

**Winter Divisional Caucus Meeting held on February 27, 2010 at 10:00 AM
at the Trinity Lutheran Church, 746 Colborne Street London, On.**

**Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Report given by Lloyd Finley,
Kiwanis Club of Ingersoll and Division 4 FASD Chair**

My name is Lloyd Finley, a member of the Ingersoll Kiwanis Club since 1993 and Division 4 Chair for the FASD Program. As a member in the Ingersoll Club, I have been President, Director and Chair of many Committees and Sub-committees.

I want to thank Lt. Gov. James Garey for his support and encouragement given to me over the past 2 ½ years. He has been a strong supporter and advocate for this FASD project from the very beginning.

I also want to thank everyone else who was involved in this project, especially the individual Kiwanis Club's FASD Contacts for their input and response to my emails, regarding funding and participation in the relevant FASD events.

This project was initially started for me on October 12, 2007 when George Hammond, our then President for the Ingersoll Kiwanis Club asked me if I would be the representative for FASD working with Ralph Porter of Belleville. I accepted and later Lt. Gov. James asked me if I would be the FASD Chair for Kiwanis Division 4. I graciously accepted with much enthusiasm.

I contacted the Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) in Woodstock, On to determine what organization would be responsible for something like the FASD Project. It was determined that the Oxford County Department of Health would be the likely candidate.

I contacted Kelly Vanderhoeven of the Oxford County Department of Health and she came to speak at the Ingersoll Kiwanis Club's regular meeting held on May 15, 2008. She spoke about the urgent need for educating the public. Financial support would be required and she was pleased to hear that Kiwanis might be willing to partner with them in this endeavour.

We subsequently had Kelly and Laura Hoople do a presentation at our Divisional Caucus Meeting held in St. Thomas on February 28, 2009. The ladies outlined their involvement in the FASD project and welcomed all of our Kiwanis Clubs to work with them in promoting this very important cause. They anticipated each Kiwanis Club would be able to provide funds at a later date as the need arose. Distribution of literature and pamphlets would be an important task for all Kiwanians to help out with.

Needless to say things have not worked out as well as anticipated by the local Departments of Health or myself. I anticipated each of our Kiwanis Clubs and the Department of Health Units getting involved in the promotion and funding of the FASD project right away.

The Department of Health Units were unable to specify exactly where the Clubs could provide funding for them. At the same time the individual Kiwanis Clubs were unable to budget funds for FASD projects because there were no requests for funding made prior to budgets being set. The Department of Health appeared to be more interested in the Kiwanis Clubs providing Hands-On Help in distributing literature and pamphlets. They seemed to be less interested in the actual provision of funds. Unfortunately very little evolved.

The one successful event we took part in was the "Pregnant Pause Day" held on September 9, 2009 at 9:00 AM in London, St. Thomas, Ingersoll, Woodstock and Tillsonburg. This "Pause" was well covered by the local media while noting Kiwanis as a sponsor for the event.

All of our Clubs have Pet Projects that we support. Some of these are committed to on an annual basis.

Some Clubs are doers and are not fundraisers.

Some have their own FASD program.

Others are too remote to the Departments of Health Units to viably interact.

The rest of the Clubs were just waiting for something to happen.

When the H1N1 epidemic hit, the priorities of the Department of Health changed drastically. FASD became a low priority and has subsequently been put on the "Back Burner" until more time and funding is made available to them. I do not see this happening in the near future.

What is going to happen now is the Middlesex-London Health Unit, Elgin-St. Thomas Public Health and the Oxford County Public Health will be contacting our individual Kiwanis Clubs directly based on their geographic locations.

The Chatham-Kent Health Unit has not come on board and is silent to the FASD cause. I have contacted them directly and have received no response. This leaves the Ridgeway Kiwanis without a contact. I trust something can be worked out with the local Health Unit.

I have not closed the door on the FASD Program, nor has the Department of Health.

I will continue to work with the Oxford County Health Unit, if and when they revive their program. If a FASD Revival starts in Oxford County and a new direction is determined, I will be the first to contact you and let you know what is happening.

As the FASD Representative for the Ingersoll Kiwanis Club I will be contacting all relevant organizations within Ingersoll to ensure they receive current information on the concerns revolving around the use of alcohol by pregnant mothers or those planning to be. Remember: -- "No safe type, No safe time, No safe amount". It's a lifetime experience.

In the meantime, I trust each Club in Division 4 will get and stay in touch with their Proposed Health Units as defined in my January 16, 2010 email. There are many "Young Children Priority One" concerns in all of the Health Units.

If anyone has any questions, I would be happy to answer them. If you have any suggestions, I would be happy to listen and review them.

Should you have any questions later, please feel free to contact me at anytime at 519-485-1785 or email me at – lafinley@sympatico.ca –

Until further notice, I will remain to be your FASD Chair for Division 4.

Yours in Kiwanis Service,

Lloyd A Finley

Lloyd A Finley, Ingersoll Kiwanis
and Division 4 FASD Chair