

Easter Hunt



The Forest Hill Lions Club had a visitation with the students and staff of Sunnyview Junior & Senior School on March 20th. The purpose was to entertain the students for their Annual Easter celebrations. This Easter Hunt was initiated by the Forest Hill Lions club eighteen years ago. Club members were greeted by the School principal, Debbie Michnick and a teacher, Ms. Marie Campbell. Twenty Club and family members participated. Some Lions members entertained the students with a Bingo while others participated with the Easter Egg Hunt. About 100 students participated. After the egg hunt, everyone got together with all the school's students where the Forest Hill Lions club supplied ice cream and soda pop. Lion Perry Wong brought an inflatable Bunny, which went over very well. Charter member Mickey Snow actively participated along with his son. Two new Forest Hill Lions club members participated for the 1st time. We were pleased to have Nick D'Urzo & Stephen McCallum with us.

Submitted by Lion Sol Mednick

Kemptville Singers



Pictured are some of the members of the Kemptville Lions Family Singers on a visit to Bayfield Manor (Seniors Home) in Kemptville. Standing, back row: Lions Jerry, Al and George; front row: Marion and Lions Dave and Gail; also in the front row: Sister Brigid, our mascot and percussionist. The group was formed three years ago to provide music and entertainment at local seniors' homes and day-away programs. We usually have 5 to 10 Lions and family members on a visit to a home, depending on the size of the home. Our audiences can be anywhere from 10-35 seniors who are residents in the retirement or nursing sections of the home. We sing and play for about an hour, usually followed by socializing. Everyone is encouraged to participate in a sing-along, using songbooks we have prepared. The musical selections in the books have been chosen to be very familiar to residents. We have put on special programs for Christmas, Valentine's Day, and St. Patrick's Day.

We enjoy this activity as a contribution to elderly people in our area. Our efforts are given freely to any group that may have a need for a little entertainment. Aside from some photocopying, there has been little monetary cost to our club.

Submitted by Lion Jerry Osborne

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Important Addresses: Multiple District 'A' Lions Clubs International MDA Secretary: email: secretary@mdalions.org; MDA Treasurer: PDG Jim Lemoire, 10 Ramsey St., Trenton, ON K8V 2P5 Tel.:613-392-2701 FAX: 613-392-7427 email:treasurer@mdalions.org; MD 'A' The LION Committee Chairman: PDG Wayne Hoey; Address Changes: To be made by the club secretary through the Monthly Membership Report as per item "E". Editorials/articles, advertising, and classified ads can be emailed to Editor Lion Jim Tyler mdathelion@rogers.com. MD 'A' The Lion is published 6 times annually.

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Chairperson: Dave Balmos (Carol)
1445 Bernard Road
Windsor ON N8Y 4K5
h: 519-948-9465
f: 519-252-5518
Email: councilchair@mdalions.org

- A1 Mark Mahovich
1551 Concession 2
Belle River Ont. N0R 1A0
h: 519-728-3659
f: 519-728-3347
- A2 Jim Boughner (Karen)
37 Raven Crescent, P.O. Box 5089
Townsend Ont. N0A 1S0
h: 519-587-5816
f: 519-587-5225
- A3 Victor Smith (Mary Ann)
1540 Croydon Road, R.R. #1
Enterprise, Ont. K0K 1Z0
h: 613-379-9972
- A4 Jerome Andre (Mona)
19083 County Road 24
Dunvegan, Ont. K0C 1J0
h: 613-527-1604
f: 613-527-1116
- A5 Myra Kiernan (Hilary)
14 Buchan Avenue
Blind River, Ont. P0R 1B0
h: 705-356-7104
- A711 Jim Wilson (Marg)
23 Kennedy Road
Cheltenham, Ont. L7C 2M7
h: 905-838-3115
- A9 Bill Chalmers (Elaine)
457 Jacob Street, P.O. Box 80,
Neustadt, Ont. N0G 2M0
h: 519-799-5914
- A12 Peter McCague (Dianne)
10 Willis Drive
Alliston Ont. L9R 1M4
h: 705-435-7903
f: 705-435-0800
- A15 Bill Carson (Diane)
GMB 266, R.R. #2
Zurich, Ont. N0M 2T0
h: 519-236-7399
f: 519-482-3743
- A16 Dick Peel (Monica)
101 Raymona Blvd
Markham, Ont. L3P 2K6
h: 905-294-9005

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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS
President, Mahendra Amarasuriya, No. 70, Fife Road, Colombo 5, Republic of Sri Lanka; Immediate Past President, Jimmy Ross, P.O. Box 368, Quitaque, TX, 79255 USA; First Vice President, Al Brandel, 14 Herrels Circle, Melville, NY 11747-4247 USA; Second Vice President Eberhard J. Wirfs, Am Munsterer Wald 11, 65779 Kelkheim, Germany.

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Membership is Every Lion's Responsibility

Is there anything on earth more precious and darling than a baby? And what is more wrenching than a severely ill baby with little chance of growing up normal and healthy? Lions in Nairobi, Kenya, are saving babies from such a fate. With help from Lions Clubs International Foundation (which, of course, means support from Lions such as yourself), Lions in Kenya support a clinic for babies of mothers infected with HIV. My wife, Kushi, and I visited the clinic recently and we were overwhelmed by the care and love these innocent babies receive. I have always believed Lions are a great gift to the world, but that visit made my heart swell with immense pride and satisfaction.

Lions, never forget that we are indispensable. The service we provide is invaluable. Without us, babies would die. Young people would not be educated or learn self-control and self-discipline. Mothers and fathers would lose

their vision and could not take care of their families. The elderly would live out their years in a state of neglect instead of being cared for. Disaster victims would not be clothed, fed and housed. Those with disabilities would not be given opportunities to contribute to society. Children would lose their sight and their future because of river blindness, trachoma and other diseases.

We know this. We know Lions do great work. But we need to do something about it. We need to make sure our level of service remains high and even increases. We need to recruit new members. We need to reach out to current members to keep them in the fold. Membership is every Lion's responsibility. A Lion does not have to heroically recruit 100 or 50 members. But if every Lion could invite just two or three solid community members to join, our association would grow and prosper as never before.



I really believe a new golden age for Lions is within our grasp. But it's up to each of you—Lions in small towns and big cities, in developed and developing nations, in well-established clubs and in relatively new clubs—to channel your passion for Lions into an enthusiasm for inviting others to share in your service. It's entirely praiseworthy to do service in your community. But please serve, too, the overall mission of our association by adding to our membership rolls.

Malaysian Boy Wins Peace Poster Contest

By Kristopher Kempski

After two decades of organizing the Lions International Peace Poster Contest, Lions are still doing their part to spread "Peace Around the World," the theme of the 2007-08 contest. The most recent grand prize winner is Ming Yang Soong of Bidor, Malaysia.

"I felt very sad to see so much fighting and so many people dying in the world," said Soong. "I hope my drawing will help to promote peace in the world."

The contest encourages youths ages 11 to 13 in classrooms, Scout dens and organized youth groups in more than 80 countries annually to ponder peace. One of Soong's classmates explained that the key to peace is celebrating joy and happiness. Soong insists the answer lies in the willingness of the world community to come together. "Peace to me is living together harmoniously and making the world a happier place to live in," Soong said.

Soong, who recently turned 14, learned he had won the contest after his father received a phone call from the Bidor Lions Club. A humble Soong could hardly believe his poster was selected from an estimated 350,000 entries.

"When I participated in the Peace Poster Contest, I never imagined that I would win the grand prize and make it all the way here to New

York," Soong said to a receptive crowd of 700 at Lions Day with the United Nations in March. "I still find it hard to accept the fact even now standing in front of everyone.

"I am just glad there are still many peace lovers in the world and I am one of you. I want to be part of a peaceful society."

Soong and his family weren't the only ones who were excited by this news. "Our club is very proud," said Thirunavukkarasu Murugiah, president of the Bidor Lions Club. "We made club, district and Malaysian history. He is the first Malaysian grand prize winner."

The club's only disappointment was that one member of their club was no longer around to celebrate this victory. Lion Chan Siak Chee, who organized the contest for the club, passed away shortly after learning Soong was the grand prize winner. President Murugiah insists that the club will continue to sponsor this contest locally.

Having never been to the United States, Soong's trip to New York City for the award ceremony at LDUN was exhilarating. With the tallest building in his hometown of Bidor measuring a mere five stories tall, driving through the streets of Manhattan and visiting the Empire State Building and Statue of Liberty was that much more awe-inspiring. He also visited Times Square, Chinatown, the Museum

of Modern Art and other sites. But Soong said his most memorable part of the trip was speaking at the United Nations.

In addition to being a member of his school's art and badminton clubs, Soong recently joined the Bidor Leo Club. He will participate in the club's service projects such as visiting a local retirement home. He is interested in designing and advertising and says he will encourage his two younger sisters to participate in future Peace Poster contests. "Hopefully more children can take part in this," said Soong's mother.

Visit the Peace Poster section on www.lionsclubs.org to view all 24 finalists from this year's contest and to order your kit for the 2008-09 Peace Poster Contest with the theme "Peace Begins With Me."



Ming Yang Soong spreads peace in Times Square with Lion Thirunavukkarasu Murugiah.

Lions Save Children from AIDS

Despite the prevalence of the disease, HIV/AIDS clinics are rare in Africa. Even less common are clinics that prevent the transmission of the disease from mother to child. That's why Lions opened the Outpatient Comprehensive Care Clinic for HIV Children in Nairobi last year.

"They're lovely children and this project has given them a chance. It's not their fault their mothers are HIV positive. If this proves to be a success for another two or three years, it's worth replicating elsewhere," said Kushi Amarasuriya, wife of International President Mahendra Amarasuriya. The Amarasuriyas recently visited the clinic.

AIDS remains a very lethal disease in Africa. About 65 percent of the 40 million people worldwide with HIV/AIDS live in sub-Saharan Africa.

In wealthier nations, mother-to-child transmission of AIDS is rare thanks to testing and counseling, access to anti-retroviral therapy, safe delivery practices, and the use of breast-milk substitutes. Ninety percent of mother-to-child transmissions occur in Africa.

Ten percent of the one million children born annually in Kenya have HIV-infected mothers; 30 percent of these children become infected. Nearly half die before they reach their second birthday.

