

Almost \$1 Million

By Pauline Shesnicky
Thunder Bay Ventures

Phil Jarvis is proud of the fact that, with others in the Thunder Bay Metro Lions and other Lions Clubs in NW Ontario and N Minnesota, he has helped to raise almost \$400k for the regional Vision Care Centre at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre. They expect to culminate the fundraising for the Vision Care Centre at the 5M10 midwinter convention, which he is helping to organize, here in Thunder Bay at the Best Western Nor'wester Hotel in January of 2008. In addition, Phil has chaired the Lakehead Region Conservation Foundation for 10 years, during which time they have raised \$1/2 million for the development of recreation in the conservation areas and the acquisition of new conservation areas ... that makes almost a million.

Phil also works with Kevin Cleghorn and Tiffany Miller to raise about \$5000 every November for the Diabetes Foundation. This event is a one evening hockey memorabilia auction to fund research for Diabetes through the "Shoot for a Cure" campaign.

Phil believes that, with others, you can make a difference in your community. He has spent the last 30 years working as a volunteer on the board and various committees of the West Fort William Credit Union; 9 years as a federally appointed community representative for dispute resolution to the Canada Pension Board Disability Program; 30 years with the Metro Lions; 20 years with the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority; 20 years with the Diabetes Society; 10 years chairing the Knights of Columbus spaghetti fundraising dinner committee. He is also a long time volunteer with the Bishop Gallagher Council. That's a lot of years (119) and he doesn't even look that old.

Phil was a Rainy River boy, who married his grade 8 sweetheart Marlene, from nearby Sleemans, almost 50 years ago. He attended teachers college in North Bay and then taught for two years in one room rural schools NW of Fort Frances, then nine years in Atikokan before coming to Thunder Bay, where he spent the next twenty-three years teaching at Northwood High. He says that he



Phil Jarvis

EVERYDAY HEROES

- Here to Stay -

enjoyed teaching immensely and that it was very time consuming, so he did not really throw himself heavily into volunteer work until he retired in 1992. In 1969, he and Marlene chose Thunder Bay to raise their children. They wanted to stay in northern Ontario for the lifestyle, but also wanted to be near a post secondary institution for the children's education. This proved to be a wise move as Phil is also proud of the fact that he and all of their six children are graduates of Lakehead University. Only two of their children remain in Thunder Bay - Guy who is the Harbour Master, and Colleen who is a broker for CIBC Wood Gundy. The other four all live in the Mississauga area.

Phil told me that, from his long and varied experience, he has learned that fundraising itself is not a big problem. The hard part is getting people to work with you and have the same level of commitment. He feels that a person should be an asset to his community... so, from Phil - "I always say that '*when you leave -your community should be a better place for you having been there*'. Thunder Bay needs more heroes like Phil Jarvis.

Everyday Heroes is a Community initiative sponsored by Thunder Bay Ventures. Everywhere in the City there are people living, working, playing and contributing to the fabric of our community.

To nominate a hero contact
heroes@thunderbayventures.com