

### The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation

#### A meeting of the Board of Directors

was held on June 12, 2006 at  
Sears Canada Inc. Boardroom  
222 Jarvis Street  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
M5B 2B8

#### Guests at the Board Meeting

Robert Kolbuc, Associate Director  
Tiina Manuel, Staff Lawyer,  
Sears Canada Inc.  
Colette Walker  
Brendan Pennylegion, CA, Auditor

#### The main discussions of the Meeting centered on:

Report by the President  
Report by the Senior  
Medical Committee  
Treasurer's Report  
Other Business

**Peter Hillary, world-renowned  
adventurer, will participate in our  
Board of Directors meeting on  
November 14 and our annual black tie  
dinner on November 15, 2006, at the  
Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Toronto.**

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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C. R. Sharpe  
R. R. Vezér  
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R. G. Westlake  
C. A. Whicher  
Dr. R. Zimmerman

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Sir E. Hillary, Vice-President  
R. R. Vezér, Secretary  
R. G. Westlake, Vice-President  
Dr. J. Ford, Senior Medical Officer

### The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation

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Village of Khumjung & Mt. Amadablam

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

June, 2006

Our fundraising functions have proven to be very successful, and our donations continue to meet expectations. Our major sponsors have, once again, been very supportive, and we look forward to the future (2006 to 2012) with confidence. All in all, we are very fortunate to have a constituency in all ten provinces and the Yukon that give us financial support and stability.

**We are fast approaching the close of our fiscal year on June 30th, and I anticipate the Foundation meeting most of our goals for 2005/2006.**

Nepal has settled into a three-month truce (Maoist inspired), and we are all anxious re the forming of a new constitutional government.

All foreign doctors that served at Kunde from 1966 to 2006 were invited to a convention and reunion in Kathmandu in April 2006. Canadian doctors in attendance were Dr. Robert Zimmerman, Dr. Bruce Kokernot and Dr. Wendy Gilchrist, Dr. Ian Schokking and Dr. Penny Dawson. Dr. Zimmerman will give a report to the Board at our November meeting.

Plans for the near future remain the same.

#### I. Kunde Hospital

The Kunde Hospital continues to have changes (face lifts) through additional buildings, patient waiting areas and many additions of new equipment. Dr. Kami Temba Sherpa with the help of Ang Rita Sherpa's committee, keep improving the facility. They also continue to put in new programs to improve the health care of the Sherpa community. Congratulations to all involved for a job well done.

II. **Report on medical scholarship students –**  
Mingma Chering - 5th year  
Tsering Wangdi - 3rd year  
Eliza Bajracharya - 2nd year

#### III. Reforestation

There have been discussions between Nick Ledgard and Ang Rita Sherpa and his committee in Kathmandu re the future of our (The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation and Himalayan Trust, New Zealand) Sagarmatha Forestry Program.

We will discuss our future plans, 2010 and beyond, with Nick Ledgard at our Board meeting in November. **Nick will attend the Board meeting and is also a main speaker at our black tie dinner fundraiser on November 15 at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Toronto.**

IV. **Literacy** continues to be on hold, but we hope to reinstate this important program soon.

**Mr. J. J. Michael Eagan** has resigned as a Director. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to express our appreciation to Mr. Eagan for his contribution to the Foundation since 1976.

**We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our supporters in Canada, a few in the United States and from outside North America.** You are the backbone of The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation, many of you have contributed for over 25 years!

# THE SIR EDMUND HILLARY FOUNDATION

towards the retirement of present staff, after which the local people can run the nurseries themselves if they feel they are needed. In real life, the majority of projects reach their use-by date at some time, and in our case the need for seedlings and out plantings within the SNP has largely been met, and very successfully too. Similarly with the first growth plots, they have been well set up, permanently located, measured a few times, and the data safely stored away. The trees will not stop growing once we retreat, and the plots can always be revisited and measured in the future, whenever more information is needed. It is the same with the thar counts. Hence, I am now thinking that on your next trip, I will discuss the above with the Sherpa Advisory Group, and if they agree, seek to establish a closing down procedure for the program. I do not look upon such a step as

a negative one at all, like a good sportsperson, it is always better to retire once the job is well done rather than to wait until one is so run-down and not needed that there is no other choice. In addition, in the SNP's case, there are now well-funded local community organizations (such as the SNP Buffer Zone forestry groups) who can take up the reins if they feel it necessary. Needless to say, Zeke, I would welcome your comments on this.

