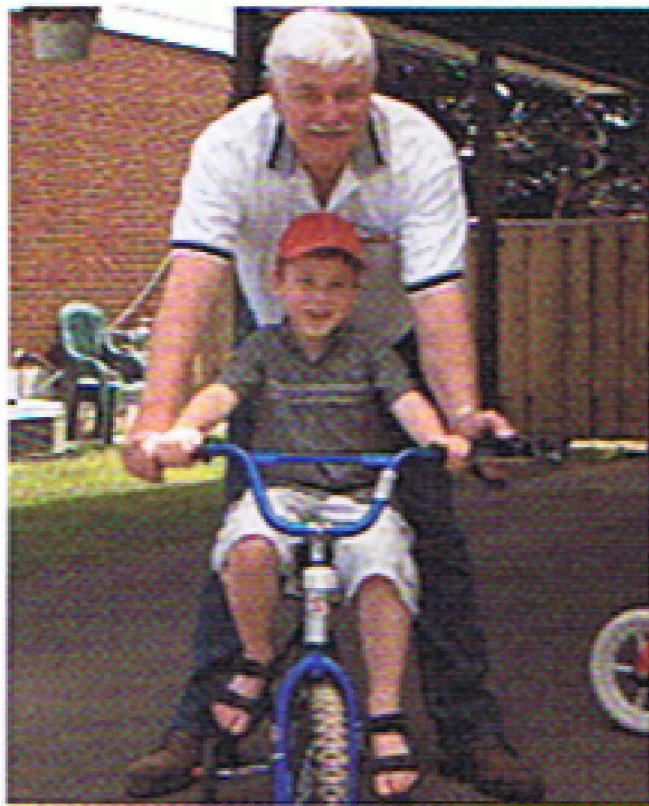




# MASONS BEHIND AUTISM



A 2004-2005 St. Lawrence District  
Project celebrating 150 years of  
Masonry in Ontario.

# WHAT IS AUTISM?

Autism is a neurological disorder affecting communication, social interaction skills and behavior. It usually presents during the first three years of life. Impaired social interaction is its primary symptom as children with autism have serious problems relating to others and often avoid looking at people. Fifty percent are non-verbal and up to eighty percent are intellectually challenged, with only a few demonstrating the exceptional mathematical and artistic abilities exhibited by Dustin Hoffman's character in "Rainman".

## How Many Children Have Autism?

- Autism Spectrum Disorder affects approximately 1 in 200 children in Canada. An increase of 600% in the past 10 years
- Autism is the fastest growing neurological disorder among children in North America.

## What Causes Autism?

- No one is sure what causes autism but research seems to suggest that it is caused by both genetic and environmental factors.

## Is There A Cure?

- At present there is no known cure for autism. Researchers from the USA, Canada, and the UK hope to better understand the disorder's biochemical origins and find a cure before 2010.



## WHY ARE MASONS SUPPORTING AUTISM?

The Masons of St. Lawrence District, in celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Grand Lodge, have chosen Autism as our district project. St. Lawrence District Masons continue the proud tradition of caring for and supporting people in our community. The intention of this project is to enhance, promote and increase the awareness and understanding of Autism within our District, and to enhance the well-being of individuals with autism.

If you would like to help us in this important cause, please contact any Mason in St. Lawrence District.

[www.stlawrencemasons.com](http://www.stlawrencemasons.com)

## Masonic Lodges of St. Lawrence District

Sussex #5	2815 2 <sup>nd</sup> Conc, Brockville
True Britons #14	61 Foster St., Perth
St. Francis #24	46 Russell St W, Smiths Falls
Mount Zion #28	411 Van Buren St, Kemptville
Merrickville #55	3 Oxford Ave, Burrits Rapids
St. James #74	3904 Bethel Rd, Brockville
Rising Sun #85	22A Main St E, Athens
Central #110	2900 County Rd 18, Prescott
Evergreen #209	81 George St, Lanark
Macoy #242	14 Main St, Lyn
Salem #368	2815 2 <sup>nd</sup> Conc, Brockville
Harmony #370	1596 County Rd 42, Phillippsville
Lansdowne #387	1143 Prince St, Lansdowne
Lyn #416	14 Main St, Lyn
Otter #504	50 Blacksmith Rd, Lombardy
Nation #556	36 Bennett St N, Spencerville
Fidelity #650	281 County Rd 8, Toledo