"There's a crying need for this clinic," Amarasuriya said. "There are grandmothers and grandfathers and orphaned babies. An entire generation has been wiped out."

Multiple District 411-A in Kenya funded the pilot project with assistance from an LCIF grant for US\$170,000. The grant enabled the clinic to be fully operational and obtain the proper medical and laboratory equipment needed to treat patients.

Located at Loesho Lions SightFirst Eye Hospital, the clinic provides nutritional support, comprehensive lab testing, anti-retroviral therapy and syrups, and medical and nursing care. More than 80 children per week are given care and service. "It's all very planned, very organized. There are different rooms for different purposes. The clinic maximizes the chances of survival for the babies," said Amarasuriya.

The participating children continue to test negative, bringing a sense of hope for the future for their families. "My son is no longer on medication and he growing into a healthy and strong boy," said Violet Kadesa, a HIV-positive mother who enrolled her son at the clinic, "I am excited. I want to live for him. Thanks to the Lions for giving me hope, for saving my baby."

School Children in India

Learn about AIDS

In a country in which frank discussion of sexuality is often forbidden, Lions in Kolkata, India, are helping to teach schoolchildren about AIDS. Partnering with a local foundation, Lions in District 322 B1 are using classroom presentations and short films to break through strong social taboos that leave young people at risk of AIDS.

The Reach Out program trains speakers to visit classrooms to discuss the basics of AIDS transmission. It also sponsored a story contest on HIV-AIDS from which the top three stories were made into films shown to students.

India has 5.7 million people infected with HIV, the largest number in the world. Many youths know little about how the disease is transmitted. Besides its health effects, the spread of the disease could slow India's booming economy, according to a 2006 United Nations report.

Lions teamed up with the Kolkata Sukriti Foundation, which focuses on health issues, on Reach Out. Many schools initially refused to let the speakers visit and others asked them to leave halfway through the candid presentation. But program officials persevered and they've succeeded in raising awareness of AIDS in youths.

MD'A' Past District Governors' Association Announces the winner of the 2008 STUDENT VOLUNTEER AWARD

Sheridan Mitchell, a Grade 8 student from Beaverton Public School, District A16.

Sheridan will receive a \$500 award sponsored by the MD'A' Past District Governors' Association at the District A16 annual convention. She also attended the PDG's Dinner held Thursday evening of the MD'A' Convention where she was suitably recognized.

Submitted by PDG Kathy Daoust



Kushi Amarasuriya cradles a baby at the Lions' HIV/AIDS clinic in Nairobi as her husband, International President Mahendra, looks on.

Official Notice 2008 International Convention, Bangkok, Thailand

The following proposed amendments to the International Constitution and By-Laws will be reported to the delegates for vote at the 2008 International Convention.

ITEM 1: A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE OFFICES OF FIRST AND SECOND VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR. *(THIS AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS REQUIRES A MAJORITY VOTE TO ADOPT.)*

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That effective for the district elections for the 2009-2010 fiscal year and each year thereafter, the offices of first and second vice district governor be officially established by the following amendments to the International By-Laws.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Article II, Section 6 of the International By-Laws shall be amended by deleting the phrase "vice district governor" in line 5 and substituting the phrase "first and second vice district governors" and by deleting line 21 in its entirety and substituting the phrase "offices of the first and second vice district governors, duties of said offices".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Article II, Section 7 of the International By-Laws shall be amended by deleting the phrase "vice district governor" in line 6 and substituting the phrase "first and second vice district governors".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Article III, Section 4(c) of the International By-Laws shall be amended by adding the word "first" before the phrase "vice district governor".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Article III, Section 4(d) of the International By-Laws shall be amended by adding the word "first" before the phrase "vice district governor" in lines 1 and 4, and by adding the word "second" before the phrase "vice district governor" in line 7.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the title of Article III, Section 9 of the International By-Laws shall be amended by adding the phrase "FIRST AND SECOND" before the phrase "VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Article III, Section 9(b) of the International By-Laws shall be amended by deleting Section 9(b) in its entirety and substituting the following:

(b) **FIRST VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR.** The first vice district governor election shall be conducted by a secret written ballot, with the first vice district governor candidate required to secure a majority of the votes cast

by the delegates present and voting in order to be declared elected; for purpose of such election, a majority is defined as a number more than one-half of the total valid votes cast excluding blanks and abstentions. The first vice district governor shall serve a term of office of one year, which term shall begin with the close of the association's convention held in the year of their election and end at the close of the next convention of the association, and no first vice district governor may succeed himself or herself in office. Otherwise, an election for the office of the first vice district governor shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the respective district (single, sub- and multiple) constitution and by-laws. The result of each first vice district governor election shall be reported to the international office by the respective current district governor and/or international staff representative.

A candidate for the office of first vice district governor shall:

- (1) Be an Active Member in good standing of a chartered Lions club in good standing in his/her single or sub-district.
- (2) Secure the endorsement of his/her club or a majority of the clubs in his/her single or sub-district.
- (3) Currently be serving as the second vice district governor within the district from which he/she is to be elected.
- (4) Only in the event the current second vice district governor does not stand for election as first vice district governor, or if a vacancy in the position of second vice district governor exists at the time of the district convention, any club member who fulfills the qualifications for the office of second vice district governor as set forth in these by-laws or constitution shall fulfill the requirements of subsection (3) of this section.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Article III, Section 9 of the International By-Laws shall be amended by adding the following language as a new paragraph (c) and by relettering the remaining paragraphs accordingly:

(c) **SECOND VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR.** The second vice district governor election shall be conducted by a secret written ballot, with the second vice district governor candidate required to secure a majority of the votes cast by the delegates present and voting in order to be declared elected; for purpose of such election, a majority is defined as a number more than one-half of the total valid votes cast excluding blanks and abstentions. The second vice district governor shall serve a term of office of one year, which term shall begin with the close of the association's convention held in the year of their election and end at the close of the next convention of the association, and no second vice district governor may succeed himself or herself in office. Otherwise, an election for the office of the second vice district governor shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the respective district (single, sub- and multiple) constitution and by-laws. The result of each second vice district governor election shall be reported to the international office by the respective current district governor and/or international staff representative.

A candidate for the office of second vice district governor shall:

- (1) Be an Active Member in good standing of a chartered Lions club in good standing in his/her single or sub-district.
- (2) Secure the endorsement of his/her club or a majority of the clubs in his/her single or sub-district.
- (3) Have served or will have served at the time he/she takes office as second vice district governor:
 - (a) As president of a Lions club for a full term or major portion thereof, and a member of the board of directors of a Lions club for no less than two (2) additional years; and
 - (b) As zone chairperson or region chairperson or cabinet secretary and/or treasurer for a full term or major portion thereof.
 - (c) With none of the above being accomplished concurrently.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Article III, Section 9(c) (relettered above as 9(d)) of the International By-Laws shall be amended by adding the phrase "FIRST OR SECOND" before the phrase "VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR" in the title, by adding the word "first" before the phrase "vice district governor" in line 5, by deleting the letter "(d)" after the word "subsection" and substituting the letter "(e)" in line 11, and by adding the phrase "first or second" before the phrase "vice district governor" in line 12.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Article III, Section 9(d) (relettered above as 9(e)) of the International By-Laws shall be amended by deleting the phrase "vice district governor" in line 16 and substituting the phrase "first and second vice district governors".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Article III, Section 10 of the International By-Laws shall be amended by deleting the word "or" in line 2 and substituting the phrase ", first vice district governor or second".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Article VI, Section 5(b) of the International By-Laws shall be amended by adding the word "First" before "Vice District Governor" in the title, and by adding the word "first" before the phrase "vice district governor" in line 1.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Article VI, Section 5(b)(5) of the International By-Laws shall be amended by deleting the phrase "through a vice district governor's manual".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Article VI, Sections 5(b)(10) and (11) of the International By-Laws shall be amended by deleting subsections (10) and (11) in their entirety and substituting the following:

- (10) At the request of the district governor, supervise appropriate district committees and participate in the review of strengths and weaknesses of the district.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Article VI, Section 5 of the International By-Laws shall be amended by adding the following language as a new paragraph (c) and by relettering the remaining paragraphs accordingly:

(c) **Second Vice District Governor.** The second vice district governor is subject to the supervision and direction of the district governor. His/her specific responsibilities shall be to:

- (1) Further the purposes of this association.
- (2) Actively participate and inspire other district officers to administer and promote effective membership growth and new club organization.
- (3) Perform such duties as assigned by the district governor, including assisting the district retention chairperson.
- (4) Perform such other functions and act as required by the policy of the association.
- (5) Actively participate in all cabinet meetings and conduct all meetings in the absence of the district governor and the first vice district governor.
- (6) Participate in the preparation of the district budget.
- (7) Actively engage in all matters to be continued during the following year.
- (8) At the request of the district governor, supervise appropriate district committees and participate in the review of strengths and weaknesses of the district.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in the event the delegates at the 2008 International Convention approve this resolution to establish the offices of first and second vice district governors and the delegates also approve the resolution to reorganize the International Constitution and By-Laws, the revisions to the section and paragraph titles, the addition of a new Article III, Section 9(c), the relettering of the remaining paragraphs in Article III, Section 9, the addition of a new Article VI, Section 5(c), and the relettering of the remaining paragraphs in Article VI, Section 5 as provided in this amendment to the International By-Laws shall hereby be incorporated accordingly into the amendment to reorganize the International Constitution and By-Laws.

ITEM 2: IN ORDER TO REFLECT THE ACTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE POSITION AND TO ADOPT A MORE CONTEMPORARY AND APPROPRIATE POSITION TITLE, THE ADOPTION OF THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WOULD REVISE THE TITLE OF "EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR" TO "EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR". *(THIS AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS REQUIRES A TWO-THIRDS VOTE TO ADOPT.)*

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That Article IV, Section 1 of the International Constitution shall be amended by deleting the phrase "executive administrator" and substituting the phrase "executive director".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Article IV, Section 6 of the International Constitution shall be amended by deleting the phrase “executive administrator” and substituting the phrase “executive director”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Article VI, Section 3 of the International By-Laws shall be amended by deleting the phrase “executive administrator” and substituting the phrase “executive director”.

