



## MasonicCh.I.P. Keeps Children Safe

Regional Co-Ordinator  
Dean Botchar - phone 807-345-8078

The Algoma District Masonic Association, together with Masons in Ontario, is introducing a new child identification program to the area in an effort to increase the safety of children in our community. It will provide information to parents that can be accessed quickly by law enforcement agencies, Amber Alert, as well as Search and Rescue teams.

The MasoniCh.I.P. program is the long term, dedicated effort of 58,000 Ontario Masons.

Missing individuals--regardless of age--continue to be a critical focus of parents, guardians, and all police agencies throughout Ontario.

The wherewithal to launch this program was developed by EZ Child ID, working directly with the National MasoniCh.I.P. Foundation, to produce the software, and ultimately the child ID kits.

Each kit will contain a printout of pertinent information, digital photos, and digitally scanned finger prints. It will include a video with the child's voice and mannerisms, a DNA swab and a wax tooth print.

Although each kit costs approximately \$3.00, the service will be provided free.

20,000 children are reported missing every year in Ontario. The key to recovering these children is quick action by parents and law enforcement. The first two hours after a child has gone missing are the most critical.

Seniors go missing too, due to such causes as dementia and Alzheimer's.

The Algoma District Masonic Association took on this project in July 2007, vowing their 1,500 members could raise the \$18,000 necessary to purchase six machines. We have been successful. Algoma District has 10 Lodges west of Sault Ste. Marie, however we are relying on the Northwest to exhibit their usual generosity in supporting this vital project whose sole purpose is "Masons helping you protect the ones you love." We still require donations to support the cost of Kits at \$3.00 each as well as repairs to equipment.

Masons and volunteers who wish to work at the ID clinics require a complete Criminal Records Check for which the Ontario Provincial Police and Thunder Bay Police Services have agreed to waive the fee.

Dean Botchar, Regional C-ordinator Algoma District Masonic Association, stresses that the software was written so that no information about the child is saved on the computer, thus protecting he/she from identity theft. The parent is the only person who retains their child's information.

You are encouraged to electronically register your most precious commodity—regardless of age!! The process is simple and will take less than fifteen minutes!! For very young children, this should be done approximately every two years.

Your support of this project is urgently solicited, and will be greatly appreciated by Dean Botchar and all lodges in Algoma District who sponsor this program. Call Dean Botchar at 807-345-8078.

Keep in mind the Ontario MasoniCh.I.P.Program -

-Reminder-

*“Register-A-Family Member & Inform a Friend*

Yes, please accept my cheque to contribute to the MASONIC ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO to provide parents with I.D. portfolios for their children. These kits will be FREE OF CHARGE.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

\$20     \$30     \$50     \$100     Other

Please make cheque or money order payable to  
MASONICH.I.P. ONTARIO

Send to:    Dean Botchar, Regional Co-ordinator  
1107-590 Beverly Street,  
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6H1