

TABITHA FOUNDATION (CANADA) NEWSLETTER

VOL. 5 – NOV. 2009

1st Annual Ottawa Silk Fair a Huge Success!

On June 16, 2009 more than 250 people crowded into the 3rd floor of the Canadian Museum of Nature to participate in the 1st Annual Ottawa Silk Fair. “A Night at the Museum”, an idea born out of discussions with Janne and Miriam Ritskes over drinks, pool-side at the Billabong Hotel in Phnom Penh in February 2009, brought together Tabitha supporters and silk enthusiasts alike for an elegant silk extravaganza. The evening included Tabitha Silk Fair, branded wine from Pelee Island, (bottles still for available!), a silent auction featuring Cambodian artifacts, sumptuous finger foods



prepared by Tabitha volunteers, and a wild Treasure Hunt which sent visitors, clue sheet in hand, searching the Museum galleries for answers and the chance to win their choice of Cambodian artifact. The highlight of the evening of course was the beautiful Tabitha silk bedding and accessories provided by the Tabitha Cottage



Industry. With colour schemes chosen by a professional interior designer, displayed on beds donated by Randall's, visitors were given the

opportunity to purchase silk products never before available in Ottawa. As a special treat for the evening, Janne herself was in attendance and spoke from the heart about Tabitha's past, present and future as an organization which has since its inception touched more than 2% of the Cambodian population. Janne's speech touched everyone in the audience and increased the awareness of the Tabitha Foundation within our community. Many thanks are extended to the volunteers who made this first Silk Fair a huge success!



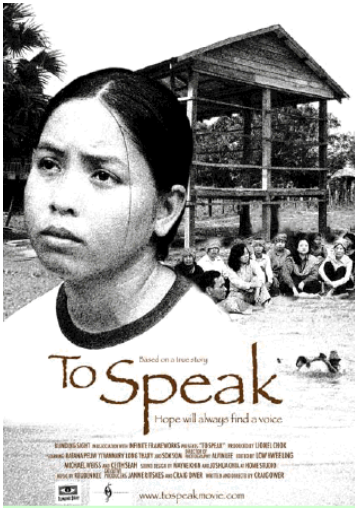
Rocking4Tabitha 2009

On Thursday, Sept. 17, 2009 the fourth Annual Rockin4Tabitha event was held at the Lone Star Cafe in Ottawa with an audience of close to 200 Rockin4Tabitha supporters. The night was again highlighted by the performance of 'The Hitmen' led by Ottawa native and classic rock legend, Les Emerson who ended the night with his hit 'Signs'. Thanks to ticket sales and corporate sponsors we raised approximately \$9000 towards the 2010 Rockin4Tabitha house building to take place in Koh Kong province in late January / early February 2010.

Rockin4Tabitha organizer Bob Carver again opened the evening with his band 'Texas Flood'. They started things off with a Texas blues set and finished their second with two ZZ Top classics, 'La Grange' (beards and all) and 'Tush'. Dr. Paula Piilonen's 3rd and 4th year geology Univ. of Ottawa students once again dominated the dance floor and kept everyone kicking up their heels to the music until midnight. We would like to thank everyone who supported the event. We are already looking forward to next year's party. Watch our website for details if you would like to join in the fun!



Showing of Tabitha Movie 'To Speak'



As the Rockin4Tabitha house building team is short of their \$25,000 goal needed to repeat their 2008 target of building 20 houses, the team is holding a screening the film 'To Speak'.

This is the movie that was first shown at the Montreal Film Festival in 2007. It is a great movie, filmed on location in Cambodia. It tells the true story of one young Cambodian girl's spirit and tenacity in conquering overwhelming odds to lead her village towards Tabitha Foundation.

The movie will be aired at the University of Ottawa, Marion Auditorium on **Friday, November 6, 2009**. For further details: Contact Dr. Paula Piilonen at 613-878-1065 or ppiilonen@rogers.com.



House Building 2010:

At least three teams are planning to go to build in the coming year:

The Rockin4Tabitha team will be going for their 4th 'build' led by Bob Carver and Paula Piilonen. Kate McNaughton is heading off to Cambodia in July with a group of young people from the original Canada House, and Yolanda Henry, a many time house builder, will lead a group in November.

More details of these builds and how to contribute to these efforts can be found on our website.

Looking for a Novel Gift Idea: Try Donation Cards & Certificates

We continue to expand and revise our 'line' of donation cards and certificates. Currently, we offer cards for Water Wells, Fish/Duck Ponds, Bicycles, Piglets and Safe Delivery of a Baby. We also provide certificates for the Water Wells and Ponds as an alternative to the 'card.'

Donation cards and certificates are sold at such events as the Tabitha Silk Fair and the annual Christmas sales. Alternatively, a request to 'purchase and mail' the cards/certificates can be made online, via the Tabitha Foundation Canada website (<http://www.tabitha.ca/>) or via the 'Canada Helps' link on the Tabitha Foundation website. Using this method, the purchaser may request a 'customized' message (dedication) be added to the card or certificate.

Prices for the cards/certificates are as follows:

Water Wells: \$125	Safe Delivery of Baby: \$40	Bicycle: \$30
Fish/Duck Ponds: \$300	Pig Connection: \$40	Bag of Rice Seed: \$25

Any of the above make an excellent gift and are a wonderful alternative to the gifts one traditionally sends on special occasions. In addition, the donation to Tabitha makes such an immense difference in improving the lives of the impoverished Cambodian people who Tabitha seeks to serve.