ITEM 3: A RESOLUTION TO CLARIFY THE DEFINITION OF “DISTRICTS” AND ENSURE CONSISTENCY IN THE INTERNATIONAL BY-LAWS. (THIS AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS REQUIRES A MAJORITY VOTE TO ADOPT.)

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That Article II, Section 1 of the International By-Laws shall be amended by adding

the phrase “(single, sub- and multiple)” after the word “districts” in line 3.

ITEM 4: A RESOLUTION TO REVISE THE ORDER OF SEQUENCE OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS FOR IMPROVED OVERALL ORGANIZATION. NO CHANGES TO THE CONTENT OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OR BY-LAWS ARE PROPOSED IN THIS AMENDMENT. (THIS AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS REQUIRES A TWO-THIRDS VOTE TO ADOPT.)

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That effective June 27, 2008, the reorganization of the International Constitution and By-Laws, as published to all Lions clubs and attached as Exhibit A to the Official Notice of Amendments is hereby adopted.

Donor Makes US\$3 Million Personal Gift to CSFII, Largest in LCIF History

The family of Mrs. Aruna A. Oswal has made the largest, single personal donation in Lions Clubs International Foundation’s 40-year history by pledging a total of US\$3 million to Campaign SightFirst II (CSFII).

Oswal is a member of the Lions Club of Juhu in Mumbai, India and is a Lions past district governor. In addition, she is a CSFII national fund-raising coordinator for India.

“We are thrilled to receive this landmark gift from one of our Campaign SightFirst II volunteer leaders,” says Dr. Tae-Sup Lee, Lions past international president and CSFII chairperson. “Aruna Oswal has already served as an extraordinary leader through her previous generosity to the campaign. Her latest donation is a shining example of how Lions’ own generosity has played a critical role in CSFII and our fight against preventable blindness.”

CSFII is a coordinated, global fund-raising effort involving 1.3 million Lions in more than 45,000 clubs to continue and expand Lions’ flagship blindness-prevention program, SightFirst. Lions have raised more than US\$160 million and surpassed the US\$150 million CSFII minimum goal early. Lions now strive to raise an additional US\$50 million by June 2008 as they pursue their US\$200 million challenge goal to continue and expand SightFirst for future years.

SightFirst was launched by Lions in 1989 to battle preventable blindness. Through SightFirst, Lions have restored sight to more than 27 million people by funding cataract surgeries, vision screenings, and treatment that has prevented serious vision loss and improved eye care for hundreds of millions of individuals through SightFirst projects in 90 countries around the world.

Oswal’s US\$3 million pledge is an increase to her family’s previous donation to CSFII of US\$200,000. These new funds will allow Lions to fund vitally needed SightFirst eye-care services to many, many people. Given the average cost to restore one person’s sight through SightFirst is US\$6, Oswal’s donation has the potential to save the sight of as many as 500,000 individuals.

In recognition of this donation, Oswal will be presented with a Knight of Leadership award on June 25 in Bangkok, Thailand, during the 91st Lions Clubs International Convention. Her name will also join the list of Humanitarian Partners displayed at LCI Headquarters in Oak Brook, Illinois, USA.

To learn more about Lions’ worldwide efforts to save sight through CSFII, visit www.lcif.org or www.lions-csfii.org.

Lions’ Campaign SightFirst II Update

- Lions have raised more than US\$160 million and surpassed their US\$150 million minimum goal.
- Lions are now pursuing their US\$200 million challenge goal to provide “Vision for All.”
- Less than 30 days remain to save sight through CSFII and join Lions’ success.
- During the week of May 11-17, 2008 Lions around the world dedicated one day as their “Campaign SightFirst II Day” by raising funds. If your club conducted and CSFII Day to raise funds and provide a lifetime of sight, share your success by e-mail the CSFII office (csfii@lionsclubs.org).
- **Lions’ SightFirst program is making a world of difference:** If the more than 27 million people whose sight has been saved by SightFirst stood hand-in-hand, they would reach more than three-quarters of the way around the earth. When Lions reach their US\$200 million CSFII challenge goal, the individuals saved through SightFirst will wrap more than 40,000 kilometers (25,000 miles), equal to the distance around the entire earth and then some.

Bringing Sight to Tibet



A cataract patient in Tibet is a short time away from enjoying good vision.

When the bandages were removed from the eyes of Ge Sang, she was moved to tears. “Thanks for curing my eyes,” she said. The 77-year-old woman from Tibet is just one of the thousands of people who have received sight through SightFirst China Action (SFCA). Sang became blind from cataracts five years ago, and her eight-year-old relative was forced to look after her. Thanks to free operations, Sang now has restored sight and is once again living a full life.

SFCA is one of SightFirst’s largest and most successful sight initiatives. SFCA began in 1997 when LCIF partnered with the China State Council Coordination Committee on Disability and two of its subsidiaries, the Ministry of Health and the China Disabled Persons’



Federation. SFCA paved the way for Lions Clubs to become the first global service organization in China.

Prior to SFCA’s establishment in China, vision impairment was widespread. In 2002 there were an estimated 5 million blind people in China. An astounding 18 percent of the world’s blind live in China. The need for vision care services could not have been clearer.

Phase I of SFCA, completed in 2002, supported 2.1 million cataract surgeries in China. Phase I also established surgical eye units in 104 rural counties that previously had none. Phase II of SFCA, which received a \$15.5 million SightFirst grant that was matched with a \$200 million grant from the Chinese government, expanded the program into other counties and provinces throughout China including Tibet. The goal of Phase II was to strengthen the eye care infrastructure, provide training courses for ophthalmic personnel and educate the rural populations, in addition to performing more than 2.5 million cataract surgeries throughout China.

Phase II has been particularly successful in Tibet, where cataract is responsible for nearly 70 percent of all blindness. The rate of cataract occurrence in Tibet is 100 percent higher than other regions in China and the age of the affected patients is 10 to 15 years younger. Except for the eye care services available in Tibet’s capital city of Lasha, there were no other eye clinic services in all 73 county hospitals. The ability to establish a high quality program in such a remote region as Tibet illustrates the dedication Lions have to expanding their humanitarian efforts to all.

*“Thanks
for curing
my eyes” ...*

Lions Convention Update

International Lions Conventions

June 23 - 27, 2008

Bangkok, Thailand

July 6 - 10, 2009

Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA

June 28 - July 2, 2010

Sydney, Australia

July 4 - 8, 2011

Seattle, Washington, USA

MDA Convention

2009

North Bay

In 2002, SFCA initiatives were launched in Tibet to establish the province as a “cataract free zone.” The Chinese government declares cataract free zones when an existing cataract surgery backlog has been addressed and existing eye care systems can manage all new cases. The aim of the SFCA initiative was to provide every Tibetan, regardless of social and economic class, the chance to have restored sight by conducting free cataract surgeries. Accomplishments of the initiative in Tibet include equipping eight hospitals with equipment, deploying surgical/medical teams to the region, restoring sight to more than 11,000 people and holding training courses for local doctors.

The SightFirst program remains a vital force in the cause of fighting preventable blindness. As the efforts in Tibet demonstrate, Lions and their partners have made a tremendous impact on the lives of thousands of people. Through combined efforts worldwide, SFCA continues to aid those suffering from cataract throughout Tibet and China.

Reaping What They Sow

Canadian Lions Aid Hungry in Developing Nations

by Jay Copp

The late September morning broke cold and gray with dreaded snowflakes and then potentially ruinous rain—hardly ideal harvesting weather. “You want it hot and sunny, so the wheat is dry and it doesn’t jam the machines,” says Lion Kevin Gibbons of Calgary, Alberta.

His club, the Cheadle Lions, had planted 190 acres of wheat in the spring of 2007. Proceeds from the crop sale would benefit the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, a coalition of Canadian church-based agencies that alleviates hunger in developing nations, and several local charities.

The project was also not only the biggest in the club’s history but also something of a gamble. First, the club had to sell sponsorships at \$250 (Canadian dollars) an acre. The club had to pay for seed, fertilizer and land rental. The sponsorships went well with individuals and community groups stepping forward. Lions, in particular, were supportive. Thirty-five percent of the clubs in District 37-O sponsored acres, accounting for 30 percent of the 190 acres. Adding in the sponsorship by individual Lions, Lions’ sponsorship neared 50 percent of the acreage.

The crop was planted five miles west of Strathmore on the north side of the Trans-Canada Highway. It was good soil and the club knew what it was doing. Many Lions were farmers themselves including Matt Gosling, project chairperson, and Sonny Warrack of Bruce Farms, a major business. But the weather was the wild card. The goal was to produce 100 bushels per acre, and some local farmers were skeptical. “The [non-Lions] farmers said, ‘Good luck getting that,’” recalls Gibbons. Part of the challenge was that the land was not irrigated. “The only water we got was what fell from the sky,” says Gibbons.

Nature cooperated. “We got the sun when we needed it and the rain when we wanted it and avoided hail damage for the most part,” says Gibbons. But bad weather cancelled the original harvest day. So the club went with the next Sunday, a day on which local farmers could afford to help out. That day began cold and gray, but, running out of time, the club took a chance and alerted the farmers that today was indeed the day.

Before long, 24 combines and many trucks and bailers converged on the land. About 10 of the combines belonged to Lions, and a half dozen Lions drove those with the others steered by other farmers and farmhands. Despite their grueling work schedule, it wasn’t hard to get farmers to lend a hand. “In the farming and ranching community, everybody knows everybody,” says Gibbons. “You grow up very cooperatively. It’s like you’re brothers in arms.

“When you get a call from someone asking for help, it’s tough to say no. They’re giving back to the community. And they know if they need help others will help them.”

The Lions laid out a feast of barbecue beef, pork and beans. The combines lined up in the field, and, right on cue, the sun broke through



Farmers came on short notice to help the Lions.

the murky clouds. Canadians here are accustomed to two or perhaps three combines rolling down a field. The spectacle of two dozen combines rumbling in formation stopped traffic on the busy Trans-Canada Highway. “To see 24 combines stretching across the field was like a row of tanks from World War II. When you turned around, you could see 100 cars parked along this major highway to watch,” says Gibbons.

The harvest was finished within a few hours. The final tally: 99.4 bushels per acre. The quality was good, too. The wheat was auctioned off at a favorable price. The Canadian Foodgrains Bank, including the federal government’s four to one match for donations to the food bank, netted \$387,885 from the Lions’ project. The Cheadle Lions also donated \$50,000 to two local food charities, a crisis shelter and the Strathmore Lions for its water park project.

