

## **History of the Gander Co-op 50/50**

In 1996, the Board of Director of the Gander Consumers Co-operative was approached by a couple of charitable organizations about setting up a Gander Co-operative 50/50 Draw. Subsequently, an application was submitted to the appropriate Provincial Government body seeking permission to set up the lottery. The partners, Gander S.C. Community Charities (Shriners) and Gander Lions Club, would sell a chance to win the weekly jackpot for \$2.00; to date, over \$3 million has been raised and distributed.

Under the agreement, 50% of the amount raised would be given to the winner (over \$1,500,000). And the other 50% (another \$1,500,000) would be donated to charitable organizations and individuals within the service area served by the Gander Consumers Co-operative. Of the amount donated, 30% would go to the Gander Shriners, 30% to the Gander Lions Club, and 40% to a committee comprising all 3 organizations to be disbursed on application.

By far, the largest recipients of the 50/50 draw has been the Gander Northeast Health Foundation (over \$100,000), the Gander Area Food Bank and the Salvation Army Food Bank, Cobbs Pond Rotary Park (over \$80,000), Gander Heritage Memorial Park (nearly \$50,000), the various breakfast programs of all schools in our area, as well as other programs, such as music and drama. In addition to the amounts donated by the committee, the other partners donate proceeds from the 50/50 draw; for example, the Lions Club provides \$12000 in scholarships on an annual basis to Gander and area schools, and the Shriners donate heavily to children who have been burned or experienced orthopaedic problems.

Remember, Gander Co-op members, you have done more for charitable organizations in our area than any other single organization. And, of that, you should be extremely proud.