

Key Clubbers Invade Waterloo

Over 185 Key Clubbers and 40 adult advisers took over the Waterloo Inn for their 62nd annual convention April 3-5, 2009. With 77% of clubs being present at the Convention, with Key Clubbers from Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Not only was the program enticing but also the costs were a bonus with the basic rate at \$250 for the whole weekend thanks to the generous subsidy from **Trinity Global Foundation**, the **Kiwanis International Foundation** and the **Waterloo Kiwanis Clubs**.

Prior to the Friday opening session there was an enthusiastic meet and greet of the attendees on the convention floor. LG Dana Kenney delivered a well-crafted Shakespearean soliloquy on the convention theme was "To serve or not to serve" to open the gathering. International President Kia delivered the keynote address. CTV was in attendance and ran coverage of the event on the Kitchener station. The fashion show drew many laughs as Key Club Board modeled appropriate and inappropriate dress for the convention. As always the talent show was amazing with from mime dance, guitar solos of Van Morrison music and the award-winning skit of the Key Clubbers from Charlottetown – look out [Rick Mercer Report](#) and [This Hour has 22 Minutes](#).

The Egg Hunt for **Sleeping Children**, our District Service Project, attracted over 100 Key Clubbers dressed in their pjs and special SCAW/Key Club T shirt on Saturday morning. Due to the snow outside Mr and Ms Easter Rabbit hid the eggs near the pool. One egg contained a Key – that Key was traded in for a J Pod won by a Keyclubber from the Grand River Key Club. Prizes were also given to the best dressed Key Clubbers and those who found lucky tickets inside their eggs. Over \$500 was raised at convention for Sleeping Children. Thank you Kiwanis Club of **Casa Loma** for covering the costs of the fundraiser so all the contributions could go to Sleeping Children.

The DSP raised close to \$10,000 for Sleeping Children- probably the best fundraiser ever. Top Key Clubs were Father John Redmond, St. Mary's and Colonel Grey,

Saturday was jammed packed with activities afterwards, from morning workshops focused on the theme Key Club education to the afternoon free time at the Stratford Festival and the new Cambridge Mall to the gala banquet and then the masquerade dance ending at 12 midnight. Circle K members who were special guests did a convention blitz of Key Clubbers who were graduating in order to link them up with the Circle K clubs on college campuses. Rabia Abrar from Marc Garneau CI won the Key Club scholarship and Cindy Liang from Harbord CI was named top Key Clubber in Eastern Canada. Bill Martin of Ingersoll won the Kiwanis Adviser of the year award.

Brian Kim was elected governor and Uma Ahmed DST at the House of Delegates on Sunday morning. The Farewell Brunch followed with awards, farewell speeches and with Gove Elect Gary Levine inducting the 2009-10 Key Club Board. Smiling and tired Key Clubbers received a souvenir gift of Elmira Maple Syrup as they waved goodbye.

Governor Melanie Brister from Sydney NS summed up the convention as she thanked the organizers: "At convention Key Clubbers realized the true importance of service in their every day life. The Key Clubs now feel inspired to get out there and do something extraordinary. This would not have been possible without your help. I want to thank you sincerely for helping to give these Key Clubbers an experience they truly will never forget!"