This growing season the Cheadle Lions will plant barley. Last year’s success has carried over: the club had found sponsors for a third of the acres by early February even though the official kickoff was not until April. The club also has applied to the Guinness Book of World Records to attain the fastest harvest ever in terms of most bushels per acre per hour.



Local children like what they smell.



Two dozen combines harvest the Lions’ wheat.



Helen Keller Who?

She died 30 years ago this month,
and young people don't know who she was

by Jay Copp

When a rare photo of an eight-year-old Helen Keller was discovered and released in March, newspapers across the country printed it. Interest in Keller zoomed. "The story was literally everywhere for two days," said Tom Champoux of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, which released the photo. "We were shocked by the amount of interest in Helen Keller. It was overwhelming."

Forty years after her death, Helen Keller, who died June 1, 1968, remains a cultural touchstone. Her accomplishments despite her blindness and deafness continue to amaze and inspire.

Yet her status as a cultural icon is in danger. Up until the 1980s, most schoolchildren read her biography *The Story of My Life*, or at least an excerpt of it. Teachers today rarely assign the book, according to curriculum experts. A cultural divide has opened up. Young people know her name and crude jokes related to her disability. But the outlines of her life and the scope of her achievements are a mystery.

"There is an instant name recognition [with Keller]. But they don't know the details of her life," said Laurie Lawlor, author of the young adult book *Helen Keller: Rebellious Spirit*. Apart from isolated cases, her autobiography is "no longer taught," says Carol Jajo, a curriculum specialist, teacher and author of *With Rigor for All: Teaching the Classics to Contemporary Students*. "I wonder if it is in most middle school libraries. One certainly hopes so."

Adds Champoux, "A whole young generation does not know her. They may know she was blind and deaf and did great things but that's all they know."

Keller's dwindling fame was observed at least five years ago. The Chicago Tribune ran a long feature story in 2003 headlined *Where Have You Gone, Helen Keller?* Her book had vanished from schools because its old-fashioned writing style, the popularity of young adult books portraying typical teen-age problems and the need to include multicultural books in reading lists. Literate young people interviewed for the newspaper story knew shockingly little about Keller.

Cultural heroes come and go, of course. But Keller's remarkable story seemed to promise immortality. She had been trapped in darkness and ignorance until the momentous day that Annie Sullivan held her hand under a water pump and spelled out "water." That spark of understanding of language unleashed Keller's great intelligence and drive. She mastered Braille in five languages, became the first deaf and blind person to earn a bachelor's degree and then enjoyed a long, storied public career as a lecturer and activist. An awed Mark Twain compared her to Caesar and Shakespeare. The writer predicted, "She will be as famous a thousand years from now as she is today."

Twain was on the mark at least up until the 1960s when Keller regularly appeared near the top of Gallup polls ranking the most admired women. Her appeal transcended borders and cultures. Just two years ago she finished eighth in a poll asking Japanese to choose their 100 favorite historical persons. She was the second American listed, behind only Thomas Edison at number 2. Keller's story was so appealing that Sullivan came in at number 92, ahead of Abraham Lincoln, Chopin and Isaac Newton.

Despite Keller's exclusion from the classroom, her story continues to attract admirers. Ivy Green, her simple, white clapboard childhood home in Tuscumbia, Alabama, has been preserved as a shrine. Displayed are original clothes, toys and Braille books and typewriter. This summer



In July 1888, Helen Keller, 8, holds the hand of Anne Sullivan on Cape Cod, where Keller's family vacationed.

Thaxter Parks Spencer Papers, R. Stanton Avery Special Collections Department, New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, MA

some 55,000 people are expected to attend the 47th annual staging of *The Miracle Worker*, the story of Keller and Sullivan. Visitors worldwide make a beeline to the water pump. "The water pump speaks many languages. It doesn't matter how old you are or where you are from," said Sue Pilkilton, executive director of Ivy Green.

Those enduring hardships or challenges find Keller's triumph particularly appealing. One of the visitors to Ivy Green last summer was a 10-year-old Utah girl with Down syndrome. "Her dad said if you get good grades in school you can go where you want," recounted Pilkilton. "She got good grades and he asked her where do you want to go: 'Tuscumbia, Alabama.'"

The Miracle Worker continues to introduce people to Keller. "It's never been off the stage, done continuously in all countries since its Broadway premier [in 1959]," said William Gibson, 93, in an e-mail. Gibson originally wrote the story for television, and a popular 1962 movie of the same name, starring Anne Bancroft as Sullivan and Patty Duke as Keller and directed by Arthur Penn, won two Oscars. Gibson said that "the overt story, of a child rescued from a cave, is of universal appeal to start with." He added, "As a boy, I, too, read Helen's autobiography ... but saw no recurrence in my own kids' schooling."

A longtime writer for young adults, Lawlor wrote her biography on Keller in 2001 after a publisher approached her. "They saw a need for a book on Keller for young adults," said Lawlor of Evanston, Illinois. "She did more than just overcome being blind and deaf. She was a pacifist and a socialist. She was more than a plaster saint."

Lawlor's book is still in print, and a segment on the book still runs on C-SPAN2. For all the lack of awareness of Keller, people who do learn of her story are mesmerized. "There's something very powerful about her heroism that won't die. People are drawn to her sense of bravery and compassion. There is something very timeless and evergreen about her story," Lawlor said.

When she taught middle school in the 1970s, Jago had her students read Keller's autobiography and watch a documentary on her life. A curriculum consultant, she recently included an excerpt from Keller's book in an anthology for seventh graders published by Holt McDougal. "To my mind Keller's story is timeless and truly an inspiration for anyone overcoming obstacles," Jago said.

Even if shunted aside in schools, Keller's star once shown so bright and her achievements were so dramatic that she continues to make the news and otherwise receive recognition. In one sense at least, Keller has attained the cultural permanence of Washington, Lincoln and others whose images are found on U.S. currency. A few years ago the state of Alabama issued a quarter with Keller's likeness. Ivy Green is accustomed to such bursts of fame. "Something new will break from time to time that brings her back on top," Pilkilton said.

Keller's legacy is certainly assured among Lions. Her challenge at the Lions' convention in 1925 to be Knights of the Blind gave Lions their main mission. Her connection with Lions is prominently featured on the Web site of Lions Clubs International and in its other printed materials and in the newsletters and Web sites of innumerable Lions clubs and districts. International officers and directors and district governors reference Keller in their visits to clubs, and a re-enactment of her 1925 speech took place at the international convention in Chicago last year.

Lions name awards after Keller, cite her in speeches and tell non-Lions of her role in Lions' history. Lions of Alabama established and maintain the Helen Keller Memorial Park at Ivy Green; the park contains gifts from admiring Lions from more than three dozen nations. Lions are among the most frequent visitors to Ivy Green.

Keller's rising above her disability resonates with Lions, who help others help themselves and try to give people at a disadvantage the opportunity to prosper. Given a chance by Sullivan, Keller proved to be the ultimate champion of self-improvement.

Keller once eloquently pleaded with Lions for their help. The final irony of her life may be that as those who learned of her in school age and pass away themselves, it will be up to Lions to keep not only her mission but also her memory alive.

Lion Knew Helen Keller

How many Lions are left who knew Helen Keller? Gale Brown, 83, of the Clay Lions Club in West Virginia is one. He was a staffer for the American Association of Workers for the Blind when Keller spoke at their 1952 convention in Baltimore.

Brown, who would become a Lion a decade later, stood next to Keller in the receiving line and assisted her with introductions to the convention attendees. Polly Thomson, Keller's assistant, had told Brown to always identify himself to Keller by placing Keller's hands over the closed fist of his left hand and use his right hand to pull her hands against his chest.

"She was a very pleasant, very warm person," recalls Brown about Keller. She also had a keen memory. In 1954, Keller again spoke at his association's convention in Philadelphia and when Brown himself passed through the receiving line he used his old greeting from Baltimore. "Mr. Brown from Maryland," Keller beamed.

Brown's job with the association entailed teaching Braille and the use of the white cane; one of his students, recently retired from the Library of Congress, was the first totally blind person to be enrolled in a Maryland public school.

Microlender Wins Big Lions' Award

by Jay Copp

In 1974, Muhammad Yunus, then an unknown professor of economics in Bangladesh, discovered that \$27 could change the life of a poor woman's family. Since then his pioneering concept of microlending has benefited an estimated 100 million families.

Yunus along with his Grameen Bank won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006. He'll be honored with the 2008 Lions Humanitarian Award in June at the international convention in Bangkok.

Yunus is managing director of Grameen Bank, which has provided about \$6 billion in tiny loans to nearly 7.5 million Bangladeshi entrepreneurs, most of them women. The loans are small but the weavers, farmers and street vendors are able to use the seed money to transform their lives.

Microlending turns the tables on the traditional economic model. Loans are made to poor people, instead of to those of means. His bank serves as "a message of hope, a program

for putting homelessness and destitution in a museum so that one day our children will visit it and ask how we could allow such a terrible thing to go on for so long," Yunus says on his Web site.

The bottom line for Yunus always has been the essential dignity and worth of a person, and economic systems need to account for people's humanity. "Today there is only one kind of business in the capitalist system, in the design of the theoretical framework, to make money, and profit maximization is kept as the goal," he told Forbes magazine. "Human beings are much bigger than just a narrow moneymaking pursuit, a narrow moneymaking framework."

Grameen's first loans in a developed nation were disbursed recently in New York City. Grameen America is disbursing loans from \$500 to \$3,000 to hair salon owners, jewelry makers and day-care providers.

Grameen Bank inspired innumerable other microlending ventures worldwide and gave Yunus worldwide renown. He has been hailed as a "Nobel rock star," a business visionary and

a practical visionary. Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said, "By giving poor people the power to help themselves, Dr. Yunus has offered them something far more valuable than a plate of food—security in its most fundamental form."

Yunus has been showered with honors and awards from sources in many nations. In the United States, Business Week magazine named him one of the greatest entrepreneurs of all time and U.S. News magazine lauded him as one of the 20 heroes of the world. France inducted him into the Legion d'Honneur. The Kingdom of Bahrain gave him its Medal of the First Order of Merit, its highest honor. In India, a leading newspaper selected him as one of the 10 great Bengalees of the 20th century.

