

Bulletin for January 11, 2016

Members Present:

James Maxwell	Joanne Watson	Matthew Dixon
Mark Burns	Doug Downey	Nicole McCahon
John Mayo	Fred Larsen	John Pritchard
John Parker	Carol Ivey	Mark Goode
Heather Breckles	Scott O'Connor	Mike Bunn
Noel Sterne	Chuck Burton	Rob Town
Bob Brown	Bruce Waite	Dan Becher

Guests:

James Parham (Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orillia & District)

Elaine Wallis (wife of Dave Burns, mom of Mark Burns)

Happy Loonies:

Doug Downey is happy that after 2 years of efforts with the Orillia Public Library, non-Orillia residents may now obtain library cards for individuals and families.

Mike Bunn is happy about his vacation to Jamaica with his family (kids and grandkids included).

I don't think he was too happy about returning to the wicked winter weather.

Dan Becher is happy to be one of the newest members of our club and was excited to officially contribute a loonie to the happy jar.

Presentation: Big Brothers Big Sisters – James Maxwell, Executive Director

James kicked off a great presentation by expressing thanks to the club for the recent financial support, as well as the ongoing support to the agency.

James noted that there are 5 agencies within Simcoe/Muskoka.

Big Brothers was established in Toronto, Ontario in 1913 and is recognized as Canada's leading youth mentoring Organization. Over 40,000 children, AKA, "Littles" have been mentored through the various programs BBBS offers. Big Sisters was introduced to the Organization in 1978, when the 2 amalgamated in 2006, to form Big Brothers Big Sisters.

There are 2 types of programs,

1. School based programs - provides girls and boys with a role model and a friend to talk to and share the experiences of growing up with, within school grounds. Both Bigs and Littles get a sense of community and being involved.
2. Community based programs "Traditional" – serves a wide variety of Littles, ages 6-16 years of age. One on one outings and activities. Provides a positive role model, mentor to the Little.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orillia & District was established October 25<sup>th</sup>, 1966 and is excited to be gearing up for their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. The first Executive Director was Mr. Ian Wallis (father of Elaine Wallis (wife of Dave Burns, and mother of Mark Burns).

With the celebrations, BBBS of Orillia has set some goals which they expect will be met by the dedication of the community.

Firstly, the "Big Fund". The goal is to build this fund to \$100,000. There is currently \$44,000 in the fund, which includes the contribution from the Kiwanis Club of Orillia. Many verbal commitments have been made by generous individuals/businesses in the Orillia area. This fund is managed by the Community Foundation of Orillia.

BBBS of Orillia recently received Trillium Funding to expand their programs, and as a result have hired James Parham, who will work with our local agency for the year and focus on the needs and issues our youth face in our community. This will provide a solid foundation for plans on which to provide/improve services the community currently offers. Part of this focus will be to find positive male role models for Littles, thus greatly reducing the waiting list for matches.

Volunteers are needed! Volunteers are ages 18 - ??? and are qualified, trained, match supporters.

Typically, "Bigs" consistently commit 2 hours of their time each week or every other week. The time dedicated by the volunteers is impressive! In 2014 alone, 3900+ Littles were served by 2900+ Bigs.

Look for upcoming events and opportunities to support Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orillia & District.

Next week there is a Wine and Cheese Event, "50 Years of Friendship" event at Geneva Park in September 2016 and the "Be a Kid Again" Gala at Casino Rama on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Thank you James for a wonderful presentation. You and your team do great work for our community.

Your club is proud of you.

Also, thank you to fellow Kiwanians, Doug Downey and Heather Breckles, who also fulfil very important roles on the Board for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orillia.