

January 31, 2008  
Eastern Canada and Caribbean District  
Division 8 – Community Service Project

## SPELLING BEE

The Kiwanis Club of Barrie, on an annual basis, holds a Spelling Bee for elementary level students (grades 1- 8) in partnership with the community Literacy Council. The Spelling Bee attracts 350-400 students from all grades. Kiwanis, while not the largest sponsor monetarily, does contribute most of the hands-on manpower.

The club handles 4 days of registration as well as practice sessions and 4 days of actual competition. We act as judges, clerks, time keepers and handle the recording equipment. In total it adds up to approximately 200 man hours of hands on work. We all wear our Kiwanis shirts and pins and display our Kiwanis banner for maximum exposure.

As well as the obvious benefits to the students, Kiwanis receives significant community exposure through extensive newspaper coverage in the local community newspaper. In addition the local television cable channel (Rogers) tapes the entire contest and runs it repeatedly over the next two month. This includes numerous interviews with various Kiwanians. This creates prime opportunities to inform the community of the good work Kiwanis does.

The Spelling Bee is held in the rotunda of a major community shopping centre thus attracting more than just the students and their families. This creates maximum exposure for the literacy council as it strives to eradicate illiteracy in our community. Not being able to read and write is something which can be helped if only people knew where to go. The Spelling Bee provides information to potential clients, helps educate children and shows how Kiwanis continues to serve the community.

Yours in Kiwanis  
John Hamilton  
Lieutenant Governor – Division 8