The Lions Humanitarian Award, the highest honor of the association, includes a US\$200,000 grant for continuing humanitarian activities from Lions Clubs International Foundation. Previous Lions Humanitarian Award recipients include former President Jimmy Carter and Mother Teresa.

Executive Summary

International Board of Directors Meeting

Vienna, Austria March 18-21, 2008

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

1. Adopted resolution to be reported to the 2008 International Convention to amend Article II, Section 1 of the International By-Laws to clarify the definition of districts as “(single, sub- and multiple)” and ensure consistency in the International By-Laws.
2. Adopted resolution to be reported to the 2008 International Convention to amend several provisions in Articles II, III and VI of the International By-Laws to establish the offices of first and second vice district governor.
3. Approved minor housekeeping changes to the Board Policy Manual.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

1. Established the individual room cancellation deadline for the 2009 Minneapolis Convention.
2. Determined the registration fees for the 2009 Minneapolis Convention.
3. Approved the proposed Schedule of Official Events for the 2009 Minneapolis Convention.
4. Selected Hamburg, Germany as the location for the 2013 International Convention.

DISTRICT AND CLUB SERVICE COMMITTEE

1. Approved charter cancellation of 80 clubs (493 members) with regret.
2. Changed the status of Macedonia (FYROM) to provisional district.
3. Established a step toward possible cooperation between the Lions of northern and southern parts of Cyprus.
4. Appointed the 2008-2009 governors in provisional districts.
5. Appointed coordinating Lions to serve in the area of Eastern Europe.
6. Approved the Eastern Europe Project Plan.
7. Revised the Coordinating Lion Program rules in the Board Policy Manual.
8. Approved discontinuation of Rebuilding Lion Program.
9. Deleted the word “transitional” from the definition of an affiliate member.
10. Proposed a constitutional amendment to establish the offices of first and second vice district governor.

FINANCE AND HEADQUARTERS OPERATION COMMITTEE

1. Approved a revised investment policy for the General Fund.
2. Approved the 3rd quarter forecast, which projects a surplus.
3. Approved the opening of a temporary bank account for the Bangkok convention.
4. Approved a spending cap on board meetings beginning in fiscal year 2010-2011.
5. Approved an increase in mileage reimbursement to US\$0.30 per mile (US\$0.19 per kilometer) beginning in fiscal year 2008-2009.
6. Approved change to Chapter II of the Board Policy Manual regarding the Audit Committee.
7. Approved minor housekeeping changes to Chapter XI of the Board Policy Manual.

LCIF

1. Approved a request to open a bank account at J.P. Morgan Chase and authorized signatories.
2. Approved the LCIF Development Plan to expand LCIF fundraising functions, and directed staff to take the necessary steps to begin implementation, in collaboration with Community Counseling Services (CCS).
3. Approved a proposal from CCS totaling US\$305,000 with objectives to implement the development plan by establishing the role of Chief Development Officer and conduct a case development study.
4. Awarded the Humanitarian Award for 2008 to Professor Muhammed Yunus.

5. Revised the SightFirst Approval Policy, which provides a guideline that authorizes the funding of SightFirst grant programs on a fiscal year basis.
6. Approved US\$240,000 in contracts with Service Learning Life Skills Network for consulting services in the Lions Quest program for fifteen months.
7. Established a Lions Quest symposium grant fund in the amount of US\$25,000 on a pilot basis.
8. Approved a US\$50,000 Core 4 Board-directed grant for a pilot project for hearing care services in The Philippines.
9. Approved 72 Standard, International Assistance and Core 4 grants totaling US\$2,778,793.
10. Tabled 14 grant applications.
11. Denied one grant application.
12. Approved authorized signatories on the LCIF accounts at Bank of America.
13. Changed LCIF registered agents to CT, AWolters Kluwer Company.

LEADERSHIP

1. Established initial participant allocations for the 2008-2009 Senior Lions Leadership for Lions representing the USA and Canada to ensure equitable participation throughout the area.
2. Established initial participant allocations for the 2008-2009 Senior Lions Leadership for Lions representing India, South Asia, Africa and the Middle East to ensure equitable participation throughout the area.
3. Established initial participant allocations for the 2008-2009 Senior Lions Leadership for Lions representing the Orient and Southeast Asia to ensure equitable participation throughout the area.
4. Revised policy to allow the chairperson of the District Governors-Elect Seminar to participate in either the one-year-out or two-year-out site inspection to the location of the seminar that will occur during the chairperson’s term.
5. Revised the Board Policy Manual to reflect the current rest day policy related to travel in excess of ten hours for District Governors-Elect Seminar faculty.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. Approved the Global Membership Team initiative from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011 to be funded at US\$360,000 for its initial year.
2. Amended the deadline date for new club applications to provide that completed charter applications received by the International Headquarters at Oak Brook, Illinois, USA, on or before the close of business on June 20th, and approved before the close of the fiscal year, will be processed for the current fiscal year. For recording purposes, completed new club applications received by the International Headquarters at Oak Brook, Illinois, USA, on or before the close of business on June 20 will be credited to that current fiscal year’s annual records, with corresponding extension awards also credited to the eligible club, district and international officers in office that year.
3. Expanded the scope and focus of the Women Membership Development and Participation Chairperson to include family membership initiatives and changed the title to the Family and Women Membership Development Chairperson.
4. Increased the maximum grant amount allocated for a Family Symposium to US\$2,000, allowing the allocation of a maximum of two grants for each constitutional area through March of each year, at which time unallocated grants may be reallocated to constitutional areas that have received the maximum grants allowed for their area.
5. Amended the Family Membership Program and Family Dues Provision in the Board Policy Manual to require that new clubs chartered under the family membership program must have a minimum of ten (10) full paying members.

6. Amended the Student Member Program and Student Dues Provision in the Board Policy Manual to require students of new campus clubs, or clubs with a majority of student members, to prepay one year international dues at the Student Member Rate at the time of charter.
7. Revised the Board Policy Manual to ensure the formation of quality new clubs by requiring a district that charters ten or more new clubs in a fiscal year must provide verification that the new clubs will be supported for long-term growth and is required to 1) submit a detailed plan outlining the support that the new clubs will receive; 2) provide payment of one-half the annual International dues when the charter applications are submitted; 3) have the charter applications certified by both the district governor and the vice district governor.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

1. Increased the Ambassador of Goodwill Medal by five for Lions year 2008-09, and increase the Presidential Award Medal by 150 for Lions year 2008-09, specifically for use with CSFII.

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

1. Effective fiscal year 2008-2009, approved an online certificate of recognition which will be activated at the end of each fiscal year for Lions club secretaries that submit the Monthly/Yearly Activity Report.
2. Approved two related-but distinct tracks for the Leo Club Program: one for Alpha Leos (age range 12-age of majority) and one for Omega Leos (age of majority to an age deemed appropriate by the Lions multiple district).
3. Named the Top Ten Youth Exchange Chairpersons for 2006-2007.
4. Approved a Memorandum of Understanding to be adopted as a cooperative agreement between Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers and Lions Clubs International, effective immediately.
5. Approved the Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center Compliance Report Form and the Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center Action Plan for Compliance Form, effective immediately.
6. Adopted the Lions Services for Children Worldwide Symposium Program effective fiscal year 2008-2009.
7. Approved the formation of a resource group at the start of fiscal year

- 2008-2009 to identify best practices, guidelines and promotional materials for medical and humanitarian aid missions.
8. Approved the Lions Alert Banner Patch Award for clubs, districts and multiple districts that submit an emergency preparedness plan to Lions Clubs International.
9. Approved the extension of the district and multiple district Leo club chairperson term from one year to three years, assuming continuing fulfillment of responsibilities.
10. Approved the Strides Lions Walk for Diabetes Awareness Banner Patch Award for clubs, districts and multiple districts that organize a Strides Walk.
11. Adopted change in the Board Policy Manual that youth exchange applications must be endorsed by the district and multiple district youth camp and exchange chairperson(s), where applicable. In areas where there is not an appointed youth camp and exchange chairperson, the district governor or council chairperson shall sign. In undistricted areas or where youth camps and exchange are not organized at the district or multiple district level, the signature of the Lions club president will suffice.
12. Adopted change in the Board Policy Manual that youth camp applications must be endorsed by the district and multiple district youth camp and exchange chairperson(s), where applicable. In areas where there is not an appointed youth camp and exchange chairperson, the district governor or council chairperson shall sign. In undistricted areas or where youth camps and exchange are not organized at the district or multiple district level, the signature of the Lions club president will suffice.
13. Approved changes in the Board Policy Manual to include adopted standard operating guidelines for Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers.

For more information on any of the above resolutions of the International Board of Directors, please refer to the LCI website at www.lionsclubs.org or contact the International Office at 630-571-5466.

Lions Sign Historic Agreement with United Nations

by Deb Clough

The Annual Lions Day with the United Nations typically celebrates the mutual goals and partnerships of the two groups. This year Lions Day marked the beginning of a historic higher level of cooperation between Lions and the United Nations.

President Mahendra Amarasuriya signed a joint letter of cooperation with the U.N. agency working toward the U.N. Millennial Goals. These goals include eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by 2015, achieving universal primary education by that year and six other goals related to child mortality, maternal health, gender equality, AIDS, the environment and development.

The United Nations is developing partnerships between governments, industries and non-governmental organizations such as the Lions to achieve these goals.

Another first at the 30th Lions Day with the U.N. in March was prompted by Past International President Joseph L. Wroblewski.

"I'd like to ask if any Lion in this room was inducted by an international president?"

Wroblewski asked the 710 Lions and Leos in attendance at U.N. headquarters in New York.

No one raised a hand.

With that, Amarasuriya inducted Prasad Kariyawasam, the Sri Lankan ambassador to the United Nations.

A message from Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon read by Kiyotaka Akasaka, Under-Secretary General for Communications and Public Information, was another program highlight. Then the Midwest Young Artists Voices Rising choir presented three songs about peace. Afterward, Amarasuriya unveiled the winning poster in the 20th Annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest.

Lions also attended a special luncheon with U.N. ambassadors in the U.N.'s private dining rooms. "Lions, your partnership with the U.N. is unique," U.N. Foundation Senior Advisor Sorensen said. "We believe we can do more together than alone."

