

# THE SIR EDMUND HILLARY FOUNDATION OF CANADA

MARCH 2007

## The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation

### Meeting of the Board of Directors

November 14, 2006  
Sears Canada Inc. Boardroom  
222 Jarvis Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5B 2B8

### Guests at the Board Meeting

Peter Hillary, New Zealand  
Robert Kolbuc, Associate Director  
Nick Ledgard, New Zealand  
Tiina Manuel, Legal Counsel  
Sears Canada Inc.  
Herb Paterson, Associate Director  
Brendan Pennylegion, C.A.  
Emmy Shiffman, Legal Counsel  
Sears Canada Inc.

### Robert Kolbuc elected to Board of Directors

Bob Kolbuc, long-time volunteer and until his election, an Associate Director, will lend strength to The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation in the areas of marketing and communication.

### 2006 Membership Draw Winners

B. Havard, Guelph, ON  
J. Johnston, Osgoode, ON  
G. McConkey, Vancouver, BC

### Dr. Jyoti Sherchan, long-time Chairman of Special Olympics

**Nepal (SON)** visited Toronto on his way to visit with Dr. Timothy Shriver, Chairman, Special Olympics International, in Washington, DC. Dr. Sherchan hosted a luncheon in Toronto at the Delta Chelsea Inn at which he suggested the Special Olympics Canada partner with SON for the 2007 World Summer Games to be held in Shanghai, China.

### James Carscallen Crang

Longtime Director and Honourary Life Member of The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation passed way after a lengthy illness on January 25, 2007.

Our sincere condolences to the Crang Family.

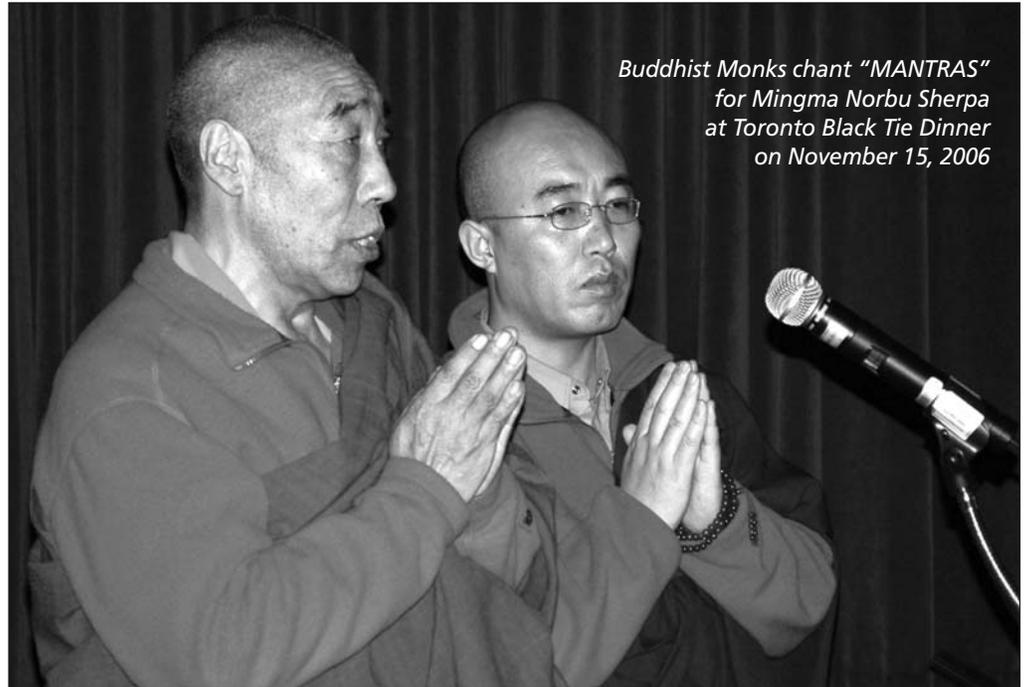
## The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation

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*Buddhist Monks chant "MANTRAS"  
for Mingma Norbu Sherpa  
at Toronto Black Tie Dinner  
on November 15, 2006*

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

November, 2006

I visited Nepal for the fortieth time in September – October 2006.

The Board Meeting on November 14, 2006, covered many subjects, and we had two slide presentations. **Nick Ledgard**, the Foundation's guest from New Zealand, gave us a presentation of our Sagarmatha Forestry Project which he presented the following evening at the annual dinner. **Dr. Bob Zimmerman** gave a very interesting presentation of Kunde doctors' reunion in April 2006. Both presentations were very informative.

