

L I O N

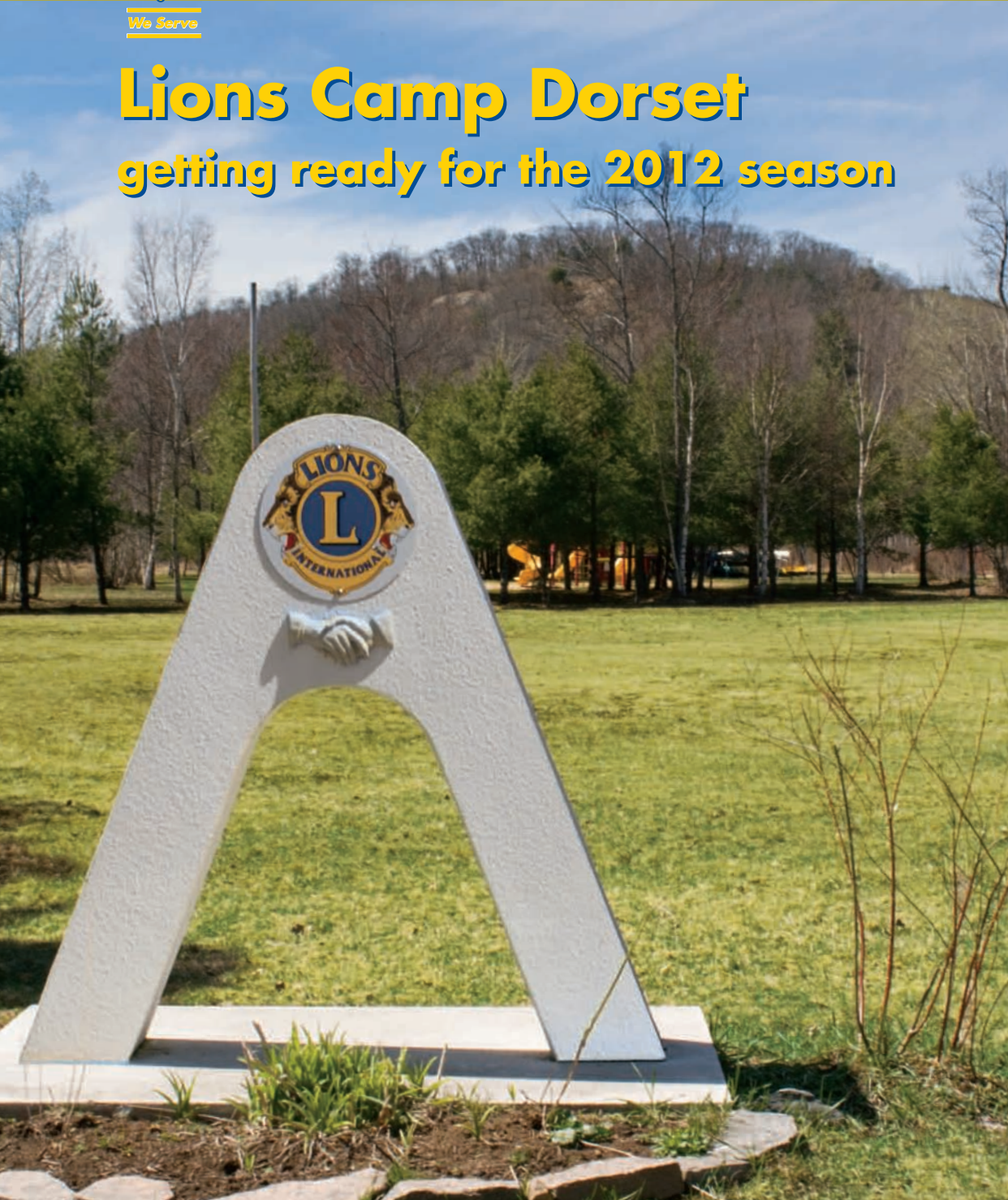


M.D. "A" Edition May/June 2012

www.lionsclubs.org

We Serve

Lions Camp Dorset getting ready for the 2012 season



St. David's and District Lions refurbish a cottage



Canoes are ready



Chippawa Lions refurbish washing facilities



Special activities are available for all age groups



Dialysis unit on-site

Melvin Jones Fellowships awarded to longstanding members

2 of the longest serving members of the **Jarvis Lions Club** were recently presented with the Melvin Jones Fellowship Awards. **Lion Bryce Linklater**, a Charter Member, joined the club in 1948. **Lion Jack Cooke** became a member in 1950. These Melvin Jones Fellowship Award recipients provide a lot of inspiration to our club with their continued involvement.



Pictured at the presentation are member Lion Drew Williamson, District Governor Lion Bradd Anderson, members Lion Bill Kelly, President Lion Jeff Barker and Lion Martyn Cooper. In the front row are the recipients Lion Bryce Linklater and Lion Jack Cooke.

Sudbury Fellowships

The **Lions Club of Sudbury** recognized three of their members with fellowships.



Pictured from left to right; Harold Huhtanen with a Melvin Jones Fellowship, President Pat Micelotta, Gerry Bertrand with a Judge Brian Stevenson Fellowship and David Gillespie with a Helen Keller Fellowship.

Coldwater Lions Membership Drive a Success

At the beginning of September 2011 the Coldwater Lions Club President, **Lion Jason**, set a goal for the club to induct 10 new members. As of March 2012 a total of 11 new lion members had joined the club.

The enthusiasm of Lion Jason spread throughout the club members and the result was the largest induction of members in the past number of years. All of the new members are very enthusiastic about assisting the local community and some have been working at various club activities prior to deciding they wanted to be fully involved.

During the March 12 ceremony, overseen by **District A12 Governor Jim Corneau** and **1st Vice District Governor**

Maureen Hilt, seven of the 11 were sworn in and welcomed with the Lion's Roar.

The new members, pictured in the front row (left to right) are: **Lion Kevin Cherewaty, Scott Burbidge, Angela Gibson, Alan Legault, Joanne Smith, Debbie and Darin Kennedy.**



New Hamburg Lions

The New Hamburg Lions induct new member **Peter Hyndman**. The ceremony took place at our regular meeting on April 12, 2012. **PDG Howie Fines** performed the induction and Peter was presented with his Membership certificate and lapel pin by his sponsor **Les Wernham**.



Left to right: PDG Howie Fines, Peter Hyndman, Les Wernham and Lion Chief Bob Starr

Killaloe & Area Lions

A4 Governor Joe Gauthier travelled to Killaloe in January to induct a record number of new Lions - the highest in the district in the current Lion year. In all, the club added nine new members and welcomed back a returning member.



Pictured l-r: District Governor Joe Gauthier, Bill Povey, Mary Povey, Genevieve Jones, Lin Tremblay, Adam Recoskie, Linda Levair, Lynne Postill, Irene Daly, Rick Schmidt, Bruce Burnett



Front cover: Lions Camp Dorset
See story on page 23

THE Lion



Welcome to the May/June Edition of *The Lion*.
To submit stories, photos, comments or suggestions, please contact your District Reporter (Pg 26) and please remember to check your camera settings to ensure highest resolution pictures.

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LCIF's Scope and Power Unites Us



Wing-Kun Tam
Lions Clubs International
President

As international president, I travel the world, and, in making small talk with me, Lions and others I meet often comment on the many foods, customs and climates I must encounter. That is certainly true. The world is complex and multifaceted. But this year, although I knew it

as a fact, I discovered firsthand a common thread among nations and in the world of Lions: the wonderfully effective presence of LCIF.

Our Foundation is everywhere. When I was in Mumbai, India, I visited Anjuman-I-Islam, a school that uses Lions Quest. It was clear Lions are helping

these schoolchildren become productive, thoughtful citizens. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, I spent time at an eye hospital in Kinshasa. I was overwhelmed to see how SightFirst is changing lives for desperately poor people. In the Netherlands, I tested a prototype of an ultra-modern white cane that uses GPS and surface-scanning sensors. LCIF is giving the blind a new dimension of mobility.

LCIF is an incredible vehicle for Lions to serve both across borders and in their own communities. Our Foundation gives sight to the blind, helps victims of disaster and generally addresses needs that otherwise would go unfulfilled by governments and other civic groups.

The best is yet to come. Campaign SightFirst II and the Lions Measles Initiative, in particular, will help untold millions retain their health and vision. As Lions, we are eager to bring opportunity and happiness to others. LCIF allows us to do that on a massive scale.

The efforts of Lions through LCIF and our contributions to it make me proud to be a Lion. LCIF makes many people's dreams come true. It represents the power of We. When we believe, we can change the world. Our belief in the Foundation endows it with power and productivity.

For the past year, I have compared Lions clubs to families in which members must look after one another as in a family. LCIF is our precious family heirloom, given to us to grow and support. Please continue to support LCIF. Please continue to believe in it and treasure it. The family of Lions is as enriching and satisfying as it is in no small part because of LCIF.

Wing-Kun Tam
Lions Clubs International President

Time Passes; Lions' Service Endures



Wing-Kun Tam
Lions Clubs International President

Our Lions year is drawing to a close, and I hope to see many of you later this month at the international convention in Busan. We expect to have one of the largest, if not the largest, conventions ever.

It's been a tremendous privilege and great joy to serve as your president. Lions have served with incredible passion this year. Our service soared to new levels. Each Lion in every club deserves credit.

This year Lions also enjoyed themselves and felt at home within their clubs. Lions responded to my understanding of a club as family. As a result, our retention of members has been strong this year, and overall membership is positive.

Lions also embraced our tree planting campaign. So far, we've planted more than 8.3 million trees. The trees not only beautify our communities but they also help preserve them. The trees we planted may absorb as much as 1.5 million tons of carbon dioxide, more than a ton for each Lion. We are helping to save the planet.

My year in office demonstrated beyond all argument that when we believe we are able to summon the courage, commitment and action to change the world and make it the kind of place all of us want and deserve. My final thoughts as president are focused on you—the regular member in a routine club that quietly does superlative service. You have my admiration and

very best wishes. You believe in Lions, and your belief has given hope to people where none existed and uplifted them from want and need. I Believe became We Believe during the course of the year. The power of our belief will continue to enrich the world and continue to make us the world's greatest service organization.

Wing-Kun Tam
Lions Clubs International President





Official Notice



2012 International Convention, Busan, Republic of Korea

The following proposed amendment to the International By-Laws will be reported to the delegates for vote at the 2012 International Convention. This amendment requires a majority affirmative vote for adoption.

ITEM 1: A RESOLUTION TO REMOVE THE MEMBERSHIP OBLIGATIONS AND RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES CHARTS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL BY-LAWS, AND CONTINGENT ON THE APPROVAL OF THIS RESOLUTION, THESE CHARTS WILL BE MOVED TO THE MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS SECTION OF THE BOARD POLICY MANUAL.

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That Article XI, Section 7 of the International By-Laws be amended by deleting the second sentence of the first paragraph in its entirety and substituting the following:

Such categories shall have the rights, privileges and obligations as set forth in accordance with the policies of the International Board of Directors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Article XI, Section 7 of the International By-Laws be amended by deleting the Obligations chart on page 47 and the Rights and Privileges chart on page 48.

Convention Call

In compliance with Article VI, Section 2 of the International By-Laws, I hereby issue the Official Call for the 2012 International Convention. Our 95th International Convention will be held in Busan, Republic of Korea. It begins at 10 a.m. June 22 and ends June 26. The purpose of the convention is to elect a president, first vice president, second vice president and 17 members of the International Board of Directors and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Busan is an exciting, fast-paced, world-class city with a multitude of fine restaurants and tourist attractions. It also is one of the most beautiful cities in the world, surrounded by blue mountains, rivers and lovely beaches. Lions will immensely enjoy its mild temperatures, the unique Korean culture and

wonderful cuisine, most notably the fresh seafood.

Convention Week is a splendid, unforgettable experience full of fellowship, fun and learning. Lions will enjoy many enduring traditions such as the stirring flag ceremony, the festive international parade and the lively, multicultural international show. The memorable plenary sessions include a keynote speech by Dr. Margaret Chan, the director-general of the World Health Organization, the presentation of the 2012 Humanitarian Award and the installation of the 2012-2013 international president and district governors.

The Lions of Korea will warmly welcome their visitors and ensure that this convention is absolutely outstanding in every regard. This convention will be a vibrant testimony to the power of We Believe as well

as to the enduring value of family bonds of Lions. I strongly encourage you to be a part of this special Lions event.

Signed by me at Oak Brook, Illinois, United States of America, this 7th day of May 2012.

Warmest regards,

Wing-Kun Tam
Lions Clubs International President

MDA Secretary

All candidates for the position of MDA Secretary have been informed of the Administration Committee recommendation and approval by the Council of Governors that PDG John Stewart (A-9) be appointed to the position of MDA Secretary for a 5 year term commencing July 1st 2012, subject to a satisfactory annual performance review. PDG John has accepted the appointment.

Lion Todd Wilson
MDA Council Chair

Help Wanted

The Lion Magazine is looking for a retired Advertising Executive, or someone with experience in the advertising field, to sell ads on a commission basis for our magazine.

For more information, contact Lion John Daniels at mdathelionmag@hotmail.com or call 519-622-1997.

FOR THE RECORD

As of January 31, 2012 Lions Clubs International had 1,347,278 members in 46,135 Clubs and 747 Districts in 208 Countries and geographic areas. There were 332,965 Melvin Jones Fellowship recipients and 61,872 Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship recipients.

PROMOTE YOUR CLUB ONLINE!
www.lionsclubwebsite.com

As of press time, there were eight candidates for International Vice President. The election will take place June 26 at the 95th International Convention in Busan, Korea.



Harri Ala-Kulju

Past International Director Harri Ala-Kulju joined the Espoo Kesku Lions Club in Finland in 1997. An insurance director, he has held many offices within the association including club president, cabinet secretary, zone chairman, region chairman, district governor, vice council chairman, council chairman and leader of the Lions extension team in Finland. He has received numerous awards including the 100% Club President's Award, several District Governor's Appreciation Awards, the 100% District Governor's Award, several International President's Certificates of Appreciation, eight International President's Awards and the Ambassador of Goodwill award.



Phil Nathan

Past International Director Phil Nathan of Earls Colne, England, served as an international director from 1999-2001. He has been a Lion since 1982 and a charter member of the South Woodham Ferrers Lions Club since 1989. A stockbroker and director of a company, Nathan served as Europa Forum president in 2006, holds trustee status on eight different boards of charitable trusts and is active in many professional, civic and community organizations. In 2001, he was recognized by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II with an MBE, a Member of the British Empire.