The program ended with a \$13,383 donation from LCIF to the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. Lions or Leo clubs that donated \$500 to LCIF for UNICEF received the Lions-UNICEF School-in-a-Box Banner Patch Award. Lions and Leos



President Amarasuriya and Soren Petersen, head of Global Compact Networks and Partnerships of the U.N. Global Compact, sign a letter of intent to participate in three Lions pilot projects to help fulfill the U.N. Millennium Development Goals.

in attendance walked onto the U.N. stage and presented an additional \$4,100 to a UNICEF representative.

To view the Lions Day with the U.N. PowerPoint, log onto: http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/programs_int_ldun2.shtml

A1

Petrolia Helen Keller



Lion Marlene Conrod was the recipient of the Helen Keller Fellowship Award. The award was presented by PDG Lion Joe Madacsi at the club meeting on April 7th. Lion Marlene joined the Family of Lionism in October 1987 and holds perfect attendance to date. She was the first female president of the Lions Club of Petrolia.

Submitted by Lion Marilyn Madacsi

St Thomas Hospital



After finishing our commitment to the Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital the board of Eyes Right decided that our next project would be the St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital. The St. Thomas and Port Stanley Lions Clubs supported the request from the hospital for \$35,000.00 to purchase a YAG laser. After some changes in applicable taxes the amount came to \$35,100. This amount will be submitted to the hospital over a period of 2 - 3 years. According to the statistics received from the hospital approximately 900 surgeries are performed each year at the hospital.

The picture shows the presentation of a token cheque for the whole amount, however a real cheque of \$10,000 from Eyes Right was presented to the hospital to start our commitment. The Lions, Lioness and Leos of District A-1 are very proud of all we have been able to do over the last 17 years, a total of \$513,000 has been raised and distributed by the Lions Family in District A-1 to a number of hospitals in our district.

Pictured from left to right: Lion Dr. Harry Wismer, Optometrist, Vice-Chair Eyes Right; Dave Mennill Foundation President, St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital; PCC Lion Peter Geene, Chairman Eyes Right Foundation; Dr. Kyle Brydon, MD Ophthalmologist, St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital; and Zone Chair 2 South, Lion Wayne Cudney.

Submitted by Lion Marilyn Madacsi

A2

Fish Fry



Lion Steve Sterczer was quick on his feet to supply the fries for the Good Friday Fish Fry that was held by the Delhi and Lynn Valley Lions Clubs. Cooperation between two small Lions clubs to hold a successful event may be an option for your Lions Club to tackle bigger events.

Reported by Lion Bob Townsend

Can't Hear You



District Governor Jim Boughner and Region 4 Chair John Buchner answer the challenge that they couldn't hear the speaker from the low elevation of their chairs. Standing on the head table was one of the memorable moments at the Region 4 Zone Advisory that was held in Vittoria.

Submitted by Lion Bob Townsend

Friendship Convention



At the A-2 Convention Held in St. Catherines the A-2 Youth Exchange Camp was named after long-time dedicated Lion Bill Evers. At the convention ID Lion Dr. Patty Hill inspired the participants of the A2 Convention held in St. Catherines, really making it the "Friendship Convention."

Reported by Lion Bob Townsend

Speakers

The Fenwick/Fonthill Lions and Lioness clubs held the local Lions effective speaking competition. Winners of their categories went on to compete at the district level in Beamsville. Alix Nori (Senior English), Jordan Patten (Int. French), Shalimar Stechyshyn (Int. Eng & Senior French), and Hannah Zamora (Jr.)

Reported by Lion Rob Neal

Waterford Donates



Waterford Lions Donated \$10,000 to the Norfolk General Hospital I.C.U. Project. Representatives of the hospital congratulated Lion President Rick Bannister. Pictured are Lion President Rick Bannister, J.J. Knott, Project Director at Norfolk General Hospital and Helen DeBoer, Director of Development for the Norfolk General Hospital Foundation.

Chippawa Egg Hunt



Participants look for eggs in the Chippawa Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt. Submitted by Lion Bob Townsend

A3

Apsley Recycles



The Apsley Lions Club continues to support the recycling of eyeglasses. Lions Wayne Tucker, Peter Jeff and Wayne Armstrong were busy boxing over 1,500 glasses for shipment this past year.

Submitted by Lion Una Warner

During a Visit



During a visit to the Apsley Lions Club, District Governor Victor Smith was happy to honour Lion Dan O'Brien with a Life Membership Award with Lions International. Helping with the presentation was Club President Paul Tucker.

Submitted by Lion Una Warner

Country Theme

'Country' was the theme at the A3 2008 Lions Convention, held in Kingston April 11, 12, 13, hosted by Zone 43 North. Marmora Crowe Valley Lions Mary Jane Goodchild and Wilma Bush entered into the spirit of the event at the Friday night official opening.



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A 4

Pontiac Reception



The Shawville Lions club donated \$2,600 to the Pontiac Reception Centre Foundation. The donation will be used to purchase a Barata chair for the centre. This is the second time the Lions have purchased a chair. Standing on the left is George Pirie, a member of the Foundation's board and Club President Alex Miller. Photo complements Pontiac Printshop (The Equity).

Submitted by Lion John Musgrove.

First Five



Fort Coulonge and Mansfield Lions Club made history recently by inducting the first five women into this Lions Club. Bottom row, from left to right: Monique Fuoco, Mary Nadeau, Nicole Amyotte, Colette I Boisvert and Rheda Marion. Top row are their sponsors. From the left: Carl Nadeau, Bernard Mellon, John Fuoco, Jerome Amyotte and Paul Sauriol. Photo by Fort Coulonge and Mansfield Lions.

Submitted by Club President John Fuoco

Cumberland Honourees



On January 18 the Cumberland Lions Club celebrated their 40th Charter Anniversary at the Lions Maple Hall in Cumberland. This special occasion was highlighted by the Club honoring two of their members.

Lion Ron Walker, left, received the Melvin Jones Fellowship for his work and dedication to Lionism and his community. Lion Ron has eighteen years as a member and was sponsored by Charter & Life Member Lion Cam Smith. Besides all the good work he does within the club, he is also an active member with St. Marks Anglican Church. Finally, Lion Ron happens to be the oldest member within the clubs and has shown a great example to all the new members on what it takes to be a good Lion.

Lion Derek Tilley, right, received the Helen Keller Fellowship. During his eighteen years, Lion Derek can always be seen at the Annual Maplefest with his 'Piggy' apron and chefs hat on preparing pancake mix for our 1,500 supporters. Whenever there is a BBQ and a cook is needed, Lion Derek steps up to the grill. The most remarkable achievement performed by Lion Derek was his total dedication to upgrading the Cumberland Lions Club apartment at the Lions Home for Deaf People in Ottawa. Lion Derek spent numerous days and hours leading a team of Lions in remodeling, painting and assisting the new occupants into their new home. Lion Derek's lovely wife Maureen can also be seen working beside him. His dedication to Lions and especially to the community did not stop with him. He is very proud, but does not flaunt it, of his family and especially his son Peter who is the Executive Director of the Ottawa Food Bank.

The Cumberland Lions has 28 members with two Charter Members, Lion Cam Smith and Lion Don MacDonald and is home of Maplefest which occurs annually on the first weekend of April.

A 5

Baskets



For the past 10 years at Christmas the Charlton-Englehart Lions Club have donated \$1000 towards to the local Rotary Club for their Christmas baskets to the needy. The Charlton-Englehart Lions care with their annual \$1200 donation to the Foot Care Clinic. This money is used to offset the cost of treatment for people with diabetes. The proper care of a diabetic's feet is extremely important and reduces the risk of amputation.

Submitted by Lion Vic Roach

Hospital Donation



Hospital gifts being delivered by Widdifield Lion Elgin Moynes, Lion Bill Campbell and his wife Dianne, Lion Eddy Sarlo, ZC Vern Presse and Lion Thelma Presse as they prepare to distribute approximately 140 Christmas gifts to the people that are in the two North Bay hospitals over the Christmas holidays. The Widdifield Lions Club has been carrying out these donations for about 40 years.

Submitted by Lion Bill Campbell



Lions Appreciation Day at the CNIB Lake Joseph Centre



The CNIB Lake Joseph Centre—or Lake Jo, as it is affectionately known—was built by CNIB and the Lions Clubs of Ontario in 1961, and for over four decades has been providing a unique blend of recreation and rehabilitation opportunities not found anywhere else in Ontario.

The fully accessible facility is located at the north end of Lake Joseph in Muskoka, and offers a specialized camping experience for people of all ages who are living with vision loss. But Lake Jo is more than a simple summer camp. It is a place where people with vision loss can develop new skills, make friends, participate in new activities, and can be themselves in a safe, non-judgemental environment.

Lions and Lioness Clubs of MD”A” have always been very supportive of Lake Jo. Over the past year, your clubs have continued to support CNIB’s work and the vision health of all Canadians through your enthusiasm, compassion, and generous contributions to Lake Jo. To recognize and honour this commitment, it is our pleasure to invite you to our annual Lions Appreciation Day, on **September 27, 2008, 2 pm** at the CNIB Lake Joseph Centre.

The event, which has been running for more than a decade, was created to recognize the special partnership between Lions and Lake Jo, and to thank Lions and Lioness Clubs for their ongoing, tireless support. As in previous years, the day will feature a barbecue dinner, entertainment, site tours, and outdoor activities. This is also an excellent opportunity to mingle with members from other clubs as well as CNIB staff; or to just relax and enjoy the majestic beauty of the Muskokas.

As many of you know, Lake Jo has been undergoing extensive renovation over the past years. Since last year’s Lions Appreciation Day, we have completed six new barrier-free guest cabins and turned our old administration building into a fully accessible Welcome Centre. So in addition to the usual activities, this year you will also be able to see the spectacular transformation that your donations made possible!



The new, fully accessible Welcome Centre

To register, to reserve overnight accommodation, or to find out more about the event, please contact Jacqueline Harrison, at 1-877-748-4028 or by email at lakejo@cnib.ca.

Please join us in this tribute to the world’s largest service organization, The Lions. We look forward to seeing you at Lake Jo!

