

Parents of NHL goalies founded charity

From page 1.

"It is a real partnership," said Sally, who found it gratifying to work alongside the local people.

She found that while people in Tanzania had very little, they were happy.

"They don't think of themselves as destitute," she said.

Many schools have a breakfast program for the youngsters, providing them with porridge every morning. While there seemed to be enough fruits and vegetables for the children, meat was often in short supply.

The largest problems remain unemployment, AIDS and malaria in many African countries, so the mosquito net included in the bedkit is quite an asset to the children's homes.

The charity was founded in 1970 by the late Murray and Margaret Dryden to

provide bed-kits to needy children living in underdeveloped countries. They were moved by the plight of children sleeping on the streets.

A bed-kit contains a mattress, sheet, blanket, clothing, towel, a mosquito net and school supplies. Contents vary from country to country depending upon local needs.

Because education is so important and children need to wear a uniform, usually a blouse or shirt is included in the bedkit.

NO TRANSPORTATION COSTS

Education is free of charge until Grade 8, but the student's family has to provide the uniform.

All bedkit items are purchased in the host country, eliminating transportation costs and boosting local economies. Sleeping Children Around the World distributes about 55,000 kits a year to

11 different locations in nine countries and expects to deliver its one millionth bedkit in 2010.

One hundred per cent of all donations to Sleeping Children Around the World are used for the bedkits.

Most of the work at the charity's headquarters in Etobicoke is done by volunteers and volunteers pay their own way to travel overseas to distribute the bedkits. The Etobicoke office is the former home of the Drydens, who are the parents of former NHL goalies Ken and Dave Dryden.

Volunteers from the host country organize the manufacture of the bed kits and arrange for the distribution sites.

The fifth annual cabaret evening at Stouffville United Church begins at 7 p.m. It features a variety of entertainment and music from rock to gospel at 30 Church St. Tickets are \$15 at the church or by calling 905-640-1163 or 905-642-0275.

Stouffville tree farms' legacy lives on

The trees the Dryden family planted, pruned and cared for themselves are still helping children in developing countries have a cozy night's sleep.

Murray Dryden purchased two tree farms in Whitchurch-Stouffville beginning in 1955 and another in Caledon. One was in Ballantrae on Hwy. 48, the other near McCowan and Aurora roads. When the farms were operational, proceeds would go for Sleeping Children Around the World. When they were sold in the late 1980s and early 1990s, a fund was set up which pays expenses of running the charity and allows 100 per cent of all donations to go for the bed kits.

Dave Dryden remembers his dad doing a lot of the work, working on through dry weather, hail and mice damage.

Murray Dryden wrote a book in 1985 about his life and experiences, including the tree farms, titled *With God Nothing*

is Impossible: A Canadian Life.

Mr. Dryden decided to help children with bedding because he wasn't sure how effective food distribution would be.

When Dave and Ken were at university and playing pro hockey, the brothers would come back to the farm around Christmas to help. Ken is the Liberal MP and Hockey Hall of Famer. Older brother Dave also played goal professionally, in the NHL and WHA.

The tree farms were so popular, Dave said, "it was awesome to see cars parked up and down the roads."

A Newfoundland dog club would be enlisted so the powerful dogs could haul the trees out of the woods. Dave also remembers the large bonfires at the farms and the hot chocolate and marshmallows.

For more information on Sleeping Children Around the World, visit scaw.org

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Photo by: Dianne Soehner as entered in the Moraine in Focus Photo Contest

FREE EVENTS! LEARN ABOUT NATURE!

Event Topic	Location	Date	Time
Managing Rural Properties	Goodwood*	Jan. 31st	6:30 - 9 pm
Marketing Rural Properties on the Moraine**	Goodwood	Feb. 5th	9 am - noon
Nature-based Income Options for Rural lands	Location, date and time TBC		
Pond Management	TBC	March 29th	9 am - 2 pm

* Goodwood Community Centre ; ** cost for event and pre-registration is required; TBC = to be confirmed.

Caring for the Moraine

The events above are brought to you by the partners of the Caring for the Moraine project. The project offers a variety of services to Oak Ridges Moraine landowners in addition to the workshops. They include:

- **Free property visits** to Moraine properties larger than 2 acres;
- Access to **financial and technical assistance** to do environmental projects on your property; and
- **Resource material** on the Moraine and other natural resource management themes.

For more information or to get involved in the Caring project, please contact Kate at 905 579 0411 ext.106, kpotter@cloca.com or visit www.moraineforlife.org

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HP\$?

TIRED OF GUESSING HOW MUCH TO PAY FOR PARKING?

Thanks to your suggestions, the way you pay for parking at Markham Stouffville Hospital is changing (but unfortunately you will still have to pay). We are upgrading our system so that it meets your needs and is consistent with industry standards.

Our new system will be implemented **JANUARY 28, 2008** and is designed to take the guess work out of paying for parking.

OPTION 1: REGULAR PAYMENT
Simply obtain a ticket upon entry and keep it with you during your visit. Prior to returning to your vehicle, make your payment at one of our conveniently located Payment Stations. Our new machines accept bills, coins and credit cards.

OPTION 2: EXPRESS PAYMENT
Just insert your credit card at the point of entry and once again upon leaving.

Hospitals are required to use parking as a revenue source to supplement government funding. All parking proceeds are directed to provide our community with the care it needs.

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