Steven Sherer

Past International Director Steven Sherer, of New Philadelphia, Ohio, is a licensed public accountant and has been a member of the Dover Lions Club since 1980. A Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, he has attended 19 international conventions and 13 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forums. He is a GMT area coordinator and the recipient of several international awards including the Ambassador of Goodwill Award and International Leadership Awards. He was honored with a Distinguished Citizens Award in his community and is active in many professional and community organizations.



Salim Moussan

Past International Director Salim Moussan, of Beirut, Lebanon, was elected to serve on the International Board of Directors at the association's 80th international convention held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1997. The owner of a trading company, he is involved in many professional and community organizations. He is a two-time board appointee and a two-time group leader at international conventions. He has attended 24 international conventions and more than 100 forums and regional conferences. He served as chairman of the 23rd ISAAME Forum. He is the founder of the Lions Eye Center in Lebanon.



G. Ramaswamy

Past International Director G. Ramaswamy of Coimbatore, India, joined the Annur Town Lions Club in 1985 as a chartered president. Serving as an international director from 1996 to 1998, he has been recognized for sponsoring more than 900 new members into Lions clubs. He also spurred membership growth from 30,000 to 105,000 in Multiple District 324. He served as an appointee to the International Board of Directors from 1999 to 2000, 2005 to 2006 and 2006 to 2007. Ramaswamy is an industrialist and the recipient of numerous professional, civic and community awards.



Joe Preston

Past International Director Joe Preston of Dewey, Arizona, joined the Mesa Host Lions Club in 1974 and now belongs to the Bradshaw Mountain Lions Club. A fleet sales manager for a Ford dealership, he has served as a Lion in numerous capacities including council chair, district governor, zone chair and MERL chair. He also chaired the 1994 international convention in Phoenix and the 2003 USA/Canada Forum in Portland. He has received the Ambassador of Goodwill Award and other honors.



Francisco Fabrício De Oliveira Neto

Past International Director Francisco Fabrício De Oliveira Neto joined the Catolé do Rocha Lions Club in Brazil in 1985. An entrepreneur and business administrator, he has

served as a Lion as district governor, council chair, district LCIF chair, SightFirst committee chair and in other capacities. He has received numerous awards including six International President's Certificates of Appreciation, the Paradigm Medal, Leadership Medal and two President's Medals.



Giovanni Rigone

Past International Director Giovanni Rigone joined the Pavia Host Lions Club in Italy in 1969. The owner of an engineering firm, he has held many positions within the association including club president, district governor, council chairperson and GLT area leader. He was president of the Europa Forum in 1992. He has received many Lions awards including 21 International President's Awards and the Ambassador of Goodwill Award.

Toronto Central Lions

The 15th Annual Skate-a-thon occurred on Saturday, February 11th at the Moss Park Arena.

There was a full day of events including the Morning League All Star Game, the Afternoon League All Star Game, the Skate-a-thon and the Coaches of the MPHL playing the Sports Net TV team. Thank you to everyone who skated, watched and donated to the Skate-a-thon.

The league operates as free league providing ice time, equipment and people; the league is thankful for the wonderful commitment by many people to ensure its continuing operations.

If someone is interested in the league – to support it at any level, new levels of support are welcomed from time to money. Contact the league at www.gsmhl.goaline.ca or come by Moss Park Area at Queen Street West and Sherbourne any Saturday morning or afternoon to watch the hockey.

The Toronto Lions Central have been involved in support and giving tax receipts for donations greater than \$20. If someone wishes to donate to the league, send cheque to Toronto Lions Central at 141 Adelaide Street West, Suite 423, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 4E7.



Lion Wayne Doucette and Lion Dave Vallance at the front door of the Arena



We Serve

Lions on Location



We Serve

Taking Steps to Improve Vision

What's it like to be blind and walk crowded city streets? Malaysian Lions let hundreds of people experience blindness while raising funds for their sight work.

Since 2004 hundreds of blindfolded people, escorted by a friend or colleague, walk three kilometers through Petaling Jaya, a city of 638,000. Thanks to corporate sponsors, the walk last year was expected to raise nearly \$85,000 for the **Petaling Jaya Lions Club's** sight programs.



Four people take part in the Blind Leading the Blind Walk

Last year nearly 2,000 people participated in the Blind Leading the Blind Walk. A hundred blind people walked; many guided a blindfolded friend. A brass band led the way, and gymnasts performed for the crowd.



The Lions' presence is unmistakable at the walk

Petaling Jaya Lions have made possible vision screenings for 12,000 people and free cataract operations for 1,000 people over the last decade. Lions work with the Tun Hussein Onn National Eye Hospital, which has a mobile eye clinic and mobile eye operation theatre.

Lions Feed Hunger for Olden Days

The old rudimentary tractors that once plowed Danish farmland are long gone, replaced by shiny, modern, more efficient tractors. Even longer gone are the horse-drawn plows that crudely carved up the soil. But once a year devotees of the past gather for Plow Day in Langeland, and Danish Lions play a role.

Last year, 28 vintage tractors attempted to plow ruler-straight furrows. Most succeeded. Three horse-drawn plows competed, too, and they proved equal to the task.



A plowman with his two horses shows his skills

Langeland Lions duly staffed a "Plow Tavern," which provided morning coffee, sandwiches and Danish pastries before the competition started and then dinner after it ended. The house specialty was pan-fried fish fillet on rye bread with a salad, tartar sauce, roasted onions and sliced cucumber.



Zone Chairperson Hans Henrik Knudsen focuses on his task

Seedlings Improve Water Supply

The catchment area that fed the Lilongwe River, Malawi, was degraded. The quality and quantity of water for city residents was adversely affected. So **Lilongwe Lions** led a project to plant more than 2,500 trees there.



Lions and students plant seedlings in Lilongwe, Malawi

"It was a quest to fulfill the international president's dream to plant at least 1 million trees and an attempt to mitigate the effects of climate change," says **Clara Malunga**, club secretary.

Lions pulled together the support of students from two schools, a ministry of natural resources and the Lilongwe Water Board. Lions are considering encouraging students to adopt seedlings and then rewarding them with school materials if the trees survive.

Students' Horizons Expanded

Japanese Lions take a keen interest in schoolchildren, sponsoring days focused on traditional paper-making and tea, lessons on foreign cultures and customs, and woodworking with parents.



A foreign college student shows Japanese students images of his country

Okabe in Fujieda City, Shizuoka, is one of the top three areas producing Gyokuro, a fine green tea. The town also once made washi, traditional Japanese paper used to hold and transport the tea. The **Shizuoka Fuyo Lions Club** invited 40 students from an elementary school to experience the art of making paper and then to take part in a tea ceremony.



Students make postcards using traditional Japanese paper

The schoolchildren used washi-making techniques to produce postcards. They became so adept by the end of the session that they giggled when their teachers clumsily took a turn at it. "No, that's not the way you do it," a student chimed in. At the tea ceremony class, students frowned when tasting the bitter traditional tea and struggled to sit on the floor Japanese-style with their legs beneath them. But their discomfort served a higher purpose.



A child works with his mother to make a book shelf

“We want them to have pride and understanding of being Japanese in a globalized society, so they can tell people from other countries about Japanese traditions with confidence when they grow up,” says **Takashi Konagai**, club president.

Nagayo, a bedroom suburb of Nagasaki, was once a farming area with tangerine orchards. The town remains peaceful and idyllic with swaths of green land framed by mountain peaks. **Nagayo Lions** spur schoolchildren to dream of other places and lofty ambitions by sponsoring a Kid’s International Day.

Ninety students from third to sixth grades met with 12 foreign college students fluent in Japanese who told them about their own countries. The students from China, Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Nepal, Bangladesh, Turkey, Germany and Kazakhstan described the food, weather, religion, customs and so on.

“The children’s eyes were shining. I hope the interaction they had with foreign students will inspire them to dream big,” says **Mitsuaki Tsujida**, club president.

In Yamanashi, **Enzan Lions** have partnered for 16 years with a construction business league to co-sponsor a parent and child craft workshop. This past year 100 children built book shelves. “Working together with your parents to make something becomes an unforgettable summer memory for children,” says **Takaaki**, club president.

Trees to Blossom with Good Works

Slovenian Lions planted trees that contain the seeds of charity and goodwill. Joined by **International President Wing-Kun Tam**, Lions planted 58 olive trees in the village of Popetre. In time, the proceeds from the sale of the olive oil will benefit the needy, and the olive branches will be used for religious services.



President Tam reacts upon seeing a plaque in Popetre, Slovenia, commemorating his goal to plant 1 million trees

Slovenia photos by Rok Ražman

The trees represent the 55 Lions clubs in Slovenia. Each tree has a name tag with a club’s name. The other three trees were for Tam, District 129 and the Leos of District 129. The trees were planted on land owned by **Lion Vladimir Razman**, who will take care of them.

Tam kept a busy schedule in Slovenia. He met with Blaž Kavčič, the president of the National Council Slovenia, attended the charter night of the **Izola Isola Lions Club**, met with club presidents and members of the **Proteus Lions Club** and visited the stunning Postojna Caves.

The first Lions club in Slovenia was chartered 20 years ago. Slovenia has a high ratio of Lions per capita with 1,501 Lions among a population of 2 million.

Slovenian Lions particularly help the blind, youths and those with disabilities.



Lions plant 58 olive trees on land owned by a Lion



Ethnic music was part of Tam’s visit with Slovenian Lions

Serving Youths in India

More than half of India’s 1.2 billion people are under the age of 25, and Lions in India are tireless champions of youth. Encouraged by the **Gohana Dynamic Lions Club**, students and staff at a local school take a pledge of peace on World Peace Day on Sept. 21. The **Washim Lions Club** holds a school dance competition to celebrate India’s Independence Day. Demonstrating that Lions are Knights of the Blind in



Dance competition



Mysore screening



World Peace Day

Asia, too, **Mysore Kuvempunagar Lions** conduct an eye screening for schoolchildren.

Lions in Australia To the Rescue

Situated on a picturesque stretch of coastline 90 minutes by car from Sydney, Australia, Caves Beach draws legions of swimmers, surfers and kite surfers. They’ve been protected from harm since 1929 by the Caves Beach Surf Life Saving Club. No life has ever been lost at Caves Beach while members have been on patrol.

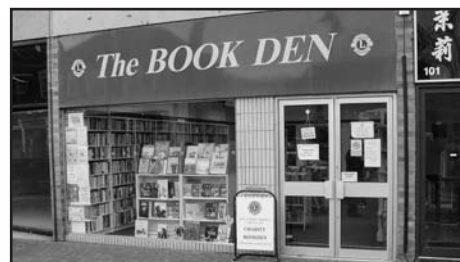


The new rescue boat is named the Pride of Swansea

Swansea Lions want to keep that sterling safety record intact. Assisted by the **Australian Lions Foundation**, the club donated \$12,000 (US\$13,000) to the beach club for a new rescue boat. The club was making do with a 15-year-old vessel that needed constant repair.

Lions Find a Lair in Book Den

Patrons of the Book Den in Burgess Hill say a planned five-minute visit there often turns into an hour-long browsing and ends at the cashier with a pile of books bought for a bargain price. The second-hand book shop sells 1,700 books per week. Whether it’s cooking, gardening, history, biographies or sports, the Book Den has shelf after shelf of a wide range of books.



The Book Den has visible signage



Patrons browse the stacks

Burgess Hill District Lions in England began selling books 20 years ago at a couple of tables set up in a

shopping mall. Business boomed, and Lions opened the current location in the town center three years ago.

“Selling books in the beginning we found what the public wanted was value for money. At the same time they wanted to support a charity that supports its local community,” says **Lion Tony Paris**.

All the books are donated; some are donated back after being bought and read. The shop displays about 3,500 books and stocks another 4,500 in the back room or in storage. The club estimates it needs about 300,000 books to take it through the end of its lease in five years.

Occasionally, the club comes across a first edition such as Leslie Charteris’ “The Adventure of a Saint” or a James Bond book. Another good find was a fourth edition of Volume 1 of Samuel Johnson’s “Dictionary of the English Language.” The club sells its rare books through a book dealer, eBay or by auction.

Running a book store is labor intensive. Lions staff the shop for 38 hours weekly Monday through Saturday. The annual profit is about \$60,000, which the club used to provide a greenhouse for a day center and a soccer field for disadvantaged children and to aid Help for Heroes, devoted to wounded military men and women.

Walkathon Gets Wild in Germany

The walk turned into a outlandish parade.

German Lions encouraged participants in their walkathon to get a little crazy. The walkers complied. They came carrying skis, Alpine ropes and fire hoses. They wore traditional Bavarian outfits, surgical masks or colorful sportswear. One walker blared a portable siren.

The **Oberstaufen-Westallgäu Lions Club** sponsored the walk to mark the start of Lindenberg’s market days. Led by Mayor Johann Zeh and Meckatzer Brewery owner Michael Weiss, beer stein in hand, the walkers



Walkers don costumes and outfits

waltzed through downtown Lindenberg.

Each participant either paid 50 euros (US\$66) or found a sponsor, raising 10,750 euros (US\$14,200). The city of Lindenberg purchased a defibrillator for the Westallgäu medical group with the money raised. Another portion of the proceeds went to an animal shelter and an aid organization that provides disaster relief.

Medical Team Marches In, Makes a Difference

Many residents in the neighborhood of the City of Cagayan de Oro in the Philippines had never visited a dentist. So a Lion-dentist, as well as a doctor,

optometrist and a nurse/pharmacist who are Lions, spent a half day in Barangay Camaman-an providing medical and dental care.



A Lion provides dental care

The team put together by the **Cagayan de Oro Makahambus Lions Club** conducted eye screenings, distributed medications for diabetes and also extracted 175 teeth. The Lions attended to more than 300 patients. On the team were dentist **Thelma Sarmineto, Dr. Polygino Valmores**, optometrist **Dr. Luzminda Abarrientos** and **Vivian Tagapulot**, a nurse and physician. “We do this every year. Serving people, especially those who have less in life, makes us happy,” says **Sarah Bais**, a Lion since 1995. “It gives us a sense of responsibility and makes us aware how blessed we are.”

Sky-High Fundraiser in Spain

Andrea Aitchison had a happy landing. But for a dreadful moment or two as she fell through the sky she had her doubts. “I pulled right [on the parachute’s straps] and immediately went into a spin. It was sheer terror,” says Aitchison, 71, who organized the skydiving fundraiser on behalf of the **Jalon and Orba Lions Club** in Spain.