Paid for by Friends of CNIB



CNIB Lake Joseph Centre – Lions Work Weekend



The CNIB Lake Joseph Centre relies annually on the Lions to help us set up camp and have it ready for our guests.

Project availability for the 2008 Work Weekend:

- Site and Beach Clean Up
- Grounds and Nature Trail Clean Up
- Mini Putt Clean Up and Paint
- Gardening
- Gazebo Sanding and Painting and more ...

When: Friday May 30th, 2008, 5pm to Sunday June 1st, 11am

Where: CNIB Lake Joseph Centre, Muskoka District at MacTier

RSVP (by May 15, 2008) to lakejo@cnib.ca with the following information

Name: Club: Arrival Date/Time: Special dietary needs:
--

Accommodations and meals (Friday dinner to Sunday breakfast) are provided.

We look forward to seeing you there to help us prepare for our 2008 season! Together, we can make a profound difference in the lives of many in our community.

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Hospital Help



Widdifield Lions Club members presented the final cheque for a total of \$40,000 to the Caring for Generations New Hospital Fund in North Bay.

Submitted by Lion Bill Campbell

Myra gets Melvin



DG Myra Kiernan was presented with a Melvin Jones Fellowship, being honoured by the Blind River Lions Club on March 19th. Pictured is Blind River Club President Lion Helene Deschamps, left, and District Governor Myra Kiernan.

Submitted by PDG Hilary Kiernan

Library Helpers



Charlton-Englehart Lions Club donated \$1000 to the Englehart Library for programs to entice young people to visit it more frequently.

Submitted by Lion Vic Roach

Well Woman's Clinic

On April 6, a donation from Charlton-Englehart Lions Club for \$2000 was presented to the local Well Woman's Clinic. Club Secretary Lion Deanna Rooney made the presentation to Clinic Co-ordinator Liz Smith, and Englehart Centennial Ambassadors, Mr. Harvey Middough and his wife Gwen.

Submitted by Lion Vic Roach

Larry Honoured



On February 7th Lion Larry Shanahan celebrated 50 years in Lionism. He was presented with a certificate denoting his 50 years as a Lion by fellow Club member DG Myra Kiernan. Lion Larry also received, among other things, a beautiful clock from the Blind River Lions Club.

Valentine Meeting



The Lions Club of Sudbury was honoured by the visit of our City of Greater Sudbury, Mayor John Rodriguez and the First Lady, Bertila on the Club's annual Valentine Meeting with Lions and Spouses. The Mayor had a most eloquent, personal and city newsworthy speech to an appreciative group of Lions, followed by a dinner and a fun auction fundraiser. Pictured are Club President Lion Gloria Packard, Mayor John Rodriguez, Bertila Rodriguez and Lion Frank Arnold who presented the flowers to Bertila on behalf of The Lions Club of Sudbury.

Submitted by Lion Gloria Packard



Relay for Life



The Elliot Lake Lions Club received an appreciation award from Relay for Life for the Club's many years of service.

Submitted by Lion Anne Brant

Local Fish Derby

The Lion's Club of Cobalt and Coleman had another very successful fish derby that took place March 1 and 2 on area lakes. On March 2 the crowd was entertained by local musicians Wayne Fortune, Steve Kramp, Steve Browne, Martin Drainville, Kelly Ouimet and Lianne Auger-Carl. Charley Angus delighted the audience with his rendition of Stomping Tom Conner's "Sudbury Saturday Night." Everyone had a great time and enjoyed the food and refreshments. The Chocolate Lady was very popular with her chocolate fountain and chocolate-dipped treats.

Top Prizes in the Big Red's Fish Derby Adult Division

Pike: Tom Gauvreau 18.099 lbs, Arnold Puccini 12.665 lbs and Mike Hewitt 9.766 lbs
Pickerel: Len Hopper with a 3835 lbs, Eddie Charett 2.06 lbs and Len Hopper 2.006 lbs
Trout: Marta Sauve 7.881 lbs, Marta Sauve 7.341 lbs and Joey Ethier 7.264 lbs.

Kids Division

Pike: Chris Milliard 9.07 lbs, Katelyne Milliard 8.212 lbs and Brooke Forget 6.139 lbs.
Pickerel: Lexy Forget 1.223 lbs and Brooke Forget 1.058 lbs.

Everyone who entered the derby went home with a prize. A sporty chainsaw went to Lee Champagne of Cobalt as the final draw of the day.

Lions Club President Andre Belanger said "I would like to thank the many sponsors for their contributions to the derby. Without their support it would not be possible to put on this meaningful family event. This year's derby attracted just over two hundred anglers of which forty-one were under 12 years of age. It was a success and the funds raised go out to help those who need it most in the community. Everyone is a winner."

Submitted by Lion Shirley Gilson



Winner of the four-wheeler, Darryl Laxton of North Bay, has already put a plow on the front of his prize. He says it was a "once in a lifetime win."

A711

Give a Kid a Bike



Lions Glentis Samuel (President), Bill Allison (Vice District Governor), Denise Williams (PRO), Brittney Charlton (one of our bike recipients), MPP Bas Balkissoon, taken by Lion Julian Austin at the den.

The Malvern Onyx Lions Club (MOLC) has successfully launched its "Give a Kid a Bike Project." This project, chaired by Lion Julian Austin (membership director of the club), was put in place by the MOLC to assist families in the Malvern Community. Approximately 15-20 bikes both new and used were collected through donations from members of the club as well as within the Malvern community. On Friday October 26, 2007, during a regular monthly Lions meeting, a presentation of 3 brand new bikes purchased personally by President Lion Glentis Samuel were made to 3 children.

The club was honoured with the presence of Vice District Governor, Bill Allison, Past District Governor, Lion Rolando dela Cruz and MPP, Bass Balkissoon. Everyone was pleased of this great opportunity for the children. The Scarborough Mirror covered the event. Recipients that evening include Brittney Charlton, Kevin Charlton, and Roshane Stephen. The Malvern Onyx Lions Club intends to identify other families in the Malvern area who could benefit from this project.



Working in the Community



Juliette's Place (left to right) Lions Norma Bredwood, Denise Williams (PRO), Glentis Samuel (President), Joy Simon, presenting goods to a worker, taken by Lion Julian Austin.

The Malvern Onyx Lions club (chartered in 2006), has as its mandate, servicing youths and their families in the Malvern community and promoting relationship-building activities with other community-based partners who will better serve the needs of the youth in general and at-risk youth in particular.

Activities have included a food and clothing drive for organizations in the Malvern community including Juliette's Place (a women's shelter), Alliance of Guyanese Canadian Youth Mentorship Program, and food bank drop off centres, toy donations to 42 Division Police Department towards their toy drive, hosting a family of 6 from the above Mentorship Program at our Christmas Party.

In July 2007, The Malvern Onyx Lions Club partnered with No Strings Theatre (Summer youth music theatre camp for the theatre's fundraising raffle. The Club is looking into ways of assisting Malvern area youths to be able to participate in enrichment programs such as this.

In the fall of 2007, we launched our "Give a Kid a Bike Project" and gave away 3 brand new bikes. We have collected over 20 used bikes for children in need and will look forward to our spring presentation in early June for this ongoing project.

Most recently, we hosted a very successful Fundraising Brunch at the Rembrandt Banquet Hall. Special guests included guest speaker, Lion Bill Allison (VDG), MC, Lion Teddy Boyce (PDG and Guiding Lion), MPP, Bass Balkissoon and Consul General of Antigua and Barbuda, Madeline Blackman. We were entertained by young emerging artists including sopranos Amanda Jones and Stacy Darko; gospel singer Sandria Ricketts, pianist Raymond George, pianist, Daryl Williams, and magician Shawnathan Desouza-Coelho.

We would like to thank Lion Bill Allison (VDG), Lion Rolando dela Cruz (PDG), Lion Teddy Boyce (PDG and Guiding Lion), MPP, Bass Balkissoon and Consul General of Antigua and Barbuda, Madeline Blackman for their support of this and many of our activities this season.



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**An Open House highlighting all camp activities
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Lunch and refreshments served 11:30 - 1:30

**If you have any past memories or pictures
please bring them along to share with us**

Camp Dorset clothing will be available for purchase

Goderich Awards



Goderich Lion Bill Stanbury was honoured with the presentation of a Melvin Jones Fellowship award from Lions Clubs International, recognizing his significant contributions to the betterment of the community not only through Lions, but also through his ongoing involvement in various projects and causes throughout the community.

Submitted by Lion Bill Hayward

Bogie Gets Life



Lion Mel Bogie was presented a Life Membership Award in Lions Clubs International, recognizing his dedication to Lionism and service to the community through over 40 years of service in the Goderich Lions Club. Over the years he has served in various positions in the local club and district Lions, including District Governor for District A9 Lions.

Submitted by Lion Bill Hayward



The Goderich Lions Club was very pleased and honoured to present a Melvin Jones Award to Lion Charlie Kalbfleisch, a member of the Bayfield Lions Club where he is a past president. In addition to his involvement and dedication to Lionism, Charlie has a love of music, and over the years has encouraged many youth and adults to appreciate its value. For the past 30 years Charlie has directed the Seaforth Girls Marching Band. The Goderich Lions Club is responsible for receiving and paying finances for the band. The band has won many awards. As a lifetime high school teacher many will remember him with pride. Many in the village of Bayfield will know of his continuing efforts to advance civic pride.

Submitted by Lion Bill Hayward

Pee Wee Hockey



The Goderich Lions Club Young Canada Pee Wee Hockey Tournament held during the March Break was once again a success. This was the 59th year for the tournament.

Pictured is Club President Lion George Vanderburgh dropping the puck for the first game of the tournament. In the background are the members of the actual Pee Wee team that played and won all their games in 1950. They enjoyed returning for a visit after 58 years.

Reported by Lion Ralph Smith

Tampa Visit



On a recent vacation to Tampa Florida, ZC Joy Ann Webb, PZC George Barnes and IP A9 Cabinet Secretary Ev Barnes had the pleasure to attend meetings at Tampa's Palma Ceia Lion's Club. They enjoyed the fellowship and helping to tie cards on stuffed lions that the club collects saying 'Have the courage of a Lion' which are donated to the Tampa Police Department for Children in Emergency situations.

