Giant Garage Sale benefits Cambodian schools

IN THE SPOTLIGHT...

by fred schulz

The 6th Annual Giant Garage Sale toward education support for Cambodian children is coming up this Saturday, July 9 and Sunday, July 10 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Gravenhurst Curling Club.

Your help is needed with donations of good used or new items (no clothing). Many volunteers are needed, young and old, to help set up, sell and clean up anytime throughout the three days. Setup takes place all day Friday, so volunteers with some time and a truck are needed. There are also many sit-down jobs.

For a minimum donation of $20, you can have a table to sell your own wares.

To volunteer, have a table or to make a donation, please contact Lisa McCoy at 705-687-8538 or telephone Jay and Linda Harrison at 705-687-7679.

This year, the organization is trying to raise $4,833 toward two-stall latrines and wells for two school building sites in Takeo province, Cambodia. The sites have been levelled and filled. Now they just need your help to provide clean water and hygienic toilets for the schools that will be built on these sites in December.

Sparrow Lake Community Church is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year. There will be special music throughout July and August with harp, vocal and organ by organist Mary-Lou Stanton.

The anniversary celebration will be held on Sunday, Aug. 14 with more details to follow. All church services are held at 9:30 a.m. The church is located on the corner of Kilworthy and Southwood roads.

Hospice Muskoka let it be known that they were in need of lap blankets to be given to their terminally ill clients who stay in any one of the four specially furnished palliative care rooms at South Muskoka Memorial Hospital or for those who receive their support at home.

When this news reached St. James Anglican Church, several of the ladies immediately accepted this challenge as an outreach ministry. Over the past several months, they have been sewing, quilting, knitting, weaving and crocheting these blankets as a labour of love and donating them to Hospice Muskoka.

Mary Leger, a Hospice Muskoka volunteer, recently presented the lap blankets to Michele deKoning, Hospice Muskoka client services coordinator.

These blankets will bring comfort to the people that Hospice Muskoka serves and their loved ones who will always remember the caring volunteers who helped them when they needed it most.

Last week's article regarding the Gravenhurst Off-Leash Dog Park fundraising should have read: "Council asked the working group to fundraise for the $54,000 in development costs."

Revisit your past at a couple of special church services this summer. Services will be held at Harmony United Church on Sunday, July 10 at 11:30 a.m. and Barkway United Church on Aug. 14 at 11:30 a.m. Friendship hour will follow the services. Bring a chair and snack. Drinks will be provided.

A Music on the Barge fundraiser featuring the students of the Andrew Currie Music & Collectibles Guitar School, and a special guest, is Friday, July 8 starting at 6:30 p.m. on the barge at Gull Lake Rotary Park. Admission is free and donations are gladly accepted.

Music on the Barge presents Shania Twin - The Ultimate Tribute to Shania Twain, featuring extravagant apparel and a six-piece band on Sunday, July 10 at 7:30 p.m. In the event of rain, concerts will be held at Gravenhurst Opera House.

Until next week: Keep something for seven years and it's bound to come in handy!

HISSO launches enhanced membership benefit program

The Muskoka Steamship & Historical Society (HISSO) is a membership-based, not-for-profit registered charity whose mission is to preserve, educate and promote the traditions of the steamship, boat building and resort era in Muskoka.

To increase participation and interest, the society has joined forces with community partners to introduce additional membership benefits.

Driven by a volunteer board of directors, the society owns RMS Segwun, Wenonah II and the Wanda III steam yacht, as well as manages the Muskoka Boat & Heritage Centre. Currently, the society's membership is 600 strong and has been growing at a steady pace over the years.

"Membership is an integral part of our operation," said John Miller, general manager. "Membership dollars help us to ensure that the ships continue to sail in the future and that current and future generations experience an important part of our heritage. This year's funding projects include restorative work for the Segwun, enhancements to the Segwun's dining room, and youth programming and exhibits at Muskoka Boat & Heritage Centre."

The base cost of annual membership is $52 for individuals and $63 for a family. Members are recognized with privileges including free admission to Muskoka Boat & Heritage Centre, a 10 per cent season's discount on Segwun and Wenonah cruises, a 10 per cent gift shop discount and a subscription to the society's quarterly newsletter.

Adding to the membership levels and benefits for 2011, the society has introduced Captain, Commodore and Friend of the Society categories.

With a $200 annual fee, the Captain level offers the core benefits plus a gift certificate for a lunch cruise for two guests and two guest passes for Muskoka Boat & Heritage Centre.

The Commodore level at $500 also includes an array of tangible community discounts with partners including North Restaurant, Delta Sherwood Inn, Touchstone on Lake Muskoka, Boston Pizza Gravenhurst, One Fifty Five Restaurant and Don's Bakery. Discounts are applicable to food service, accommodations and spa treatments.

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