Aitchison righted herself and landed safely, as did her husband **Stuart**, also a Lion, and 18 others jumping for 15 charities. The temporary terror was worth it. The jump raised US\$16,500.



Andrea Aitchison says of her jump: “My hair makes me look like one half of Jedwood [an Irish pop duo].”

The plane carried the skydivers up to 12,000 feet, and they enjoyed a 5,000-foot free fall. The El Pinar Aerodrome in Castellon hosted the event.

Most members of the Aitchisons’ Lions club are English expatriates. For these Lions, thrills are part of the Lions’ experience. The club previously sponsored a rappel off a steep cliff. (November 2001 LION).

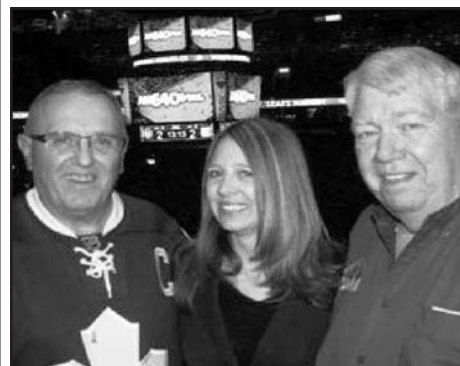
2014 Convention Draw Winners

Congratulations to **Hickson Lions Club** member **Laverne McBurney** for drawing the winning Toronto Maple Leaf Weekend ticket. Laverne and nine of his closest Lions Club friends attended the Leafs/Rangers game on March 24th in the Molson Coors Brewery private suite. The evening was hosted by **PID Carl Young**, Convention Chair for the upcoming 2014 Lions International Host Committee. He was joined by Committee members **Stan Durward** (Vice Chair) and **Dr. Jack Bishop** (Finance Chair).

Part of the evening’s festivities included a delicious dinner at the famous Hot Stove Lounge and an overnight stay at the prestigious Royal York Hotel. While the Leafs lost 4-3 in a shoot out against the New York Rangers, the atmosphere in the Molson Coors suite was entertaining and enjoyable.



The 2014 Lions International Host Committee would like to send a special thank you to Molson Coors for their generous donation of the tickets and private suite for this game. “We were pleased to support this fundraising initiative and delighted to hear that everyone had such a good time,” shared Greg Barbour, Sales Director at Molson Coors.



Lion Laverne and PID Carl with their Hostess for the evening

Should your Club be hosting a fundraising event this year, our friends at Molson Coors would be happy to talk to you.

For details please contact Dr. Jack Bishop at 519-742-0405 or call Molson Coors directly at 1-800-molson1.



Lions On Lions

So what's it really like to be a Lion? It's usually rewarding, sometimes joyful and even occasionally frustrating. Just ask these six Lions. We did.



by Cliff Terry

Katie Breuel, 39

Fairwood Lions Club, Renton, Washington. A Lion since 1995 and past club president and district chairperson. Former teacher, now a stay-at-home mom. Daughters are 9 and 6.

My father had been a Lion when I was growing up. In '95 I was teaching in a middle school, and its Leo club adviser got me to join the Lions. My husband, Brett, became a Lion about three years after I did. When we started dating, he went to meetings with me and the club gave its approval (laughs). We had a group of Lion members who made the trek to our wedding. Later, when we welcomed our first child, there was a surprise baby shower after one of the meetings.

When I got involved in District 19 B, I was looking for something that would really be hands-on for the clubs to become involved with children. I went to clubs and asked if they would collect books, and we set up something called the "Lions Giving Library." It started in my garage, and we collected thousands of books. We'd take them to Head Start programs, Boys and Girls Clubs. We'd put the books on display, and the kids could pick out books that interested them. We'd put a little sticker in the front that said it was a gift from the Lions. We also went to domestic abuse shelters.

Some 20 clubs in the district became involved. For the 2011 International Convention in Seattle, we put together a larger scale event called "Destination: Reading!" We brought in Lions Giving Library books and also designed hands-on activities.

We had a teenager who didn't like reading, but he was curious, and looked through the books. He was kind of a rough kid, and I wasn't sure he would find something. But he found a book that got him really excited, because it would help him write his poetry. I was moved by that.

At another event, a girl about 10 or 12 was so excited, she said, because she'd never had her own book. She went to each volunteer and asked us to sign her book, like a yearbook, because it was her first.

It's neat to see these things and know you've been a part of it. There also was an event for kids with disabilities, and this boy had autism. He apparently was just an avid reader. His mom wasn't sure there was anything he'd be really drawn to because he'd read everything, but he found a book and was so excited because it was about dinosaurs. Autistic children don't show a lot of emotion, especially around strangers, but he was smirking because he knew what that book was about. It was called "Dino Poop." He thought that was pretty cool.

And one very-expectant teen mom picked out a book for herself, and then wanted something that she

could read to her baby. It's so satisfying to do something so simple with a book that otherwise might end up in recycling. You know, books can have a second life. They can be something very loved and very treasured.

For me personally, Lions has been part of our family. I remember pushing the stroller as I was picking up litter and I was wearing the orange vest, and a passing motorist hollered out, "Oh, that's great! They're letting you serve your 'time' with your kids!" (laughs) It was kind of a joke with our club that a lot of people look at community service as some sort of consequence. My kids, at least, really see it as a kind of honor. They come to book giveaways and interact with the other children, making recommendations about books they had read. And they're learning about what it is to serve. I feel that my children want to help, they want to be involved with what Lions are doing because they've seen that positive effect. They know the different members. My daughter refers to one Lion's wife as "my grown-up friend, Janet."



Katie Breuel involves her children, Christiana, 6 (centre), and Rebecca, 9 (right), with Lions

Once I decided to stay at home, there was sort of a disconnect where I didn't have a professional life and colleagues, so I poured myself into Lions a little more and built something that I'm really proud of. I don't think I would have had that opportunity in many organizations.

You have your seasons of life, and there are definitely times when I've had to step back a little bit from Lions because of the challenges of having a young family. So it's finding that balance between how much leadership I can take on without compromising the needs of my family. Another challenge is getting new members involved, instead of the same volunteers. Although there are certainly some super heroes in our district whose name is on *everything*.

Advice for younger Lions? When I became involved at the zone and district levels is when I really got a better sense of the power of Lionism and felt that I could grow from the leadership training. So any opportunity you have to attend conferences or training at a higher level is very beneficial. You begin to be a

"known person." And that's where you really feel you can get something done.

Advice for Lions clubs? Definitely welcome families. Be creative to make it a part of the family. If my club wasn't so supportive, I wouldn't be able to attend.

So now I can go to meetings with the kids, and my husband can meet us there when he gets home. It really makes a difference if the club is flexible.

Richard (Grover) Cleaveland, 59

Member of Hilton Head Island Noon Lions Club in South Carolina and a Lion since 1984. Retired as an Air Force colonel after 30 years of service.

My nickname? In 1979 I was in training with the Air Force in Florida, learning to fly an F-15. Everybody had to have a "call sign." Remember, in the movie *Top Gun*, Tom Cruise was "Maverick" and others had call signs like "Iceman" and "Goose." The scheduling board didn't have my real name, but "Grover" instead. And those names stick, because if you tell them you really don't like it, you'll have it forever.

My father was a 60-year Lion. In fact, the day he died they already had his 60-year pin ready, and if he had made one more meeting it would have been presented.

Around Christmas one year I was in Alamogordo, New Mexico, and a friend who was a Lion told me, "I'll pick you up at 6:40 a.m. for the Alamogordo Breakfast Lions." I remember they had really strict procedures for new persons. You had to attend three meetings before being invited to join and your sponsor had to pay for your three meals, and if he *didn't*, he'd be in big trouble. Anyway, I joined in 1984.

I was in the military, so I attended meetings all over. I attended meetings in Bitburg, Germany, but didn't want to transfer from New Mexico because their dues were \$8,000 a year. They were mostly doctors because they started the club in a hospital. At their Dance Festival, they ran the champagne booth. I commented that half the product we were selling was to our own members, so if we just chipped in \$100 each, we wouldn't have to work and would still have the same amount of money. They said, "Yes, but then our wives wouldn't let us stay out until 3 a.m."

In Iceland, at the Keflavik Lions meeting, I noticed a sign telling the amount of kroner that each member owed. I discovered it was close to \$300. I thought it really must be an expensive dinner. Turned out it was for yearly dues. Incidentally, they take off three months in the summer because they finally have good weather then.

In Poland, I transferred my membership to the Warsaw Lions. The focus of the club is different. In

fact, European clubs are *quite* different. When they had a flood, instead of a fundraiser, they went to their own companies and other companies and asked for donations on behalf of the Lions. And they got \$1 million. So I couldn't argue with the business model, but they're missing what I like to talk about: You really become a Lion when you *sweat* next to the Lions.

Then I had lunch with a guy who said, "We're going to charter a new women's-only club, the Warsaw Arka Lions, and we'd like you to be one of the speakers at the charter ceremony." They said my English was easy to understand because I didn't use hard words and spoke slowly. I asked the president if I could transfer into her club, and she said, "No, we don't take men." I knew that. I was just being a little humorous. However, she later said, "We've taken a vote and you may transfer into our club. But there's only one reason: we know you're not staying forever." I said, "Thank you, but I'll stay where I am."

My biggest challenge is being a mobile Lion. The real heart of who we are came about between 1946 and 1965, because all those WWII veterans were coming back. And they developed a model: one working parent, one parent at home, people living in the same area. We're still using that model in a lot of places, even though a majority of people today don't stay anywhere very long.

I've talked to International about this. It's frustrating. In order to get my membership transferred, I ended up calling International and having it done manually.

What's my club up to? We partner with the Hilton Head Island Lions Club and the Sun City Lions Club to do Camp Leo. Every summer 25 to 30 legally blind children come there for a week of fun in the sun, and that's been very successful. We've had a Camp Leo event called the "Greens Keeper's Revenge Golf Tournament." (The publicity says, "Being legally blind is always a challenge for the children who attend this camp. So it is only fair that we add some challenges to our tournament. You will laugh more than you cry!") This one guy finds the weirdest places to put the pins.

You'll find equipment out there sitting where you don't expect it. He put one pin six inches off the front of the green and parked a *trailer* in front of it. So you either had to roll it under the trailer or go over it and come back.

We're facing the same challenges many Lions clubs face: aging membership. I do a whole seminar on that. One of the things that I'm finding is that there are two directions to go—forward and back.

There's no such thing as standing still. If you're standing still, you're moving backwards. Well, I feel that a lot of our clubs have gotten caught in that syndrome. I read an article that said, don't be on autopilot. Right now, some Lions are on autopilot. Have been for years. So our current president and I are trying to stir that pot. We have a lot of people unhappy with us, but we're trying to do things with the same people without thinking about replacing folks. But if we don't turn the corner, we're going to eventually get ready to shut down because we're aging.

It took 18 months to convince Lions we needed a

website. Why? Because most of us don't have a computer, you know, so we don't "need" a website. A friend gave us a program on social media—Facebook and YouTube and all—and several of our members came to me after and said, "I hope you understood what she said, because I don't have a *clue*."



Richard "Grover" Cleveland enjoys his retirement on Hilton Head Island but still keeps busy as a Lion

Well, we have a website now through Lions International, and we're going to open a Facebook page. You have to do those things. People want electronic media. But we're having a hard time getting some of the older, more established members to go down that road.

I also think we assume that everybody on Hilton Head is like our club members—retired. We had a great opportunity for a fundraiser, the Harlem Ambassadors, who are like the Globetrotters, and one of the board members told me, "Nobody plays *basketball* on Hilton Head, everybody here's retired." Well, there actually are a lot of young people on this island.

The biggest thing is sweating beside another Lion and accomplishing something. I always love it when a project ends and it's been successful. I tell people how much we worked at a Christmas tree lot with the Arlington South Lions Club of Virginia. When I was off the schedule, I'd go home, turn on the TV and think, what am I doing sitting here? So I'd get in the car and go back to the lot. Because that was what we did. A lot of 80-year-old members were out there with me, lifting up those trees, sawing off the bottoms.

Then there was the time at Camp Leo when one of the young (blind) guys said, "Wow, it's so neat to be here for a whole week and not be different." And this year one of the campers said to me, "I've never seen a beach before." One of the others said, "You can't see a beach." And the other answered, "You know what I mean." I thought, he was really excited. Those are the kinds of things you remember.

At the Alamogordo club, we helped sponsor a home for young girls who were coming out of bad home situations. Every Halloween we'd take them to a "haunted house" in one of the downtown stores and then have pizza.

Our son, who was in about 4th grade, went with me. I told him, "Sometimes the girls get a little anxious or angry, don't worry about it." Well, we didn't have any incidents, and on our way home our son said to me, "Dad, they were just like anybody else." I said, "You're right. They were a good group." He didn't say anything for a minute or two and then said, "Maybe

they're different on the *inside*." I thought, Oh, my. A major moment.

Murray Silver, 58

Vice president of Savannah Lions Club in Georgia and a Lion since 2007. Author of Great Balls of Fire: The Uncensored Story of Jerry Lee Lewis, made into 1989 film; co-owner of Bonaventure Books publishers; former rock concert promoter, writer and photographer.

My friends in the entertainment business are very surprised to find out that I'm a Lion and how involved I am. They want to know, what is it about Lionism? What does it do for me that the book, music, movie and TV businesses don't. What I tell them is this: There have been many times during luncheons, service projects, work days and social occasions that I am constantly reminded how much I enjoy being in the company of my fellow club members. I do not have any children; my wife goes home to Brazil half the year. I think of the Lions as family. We are good friends, having a good time, doing good works. It is no more complex than that.

I'm 58 years old and all my life I've been a one-man show. The great thing about joining the Lions is that I don't have to be that anymore. Not only do I have a club, I have an international organization, and I see that it's possible to change the world by working with this organization.

The club was founded in 1922. My great-great uncle was a charter member. So the club became the most important thing because it was my legacy.

I was raised in a unique environment. My father was Martin Luther King's lawyer and Coretta King's lawyer. I became a speechwriter for Mrs. King when I was in college. My father was on the front line of the civil rights movement, and that's all about poor black people. So growing up in this environment in the Deep South in the 50s and 60s taught me compassion not only for poor people but also poor people who were forced into crime because of their lot in life. My father was a criminal lawyer, and he represented these people. For 10 years I worked in his firm after school. These are the people I encountered every day. My father taught me that people had rights.