Submitted by Lion Ev Barnes

A I 2

Great Speakers



The Midland and Tiny Trails Lions Clubs combined forces to organize the Effective Speaking Competition at the Best Western that was enjoyed by approximately 60 family members and friends. The competition was organized by Ruth Hounsome, Secretary of the Midland Lions Club, and John Nychuk, President of the Tiny Trails Lions Club. Eleven speakers, identified only by number, gave their speeches within strict time limits. The students, from grade 6 to 8, competed in the junior division and for the first time there was an intermediate competition. Five anonymous judges made their decision according to the rubric set out by Lions International. At the end of the evening all of the participants were introduced and awarded certificates and medals. The identities of the judges were revealed as well.

Erin Carter, a grade 8 student from Bayview School, placed third for her talk on Girls Gone Mild in which she espoused the benefits of rejecting peer pressure. Morgan Anderson, a grade 8 student from Huron Park School, placed second for her speech on the joys and rewards of singing. Bethany Pearce, a grade 6 student from Mundy's Bay School, won 1st place in the competition for her humorous impersonation of a teacher revealing the history of the pencil. Rebecca Pearce, a grade 9 student at Midland Secondary School won the intermediate competition for her prepared speech on the effects of newspaper headlines and an impromptu speech on how to make the world a better place.

All of the participants deserve recognition for entering the public speaking arena, demonstrating creativity, self-control and courage.

Reported by Lion Helmut Paddags

Coldwater Melvin



The Coldwater Lions Club was very pleased to have honoured two longtime members by presenting them with the Melvin Jones Award. Lion John Narraway, right, filled various Lions executive positions during his 52 years as a Lions member. He was a constant participant in most of the club activities, as can be seen in the photo. If funds were to be raised Lion John was the man to call. Unfortunately Lion John passed away shortly after receiving his award.

Lion Elmer Strongitharm (left photo with Lion Pres. Jay) is still an active member with the club and has been so for the past 32 years. He has held many of the executive positions in the club and is the go to person for advice on anything related to the club and it's activities in which he is still an active participant.

The members of the Coldwater Lions Club feel very honoured to have worked with both Lion John and Lion Elmer both of whom represent the Lions image in the very best possible way.

Submitted by Lion Doug Binns (Lion Tamer)

Dunchurch Lions Club Rejuvenated



From left to right current members Martin Hewson, Charlie MacDermid, and the 5 new members Mike Morrison (McKeller), Jim Knight (McKeller), Tara Knight (McKeller), Henry Hyvarinen (Dunchurch), Rob McFarlane (Dunchurch).

Great pleasure in Tara Knight being the first new woman member in several years diversifying the club..

With the influx of the new members the Lions Club anticipates providing more assistance to the needy within the local area. Providing assistance to the elderly, the youth of the community and supporting community services. The Dunchurch Lions club was founded April 22, 1972.

Tiny Trails Adopts



Members of the Tiny Trails Lions Club are taking on the task of cleaning all of the Tiny Township Trail from Overhead Bridge Road in the North to Boundary Road in the South. Mayor Peggy Breckenridge is pleased to make the Tiny Trail more accessible to the public by making it attractive to use for cycling and hiking in the summer as well as snowmobiling in winter. Future plans include interpretive signs for nature studies to encourage school groups to use the trail as well as organizing events that focus on the trail. In addition to partnering in the upkeep of the trail the Tiny Trails Lions Club opted to make a financial contribution to the trail by participating in The Adopt a Metre Programme. Anyone interested in contributing to the Adopt a Metre Programme please contact Bonita Desroches at 705-526-4204.

Submitted by Lion Helmut Paddags

Elmvale Report

Members of the Elmvale Lions Club have been busy this year, taking part in many activities including hosting the Elmvale Santa Claus Parade, the 4-H Awards Banquet, hosting an Effective Speaking Contest for local schools and are currently selling tickets for their annual Corvette Draw which takes place July 1st. In the planning stage is a Walk for Guide Dogs in June and the Bill Stoddart Memorial Golf Tournament in August at the Orr Lake Golf Club.

The club continues with significant financial contributions to many different organizations in the area such as the Elmvale Firefighters Association, Elmvale Scouts, Elmvale Minor Hockey, Elmvale Sledge Hockey, Elmvale Co-op Nursery School, Elmvale Soccer, Elmvale Skating Carnival, Elmvale Adult Day Out Program, EDHS Awards Night, St. John's United Church Youth Program; Huronia Vipers Basketball as well as assisting people in desperate situations. We also support CNIB, Special Olympics and Sleeping Children Around the World, among others. In all, we have donated over \$40,000 to various organizations since July 2007 including a \$50,000/5 year commitment to Huronia Hospitals Foundation.

Dirty Job

This February at the Magnetawan Lions Club's regular meeting, Lion Bryan Hampson presented a plaque of appreciation to Kelly Hickey of First Choice Landscaping & Construction for his generous donation of time and vehicle in the re-surfacing project of the school playground at Magnetawan Public School last autumn.

Thanks from our club.

Submitted by Lion Randy Soth

4-H Support



Beginning in 1973-1974, its first full year of operation, the Oro District Lions Club has supported a succession of 4-H clubs in Oro. In its thirty-five year history, the club has contributed more than \$5,000 to 4-H in prize money, trophies, engraving, and reimbursement of registration fee. David Anderson, Co-Leader of the local 4-H Sheep Club accepts a cash donation from Lion Jim Rice, Treasurer of the Oro District Lions Club.

Submitted by Lion Frank Lawson

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\$20,000 Presentation



On March 10 the Wasaga Beach Lions Club were pleased to be able to put back into the community \$20,000. The majority of these funds were raised through weekly Bingo and the Club's Annual Home and Garden Show. The following funds were distributed

- \$10,000 Wasaga Beach RecPlex (another installment of our \$200,000 commitment)
- \$5,000 Collingwood General and Marine Hospital (towards dialysis machines)
- \$1,000 Governors Project - Sight First II
- \$1,000 Lions camp for the Deaf
- \$1,000 Camp Huronda (diabetes)
- \$1,000 Heart and Stroke Foundation
- \$500 My Friends House (woman's shelter)
- \$500 Habitat for Humanity

Photo by Lion Janice Campbell

A15

Entrepreneur



Charlie Cetinski, a local Waterdown entrepreneur, is spearheading an across Canada awareness and fund raising campaign for research in spinal cord rehabilitation.

The research team at McMaster University in Hamilton, is on the cusp of stem cell research in relation to spinal cord injuries, and are ready to begin the "human testing" phase. Their success will give hope to the many paralyzed individuals in that they may possibly walk again or at the very least, have an increase in mobility. The funding to accomplish this phase is ten million dollars. To that end, Charlie, himself a paraplegic, will hand wheel his wheelchair across Canada, from Victoria, B.C., to St. Johns, Newfoundland starting on June 10, 2008.

The Rockton Lions Club holds an annual benefit "fish fry". The proceeds this year will go to spinal cord research on behalf of Charlie Cetinski. As Charlie Says: "I have every reason to believe that I will walk again in the very near future."

Woolwich

FIT

The Woolwich Community Lions Club recently presented a cheque for \$50,000 to Christine Bauman of FIT For The Future towards a Concession Stand in the Woolwich Memorial Complex. Club President Freda Walker made the presentation.

Submitted by Lion Nancy Booth

Fergus Gives



The Fergus Lions kept District A-15 Governor Lion Bill Carson quite busy during his official visit to the club on February 12th. One of his pleasant duties that evening was to help Lion Hilda Wainwright, chair of the TV bingo committee, and Lion Jim Thornton, club president, present a cheque to Jackie Ranahan, vice-chair of Groves Hospital Foundation. The donation represents the last installment of a \$25,000 pledge over five years for hospital redevelopment.

Submitted by Lion Norma Peterson

Glen Morris



The Glen Morris and District Lions Club made a pledge to contribute \$25,000 for the renovation of the kitchen and washrooms of the local Centennial Hall. This presentation was the final payment being delivered to the County of Brant. From left to right: Club Secretary John Graham,; Steve Schmitt, County of Brant; Treasurer Sandra Jansen; Club President Bill Coppes.

Submitted by Lion Bill Coppes



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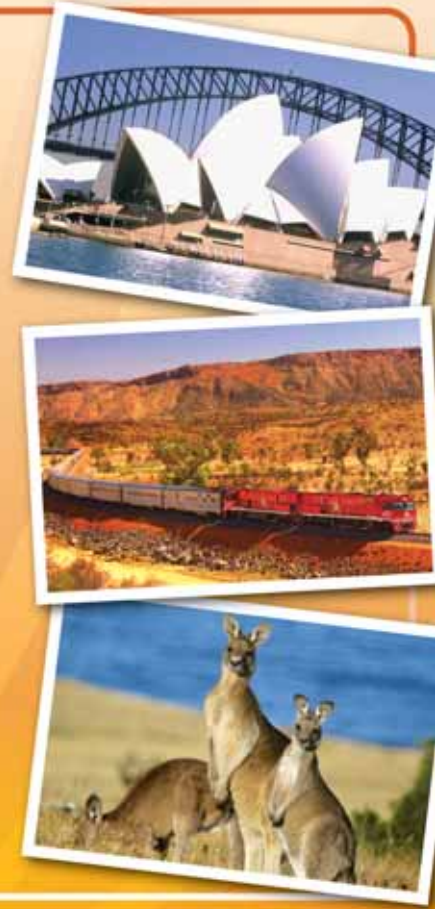
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Magnetawan fish fry

This April 25th and 26th, the Magnetawan Lion's Club held their annual smelt fry at the Lion's Pavilion in town. This fund-raising event has a history going back almost 30 years since it was first started in the late 1970's. Supporters come from all over Ontario to sample a heaping box full of these batter-fried smelts dipped in our own special secret recipe of mild chili sauce and maple syrup. This year our fund-raiser was again a success in spite of torrential rain, lightning and thunder the first evening. Net proceeds from the weekend will be used to fund local projects of our club in the Magnetawan area.

Submitted by Lion Randy Soth



Spaghetti Dinner



Lioness Nancy Arbour and her mother-in-law Lioness Irene Cook prepare spaghetti and meatballs for the Fenwick Lioness Italian Night, while Victoria Beamer, granddaughter of VDG Al Beamer, tries to stay clean during the Fenwick Lioness Italian Night Spaghetti Dinner.

Reported by Lioness Bob Townsend