

Lions keep 'fun' in fundraiser

TERRY VOLLUM

For the Community Press

STIRLING - Members of the Stirling & District Lions club are always hard at work on some sort of project to improve life for those fortunate enough to call this little corner home.

The Lions' latest fundraiser was a raffle held during this year's Stirling Groundhog Festival. First prize was a two-minute \$500 shopping spree that took place at Stirling Foodland last Saturday morning. "I

got the idea for the shopping spree while going through some old club files," said Alana Bancroft, president of the Stirling & District Lions Club, "and remembered that my aunt had won such a Lions' shopping spree many years ago and how thrilled she was when she got the good news. So I decided right there and then that we should do it again because we'd be offering a prize that was a whole lot of fun and something people could get really excited about."

Stirling Lions sold tickets for a couple of weeks leading up to the February 2 draw date and Bancroft's hunch that response would be positive was right on the money.

"It was indeed a success and lots of fun," explained the Lions' president. "We had people calling and messaging us even before we had printed the tickets. And once we were out actually selling, we had a lot of folks write 'Food Bank' on their tickets instead of their own name. It was heartwarming to see such a response. And one local business, McKillop & Associates,

ordered \$50 worth of tickets in the name of the food bank."

The winning ticket was drawn at 7:25 a.m. just after Millpond Moe, Stirling's resident meteorologist, had made his spring prediction. And the winner was Nancy Dryden of Stirling.

"I was flabbergasted and delighted to have won. And it was all for such a good cause," said Dryden.

"It seemed fitting that Nancy had purchased the winning ticket from Lion Lin Clarke, who just happens to be our accessibility chair since all proceeds from this raffle are in support of the lift that will provide much-needed accessibility to the Lions Hall, located on the second floor of the Stirling arena," explained Bancroft.

For the record, the almost sold out raffle raised just more than \$1,000 to help finance the cost of that lift.

As well, as the rules of the raffle permit, Dryden chose her daughter, Suzanne, to complete the timed shopping spree for her. Once

Suzanne had finished the whirlwind two-minute sprint around Foodland and had completely filled two shopping carts she confessed the last minute or so of the spree had been pre-planned so as to collect as many canned goods and non-perishable items the Drydens had decided to donate to the local food bank.

"I couldn't be more pleased with the outcome here today," gushed Bancroft when she heard of the Drydens' decision to make the food bank donation. "First and foremost it was a whole lot of fun but it's always nice to be reminded that we live in such a caring community."

Those who happened to miss out on the shopping spree fundraiser, Bancroft would like to remind people they can still help financially if they would care to do so. The local service club will continue to accept donations (tax receipts available upon request). Cheques should be made out to "Stirling & District Lions-Accessibility Fund" and mailed to Stirling & District Lions, Box 56, Stirling, Ontario. K0K 3E0.