

On April 15th the Birtle and District Foundation held its official kick off. The public was invited to learn about all of the positive contributions that Foundations are capable of. Dr. Allan Preston, Chair of the Hamitoe Foundation, gave an excellent presentation on how Foundations function, how they collect and gift money in a community and the long term benefits. Chair of the Birtle and District Foundation, Roger Wilson, spoke about the "Founders Club". In the 2011 calendar year any donation of \$1000 or more will be recognized with the name of the donor forever remembered on a plaque and in the annual report. Audrey Gadd, a Foundation board member, spoke briefly about different options on how you can donate to the Foundation. These options include the use of preauthorized installments to make giving fit with your family's budget.

The formal part of the evening concluded with the presentation of donations. Gillian Potter of Royal Bank of Canada presented a cheque for \$1,000; Lucille Fulton of Vanguard Credit Union presented a donation of \$5,000. Other donations received to date include \$10,000 from Russell Redi-Mix Concrete and \$1,000 from Birtle Pharmacy, as well as personal and memorial donations.

As reported earlier, our goal for 2011 is \$100,000. We are well on our way with over \$20,000 collected so far. If you would like to donate or if you have any questions, call Eleanor at 842-3602 or Roger at 773-0362.

A special thank you to Ron and Brenda Samchuk for taping the event. If you did miss it you can see it on Access TV.