Our dear friend, **Mingma Norbu Sherpa**, perished on September 23, 2006, in a helicopter crash in a remote mountain area of Nepal along with 24 delegates of the World Wildlife Fund. Mingma Sherpa was an important part of this Foundation since its inception. He was 51 years old and leaves behind his wife Phurba and two children, Dawa and Tenzing.

**Karen Kelson** presented **Kate Cole's** proposal regarding **Mingma Norbu Sherpa Scholarships**. On November 30, 2006, Kate Cole and I attended a WWF Memorial Service in Washington, D.C.

**Rudi Vezér**, Secretary, and **Zeke O'Connor**, President, presented plans for succession of the Presidency and the structure of the Foundation. This will be covered in the next newsletter. The pre-planning will involve creating a staff position of Executive Director and a review of current structure.

It was reported at the Board Meeting that **Mingmar Chering Sherpa** is currently completing his medical internship and **Eliza Bajracharya** in China passed all of her exams. **Tsering Wangdi** completed third year. **Mingma Tsering** completed first year at Kathmandu University Medical School. The Board confirmed a scholarship for a two-year environmental program to **Ang Tarkey**, son of the man who runs the The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation's nursery.

We also covered the success of the inaugural fundraising dinner in Calgary. **Byron Smith**, **Laurie Skreslet** and **Peter Hillary**, all Mount Everest summiteers, as well as a number of Sherpa summiteers and their families were present.

W. Zeke O'Connor

# THE SIR EDMUND HILLARY FOUNDATION

## MINGMA NORBU SHERPA, 1955-2006

### Story of Mingma Norbu Sherpa

Born in 1955 in the Sherpa village of Kunde, in the Everest region of Nepal, Mingma was one of the first students to graduate from the Hillary Khumjung School – the first of many schools developed for Sherpa children with the assistance of Sir Edmund Hillary, famed conquerer of Mount Everest. Mingma went on to receive a diploma in Parks and Recreation from Lincoln College, University of Canterbury in New Zealand in 1980 and a Masters Degree in Natural Resources Management from the University of Manitoba in Canada in 1985.

Between the studies abroad, Mingma returned to Nepal and worked as a Park Warden for Sagarmatha National Park, home to Mount Everest. He is the first Sherpa to have served as Warden of Sagarmatha after Sir Edmund Hillary helped establish the Park in 1973.

When he returned again to Nepal in 1985, Mingma became very involved in the Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP), initially as a principle investigator for the feasibility study of the Annapurna area, and later as the Director of the project itself. Mingma held this position for three years prior to joining World Wildlife Fund (WWF) as the Director of the Himalayan program for WWF's Nepal, Bhutan and Himalayan Program. In this capacity, Mingma was responsible for the development and oversight for a variety of projects, including ACAP, as well as the management of Shey Phoksundo National Park in Nepal and Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan.

Next, Mingma went on to become the country representative of WWF's Bhutan and Nepal Program for the six years prior to his move to the United States in 1998. In this role, he handled the program development, supervision and coordination of all WWF program interests in Nepal and Bhutan.

Among his other achievements, Mingma was a Fulbright Scholar in 1987 at the School of Natural Resources, University of Michigan, to develop a strategy for environmental education in the ACAP. Additionally, he is a recipient of the Gorkha Dhaksin Bahu medal from his Majesty the King of Nepal for his conservation work in Nepal. Mingma has also been awarded the Order of the Golden Ark Award from His Royal Highness Prince Bernard of the Netherlands for his conservation achievement in the Himalayas.

**Footnote:** Taken from the WWF Expert Guide



*Photo Courtesy of Anne Keiser, Washington, D.C.*

.....  
**It is my unpleasant duty to inform you of the death of a dear friend of the Foundation, Mingma Norbu Sherpa on September 23, 2006.**

**Mingma Sherpa, who has been an important part of this Foundation since its inception, along with 24 other delegates of the World Wildlife Fund, was killed in a helicopter crash in Nepal.**

**Mingma was 51 years old, and leaves behind his wife Phurba and two children, Dawa and Tenzing.**

**Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.**

.....  
***Message from Kate Cole, Literacy Committee***

As Chairman of the Literacy Committee of The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation of Canada, I am pleased to announce the establishment of the...

**Mingma Norbu Sherpa Scholarships**

Scholarship Awards will be open each year to Sherpa students to help finance their educational endeavours in the fields of Medicine, Education, Forestry or other Vocational Studies. The Mingma Norbu Sherpa Scholarship Fund will assist the awarded students to finance their education with the expectation that they will give back to the country of Nepal and help others to better themselves.

