

## *First Five Women Chosen as Fairy Godmothers*

Presenting in the spring of 2004

Gail McNaughton	Dog & Pony Productions Inc.	Children's Art Project
Sherrie Klaver	Royal Bank of Canada	Sports Day for very Sick Boy
Barb Kuhlmann	Royal Bank of Canada	Road Safety Project
Ann Marie Ricketts	Single Women in Motherhood Training	Supporting Single Mothers
Jackie Prince	Thames Valley Children's Centre	Christmas for a family in need

**Barb Kuhlmann**, Royal Bank of Canada  
2004 Spring Conference Presenter  
**Road Safety Project**

Recently, a number of school children had been killed in traffic accidents, on roads where various schools were situated. The students at Regina Mundy school in London were traumatized most recently by the death of one of their own, on the highway outside their school.

This \$100 was donated to the school, and specifically to the students who were challenged to create peer-centered messages about road safety. The funds were a way to empower the students to do something creative and valuable to their student body. dv

**Sherri Klaver**, Royal Bank of Canada  
2004 Spring Conference Presenter  
**Sports Day in Toronto for a sick young man**

When Sherri Klaver accepted the \$100 Fairy Godmother funds to do something creative and valuable for some part of the community, she had no idea what she would do. She asked everyone - friends, co-workers at the bank, new acquaintances, for ideas.

Through her work at the bank, she heard about a ten year old boy in the community who was undergoing chemotherapy for cancer that made him feel worse than the disease itself. He would be a good candidate to benefit from her energy and the \$100.

Sherri and her colleagues decided to do something wonderful for him. When they learned about his interest in sports—hockey in particular—the wheels began to turn for putting an amazing plan into place.

Many people stepped up to help. Dona-

tions in kind and in cash were solicited to make it all possible, and the plan became a reality. A limousine picked up the family of five early in the morning to take them to the hospital where the boy would have his chemo treatment. Then he lay down in the back of the limo to watch television during a two hour ride to Toronto. He and his family toured the Sports Hall of Fame museum, went out to dinner in the big city, and then on to a live hockey game downtown. Following the game, the limo driver took them right to their door in Watford, a village near London.

For that one day at least, the boy was on top of the world. Sherri and her team of good samaritans had created something magical for a very sick little boy. jw

**Gail McNaughton,**  
The Dog & Pony Show  
2004 Spring Conference Presenter

*Inside every child is an artist waiting to be released.* This is what Gail feels about the hidden talents of children. “They need to know that besides math, English and science there is an art world out there, just waiting to be explored” says McNaughton. “Art helps to balance one’s life and relieve stress.” A partnership was initiated with The Times Journal and The Art Centre who promoted the event. Students were asked to submit letters giving reasons why art is important to them and why they should be selected.

Gail dreamed up the project after receiving \$100 from the Fall bi-annual Women’s Conference run by Diann Vail of The Women’s Directory in London which is attended by corporations and small business women. Five women who came forth after the project was announced were given lump sums of \$100 each to spend on community development. Gail chose to orchestrate The Children’s Seed Project to plant the idea that children can dream to be artists and make it a reality. “People need to follow their dreams and look within themselves to find their passion.”

Gail promotes the artwork of Paul Schleusner, an established artist in Port Stanley and presently makes photo art greeting cards of his work which are sold in retail stores in Elgin County. Paul agreed to teach 10 children to paint using acrylics on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Paul makes his living by painting. His Children’s Art Project Sunflower picture, the Project’s logo, will be on display in The Art Centre.

What a day we had on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup>. The students started their morning by sketching a still life of a green vase filled with sunflowers and this was just to warm them up and develop a comfort level. Next, each student was given painting tools and the ‘magic of creation’ began. Each student did a painting that encompassed sunflowers in its context. Paul gave hints along the way as to composition and mechanics of painting.

Ample snacks and a pizza lunch donated by Dog & Pony Productions Inc. got everyone on track for the afternoon’s painting. This time, students did a landscape with a few students picking boats as their scheme. Each student named their two paintings



**Gail McNaughton—Diann Vail—Bob McNaughton**

and selected one to take home and the other to go to The Art Centre to be on display during the ‘Great Beginnings Student Art Exhibition’ which runs from March 27 – April 24.