My most satisfying project? We have a new project called Project Vision, which links Lions clubs with local YMCAs to do vision screening for children. Because YMCAs have become daycare centers and summer camps, and some of these children we don't reach through the elementary schools. So this is the first time in 2,000 years that we have put together the Christians and the Lions. And in doing so, what we've done is been able to help both organizations. What I'm trying to do is take this model for these two great international organizations not only statewide and nationwide but globally.

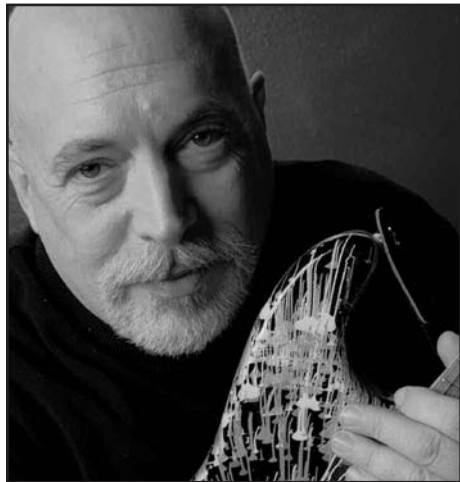
A friend and I started this thing. He and I were the Guiding Lions for a new club in Pooler, Georgia. A woman walked in and said she managed the local YMCA and was thinking of joining our club but only if we could help her. All of a sudden it just hit me like a brick. I said the first thing we can do for you is a

vision screening and it would be the club's first service project.

I'm trying to take Project Vision to the state level and to Lions Clubs International, but I have to admit that I'm having a very difficult time. One of the problems in Lionism is that this is not only a multi-level organization, but it has so many levels that get in the way of each other. This is an organization of volunteers, and at a certain point dealing with them is like herding cats.

Advice for clubs? Being a Guiding Lion, when I canvas for members, I start at the mayor, city council, police chief, fire chief and the principals of the schools to look for members. Then I go to every single business owner and their staff. I tell them, "This is a terrific way for you to help your community directly without you having to shoulder all the burden with your time or finances."

Secondly, I find other local nonprofits that are having a problem. For example, when I was putting together the Garden City Club, I found a black minister who heads up a program called Savannah Feed the Hungry. I saw he was having a shortfall and told him he should join the new Lions club and put it to work for him. He joined the club, which helped him feed the hungry as its first project. So my advice to clubs is don't think of your club as a self-contained unit. Find other people who are already in the business of helping society. A lot are experiencing a shortfall because of this economy. Link your club to these other organizations. Help them do what they do. Ask them how they can be helped. You don't have to reinvent the wheel. Help other wheels keep spinning.



Murray Silver plays guitar, writes and publishes books and saves vision as a Lion Photo courtesy of Nancy Heffernan

The thing I tell young people I've brought into the club is this: this is a difficult time on this planet. God knows it's very difficult on young people trying to enter the business world. I tell them that to join the club is a wonderful way to network. There are 60 of us, and a number are prominent business owners. Some are retired but have held important positions. These are people you would not meet in any other condition. Your lives would not cross paths. This is a great place to find mentors. Whether they help you find

a job or not, these people combined have thousands of years of experience. We've got several veterans from the armed forces, men and women, black and white, all religions. Bottom line: you've got like the "Supreme Court" when it comes to wisdom. You can sit down at lunch in this informal setting and pick their brains. I tell them: this is old school, small town, Southern stuff.

This is a very effective means for a young professional to get along in this world. When you're a member of the Lions club, it says something about you that you do not have to say about yourself. When the world sees that purple L on you, it knows that you're one of the good guys.

You don't have to tell people that you're caring and concerned and civic-minded. We say that for you. This is one of the surest ways I know to help you take your rightful place in this society.

Advice for older Lions? Listen, whether or not you become zone chair or governor, that's not the most important thing. What's important is this: before you are gone, before you stand down, before you quit or you die, the only thing I urge you to do is pass along what you know to someone else. Pick young members and mentor them, and not only pass along what you know, but your love of Lionism. If something happens to you today, all of that experience goes with you. My hope is that these younger members today will be here 40 or 50 years from now and continue our rich tradition.

Jennifer (Jen) Buell, 27

President of the WesternU Campus Lions Club of Pomona, California, and a Lion since 2011. In her third year at the College of Optometry, Western University of Health Sciences, Pomona.

My father has been a Lion longer than I've been alive. I've been exposed to Lions my whole life. You know how Lions clubs try to steal the bell and gavel from club presidents? Well, when I was a kid, I remember going into the refrigerator and being puzzled to find a giant block of JELL-O with a "hammer" in it. Actually, it was the gavel my father had stolen from his president.

As president, I have yet to get through a meeting without losing my gavel (laughs). I've had my gavel stolen at every meeting so far by other members. So I have to buy it back.

My parents have always been very big on community service. They've been great role models. One of the reasons I went into optometry is to help people in need. I like the Lions because they're really compatible with my profession. I can relate to the people we serve because they're very much like the patients I deal with.

Growing up, I always dreamed of wearing a yellow vest like my dad. I think our young club members are starting to get excited about the vests. We might go ahead and order them.

When I was 16, I did the Lions Clubs International Youth Exchange program in Japan for the summer. I also worked one summer in Jilotepec, Mexico, with the Northern California Friends in Sight group. So for

me, it's been not just about serving the underserved, but also exposing youth to cultural experiences, helping them become active members in the community. It plays a big role in my drive to travel and help people.

I had two different host families. They took me traveling all over. I went golfing at Mt. Fuji. That was pretty cool. One host mom owned a sushi restaurant, so I would help there. I also went to several Lions clubs meetings. My host mom helped me write a speech in Japanese for one of them. They also bought me a Yukata, a traditional summer kimono, and took me to the meeting in Ginza, Tokyo. I had to walk through town from the sushi restaurant to the meeting at a hotel. Imagine a white, 5-foot-seven-inch girl walking through a crowded city in traditional Japanese clothing! I was quite the spectacle.

Challenges as president? Getting people involved. We have 68 members, a very good size, but I'd say on average we have maybe 20 people at our meetings. So to get them more involved, we're slowly setting up committees, and I'm trying to delegate more. Our goal has been to do at least one community service event a month, which we've been successful doing. They mostly involve vision screenings. But we're going to try to do one or two very large health fairs per year and other vision screenings that are interdisciplinary so we can get more members from other medical professions at our school—medicine, dental, podiatry, physical therapy.



Jen Buell is a Knight of the Blind not only as a Lion but also in her chosen profession

Photo by Jeff Malet/Western University of Health Sciences

Advice for younger Lions? Getting involved early is really important. Not only for the experience and the passion that it gives you for helping other people, but also for networking. We have a lot to learn from our older Lions members. There's a lot of wisdom that can be passed down, and if we don't take advantage of that, then this club could be lost. And I think that would be really sad. With the economy these days, networking is very important. We have older Lions, faculty, and also we work very closely with the Pomona Host Lions Club.

I'm outgoing. And organized. When I was helping organize the club, I was also planning my wedding, finishing my second year in optometry school and volunteering at vision screenings. I'm also very reliable. So I tend to take on too much, because I want

to make sure it gets done. I'm a young adult who has a lot of values that are similar to the older population. I try really hard to uphold those values and teach my peers.

I'm also a bit of a perfectionist. It's frustrating wondering why people aren't getting more involved. Probably one of my weaknesses, with all the leadership positions I've had over the years, is learning how to delegate and let go. Being president has been great for that. I really have to delegate. It's a great learning experience.

Art Ruben, 69

Member of the Everett Central Lions Club in Washington and a Lion since 1984. Past club president and zone chair. Retired, last 14 years employed by Allstate Insurance.

Satisfactions of being a Lion? Oh, my goodness gracious! Do you have an hour? Our club does a salmon derby for the blind. We take anywhere from 35 to 40 fishing in Puget Sound. We've been doing it for 67 years. One of the most inspirational moments was working with a 9-year-old boy, who caught the biggest salmon and tied with a 93-year-old gentleman who also had a 13-pounder. That was so great to see that boy's smile!

We also sponsored an evening with the symphony. I arranged with the conductor for the blind to come to a special session. He stopped and talked to them about what was going on. Afterwards, he invited them on stage, especially the kids, to "see" the instruments. I remember a young girl standing next to the kettledrum and putting her hands on it so she could feel the vibration and what was making that kind of noise. It was terribly inspiring. You kind of get a feel for actually what being blind is all about.

Challenges? We call them "opportunities" (laughs). The biggest one is getting people to understand why they should become a member. I like to think I can sell it to everybody, but I know that I can't. It's simply a matter of showing them the benefits for themselves and their community. But not everybody is going to join when you ask them.

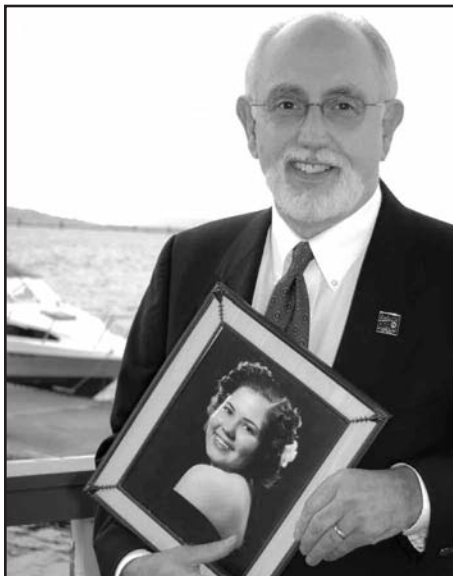
You know, my mother became blind with macular degeneration. She really became frustrated and angry at the world. She had to give up her job, and she couldn't drive or enjoy reading or sewing. She had been very active, worked practically every day since she got out of the 8th grade. My father was disabled and she tried to support the family.

What brought her out of her shell, she started to take a GED course at the local community college and finished in short order. She was about 66, the college's oldest graduate ever. She went on to get an associate's degree in social work, working with community services, and just totally blossomed. She developed the Evergreen Association for the Blind, and helped develop a bowling team for the blind.

I didn't become a Lion because she was blind, but because of her inspiration. I remembered the work she had done so I joined Lions, which was a natural because of their work with eyesight.

I'm outgoing. Coming from a sales background, one

of the things I've done is taken on the role of public relations for our district and my club. I was honored in 2008 with a public relations award by Lions International. Just having the fun of wanting to tell others is why I'm driven to work with public relations and driven to bring in new members.



Art Ruben's mother inspired him to become a Lion

Photo by Anne Garber

Advice for Lions? Figure out what you want, and then do it. Lions represents a tremendous opportunity to bring your ideas and energy and enthusiasm. You've got the support of an international organization behind you. Younger Lions don't have as much time to devote, with younger families and all. They're being stretched, especially in this economy. The younger people have a lot more to gain through Lions, but they don't have the extra funds it might take, or the time.

Bob Taylor, 76

President of Edenton Lions Club in North Carolina and a Lion since 2007. Retired after a career in advertising and sales on the agency, client and media sides.

I had been president of the Rotary Club in Windsor, North Carolina, where I worked. They were big on fundraising, which is my expertise that I brought to the Lions. But Rotary members basically meet and eat and don't do anything. They're a business club, as opposed to a service club. Our Lions club is very active, with a lot of different projects.

We have a 93-year-old neighbor who has macular degeneration and is legally blind. My wife and I are caregivers for her. So we know firsthand what some of these people are going through, and what some of their needs are. Then we work with the social services department in the county government. I think there are 30 or 40 legally blind people in our county. I also drive a friend who also has macular degeneration to his eye doctor in Norfolk. One eye is gone, and he's getting shots in the other eye to keep from losing sight in that one.

In 2009 I got the Outstanding Membership award.

One of my big projects was recruitment. We did very well, increasing membership by 20 percent one year and 15 percent the other. I got a lot of satisfaction out of getting younger members. We're trying to focus on new young blood.

I also started a fundraiser pancake breakfast, and I had the satisfaction of getting it organized and doing the advertising. It was a good team effort. One of our members handled the operational and food service side. The first year we raised about 3,500 bucks. One of the reasons we started the breakfast was another fundraising project just died. It wasn't generating the revenue, so we had to come up with something different.

Also, the club had a \$1,000 scholarship program for students going into medical careers—nursing, diabetic medicine, that kind of thing—and needed someone to give it a boost, and I've taken that over. I was also chairman of the White Cane Drive this year. We put an extra emphasis on giving by members and friends, and direct mail to businesses—increasing our giving by 24 percent in a bad economy.

Our clubs could probably do a better job of communication to their communities, whether it be advertising or whatever. Most clubs don't have an ad budget, but you could find some nonprofit rates from newspapers. For example, I could buy a strip on the front page of our local newspaper for 50 bucks. You could also do PR. But you've got to make it interesting, and supply the photographs. These small town papers don't have the staff to do the writing. So if you've got a good writer and/or a good photographer, give them that responsibility.



Bob Taylor is mentoring a firefighter he recruited as a Lion

Photo by Blair Currie

We haven't lost members to other clubs and not too many have moved away. But this is a retirement community and we've lost probably half a dozen members to death since I've been here. That's hard to

deal with.

There's also a lot of competition—nonprofits raising money from the same people at the same time. With more jobless and more working part-time and lower re-entry salaries, there is less giving.

I recruited a young fireman, whom I'm kind of mentoring. What you try to do is become a mentor so that they get involved and just don't become a number. The problem with the younger men or women is that they have kids who are in middle school or high school

and they have so many competing activities. So we're trying to generate more interest in the club. We have good programs, like a recent one by a pediatrician on child abuse and sex abuse, which was timely. Programs like that will keep younger folks interested, get them away from the tube. Also, with the economy, they can benefit from networking with the older members.

My advice for older Lions is don't get burned out. Stay young. Most of our guys are very active, but we have a few who have kind of faded away.

I'm not afraid of burning myself out. That's why I've retired and "un-retired." I just can't sit around the house and do nothing. I try to keep an active mind. I go to McDonald's every morning for a coffee club, with a group of peers. By the way, did you hear about the guy who was 105 years old? A television reporter asked, "What's the greatest thing about being 105?" The man answered, "No peer pressure."



Raising Awareness, Funds Attawapiskat Fundraiser

by Kristine MacDougall, Tillsonburg News



Imagine living in squalor and poverty.

Now imagine this in Canada's north, in winter with little or no heat, very little food and resources, and next to no help or support.

That's what the people of Attawapiskat Aboriginal Reserve near James Bay endured for several years. Recently, their poor living conditions were brought to the public, and subsequently, the media's attention.

Two Tillsonburg brothers are doing what they can to help raise both awareness and money for the housing crisis on an aboriginal reserve in devastated shape and dire need of help.