Currently The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation has six students receiving scholarships (which are now known as the Mingma Norbu Sherpa Scholarships), of varying lengths and interests of study. We, the Literacy Committee, would like to see this program expanded and become a larger part of the assistance projects of The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation of Canada.

Mingma Norbu Sherpa, our first scholarship recipient, studied at the University of Manitoba. Thanks to this scholarship awarded through The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation of Canada, Mingma received his Masters Degree in Natural Resources Management in 1985, majoring in Forestry.

We are especially pleased that because Mingma's personal commitment was to continue to improve the lives of the Sherpa people of Nepal, he set a benchmark for future recipients of our scholarships.

***Mingma's Motto, "Our purpose in life is to be better citizens to our community and to the world."***

## SUMMARY - NICK LEDGARD'S FORESTRY REPORT

### PROJECT AND CLIENT

Since 1989 foresters, **Nick Ledgard (NL)**, employed by Ensis, SCION (formerly Forest Research), and **Gordon Baker**, have assisted the forestry activities of the **Himalayan Trust (HT)** and **The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation of Canada (SEHF)** in the **Sagarmatha National Park (SNP)** area of Nepal.

This report covers the period July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006. It also includes:

- information gathered and plans formulated during **NL's** visit to the **SNP** from October 8 to November 3, 2006,
- an account of **NL's** visit to address **SEHF** (addressing Board and Fund Raising Dinner from November 11 – 17).

### OBJECTIVES

The long-term objective of the program remains the same: "To promote management of the forests and shrub lands of the **SNP** area, and to provide stable soils, desirable habitats for local fauna and flora, and sustainable projection of forest products essential for the survival of the local people."

In 2005/06 the emphasis was to:

- maintain the Project's core activities,
- develop future plans; namely staff retirement and a handing over of the Project to local people in 2010, and the production of a high altitude forestry handbook, together with a 'technical transfer' workshop in 2008,
- visit Toronto, Canada, to speak to the Board of **SEHF** and at a fundraising dinner.

### RESULTS

**Project Management:** Staff continues to carry out their core duties efficiently and successfully. The major development in 2006 was a decision to cease outside funding and management of the Project in 2010, and to hand it over to the local people. Project staff would receive a gratuity allowance after retirement, and local people may decide to continue their employment in the nurseries. The major reasons behind this decision are: most initial goals relative to nursery production and out-planting have been achieved, limited areas for continued planting in a narrow and intensively occupied altitudinal band at tree line, advancing age of manager and project staff (and failure to find replacements), and most importantly, the local Khumbu community now have both the expertise (in the form of Project staff) and the finances (from the Buzzer Zone program) to continue the forest Project themselves if they so wish. In the lead-up to the hand over, a practical, easy-to-understand, instructional handbook would be produced and a high altitude forestry workshop held in Namche Bazar in 2008. These decisions have been reached after discussion with all those involved and associated with the **SNP** Forestry Project.

**Budget:** The total expenditure figures show that actual spending for 2005/06 was close to the estimated budget although some of the individual components varied considerably. It is expected that total

expenditure for 2006/07 will increase by around 4% over the previous year. As usual, the bulk of the funds (around 80%) will be spent on staff salaries and labour for nursery work and field planting. This figure will rise again in 2006/07, due to a 10% increase in salaries to be implemented after January 1, 2007.

**Nurseries:** The three **SNP** forestry project nurseries remain well managed. Just prior to planting in June, the nurseries held around 160,000 seedlings which is 14% down on the 2005 figure of 187,000 seedlings. This reduction is in line with intentions to lower total seedling numbers in order to make room a greater percentage of 'other species'; (non pine and fir seedlings), which take longer to reach plantable size in the nurseries. The small independently managed nursery at Thame has closed down, and two others at high altitude (Deboche and Somare, just above Pangoche) are struggling to produce quality forest seedlings.

**Plantations:** Around 44,500 seedlings were planted from HT nurseries in 2006 which is 10% less than last year. The major new planting areas were immediately above Namche and adjacent to the Everest trail between Chorcang and Tashinga. All the major plantations were inspected by **NL** and comments recorded. Direct seedling has been successful in sheltered bare soil areas where large rocks have been broken up for building material.

**Forest Awareness:** **RG** continues to contribute to conservation programs at local schools. Lack of outside support means that other promotion initiatives have been slow to take hold, but the plans for a handbook and high altitude forestry workshops in 2008 should improve awareness significantly.