**Finally**, we have talked in the past of a possible **increased input from Canadian personnel**. You have mentioned potential visits by young foresters from your country, maybe to be involved in future management. I have always welcomed the prospect, and am more than happy to coincide one of my trips with such a visit, particularly if part of its purpose is to explore the option of closing the program down.

## KUNDE DOCTORS CONVENTION AND REUNION IN KATHMANDU, NEPAL - APRIL 2006



*Crossing the bridge at the bottom of the Namche Hill*



*Dr. Bruce Kokernot, past volunteer Canadian doctor, and his second "wife" Passang Dikki*



*Kunde Hospital (as it is in 2006)*



*Kunde Hospital staff and visiting Doctors*



*Dr. Kami Temba Sherpa, Chief Medical Officer, Kunde Hospital and & Dr. Bob Zimmerman, Director of The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation*



*Dr. John McKinnon, New Zealand Ophthalmologist and Dr. Kami Temba Sherpa doing an eye clinic*

# THE SIR EDMUND HILLARY FOUNDATION

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## MEDICAL REPORTS

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### *Zeke O'Connor's Address to Kunde Doctors Convention April 2006*

#### **KUNDE DOCTORS "DIDN'T YOU KNOW YOU ARE OUR HEROES"**

The Himalayan Trust built, funded, operated and administered the Kunde Hospital from 1966 to 1976 (usually husband and wife doctor teams). The late Dr. Max Pearl was the Medical Officer of the Himalayan Trust, and he coordinated all aspects of the working Hospital with Sir Edmund playing a major part in the administration and funding. For 40 years, foreign medical doctors, with assistance from local Sherpa medical assistants, have administered the health care of the Sherpa population of the Khumbu area of Nepal.

**32 years ago (in 1974), Sir Edmund and the late Dr. Max Pearl asked me if The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation in Canada would fund the operation of the Kunde Hospital so that the Himalayan Trust of New Zealand could then fund the operation of the Phafu Hospital which was to be built the following year. Both Organizations would alternate in appointing doctors from New Zealand and Canada between the Kunde and Phafu Hospitals. The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation accepted that responsibility.**

For 25 of those years, New Zealand doctors have alternated with medical doctors from Canada and/or medical doctors appointed by the Medical Committee of The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation.

**It is my pleasure on behalf of the Board of Directors of The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation, our partner C.I.D.A., all of the more than one thousand individual Canadians and many donors from other countries, (who have helped us fund the Kunde Hospital since 1976), to congratulate you, the doctors, on a job well done.** Congratulations also to all of you (from all three countries) on a smooth transfer of authority (administration) to the Sherpa Medical Team in 2005. Congratulations go out to Ang Rita Sherpa and his Kathmandu Board, to Ms Elizabeth Hawley (C.F.O.), to our Canadian Medical Advisors Dr. Jim Heslin and Dr. Joan Ford, to the New Zealand Medical Committee headed by Dr. Mike Gill

and Dr. John McKinnon. **Good luck to Dr. Kami Temba Sherpa and Mingma Temba Sherpa (C.F.O.) and their staff for the future!**

Doctors, "you were the wind beneath our wings," to Sir Edmund and members of the Himalayan Trust in New Zealand, The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation in Canada and also the many thousands of international supporters of your medical work at the KUNDE HOSPITAL and especially the Sherpa community, **"you are our heroes."**

### *Excerpt from Dr. Kami Temba Sherpa's letter, February 5, 2006*

I am sorry it has been a while since I last wrote to you. I have come down to Kathmandu for couple of weeks and am taking a vasectomy (family planning) course in one of the Hospitals. The course is going well, and at the same time, it is nice to see the children and have the time with them after a long time. Both Tsering and Yangji have just completed their annual exams, and they are having a few weeks off before the new academic session begins. Tsering will start his fourth year meds next week and Yangji is half way through her bachelor of environmental science. They both are doing great, and I am very happy with their performances.

