald photo)

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