**Toronto, Canada Visit:** On November 14, 2006, **NL** attended a Board meeting of **SEHF** and spoke on the **SNP** forestry project particularly relative to its future plans. The Board accepted the plans for producing a high altitude forestry handbook and running a workshop at Namche Bazar in 2008 and handing the Project over to local people in 2010. On November 15, **NL** was the main speaker on 'Mount Everest National Park Reforestation' at a fundraising dinner attended by 160 people.



*Nick Ledgard,  
Guest Speaker,  
addresses Black  
Tie Dinner on  
Sagarmatha  
Reforestation  
Project*

# THE SIR EDMUND HILLARY FOUNDATION

## TORONTO BLACK TIE DINNER & AUCTION – November 2006



*Sears Canada Inc. Table and Guests*



*Hoey Remus Table and Guests*



*Research In Motion (RIM) Table and Guests*



*RiskCheck Table and Guests*



*Doctors' Table  
Dr. Richard O'Connor and Friends*



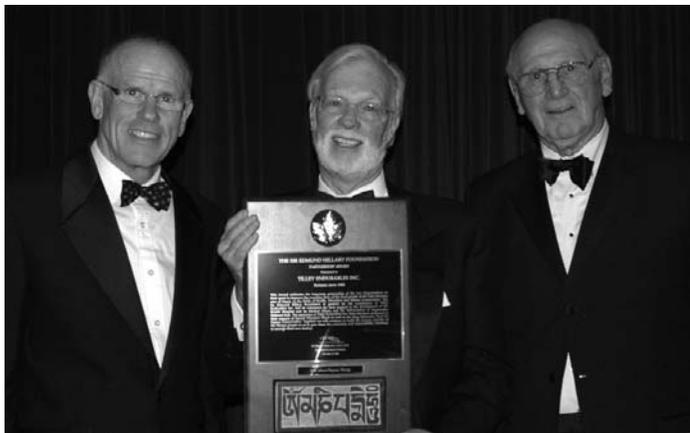
*Mr. and Mrs. Byron Smith  
and Calgary Table*

# THE SIR EDMUND HILLARY FOUNDATION

## AWARD PRESENTATION, TORONTO – November 2006

### TILLEY ENDURABLES INC. RECEIVES PARTNERSHIP AWARD

This Award celebrates the long-term partnership of the two Organizations in their quest to improve the every day lives of the local people of the Solu Khumbu area of Nepal, in the fields of Health, Education and Nature Conservation. The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation is grateful for the contribution of Tilley Endurables Inc. and its volunteers for their support in the development of the Kunde Hospital and its Medical Clinics and the Reforestation in Sagarmatha National Park. The associates at Tilley Endurables Inc. have also been dedicated in their support of Special Olympics Nepal as well as the King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation. Together we will continue to build the human capacity of the Sherpa People so as to give them the autonomy and responsibility necessary to manage their own destiny.



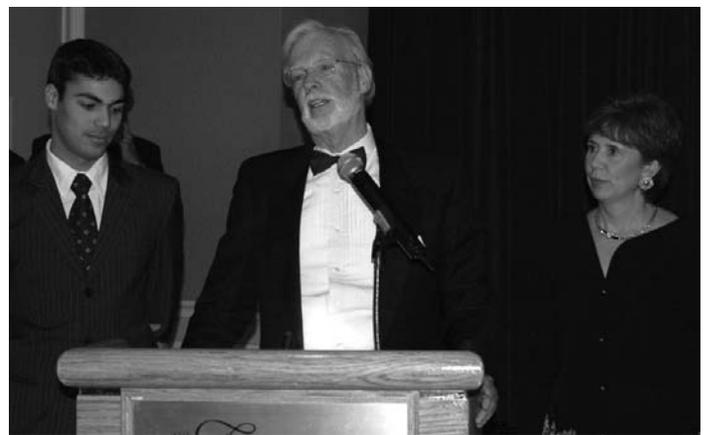
**Peter Hillary, Alex Tilley & Zeke O'Connor**



**The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation  
Partnership Award**



**Dr. Joan Ford, Director,  
at the Tilley Endurables Table**



**Elia Tilley-Pahad, Alex Tilley & Mary-Coleen Shanahan**

# THE SIR EDMUND HILLARY FOUNDATION

## CALGARY INAUGURAL BLACK TIE DINNER & AUCTION - October 2006



*Peter Hillary, Guest Speaker*

### THANK YOU TO BYRON SMITH

In October 2006, **Byron Smith** of Calgary, Alberta, organized a successful Inaugural Gala Dinner and Auction at the Fairmont Palliser Hotel in Calgary. **Peter Hillary** from New Zealand, was the main speaker at the dinner.