"We want to raise awareness about the poor housing (situation) on Attawapiskat reserve," said 18 year-old Stephen Malcolm. "We want to make sure that people know what these people are experiencing up there.

"Their houses were filled with black mold and the ground was polluted with diesel fuel."

The Glendale High School student decided to brave the winter elements and spend 48 hours in his parents' garden shed under conditions similar to what families on Attawapiskat live in.

"I don't mind the fact that it's colder today," he said. "It just makes it a better experience – a better knowledge of what it would be like to live there, in those conditions."

Stephen was joined by his younger brother Marcus, 16, some fellow **St. Marys (Ontario) Leo Club** members (a youth wing of the Lion's Club), friends, family and Wes Prankard, who made the trip to Tillsonburg Saturday from Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Malcolm first came across the idea for Camp Attawapiskat through Prankard's project and charity organization (www.northernstarfish.com), and wanted to re-create here in Tillsonburg, what Prankard is doing at the end of March break in Niagara Falls – camping out for 48 hours for Attawapiskat.

The 13 year-old from Niagara Falls learned of Stephen and Marcus Malcolm's efforts to help raise money for his cause and charity and came out to show his support Saturday for the Malcolm brothers.

He began the charity (www.northernstarfish.org) two years ago to help children living on reserves and in other northern communities in Canada, by building a playground in every community that doesn't have one. The first playground was built last August,

ironically, on Attawapiskat, just a few months prior to media reports of extreme poverty there.

The money raised by Malcolm and Prankard is targeted toward building two foster homes on Attawapiskat Reserve.

"These people are living in Ontario, and yet they're living in third world conditions," said Prankard.

"We heard that they were doing this, and we're just very thankful that they had decided to do something (about Attawapiskat)," he said. "We wanted to support

them and personally say thank you."

Prankard believes that youth of his age and older are the ones who need to have a voice when it comes to issues like the housing crisis on Attawapiskat.

"Kids are really taking a stand and

choosing to do something - and it's happening now," said Prankard. "This (campout in Tillsonburg) is a great example of it."

"Some people have turned a blind eye to this crisis and we want to show that there are people who care and who want to help," Malcolm agreed. "I just want to be one of them."

Stephen said he's received much support for the project from his friends and family, and said it's been a good learning experience.

"They're really glad to see it happen," said Malcolm. "It's a lot more work than first expected but I'm certainly appreciating the experience."

The message Malcolm wanted to share with the public about his 48-hour campout over the long weekend is to widen one's scope on the world.

"Some people get tunnel vision and they focus only on their life and maybe the community they live in," he said. "Help other people. We can all make a difference no matter how small - it all counts."

The Malcolm brothers' initiative raised \$440 locally, as of the end of the weekend. Those seeking to contribute to the effort are invited to go to Prankard's website www.northernstarfish.org.



From Team Ontario To Team Canada

During the week of February 6 – 10, 2012, The Canadian Vision Impaired Curling Championship was held at the Ottawa Curling Club in Ottawa. Eight teams from across Canada played throughout the week to determine this year's champion. Teams came from New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, as well as Team Canada, also from British Columbia. After round robin play, Team Canada advanced to the championship game with a perfect 7 – 0 record. Team Ontario with a 6 – 1 record (only loss to Team Canada) played Team Nova Scotia (4 – 3 record) in the semifinal. Team Ontario advanced to the Friday afternoon final with a 12 – 0 victory over Team Nova Scotia.

Team Ontario with a steal of 4 in the first end and steals of 2 in both the 2nd and 5th ends propelled themselves to a 11 – 3 victory over Team Canada.

Team Ontario curls out of the KW Granite Curling Club in Kitchener. Team members include skip Tim Prohazska (also from ICC), vice Norm Green, second/sweeper Carrie Speers, sweeper/second Doug Boucher, lead Dr. Jim Stephens, on ice guide Dan Prohazska (also from ICC) and coach Wendy Simpson. Voted to the First All Star Team were on ice guide Dan Prohazska and vice Norm Green. Voted to the Second All Star Team were skip Tim Prohazska and lead Dr. Jim Stephens. The All Stars would like to thank Carrie Speers, Doug Boucher for their tireless sweeping and Coach Wendy Simpson for continued words of encouragement which enabled the TEAM to play as well as they did.

Tim, Norm, Carrie, Doug, Dr. Jim, Dan and Wendy would like to thank our sponsors, family, friends and fellow curlers from the Ilderton and Kitchener-Waterloo area for all your support and contributions to the success of our TEAM this year.

Next year Team Ontario becomes Team Canada and will be defending their Championship at The 2013 Canadian Vision Impaired Championship.



Small Acts of Kindness

by Marsha Mercer, April 2012

Lions' service often is big and dramatic. We save lives through the measles initiative, save sight through screenings and save youth through Lions Quest. But more often our service is smaller and quieter, almost unnoticed. Yet the impact is no less meaningful. Lions save a house and the precious memories of an elderly mother. Or Lions read books and open minds, building bridges between people otherwise separate and often wary. Here are three wondrous ways clubs stepped into a gap and filled a hole that made lives richer and more complete.

Stay-At-Home Mom

Friends in Austin, Minnesota, helped Orin Sundal build the six-bedroom, tri-level home that he, his wife, Norene, and their four kids moved into in 1971.

Forty years later, new friends – Lions clubs members – are helping Norene Sundal, 88 and a widow, stay in the home she loves. Three clubs in Austin, a town of 24,718 in south-central Minnesota, joined together to spruce up the house with a fresh coat of cream-colored paint.

"It looks real nice now that the Lions painted it for me," says Sundal, a self-described perfectionist. "They even did the trim around the windows."

In 1969, Norene played violin in the community symphony orchestra she helped start, Orin worked in agricultural construction and the kids were in high school. They had outgrown their old house when they found a vacant lot on 19th Street. With house plans ordered from a magazine, Orin and his friends set to work.

A lot happens in 40 years. The kids grew up, moved out and started their own families. Orin Sundal died in 1997, and daughter Karen moved home to help her mom. Norene Sundal has eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Through it all, one constant remained. "It's home," Mrs. Sundal says. "I'm going to live to be a hundred and stay right here."

The **Austin Noon Lions Club** asked the local senior center to choose someone who needed help to keep living independently. "People in a small town like this have more of a focus on the community," says **Charles Mills**, president.

A paint store donated nine gallons of paint, a donut shop provided breakfast and a deli chipped in sandwiches for lunch, says **Jim Dunlop**, zone chairman. **Austin's Morning and Evening Lions clubs** joined the Noon Lions, and in just over a day, about 15 Lions caulked windows, repaired downspouts, scraped rust and painted.

"We're getting more and more people wanting to do things locally," Dunlop says.

Norene Sundal, who still works in her son's print shop five days a week, sent the Lions a thank-you card she designed herself on the computer. It began:

"Dear friendly Lions members! It's time to dance

and sing and say thank you for your wonderful gift of time and labor!"



Charles Mills of the Austin Noon Lions Club in Minnesota caulks a window at the home of Norene Sundal

Photo courtesy of Matt Peterson/The Austin Daily Herald

Book Buddies in Virginia

Lion Bill Henderson, who is 80 and a grandfather, climbs the stairs to the third floor of New London Academy in Forest and takes a seat in a big, double rocking chair.

A kindergartener crawls up, Henderson opens a picture book about an octopus, and Book Buddies begins.

"Most of us don't have children this young at home," Henderson, immediate past president, later says. "They're just learning their ABCs, and we point out small words like hat, cat, rat and bat. It's a lot of fun."

About 10 **Forest Lions Club** members volunteer in this second year of the program in central Virginia. For about 40 minutes each week, a Lion reads to two pupils in kindergarten or first grade.

Principal Tammy Parlier says the Lions are a blessing during these tough economic times. They're the only organized group that volunteers at the public school, which has 378 students and no male teachers.

A first-grade class ideally would have about 20 pupils, she says, but one first-grade class at New London ballooned last fall to 28.

"When they're one in 28, they have to wait their turn," she says. "We just don't have the time to do one-on-one."

George Mohrmann is president of Forest Lions. In his 21 years as an Army officer, Mohrmann saw young soldiers who were hampered by their lack of reading skills. Now he and his wife, **Cindy**, also a Lion, are helping children get off to a good reading start.

"My motivation is that in today's environment reading is essential," he says. "A student's ability to read is critical for their future."

Their young buddies' personal stories sometimes tug at Lions' heartstrings. Mohrmann recalls a boy he befriended last year who showed great promise.

"Then in April his family moved from their home

for economic reasons, and he had the difficult task of telling his classmates he wouldn't be there for the rest of the year," Mohrmann says. "The teachers were incredible. They tried to help the family stay, but it was too late. They moved away."

Book Buddies are so popular that all the kids want to spend time with them, reading specialist Mandy Simpson says, adding, "It's something special."



Frances Scott of the Forest Lions Club reads to a kindergarten student at New London Academy Elementary School

Mentors in Modesto

The fourth-grade boy in Modesto, California, was bright but withdrawn. In class, he'd put his jacket over his head and lay his head on his desk.

"He doesn't speak," the other kids said.

Rocio Flores-Solorio, instructional coach at Shackelford Elementary, paired the boy with a team of mentors from the **Modesto 500 Lions Club**. Twice a week at lunchtime, a Lion met one-on-one with the boy for about 30 minutes to read, look at maps or math problems, or just talk.

Modesto Lions are in their fourth year of volunteering with the Stanislaus County Employee Mentors Program. The club has adopted Shackelford, one of the district's lowest achieving schools. Its 600 students are mostly Hispanic English learners who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch.

"The attention gives the students self-esteem. It encourages them to do their studies," says Lion and mentor **Carol Shipley**, a county assistant district attorney.

Shipley knows well what can happen to a youngster who gets off on the wrong track in school. Modesto leads the nation in car theft, has gangs and is called the Meth Capital of the World.

"I do think [mentoring] helps," she says. "Any time you can give a kid an option in life, he'll usually choose the right one. If he doesn't know the option is out there, he'll go with his peers."

Lions provided Shackelford with \$700 in school clothes—white shirts and blue pants—and school supplies last fall. They give nearly 80 third-graders brand-new, hardback dictionaries every year and adopt families during the holidays.

"These are very busy people, and they make a sacrifice in coming," says principal Cecilia Franco-Ball. "At the end of the year, we have a celebration tea and always give them the data on how their students' scores have improved. They really do make a difference."

Keith Boggs, deputy executive officer for Stanislaus County, started the mentoring program in 1998.

"The number one statistic of improvement that we have seen over the years is attendance," he says. "Kids who are truant and struggling with structure start coming to school. That's half the battle."

And the fourth grader? He gradually came out of his shell.

"He's smiling. He's having friends," Flores-Solorio reports. "He's not a social bumblebee, but he is playing on the playground."



A Lion mentors a student at Shackelford Elementary School

University of Waterloo School of Optometry CAMPUS CLUB - OPEN MIC NIGHT

by Lion/Lioness Janet Dawson Brock

I recently attended a talent night sponsored by our Campus Club at The School of Optometry at the University of Waterloo. It was held in their lounge which they had transformed into a Concert Venue. The place was packed with about 125 students mostly from the School of Optometry.

I couldn't believe the talent that **Lion Ken Oliver** and I listened to. I was wishing the hall could have been packed with Lions, just to see what our Lion members did. They sold coffee (donated by Starbucks and Williams Coffee), made cakes and cookies, which they sold, had a great sound system, with lights around the stage (which was donated, but it didn't arrive) but that didn't bother them.

We had everything from classical music, a pianist playing Chinese music, to a rapper. One of the performers, John Smith, sang a song, "I Need My Girl", by the Nationals. I was so impressed with him, that I made my way over to speak to him. He was from Bathurst, New Brunswick and his family used to spend a lot of summer vacations in PEI (my home province). He volunteered that his grandfather was a Lion in New Brunswick. I asked if he was in the Campus Club and he said "no" as he was the Class President and that took a lot of his time but "maybe sometime in the future".

I spoke to **Lion Leah Thorpe** who has gone on a mission, sponsored by the Lions and said she would be willing to speak to any of our clubs.

All and all it was a star studded night, there are 360 students at one time in the Optometry Building and if all are as attentive as our audience was, they will turn out to be wonderful citizens.

Thank you to Lion Ken Oliver, (K-W Community Spirit Lions Club) who is their Liaison. They raised close to \$800.00 which will go towards a Sight Guide Dog. I wish the students continued success.



Back row (L to R): Chris Fitzpatrick, Andrea Lasby, Jeannette Pontierro, Shannon Pennifold, Rubanna Chowdhury, Sameer Dedhar, Carmen Dumalo, Janet Dawson Brock, Member of KW Community Spirit Lions Club attending talent night. Front(L to R): Kelly Lee, Kristel Jeffenes, Amanda Klassen. Missing; Juliane Watson, Ken Oliver, KW Community Lions Club Liason for Branch Club



Lions Quest Update



An Idea You Can Use – Oakville Principals Breakfast

On Friday February 24th the **Oakville Lions Club** invited all of the school principals from across their community for a breakfast meeting honouring their contribution to the community and focusing on a number of ways that Lions support youth connected to schools in their community. Past District Governor Bill Speck organized the event and the response to this breakfast exceeded his expectations.

Presentations were made by Halton Police Service Constable Mike Dinsmore in addition to other projects including the Air Cadets, Reaching Out for Kids Centre (ROCK), Burloak Canoe Club, and the Lions Foundation of Canada. Lions Quest School-Based Programs were featured prominently (of course!). If you are interested in connecting with PDG Bill to learn more about how he made this great event happen please contact **Joanne** and she will be happy to provide Bill's contact information.

Do Your Part! Community Workshops – MDA Applying for a Community Partnership Grant to Host Workshops

The Council of Governors of Multiple District A (Ontario) has approved a Community Partnership Grant Application to Lions Clubs International Foundation in support of hosting five of the Do Your Part! Community Workshops in the province. If you are interested in hosting one of these workshops in your community please contact **Joanne** to express your interest. If you live in another Multiple District and are interested in doing something similar in your area Joanne is also happy to help you prepare the application.

Hosting a **Do Your Part! Community Workshop** is a wonderful way to bring your community together and show your support of children and youth. You can invite any member of your community to the event who is involved in parenting, coaching, mentoring,

teaching, guiding and leading youth to build a positive approach and common language in your community.

Attention Bulletin Editors and Webmasters!

Please contact **Pat** if you require any images or would like an article or material to include in your publication or to post to the web. You are also welcome to utilize material posted on the **Lions Quest Canada - The Canadian Centre for Positive Youth Development Website**.