News from Vancouver and Vancouver Island

Vancouver and Vancouver Island are reporting in. Several of our Tabitha Handicrafts are on consignment with Global Villages in Nanaimo. They are interested in ordering more. We are about to place our own order with Tabitha, in hopes of having several early Christmas Sales.

- *Bonnie Robertson, BC Board Member*

Southern Ontario Report

On May 19, 2009 a presentation was given to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club, who subsequently donated \$1500, for one house and two wells. Their chairman of International Projects was invited to meet Janne Jun. 22 at a reception for 20 Tabitha supporters at her home in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Hopefully this will encourage support to fund Tabitha projects in the future.

Tabitha volunteers also held other events to coincide with Janne Ritskes' visit. In Hamilton on June 21 she spoke at St. Stephen on the Mount and attended at BBQ for Cambodia House families hosted by Gary Mistak and Sue Salter. In Toronto on June 24, Gail Szego, Audrey Davidson and Dell Walton organized a movie showing to raise funds. Approximately 30 people attended, and they raised \$4200.

The Tee Off for Tabitha Golf Tournament on June 10, 2009 (*organized again by Yolanda - ed.*) was a great success this year, raising \$4,200 as well as extending awareness and interest in Tabitha's work to a whole new audience. Next year's tournament will be on Wednesday, June 9, 2010. Photos from the event are posted at <http://tabitha.ca/teeofffortabitha2009.html>. Hopefully this will encourage both players and sponsors to not only search for a photo of themselves, but explore the website as well. Files and artwork can be shared if anyone else wants to run a tournament. Thanks to Dave Peck who came out again for the golf and MC'd the awards dinner.

The house building group from Operation Groundswell had a successful trip. Their trip blog is posted online at <http://ogsea.wordpress.com/>.

Craft Sales: 'Tis the season which I will be gearing up for in the coming weeks.

- *Yolanda Henry, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Southern Ontario Board Member*

Recent news from Janne Ritskes: Parts of Cambodia have been devastated by typhoon Ketana

This week we were able to finally determine the extent of the devastation for some of our families caused by typhoon Ketana in our Kompong Thom Project. 2000 of our families have lost their crops, 3 of our families have lost their home. The area is still very wet as a river dyke broke and it won't drain for awhile. Our families are cooking what is left of their last years crops on a dirt road. It is heartbreaking and yet – there is hope because 666 of these families have either a well or a pond. They will be able to re-grow their crops and they can rebuild – for another 500 families, hope is on its way – as soon as the water goes, we will once again put in ponds and wells. All of our projects have suffered from floods this year – literally 25,000 families do not despair because they have access to water – water given by all of you.

Note from the Chairman – Nov. 2009

The colours in the trees outside my window are glorious shades of reds, so it is time to put together the Fall Newsletter. Much has happened since the last edition was published.

Firstly, our Chairman for the past ten years decided that it was time to resign. We are so grateful to Larry for being at the helm during these years of growth for the foundation. We congratulate Larry on his recent marriage, and wish much happiness to Larry and his new wife, Antionette. I am glad to say that Larry will remain as the newsletter editor for the present.

We welcome Dr. Paula Piilonen to the board. Paula brings new ideas, she has been on three house building trips, and is the co-leader for the team leaving in January 2010.

We were delighted to have Janne Ritskes and her daughter Miriam with us this summer. Janne came primarily for a family wedding. She 'worked' for two weeks attending events in Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton and Niagara-on-the-Lake. For remaining six weeks, Janne was able to relax. This was a first for her. We congratulate the staff of Tabitha Cambodia who proved that they were able to take care of things in Janne's absence.

The recession has been a difficult time for everyone, not least for the people of Cambodia. The country is suffering due to a drop in the number of tourists visiting. This has resulted in considerable drop in cottage industry sales. You are aware that this project provides livelihood for many families. We have been asked to try to cover this deficit by sales in other parts of the world. Please consider buying some of the wonderful items that are offered for gifts for the up-coming Festive season. There will be sales in many parts of Canada. Please check our web-site for details, or place your order on-line.

As ever, we offer thanks to all our loyal supporters. You DO make a difference for the poor people of Cambodia. It is gratifying that Tabitha Cambodia has moved out of the more populated areas of the country, as the people in these communities become established again. New programs are opening in more remote areas. I ask that you consider remembering these people when you make your contributions to charity. Your generosity is means much toward providing food, water and shelter to these people who still suffer from the trauma that beset their homeland.

I want to thank the Board of Directors and all the volunteers for their support, without which Tabitha Foundation (Canada) would not function. They all make such a contribution to the foundation. To each of our members, I send warm wishes for the Festive Season.

Sincerely,
Mollie Stokes
Chairman of the Board, Tabitha Foundation (Canada)

You Can Make a Difference with a tax deductible donation to Tabitha Foundation (Canada), by cheque addressed to Box 65057, Merivale Road Postal Outlet, Ottawa, ON K2G 5Y3 or by credit card: visit www.tabitha.ca and click on the "Canada Helps" secure donation link. For Birthdays, Christmas/Seasonal gifts, Memorials (for a loved one who has passed away), Anniversaries, Retirements, Weddings, Gifts for teachers, or for General "Thank you"s; a gift card or certificate will be sent to the recipient for the purchase of specified items (see article on page 3). More information available at www.tabitha.ca. Official tax receipts are sent for gifts over \$10.00.
