

August 2, 2011

**REPORT ON 2011 KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL**

**CONVENTION – GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

*My Fellow Kiwanians:*

*I had the privilege and opportunity along with my wife, Dianne, to represent our club and its' members at the 96<sup>th</sup> annual Kiwanis International Convention held in Geneva, Switzerland during the week of July 6-9, 2011.*

*May I say a huge thank you for this opportunity to again learn about the truly exemplary efforts being made by both Kiwanis International and many Kiwanis clubs throughout the world who are building communities and providing to children "one child and one community" at a time!!*

*I was among 1,642 delegates who participated fully during the 3 days of convention business. It was such an inspirational event, and one that I would encourage club members to attend if provided the opportunity. Already plans are under way for the 97<sup>th</sup> KI Convention to be held in New Orleans, USA from June 28-July 1, 2012. I have many wonderful memories of the convention:*

- *Attending the convention opening address by renowned environmentalist, Ms. Jane Goodall. Her speech was truly inspirational in showing us how our continuing efforts as Kiwanians can produce real results and progress for children and young adults in need of our assistance, especially in Africa where she has spent the past 40 years of her life advocating on behalf of the animal kingdom and the chimpanzees and gorillas of the Congo.*
- *Participating in our Eastern Canada & Caribbean District Caucus led by Governor Paul Toussaint of Martinique. Governor Paul thanked and congratulated our club for our recent contribution of over \$40,000 to the HIV/Aids Project to raise \$1 million for the Caribbean.*
- *Being part of the celebration and launch of our next worldwide service project for the eradication of MNT, maternal/neonatal tetanus affecting over 40 million women and infants in 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries, mostly in Africa and Asia. This partnership with UNICEF is being championed by Ambassador actor Tea Leoni. See the project launch announcement at [www.KiwanisOne.org](http://www.KiwanisOne.org). The goal of Kiwanis International and all clubs in the world is to raise \$110 million over the next 5 years to eradicate this terrible disease. As well, we will be expanding further upon this worldwide service project to club members in subsequent luncheons and other information sessions. I hope to invite*

*our incoming Governor Janet Atkinson, of the Kiwanis Club of Bytown to come and speak to us about this project in more detail.*

- *We were treated to outstanding plenary sessions including attending training seminars on:*
  - *Achieving Club Excellence – what makes a club truly “excellent”.*
  - *Fine to Fabulous – tactics to energize & strengthen club programs & service projects.*
  - *Working with youth – the rules of engagement, including police checks.*
  - *Best practices for a successful partnership between Kiwanis International and UNICEF as they take on the great task of eradicating Maternal/Neonatal Tetanus.*
  - *Great clubs with impact-the 7 habits of highly effective clubs. Marketing and Membership Growth and Retention.*
  - *Establishing Best Practices: Getting the Right People in the Right Jobs for KCO.*
- *Being a delegate in the House of Delegates vote on a number of constitutional amendments for Kiwanis International.*
- *And finally, attending the closing ceremonies with Guest Speaker, Ms. Jamie Lee Curtis. Of particular note, it was an exciting and moving moment when Ms. Curtis joined Kiwanis that day by becoming a member of the Los Angeles, California club where she resides in Hollywood, CA!*

*Above all, I was struck by the convention’s atmosphere, one of positive energy, friendship and an eagerness to meet one another, share stories, and engage in friendly conversation. I hope to share these stories with my fellow members in the remaining meetings in my fiscal year which will end on September 30, 2011 as I turn over the reins of the Presidency to Martin Diegel, incoming President for the new year, 2011/12!*

*Yours in Kiwanis,*

*Phil Rossy,  
93<sup>rd</sup> President  
Kiwanis Club of Ottawa*