Be a Lions Quest Canada Champion Club Today!

Building on our success with the Champion Club program in Multiple District A which raised over \$68,000 in support of Lions Quest Canada last year, the Board of Directors are challenging every club in Canada to donate a minimum of \$250 to Lions Quest to become Lions Quest Champion Clubs. Each Champion Club will receive a banner patch and if a District raises at least \$5,000 it will be named a Champion District and the District Governor will receive a special patch and certificate celebrating this achievement.

For a donation of \$500 Lions Clubs can present a Lions Quest Canada Fellowship in addition to receiving a banner patch to show their support.

For a donation of \$1000 Lions Clubs can present two Lions Quest Canada Fellowships in addition to receiving an awards banner and banner patch to display with pride.

The time to act is now. As Lions, we can and must make a difference. Please send your donation to Lions Quest Canada, 427 Elgin Street North, Suite 1, Cambridge, Ontario N1R 8G4. (Do not send them to the District Treasurer as this can delay the process.)

*Your life is your message to the world.
Make sure it's inspiring!*

-Anonymous-



Filipino Girl Illustrates That Children Know Peace

For Trisha Co Reyes, a 13-year-old girl from the Philippines, peace begins at home. Her family's support has inspired her in everything she does, including spreading her message of peace in her neighborhood and worldwide. Sponsored by the **Manila Centennial Lions Club**, Trisha's peace poster advanced to the district, multiple district and international levels and was chosen as the grand prize winner of the 24th annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest with the theme "Children Know Peace."

"In my painting, the hidden child is me," Reyes says. "I hope I can make people see the important role children have in spreading peace throughout the world—make them see that we children are the future leaders."

Chosen for its originality, artistic merit and portrayal of this year's theme, Reyes' poster depicts "children from all over the world who have love, freedom, unity and peace." Reyes says that in addition to participating in the Peace Poster Contest, children can do their part to create a harmonious world by "studying hard and planting trees to save and protect Mother Earth."

As the grand prize winner, Reyes received US\$5,000 and a trip to a special awards ceremony at Lions Day with the United Nations in New York City. She was accompanied by her mother, sister and

sponsoring club **President Dennis Go**.

"I am very proud and excited for Trisha Reyes being this year's grand prize winner and I believe that she is destined to leave her mark in the world of art," Go says. "Through her poster, we see how children envision peace through their minds and this gives us hope for a brighter tomorrow."

Annually, more than 350,000 entries are drawn by children ages 11 to 13. In addition to the grand prize winner, each of the 23 merit award winners received certificates and US\$500. This year's merit award winners live in Brazil, China, Colombia, England, Guam, Iceland, India, Japan, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Romania, the Republic of South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States (Arizona, Connecticut, Georgia, Kansas, Minnesota, New Hampshire and North Carolina). The 24 finalists' posters will be featured prominently at the international convention in Busan, South Korea.

"Lions around the world believe in promoting peace and the importance of encouraging young people to think creatively," says International President Wing-Kun Tam.

LCI created the Peace Poster Contest 25 years ago to foster a spirit of peace and international understanding in young people worldwide. Since then, nearly 10 million boys and girls in more than 75

countries have shared their visions of peace with their classmates, families, friends and others. Whether this is their first time participating in the contest or their 25th, Lions can get involved by sponsoring the contest. Visit lionsclubs.org (search: Peace Poster).



See back cover for 24 years of Peace Posters



Lindsay Lions can Imagine the Future of healthcare at RMH

Contribution will benefit capital campaign for DI Redevelopment

From media release, Kim Coulter, Employee & Community Relations, Ross Memorial Hospital, kcoulter@rmh.org, 328-6246, Lindsay, February 13, 2012.

The Lindsay Lions Club has been a loyal supporter of the Ross Memorial Hospital since 1994, earning the club a "Patron" plaque on the hospital's Donor Recognition Wall.

Today, the Lions added another chapter to their story of support, with a generous contribution to the Imagine the Future campaign. Members presented Erin Coons, Executive Director of the RMH Foundation, with a cheque for \$2000. The funds were raised through the club's activities such as bingos and dances.

The club's gift will support the purchase of the new MRI, the 128-slice CT scanner and the redevelopment of the hospital's diagnostic imaging department. The new MRI and CT scanner are already operational and patients are being diagnosed and treated

for injuries and illness faster than ever before.

"It's something that's needed for Lindsay, so people don't have to travel to other areas for these important tests," said Ken Huelin, President of the Lindsay Lions Club.

This contribution brings the club's cumulative giving to the hospital to \$94,171.00.

"The Lions' commitment to the hospital is truly amazing," said Coons. "Through their involvement, the Lions are playing an important (part) in local healthcare. Their donations are making a difference to our patients. We can't thank them enough."



Shopping Spree in Grand Bend

A Shopping Spree was put on by the **West Coast Lions Club** at No Frills in Grand Bend, in April 2012.



Pictured from left to right: Diane Carson, President; Peter Bourgeois, George Jenkins, Norbert Meissener, Winner of Shopping Spree - Judy MacDonald, Jay Rahn No Frills, Agnes Voyer



Local Lions at Mother Nature's service

by Sarah Doktor, Simcoe Reformer, Sunday, April 22, 2012



WALSINGHAM - Last summer, the International President of the Lions Club, Wing-Kun Tam, challenged club members to plant a million trees to demonstrate the strength of their network.

Less than a year later Lions, Lionesses and Leos across the world have planted more than 8 million trees, far exceeding Tam's expectations.

"We like a challenge," said **Bradd Anderson**, Lions Club District A-2 Governor.

This weekend members from the local Lions Club and district A-2 joined together south of Walsingham in an effort to raise that number even higher.

"All together our intention is to plant 10,000," said **Paul DeCloet**, one of the event's organizers from the **Tillsonburg Lions Club**.

More than 100 members from nearly 46 clubs in the district braved the cold and rain to take part in the district event on Saturday.

"It's a very ambitious undertaking," said Kristyn Ferguson, conservation coordinator for the Ontario region with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC).

The Lions partnered with the NCC to plant the trees on land owned by the Nature Conservancy.

"Planting these trees will help restore this area to its natural habitat," said Ferguson.

Most recently the land was a farm, but historically it would have been a forest. Replenishing forest in Canada is important to purify water, stabilize soil, moderate climate and create a natural habitat for wildlife.

The Lions planted mainly white pine and red oak trees, which are native to the area.

Many Lions members brought their family to the event.

"It teaches the grandchildren some community responsibility," said **Ken Smith**, a **Vienna Lions Club** member.

Tillsonburg Lion **William Chanyi** also brought his grandson, Kuile Schoneveld, to the event. Kuile was working toward his 40 hours of community service required to graduate high school.

Other members spent the day joking around in the field.

"They seem enthusiastic about planting," said DeCloet, early in the day.

Several members from the **Dereham District Lions Club** could be heard mocking one another's planting abilities.

Fun and jokes aside, members from all of the clubs present worked long hours in the field toward their goal.

"It just reminds us of one of the aspects of Lions," said **Bob Townsend** of the **Simcoe Lynn Valley Lions Club**, noting the Lions are dedicated to the betterment of their community, which includes helping the visually impaired and the poor, but it also means improving the Earth, which is sometimes forgotten.

"The Earth doesn't write you a letter asking for a donation," said Townsend.

Don Caster and **Frank Van Leuvenhage** from the **Langton Lions Club** used teamwork to make the day go by faster. One dug and one filled the hole.

"It takes two of us. It goes faster that way," said Caster.

The day was rounded off by a free barbecue for members.

Scouts from the Lynn Valley area were also out planting trees in the Walsingham area on Saturday. Cubs, beavers and scouts planted 1,800 trees.



Anders and Teirrah Hammer planted trees with their grandfather, Bradd Anderson, governor of Lions Club District A-2, during the Lions Club tree-planting day on Apr. 21. Members from 46 Lions Clubs aimed to plant 10,000 trees on property south of Walsingham. (SARAH DOKTOR Simcoe Reformer)



Youth Making a Difference

Leos: A youth group wanting to make a difference



by Kristine MacDougall, Tillsonburg News

That's what you'll find in the **St. Marys Leo Club**, a youth wing of the well-known Lions Club, just north-west of Woodstock, Ontario.

Several Leo members from St. Marys were in Tillsonburg Saturday to show their support for fellow Leo members, Stephen and Marcus Malcolm, who were camping out for 48 hours to raise money and



awareness for the troubled aboriginal reserve in northern Ontario, Attawapiskat.

"I think it's good that this cause is being brought to light," said 16-year-old Shal Marriott of the St. Marys Leo Club.

She was joined by fellow Leo, 14-year-old Rebecca Partridge.

"We heard a lot about Wes Prankard and what he was doing, so we decided that we wanted to be a part of it (with Stephen and Marcus)," she said.

Partridge noted that it was important for young people like her to learn about some of the issues affecting Canada and do something about them.

"Stephen and Marcus have really shown that despite being young, you can really step up and help," she said.

As members of the Leos both Marriott and Partridge are very involved in the community and enjoy the

fellowship and friendships formed amongst members, as well as their contributions and ways they give back to society.

"Sometimes we team up with other Leo clubs from other communities," said Partridge, who has been a member for just over a year. "I think it's a good organization, and it's nice to get out there and help people."

Marriott has previously sat as a director, vice-president and president of the St. Marys Leo Club and as a member for the past several years, agreed with Partridge on the important role Leos can fulfill.

"It's given me a lot of hope for change," she said. "As a young person I often find that people disregard what we're capable of, but in 10 or 20 years, it's going to be us running the future," said Marriott. "This Leo organization helps us in becoming successful as future leaders."

Irish Hamlet Sees Double for a Day

by Jay Copp

Pushed in strollers, walking proudly side by side or striding fondly hand in hand, hundreds of twins paraded down the main street in Carrickmacross. The pairs looked alike and mostly dressed alike. Sponsored by Lions, the second annual Twins Festival in Ireland last summer brought together 252 sets of twins, triplets and even a set of quadruplets.



More than 250 sets of twins march in the parade



After all these years, brothers have no qualms about dressing alike

"I'm a twin myself, so I said let's go with a twin's parade. They thought I was mad in the head," said **Paddy Gologgly**, who was president of the **Carrickmacross Lions Club** in 2009 when he proposed the festival.



Paddy (right) and Jimmy Gologgly ride a bicycle built for two

Bringing together hundreds of twins in a quiet, quaint Irish town of 2,500 for a day made for a memorable spectacle. Up and down the aisles of stores were twins. Seated in restaurants were twins. Walking down streets were more identical siblings.

"It's magical seeing so many twins in one place. It brings a lump to your throat. All day in the town at



Brothers equally relish a sucker



Twins cool their heels, all four of them

every corner you'd see someone pushing a double pram [stroller]," says Gologgly.

Paddy and Jimmy, his twin, rode a tandem bike in the parade. That was just one of many of the festival's takes on twindom. The parade included a double decker bus and the twinning of pipe and brass bands. Merchants offered buy one, get one free discounts. For once, non-twins stood out. "Yes!" said **Andrew Spare**, club president, when asked if he felt like a minority. "Everywhere you looked there were twins."

Most of the twins were from Ireland, but on hand were siblings from England and Spain. The youngest twins at the festival were five-month-olds from Carrickmacross. The oldest were Frank and Jimmy O'Byrne, 84-year-olds from County Mayo, who, at their age, had perfected the art of being twins. "They seemed to answer in unison," marveled Spare.

Like other twins at the festival, the O'Byrnes confessed to fooling girlfriends or teachers as to who was who. "I had my face slapped a time or two," said Frank (or perhaps it was Jimmy). "Vice versa," said his brother.



The oldest twins at the festival hold the youngest



One cow is bigger than two twins

Twins also revealed their strategy for when friends mistake one for the other. "We respond to the other name. It's just too much trouble," said Vincent, a young man from London. Brother Jason agreed it's best to spare friends "the embarrassment."

Leading the parade, riding in a horse-drawn carriage, were two famous twins: Hassan and Hussein Benhaffaf. The 17-month-olds were conjoined until separated at a London hospital. To rousing cheers, their mother, Angie, promised to return when her boys learned to walk.

Angie also slyly downplayed her family's well-known medical ordeal: "I used to think I had double trouble. Until I came here," she said.



Sisters share a hug



Brothers pause for a photo

The club raised about \$14,000 from the festival for an Alzheimer's day care center.

The Carrickmacross area has about 30 sets of twins. A few weeks after the festival ended, that number climbed by one. "My daughter gave birth to a set of twins!" gushed Spare.



Twins from the Carrickmacross area pose for publicity photos prior to the festival



We Serve

Field of Dreams

Beep Baseball Allows the Blind to Compete and Have Fun

by Lauren Williamson



We Serve

The baseball once rocketed off the bat of Brian Christian, 38. The cracking sound ripped through the air, impressing big league scouts. These days he still puts on a uniform, still swings fiercely and makes solid contact, but it's a beeping noise that sounds after he pummels the ball.

A veteran of the first Gulf War, Christian lost his sight five years ago. He now plays for the Indianapolis RHI X-Treme baseball squad, part of the 23-team National Beep Baseball Association (NBBA). Like hundreds of other league players, blindness has not prevented Christian from playing the game he loves. He relishes the competition and the camaraderie.

Three Lions clubs – **Carmel, Indianapolis Washington Township** and **Indianapolis Franklin Township** – support Christian's team with volunteers, funding or both. Lions across the country similarly support other NBBA teams.

Thanks to Lions, the NBBA allows blind athletes of varying abilities to enjoy a game while building their confidence. Playing "makes you think, 'I belong out here. I can do things,'" Christian says.

Beep Basics

Lion Kevin Barrett of North Olmsted, Ohio, is the second vice president of the NBBA. He was born legally blind and first played beep baseball in the 1980s. He became a Lion in 1998. His club did fundraisers, collected glasses and performed other service projects to support the blind. "But they never interacted with those who are visually impaired personally," he says.

That changed. Today the **Broadview Heights Lions** serve as volunteers at the annual tournament of the NBBA's Cleveland Scrappers. They've also played a large role in the 2001 and 2006 NBBA World Series, both of which were held in the Cleveland suburbs. Lions raised money so teams could travel to the series. They helped players purchase uniforms and equipment. They also donned uniforms and gamely served as pitchers and catchers, roles filled by sighted players in beep baseball.

Since its origins in the 1960s, Beep baseball has evolved from a slow-moving game during which players were coddled to an intensely competitive sport that's just as fierce– if not more so–than traditional baseball.

