

Somerville Township youngster recognized for altruism

Avery Spitz has come up with a sweet way to help out her feathered friends.

For the third year, the nine-year-old Somerville resident hosted her Loonies 4 Loons fundraising lemonade stand, raising more than \$1,000 on Aug. 30 in support of the Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary. This month, the youngster will be recognized for her efforts by the Minden-based group.

It all began in August 2012 when the Spitz's neighbour brought an ill loon chick to the sanctuary. The chick had been beached for several days and was in obvious distress.

It was determined it had emphysema and inflammation in the chest area, and although its parents were still on the lake, it was unable

to swim or feed from them.

Despite their efforts with antibiotics and hand feeding of live fish, staff at the sanctuary were unable to save the chick.

The Spitzs also learned the chick's sibling, who was staying close to its parents on the lake, disappeared.

It was later discovered that both loon chicks could have been injured by careless boaters and were either hit or near drowned, causing them to develop a lung infection.

"Avery had been observing the loons since they were hatched and was very distraught by their death," stated her mother, Elain.

When the youngster learned how much time and money it took to care for the injured loons,

she felt she needed to do something so she opened a lemonade stand where the generosity of Four Mile Lake residents helped her raise more than \$200.

Last year, Loonies 4 Loons raised more than

\$400, so this year, Avery was determined to raise even more.

For her efforts, Avery will be presented with a special plaque from the sanctuary.



Four Mile Lake's Avery Spitz (centre) is being presented with a special plaque by the Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary this month in recognition of her unique fundraising initiative, Loonies 4 Loons; a lemonade stand she has set up every Labour Day Weekend for the past three years. This year she raised more than \$1,000 to assist injured loons at the Minden-based sanctuary.

SPECIAL TO THIS WEEK