All paintings displayed in The Art Centre will have photo art greeting cards made of them which will be on sale as a fundraiser to support a similar project in the future. Prices will be \$2.75 each; 10 for \$12.50; or 20 for \$23.50 + tax. If you would like to make a donation towards future youth initiatives, please contact The Art Centre. Please come by to see the results of the intensive efforts put forth by eager students from either the morning or afternoon painting sessions. The initial letters submitted by the students will also be on display.

**Student name & painting:**

Jena Kestle	Horse that Loved Sunflowers
Emmi Coburn	Blue River
Callie Hill	Sunset by the River
Shaye Helmer	Autumn Afternoon
Niki Underhill	Never Ending Road
David Looby	Rocky Mountains
Cynthia Hill	Peaceful Flowers
Victoria Looby	The Barge
Sonitha Sor	White & Blue Boat
Emma Barrett	Tug Boat

If you were not selected to participate in The Children’s Seed Project it doesn’t mean that you are not an artist inside. There were only 10 spots available for the 28 students who applied. Please try again next time and good luck in your sketching and painting. Paul Schleusner paints almost every day of the year so you need to practice a lot to develop your own unique style. Go ahead - get started! On your mark, get set, go.

**Jackie Prince**, Thames Valley Children's Centre  
2004 Spring Conference Presenter  
**Making Christmas for a family**

With the generous gift of \$100, a family of 4 received gifts that they had not expected. The mother enjoyed a luxurious bubble bath with a gift bath set. She was also able to get some time to herself to do this because her two daughters were watching the children's movie, Finding Nemo. The movie was purchased for the youngest child while they tried out different make-up styles with the make-up kit that was purchased for the special needs oldest daughter.

The dad stayed away from the make-up party, choosing to putter around the house, fixing items on the 'honey do' list with his new tool kit. The family enjoyed pizza from Pizza Pizza with the coupons they received as part of their Christmas gifts.

Whoever said that \$100 doesn't go a long way, has never shopped with their heart and shopped with someone with a special purpose. The above family made out their wish list for Christmas, hoping but never expecting to receive everything on their list. With a little bargain hunting and the generous gift from Diann, we were able to purchase the remainder of the items on the family's list.

The items listed were not extravagant. In fact, most of us take them for granted every day. It's easy for most of us to purchase a slice of pizza for the kids while we're busy with activities. I think about how often I've had a bubble bath at night to unwind, not realizing that there are some mothers who don't get to enjoy the soothing comfort of bubbles after a long hard day. When you have to tighten a loose screw on a kitchen cupboard, how many screwdrivers do you have from which to

choose? I took a look, and I have four of the star shaped kind. My son's friend has all of the Disney movies. The child I mentioned wasn't even expecting a Disney movie, she just wanted a movie to call her own. She had none.

When I chastise my son for using my eye-liner to draw a mustache on his face for Halloween, I'll remember that somewhere out there is a teenage girl who desperately wants what the other girls her age have—something as simple as a tube of lip-gloss.

All of these things are extras, and deemed to be frivolous. This family barely makes ends meet. They have no money at the end of the month for such frivolous items. But I know that the next time I purchase a movie, or buy my kids a slice of pizza, I'll remember that there are other families out there that can barely afford to pay the necessities of life, let alone allow for children's or adult's treats. This family works hard, and they certainly deserve such humble treats.

This exercise was more than just buying something for someone. This was a reality jolt for me and my family. It was a life lesson to not take for granted what we have, whether it's a bottle of bubble bath, your loved ones, or your health. The parents in this family will likely outlive their oldest disabled daughter. They want for her the simple things that will make her life a little more full, as her life will not be long.

Playing Santa is always fun, but this year had a special meaning. On behalf of the family, thank you Diann, for your generous gift. From my family and I, thank you for the reminder to be grateful for every blessing that we have.

**Anne Marie Rickets**, Single Women in Motherhood Training  
2004 Spring Conference Presenter  
**Promotional Flyers and Bus Tickets for Mothers**

The \$100 was taken to the meeting, and it was democratically decided that the single mothers would use some of the funds for advertising flyers to be placed in libraries and shopping centres so that people could find them. The balance of the funds were used to purchase bus tickets so the women could attend the meetings. The mission of the meetings is to empower single mothers, give them a sense of value, support, tips, and tricks to live bigger than simply to survive.