The "beep" in beep baseball is literal. The balls emit a high-pitched, rhythmic squeal, creating a Doppler effect that lets players track the ball from pitch to bat. The pitcher plays for the same team as the batter. Both share the goal of connecting ball with bat. The pitcher aims precisely and calls out two commands, "ready" and "pitch," to help the batter make contact with the ball.

It's baseball with some necessary modifications. When the batter connects, either first base or third base



Brian Christian once again has a bat in his hand thanks to beep baseball

Photo by AJ Mast



Lions not only financially support beep baseball but also volunteer at the games



A batter takes a cut

buzzes. Whatever base buzzes is entirely random. The batter must quickly determine the correct base and run there.

A sighted spotter calls out a zone that alerts the outfielders to the ball's general location. If an outfielder grabs the ball, either by catching it or collecting it from the ground, the batter is out. If the batter successfully makes it to the base, however, he scores a run.

The game is not for the timid. Fielding balls is a whole-body sport. Bumps, bruises and scrapes are

routine, as defensive players often stop a drive by blocking it with their body so they can easily pick up the ball from the ground in front of them.

Beep baseball is a collaborative sport, requiring the participation of both visually impaired and sighted people. It's a sport that appeals to Lions, eager to not only help the blind but also interact with them.

The NBBA is mostly in the Midwest and South but also fields teams on both coasts and even one in Taiwan. Among its cities are Boston, Chicago, Austin, Texas, and Stockton, California. It takes a lot of volunteers and financial support to keep the league running, and Lions have been a critical component of the NBBA's success.

Comfortable on the Diamond

Christian played baseball growing up. He hit close to .500 in high school. He was good enough to merit a tryout with the Cincinnati Reds. Athletic and eager to continue with sports, he played on baseball and basketball teams while in the military. He served in the Navy from 1989-92 with active duty in Desert Storm in the Persian Gulf.

After his discharge, Christian worked as a landscape surveyor, a job that required the same precise vision as baseball. Then one day, at age 35, things started to change.

Like a sinister fog, cloudiness began to creep across Christian's line of vision, starting in his left eye and within months spreading to his right. He had developed Leber's hereditary optic neuropathy, a genetic disorder that causes rapid and permanent vision loss.

"When it comes into effect, it really starts quickly," Christian says.

Within months, he was legally blind. "I am not totally blind but it's like seeing through a fog," he says.

After learning he was losing his vision but before he began rehabilitation, he received more devastating news. One of his two daughters had bone cancer. Hannah, now 10, eventually lost her right leg but has been cancer free for two years.

Baseball has been an outlet for Christian. He can again play the game of his youth. Some of it has come easily while other parts of the game have been more difficult. Batting was relatively easy.

"You really develop a bond with the pitcher," he says. "As long as your swing is consistent, you're going to do really well."

Learning new defensive strategies has been a greater challenge for Christian than batting.

"My first reaction is to move, but you really have to focus with your hearing," he says.

Role of Lions

Beep baseball games present a multitude of opportunities for Lion involvement. Some sighted



As in regular baseball, close plays and a competitive spirit are a part of the game

Lions have even joined the teams, Barrett said, since spotters and pitchers must all be able to see. Many of the Beep umpires are Lions.

"It brings the sighted and the blind together to make this all possible," Barrett says.

One of the biggest hurdles for players is funding travel for games. Since the 23 teams are spread across the country, most competitive play requires financial support for transportation and lodging.

Without the Lions' assistance, Christian said much of what the NBBA does wouldn't be possible. "We are indebted to all the men and women who take the time and effort to support us," Christian says. "We can never thank them enough, so we'll keep saying it."

In many cases, the relationship between Lions and the Beep teams becomes symbiotic: as Lions clubs volunteer with Beep baseball teams, they frequently gain new members from among the players.

The Broadview Heights Lions and Cleveland Scrappers players have also joined together in service projects that raise awareness of visual impairments. In 2010, the groups participated in a disability awareness week at a school in Bay Village, Ohio.

The NBBA demonstrated Beep baseball in the gym, giving kids the opportunity to try the game themselves by putting on blindfolds.

A mother of two children with disabilities organized the week, and Barrett said seeing the Scrappers in action gave her tremendous hope for the future of her own children.

"Parents of special needs youths worry about what they're going to do when they're gone," he says. "To see these guys functioning and working as productive citizens is itself a big boost."

Christian said the RHI X-Treme prioritize similar service projects that raise awareness for visual impairment and other disabilities.

"It's the best thing we can do in life—we've got to volunteer and help wherever we can," he says.

Barrett went to the Lions' International Convention in Seattle in 2011 to begin educating a wider swath of Lions about the opportunities for service within the NBBA.

"As we network, more Lions are becoming involved, and we're trying to pitch in every way we can," Barrett says. "It can be very rewarding."

Another goal is to expand Beep into more parts of the country, as well as abroad.

Perhaps the greatest gift of the NBBA is the way it changes ideas about blindness, both within the sighted community and among the visually impaired players themselves.

"It's opening up a whole new world of possibilities," Barrett says. "Who would have dreamt that attitudes would have changed so that [the visually impaired] would dive on a ball and bruise their body, maybe skin their knees? People have started to see we shouldn't limit their potential and their choices to enjoy life."

Christian and his team competed intensely in the NBBA World Series in August 2011 in his hometown of Indianapolis.

The RHI X-Treme were downtrodden, he said, after being knocked out in the second game. The series wasn't over for them, though. They had to rally and play again in a game that would determine their seeding in the 2012 World Series in Ames, Iowa.

"We knew deep down we had to win that game," Christian says.

And they did, beating the Colorado Storm 16-15 and earning the top seed for the 2012 World Series.

It's those types of victories, along with the camaraderie the teams build throughout the season, that give NBBA players a special confidence in their lives.

Barrett said one member of the Cleveland Scrappers was initially so devastated by the loss of his sight as an adult that he refused to leave his apartment. Another player convinced him to come to a game by promising to meet him in his building's lobby and escort him to the field. Eventually he started getting as far as the bus stop on his own.

"Within a couple of years he was able to get to the field all by himself," Barrett says. "Baseball got him to do that."



'There's Still Hope'

Camp in Kentucky Caters to Kids Affected by HIV/AIDS

by Katya Cengel



Nehemiah Santiago was doing fine his first day at overnight camp—until his mother left. Then the five-year-old bolted for the door. Devon Boxx blocked his exit. A huge bear of a man with a booming voice, Boxx spoke quietly to Nehemiah and convinced him to stick around. As they headed to lunch a few minutes later, Boxx, a 22-year-old counselor at Camp Heart to Heart, presented Nehemiah with a whistle.

"I need a right hand man," said Boxx.

Nehemiah agreed he could be that, and the pair headed to the cafeteria together.

It won't always be so easy. Nehemiah is at Camp Heart to Heart because his mother's roommate has HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. The camp, located on 185 acres about 25 miles south of Louisville, Kentucky, serves children between the ages of 5 and 12 from Kentucky and nearby states who are infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS. It is one of three free camps run by **Lions Camp Crescendo, Inc.**, a nonprofit founded by a group of Kentucky Lions who purchased the camp facility, also called Lions Camp Crescendo, in 1996.

Nehemiah may be too young to understand all this, but Boxx isn't. Tattooed across his stomach are the words "Fight AIDS" and the name of his mother. Boxx was 15 when he got his first tattoo, a memorial to his father, who died of AIDS and cancer in 1993. His mother died three years ago. Boxx was 8 when she told him she had HIV and 12 when he attended Camp Heart to Heart for the first time. His journey into

adulthood hasn't been easy, but he hopes the campers can learn from his example.

"Just because you go through something that's bigger, there's still hope. You can still be who you are, who you want to be," says Boxx, who is studying social work at Kentucky State University.

The majority of the campers, about 90 percent, are like Boxx, affected by HIV/AIDS. The others are infected. Camp Director Daniel Coe falls in the second category. He got involved with Camp Heart to Heart so parents wouldn't feel as alone as he did as an HIV-positive parent in the 1990s. Only a few staff members know which campers are infected and which are affected. Even those campers who are infected don't always know why they are at camp. There is still a stigma attached to the disease and families often prefer to keep their status secret, says **Billie Flannery**, administrator of Lions Camp Crescendo.

Flannery acknowledged people can sometimes be closed minded. But she'll have none of that. When a cook at the complex tried to convince her not to hold Camp Heart to Heart, Flannery told the cook she didn't



Counselor Devon Boxx, 22, leads Nehemiah to lunch

have to work the camp. The cook quit, and Flannery held the camp.

"I just don't see anything wrong with having a disability," she says.

When she was young her father lost a leg and four fingers in a distillery accident but he still managed to raise seven children and run a radio and television repair business. Flannery seems to have inherited his perseverance. Decades ago when she wasn't welcomed at her husband Don's all-male Lions club, she found another club that would take her. She has been a member of the **Frankfort Lions Club** ever since.



Samantha Roy, 12, fishing

In 1996 when a group of Kentucky Lions bought the camp facility to house a blind and deaf camp, Flannery agreed to administer it for the summer—and never left. In 1999 she helped Beth Eberenz found Camp Heart to Heart.

Eberenz's father, **Tom Welker**, had been an active Lion. He served as president of **Fern Creek Lions Club** in 1974, governor of District 43-N in 1982 and was inducted into the Kentucky Lions Hall of Fame in 1992. He also volunteered at a Kentucky summer camp. When he died, Eberenz, who worked for Louisville AIDS Walk, decided founding Camp Heart to Heart would be the perfect way to honor him.

"I just wanted to continue his name at Crescendo, and I thought by dedicating this camp to him that would kind of keep his spirit alive there. I think it has," Eberenz says.

The first year there were 14 children. This past year there were 68 children and 67 counselors and support staff including a full-time nurse. Most of the children come from families that live below the poverty level and would otherwise be unable to afford camp, says Coe. The entire one-week camp costs only about \$13,000. The counselors and most staff are volunteers. Expenses such as food, insurance and electricity are paid for by grants and donations, many of the latter coming from individual Lions.

But Lions and their younger counterparts provide more than just monetary contributions. This year two local Leos served as counselors and **Lexington South Lions Club** member **John Picklesimer** and his wife, Mary Ann, gave handmade quilts to first-time campers. John has been a part of Lions Camp Crescendo since day one so it was only natural that when his wife started making quilts for children with HIV/AIDS in Africa she ended up delivering them closer to home.

This year the Picklesimers brought 54 quilts for 30 new campers so that each child would have plenty of options. Niasha Sawyers, 17, was positive her little

brother, Nehemiah Ouldeldhadj, would choose a quilt with cars on it. But the 6-year-old was drawn to a red quilt covered with dogs, not unlike the canine quilt his sister chose six years ago when she began attending camp. Niasha, who is now a counselor, learned her mother had HIV when she was 11.

"At first I didn't know what to think," she says. "I still love her just the same."

That night her brother lost his first tooth, and the counselors spread the word to put money under his pillow. In the morning he found \$16. The staff do all they can to make up for what campers may lack in material goods and childhood experiences.

"They're having to grow up faster than they should have to," says Coe, the camp director. "So we've given them a chance to just be a child for a week."

It's a chance to have what Audra Grogg, assistant camp director, calls a "normal" camp experience with arts and crafts, fishing, swimming, a talent show and dance.

Like most of the kids, 12-year-old Shane Soto's favorite activity is swimming. His father, Jose, who is HIV positive, considers camp a chance for Shane "to get away from the inner city" of Louisville and get to know other children who have affected family members. Shane said he doesn't talk about his father's illness or even notice it.

But at Camp Heart to Heart the reality of HIV/AIDS is hard to avoid. This summer Coe missed camp after becoming ill and ending up in the hospital. In 13 years at least two former campers have died of AIDS-related illnesses.

It scares counselor Haleigh Dawson to think some of the campers she is close with may also be at risk.

"We don't know which kids here have the virus, and so you know it could be any of them. It could be any of their moms, their dads," says Dawson.

For 16-year-old Dawson it was a great uncle. For counselor Colleen, 18, it is her parents—and herself. Colleen has been coming to camp from her home in Nashville, Tennessee, since she was 11. It is the one place where she feels normal. When she heads to college, she plans to pack the quilt she was given her first summer at camp. If anyone asks about it she will tell them about Camp Heart to Heart. She probably won't tell them about her family. Outside of camp and her family she has told only one person.

"I don't want people to judge me or feel sorry for me or anything like that," Colleen says, "because it's just something I have to live with."



Counselor Colleen, 18, comforts Jada Wharton, 6

Coboconk & District Lions Club

Lions Gayle Munro, Pres. **Ted Stone** and **Pauline Barber** display a Certificate of Appreciation from Lindsay Ross Memorial Hospital to the Coboconk & District Lions Club for their participation in Tag Day.

The fundraiser was for a new MRI machine.

submitted by Lion Pauline Barber



Easter Egg Hunt

On Friday April 6, 2012 (Good Friday) over 400 children attended the **Petrolia & District Lions** Annual Easter Egg Hunt in Petrolia, Ontario. Children from 0 to 8 years old came from all over to find Easter Eggs provided by the Petrolia Lions.

submitted by Lion M.B. Wilson



Lions Camp Dorset

by Lion Bob Rutter

Until I was given the opportunity to visit Lions Camp Dorset in 2008, I had never heard of the work done at the camp to help families struggling with kidney failure and the persistent need for dialysis.

It was an eye-opener since at the time I was not a Lion. The opportunity to see how Lions take action to address a demonstrated community need opened the door for me to become a Lion and to make my own contribution.

Each and every one of the dialysis patients and their families who visit Camp Dorset each year – and there were approximately 929 patients, family & friends that stayed at the camp last year – are universal in their praise for its service, its attention to detail and need in the accommodation offered and for the dedication of the camp employees and the medical staff.

There's an unstated reality among dialysis patients that most people without serious health difficulties often don't grasp or truly understand: each dialysis treatment we receive allows us the privilege of living for another two or three days. That places a limit on us physically and also psychologically about our ability to have a "normal" lifestyle.

And while we are grateful for the treatments that prolong life, there remains always a desire to be again normal like all those around us who are part of our everyday life.

That's what makes Camp Dorset so important to this rapidly growing segment of health care. Being tied to a hemodialysis machine whether located at a clinic or one located at home for a minimum of three times a week restricts every detail of normal family life whether it is for employment, for social activities or for travel.

Camp Dorset offers at the very least a chance for those of us on dialysis to achieve an opportunity to be normal once again. It offers a chance to live life to the fullest, just like those of our family, friends and neighbors.