The political climate in Nepal is not great. Maoists have called a nation-wide strike this whole week. All the shops are closed except for a few grocery shops, and the whole street is empty as only a few government vehicles are in sight. Nobody seems to know how long this political uncertainty will remain. The King seems to be ignoring everything, and the gap between Maoist and him are deepening more and more. Mingma Norbu and his wife, Phura, are here in Kathmandu. I have seen them several times in Ang Rita's daughter's wedding party. It was great to see them after a long time. Ang Rita has been very busy lately with his daughter's wedding that was held last week. The new x-ray machine is already purchased, and I will make sure we send a photo of it to you.

It was marvellous to hear that you had a great visit with Dr. Tim and Janet (Fletcher). They sure were great people, and I really enjoyed working with them. Thank you again for all your support.

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## FORESTRY REPORT

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### *Excerpt e-mail from Nick Ledgard - October 26, 2005*

We had a very good meeting at Sir Ed and June's (Hillary) place in Auckland. About 15 were present, including Ang Rita and Tashi Sherpa who were representing the Sherpa Advisory Group. Everyone agreed that I should return to the Sagarmatha National Park (SNP) in April next year for the reasons given in my report (2005 SNP Forestry Annual Report).

However, since writing that report, I have thought further about the future of the program particularly the nurseries and out plantings. On the one hand I have often said that we need to cut back on the number of seedlings produced in the nurseries, as the areas in need of planting are fast diminishing while on the other hand, we talk of finding successors to manage the nurseries as all our current staff are approaching retirement age. In addition, finding successors is not proving easy at all. Therefore, the most logical step could be to plan

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## ACCOMPLISHMENTS 1973 – 2006

<b>DOCTORS</b>		Dr. Kami Temba Sherpa, Chief of Medicine, Kunde Hospital Mingma Temba Sherpa, Chief Paramedic and Chief Financial Officer, Kunde Hospital Volunteer Canadian Medical Doctors	
<b>MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIPS</b>	5	Dr. Kami Temba Sherpa, University of Fiji Medical School 2 Students at Nepal Medical College, Kathmandu 1 student at Medical School in China 1 Community Medical Assistant	
<b>HOSPITAL STAFF</b>		Sherpa Hospital Assistants Village Health Workers in each Medical Clinic	
<b>HOSPITAL</b>		Kunde Hospital – Fully funded from 1976 Kunde Hospital Children’s Wing – 1981	Renovated Addition
<b>VILLAGE MEDICAL CLINICS</b>	13	Khumjung Thami - 2 Chaurikarka Gumila Jumbesi Kharikola Solu Khumbu Villages	
<b>SCHOOLS (Khumbu area)</b>	16	Balanje School Beni School Chaurikarka - 2 Gumila School Gysoa School Kharikola School - 2 Khumjung High School – Middle School - Adult Education Building and Teacher’s Hostel Addition Manedingma School Namche Bazaar Phorste School Tengboche School Thami School - 2 Thamo School Rex Hillary was head builder of all building projects	Repairs Addition Expansion Repairs Addition Built Addition Extension Rebuilt Extension Built Built Built
<b>EDUCATION</b>		Community-Based Health Education Public Health Education	
<b>LITERACY</b>		Adult Women’s Program	
<b>FORESTRY AND SCHOLARSHIP</b>		Sagarmatha Forestry Project 1979 – 2006  Mingma Norbu Sherpa – Masters Degree in National Resources Management, University of Manitoba	Planted over two million seedlings
<b>MONASTERY</b>		Tengboche - Thami	Rebuilt
<b>TEMPLE</b>		Taksindu Gompa	Rebuilt
<b>BRIDGE</b>		Phakding	Rebuilt
<b>WATER SYSTEMS</b>		Solu Khumbu area	

### Volunteer Canadian Doctors 1980 – 2004 (Canadian funding started in 1976)

Dr. Laara Banner and Dr. Jean Rawling	Dr. Katie Morgenstern and Dr. Simon Pulfrey
Dr. Heather Cuthbert and Dr. Rod Leighton	Dr. Sally MacDonald and Dr. Bob Zimmerman
Dr. Catherine Hagan and Dr. Ian Schokking	Dr. Bruce Kokernot and Dr. Wendy Gilchrist
Dr. Penny Dawson and Dr. Jamie Ulrig	Dr. Joan Ford (Locum), Senior Medical Advisor
Dr. Jim Heslin, past Medical Advisor	