Thank you to our major sponsor, **Mark's Work Warehouse**, and to all the many generous sponsors, supporters, donors and contributors for making this event a great success!



*Mr. and Mrs. David Begg with Laurie Skreslet (left), Byron Smith and Peter Hillary (right)*



*Byron Smith and Paul Wilson, title sponsor, Mark's Work Warehouse*



*Friends of Ford Credit Canada*



*Guests at Calgary Dinner*

# THE SIR EDMUND HILLARY FOUNDATION

## EVEREST SUMMITEERS RECEIVE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS IN CALGARY - October 2006



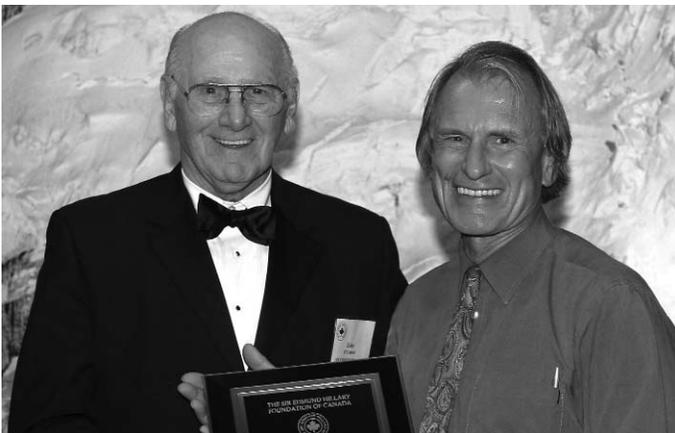
**Ang Dorjee Sherpa, 11-time Everest Summiteer, Lhakpa Kanchhi Sherpa and Mingma Tenji Sherpa, Summiteer**

### LAURIE SKRESLET

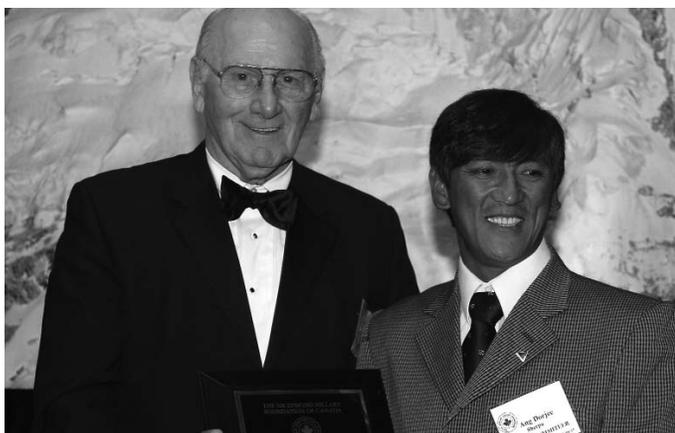
Among his many accomplishments, Laurie organized the successful 1986 team that saw the first Canadian woman in the Western Hemisphere summit Mount Everest and has continued to guide internationally in North and South America, China, India, Nepal, Bhutan and the Canadian Arctic. On behalf of the Board of Directors of The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation, thank you for helping us to raise funds for the Sherpa people of Nepal.

### ANG DORJEE SHERPA

He has successfully summited Mount Everest eleven times from 1992 to 2005. He was born and has lived in Pangboche, a small village in the Solu-Khumbu region of Nepal. In addition to his Everest triumphs, he has successfully climbed three other 8,000 meter peaks. On behalf of the Board of Directors of The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation, thank you for helping us to raise funds for the Sherpa people of Nepal.



**Zeke O'Connor presents Achievement Award to Laurie Skreslet, first Canadian to summit Mount Everest**



**Zeke O'Connor presents Achievement Award to Ang Dorjee Sherpa, 11-time summiteer of Mount Everest**



**Byron Smith, Committee Chairman, Calgary Inaugural Dinner and Auction**

# THE SIR EDMUND HILLARY FOUNDATION

The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation of Canada  
Board of Directors



Wish to extend sincere thanks and appreciation to the many donors for their ongoing financial support and assistance in the funding of the many projects carried out by The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation in the Everest region of Nepal.

**Your support is most necessary to allow us to continue to fund our three main projects**

**Kunde Hospital  
Sagarmatha Reforestation  
Literacy Programs**

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