By being partnered with the Kidney Foundation of Canada, Camp Dorset allows patients, young and old, well-off or of modest means to have a vacation they might not otherwise be able to enjoy. And because the camp is licensed as an independent health care facility, treatments are seamless with our local renal centre and covered by OHIP.

The camp's location within easy commute from the Greater Toronto Area but yet situated within the lakes and forests of cottage-country Ontario takes us back to a simpler time when family social activities had greater meaning. For that one week period we spend at the camp, dialysis patients from each of Ontario's renal clinic centres recapture delight and happiness in the simplicity of a family vacation.

And being close to such area attractions as Algonquin Park or the Dorset Fire Tower, we can easily explore the wilderness wonders of Ontario while

also taking advantage of the summer activities offered at the camp. From organized activities like bingo night or movie night, a trip to Henrietta's Bakery in nearby Dwight or having an outdoor barbecue, an evening campfire or the opportunity to swim or to fish on Deer Lake, or to hike a nature trail, Camp Dorset has it all.

In 1972, the Lions Club in Hamilton East was very prescient when it identified a need among two local families for a respite from the pressures of dealing with dialysis.



Bonfire sing-a-long

From that first venture offering a vacation in the Parry Sound area in rented accommodation, we have today the Camp Dorset Corporation that oversees a facility that last year offered over 850 dialysis treatments to 311 hemodialysis patients in a modern medical centre which can treat 32 patients each day.



Dialysis is provided on-site

But it almost did not happen. It was by chance that **Lion Sandy Ailles** of **Dorset Lions Club** met **Lion Herb Walpole** of **Hamilton East Lions Club** at the 1974 International Lions Convention. Together they began the campaign that rallied Lions, Lioness, Leos and others who raised funds and helped construct the original facilities.



Activities for all ages

Today, the Camp Dorset Corporation with the support of the Lions family and the Kidney Foundation of Ontario, the 50-acre camp has a modern medical centre and provides accommodation in 14 three-

bedroom cottages, 15 efficiency units and six trailer sites equipped with sewer, hydro and water hook-ups. That's a far cry from the first three cottages constructed in 1978 and dialysis services performed in a converted school bus.

All this is maintained through the generosity and support of Lion, Leo and Lioness members throughout Ontario who help open the camp each spring and do much of the needed repairs and sprucing up.

The history of Camp Dorset's beginning, and its subsequent development as the only camp of its kind in Canada for dialysis patients, is a testament to the Lions motto: "We Serve". It represents a clear example of what Lions are all about – working together for the common good.

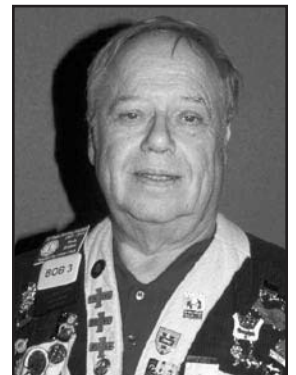
That fellowship of unity was evident again in the past year when Lions joined with dialysis patients, their families and members of the greater Ontario community to win \$100,000 in the Pepsi Refresh Everything Contest to help replace the medical centre's aging dialysis machines.

The success of the campaign to come to the aid of Camp Dorset was overwhelming. And it was truly successful because the cost to replace 20 dialysis machines was met through a desire and a commitment by all those who took part to win the Pepsi contest and to seek out donations to support the work of the camp.

Now, as Camp Dorset continues to operate well into its third decade, it faces a greater demand for its services. The Kidney Foundation suggests the number of patients with renal failure will more than double in the next five years. The reason for the growing increase can be stated in one word: diabetes. There is a growing epidemic of diabetes in Canada today and the reality is that nearly 40 per cent of all dialysis patients require treatment because of diabetes.

This year the theme for Lions International President Wing-Kun Tam is "I Believe". I believe that the future of Camp Dorset is in good hands, administered by an able staff and a volunteer board of directors whose vision reflects the Lions goal of identifying need and finding solutions. I believe Lions Clubs throughout Ontario will continue to support Camp Dorset's worthwhile goals and objectives. In that way, each of us who are proud to be Lions can meet our own personal goals of serving for others.

Lion Bob Rutter is a member of the Guelph Royal City Lions Club which he joined after attending Camp Dorset as a guest in 2008.



Coldwater Lions Move The Curling Rocks



Yes it is that time of the year when the crack of curling stones echoes

throughout the Coldwater Curling Club. day there was much kidding and joking between the teams. This light atmosphere finished with each curler leaving the event with a significant prize no matter what their curling expertise. Food and refreshments were available throughout the day culminating with an excellent dinner.

Over the day approximately \$4700 was raised from the curling event and related activities. The Lions Club members have decided to donate approximately 50% of the money received to the children's diabetes summer camp at Camp Huronda and the Coldwater minor sports associations. It is anticipated that further donations will be forthcoming to various Coldwater children's activities.

The main objective of the dedicated group of Coldwater Lions is the support of the local community in whatever way possible. Events like this bonspiel make this support a reality.

Local businesses and individuals kindly supported the event through donations of money, prizes and food. This assistance greatly enhanced the overall bonspiel.

The Coldwater Lions are already planning the 2013 bonspiel and are looking forward to another successful event.

Submitted by Lion Douglas Binns

throughout the Coldwater Curling Club.

On February 4, 2012 the Coldwater Lions Club held their 11th annual curling bonspiel. This event is held for the sole purpose of raising funds to support local community organizations.

Sixteen curling teams from Coldwater and surrounding areas participated this year and the organizers were adamant that this event must be enjoyable for all. This appeared to be the case as all

Lions donate hand-crafted items

Lion Paul DeCloet (centre) is pictured with **Long Point Lions Bert Bloomfield** (left) and **Peter Brenner** (right). Lion Paul is A-2 Tree Project Chairman. The items pictured are hand-crafted by Lions Bert and Peter from Norfolk County Sassafras donated by Lion Paul from his wood lot. These items as well as others were offered up for silent auction at the Friendship Convention March 31, 2012.



Lindsay Lions Plant 400 Trees along the Trans-Canada Trail

Lions International President Dr. Wing-Kun Tam's goal for the Lions' year was to plant one million trees around the world. Sponsored by the Lindsay Lions Club, 400 trees were planted Saturday April 21st along the Trans-Canada Trail in the Reaboro area.

The trees were planted by members of the Lindsay Lions Club with the assistance of members of the Kawartha Trans-Canada Trail "Reaboro Residents" Managing Partners and the Victoria Stewardship Council.

To date so far over eight million trees have been planted around the world however, only about 29,000 have been reported being planted in Canada.



MDA Directory Information

Council of Governors' Meeting Dates

- Council Meeting: June 1, 2012 – Niagara Falls, ON

District Conventions

Dist	Location	Date
A1	Leamington, Pele Motor Inn	April 13 - 15, 2012
A3	Kingston, Ambassador	April 13 - 15, 2012
A4	Ottawa, Hampton Inn	April 13 - 15, 2012
A5	Sault Ste Marie, Comfort Inn	April 20 - 22, 2012
A711	Toronto, Holiday Inn Select	April 27 - 29, 2012
A9	Goderich	May 4 - 6, 2012
A12	Huntsville, Deerhurst Resort	April 20 - 22, 2012
A15	Kitchener, Holiday Inn	April 27 - 29, 2012
A16	Haliburton, Pinestone Inn & Conference Centre	April 27 - 29, 2012

IMPORTANT DATES

MDA Convention

2011/12	Niagara Falls	May 31 - June 3, 2012
2012/13	Toronto	May 30 - June 2 2013
2013-14	To Be Announced	

International Conventions

95th	Busan, Korea	June 22 - 26, 2012
96th	Hamburg, Germany	July 5 - 9, 2013
97th	Toronto, Canada	July 4 - 8, 2014
98th	Honolulu, Hawaii	June 26 - 30, 2015
99th	Fukuoka, Japan	June 24 - 28, 2016
100th	Chicago Illinois, USA	June 30 - July 4, 2017

USA - Canada Forum

Sept. 2012	Tampa Bay, FL
Sept. 2013	Overland Park, Kansas
Sept. 2014	Puerto Rico

Elvis rocks Gloucester Lions Hall

The Gloucester Lions played host to Elvis tribute artist Sylvain "Elvis" Simard on Feb. 17 to raise funds for the Greenboro Pavilion Food Bank. Elvis sang to a full house at the Fred G. Barrett Arena Lion's Hall helping to raise \$1,600 for the local food bank.

Photo by Theresa Whalen



Lindsay Lions Club

Several members of the Lindsay Lions Club attended Camp Dorset to take part in the Mini-golf tournament. For the third year in a row a member from the Lindsay Lions Club has won the Hole-in-One competition, this year it was **Lion Bob Carrol** on the left of the picture.



Blyth Lions Club

Three Blyth Lions Club members have a combined total of 125 years of Perfect Attendance. (left to right) **PDDG Chas Shaw** - 50 years; **PDG John Stewart** - 35 years; **Lion Gord Jenkins** - 40 years.



Morrisburg and District Lions Club

Members of the Morrisburg and District Lions Club and their families wrapping gifts for the Angel Tree, a Holiday project the Club organizes and co-ordinates annually to ensure every child in the community has a gift to open on Christmas morning. This initiative is an integral part of the South Dundas Christmas Exchange program.



Marmora Crowe Valley Lions

Marmora Crowe Valley Lions conducted Vision/Hearing Screening in Madoc Public School and Madoc Township School in March.



Vision/Hearing Chair of Marmora Crowe Valley Lions Jeannette Goodchild is with her grand niece Eva at Madoc Public School



Back row: Lions Charles Murchison, Alvine Murchison, Chair Jeannette Goodchild; Front row: Lions Barbara Fisher, Wendy McCoy, Russ Mitchell

Foxboro and District Lions

President, **Lion Laraine Warren** of Foxboro and District Lions is shown working with her Lions Foundation of Canada DogGuide foster puppy, 9 month old Golden Retriever, Hudson. She proudly attended Hudson's graduation in Oakville in November 2011. Hudson is now a working Seizure Response Dog living in Winnipeg with his "forever" person, Crystal. Lion Laraine is now fostering her 3rd puppy for the Foundation, a black Flat Coat Retriever named Fenton.



Lakefield Lions

Photo was taken at Lakefield Lions 2011 sellout Lobsterfest & Show. They are again holding the event June 9th at Lakefield's Isabel Morris Park under the 'Create Shade Party Tent'. Lobster dinner is 4 till 7 and a show featuring 'Agony Chorus' is 7:30 till 10:30. Cutoff date is May 25th. Funds raised will help pay off \$25,000 donation to Peterborough Regional Health Centre's new Cancer Bunker being built.

Submitted by Lion Wilma Bush



Omeme Sweetheart Bonspiel

Richmond Hill Lions Clare Greenfield & Hugh Adams, Yagnesh Rajani & his father **Lion Kamal Rajani** had a great time at the Annual Omeme Sweetheart Bonspiel. Looks like Lion Clare is keeping the steaks for himself.



Gloucester Lions Club

The Gloucester Lions Club at a recent meeting was pleased to invite Lt. Col. Gilles Sansterre, Chair of the Military Police Fund For Blind Children (MPFBC) and Regional Representative Maj. Mike Motyl to speak on the history and objectives of the Fund. The

speakers explained how the Fund was founded in 1957 and that it specializes in assisting visually impaired children up to the age of 21. The Fund is operated entirely by Military Police volunteers and has no paid employees. The dinner meeting was mutually beneficial to both organizations and future discussions are anticipated



MD "A" Lions Resource Centre Website

The "MD 'A' Lions Resource Centre" website is available for your use. Its goal is to provide a "one-stop-shopping" website for Lions resources, ideas and tools in all aspects of Lionism, including recruiting new members, keeping the members we already have, revitalizing clubs, fundraising ideas and club and district operations.

The MD 'A' "Lions Resource Centre" website may be viewed by going to the MD 'A' website at www.mdalions.org and clicking on "**Lions Resource Centre**" on the left side of the page.

HOW TO GET INTO THE LION Contact your District Reporter

We have appointed District Reporters for the Lion Magazine. Their job is to assist the Magazine Editor and you the Lions. Their job is to collect new photos with stories, anything that you would like to submit to the Magazine for consideration. Please be aware anything for the Magazine should now go to the District Reporter in your District as follows:

Please remember when sending your articles to your Reporter to indicate if it is for the Governors District Newsletter of the Lion Magazine.

Lion John Daniels, Editor Lion Magazine email: mdathelionmag@hotmail.com

- | | | |
|-----------|---------------------|---|
| A1 | Lion Shawn Davison | email: shawnwd@yahoo.com |
| A2 | Lion Wayne Scott | email: w.scott@a2lions.org |
| A3 | Lion Wilma Bush | email: wilma.bush@sympatico.ca |
| A4 | Lion Sandra Baldwin | email: slbaldwin@rogers.com |
| A5 | Lion Julia Moore | email: juliagilbert@explornet.ca |

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

District Reporters

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|---|
| A711 | | |
| A9 | Lion Al Leach PDG | email: adleach@hotmail.com |
| A12 | Lion Nick Poulakis | email: nixter@rockinbird.com |
| A15 | Lion Tracy Brant | email: branttron@quadro.net |
| A16 | Lion Judie Schell | email: jaschell@kawartha.net |

MOVING SOON?

To ensure that the next MD "A" Lion magazine reaches your new residence, please complete this form and MAIL ENTIRE FORM TO:

Circulation Manager, LION Magazine

300 W 22nd Street

Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842

or e-mail your information to: stats@lionsclubs.org

**Attach Your Address Label or
Print Your Old Address Here:**

(include all code numbers)

New address will be (Please Print):

Name (print): _____

New Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____ PC: _____

Club #: _____ Member #: _____

Date of Change: _____

**WE AT THE LION CANNOT CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS,
PLEASE CONTACT YOUR CLUB SECRETARY**

THE
Lion
CLASSIFIEDS

RATES: \$1.50 per word. Minimum 10 words. Boxed ads are \$2.50 extra per ad. Prepayment requested. All copy is set in standard typography. We do not furnish box numbers.

Submit ads to

mdathelionmag@hotmail.com

or mail to

**Lion Classifieds/John Daniels
100 Myers Rd.
Cambridge, ON N1R 2Z8**

You may advertise items for sale, cottages or condos to rent, upcoming events held by your club, etc.



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Delaware Lions Club

Charter President Lion Ross Jackson

Receives his Lions Clubs International "LIFE MEMBERSHIP".

Delaware Lions celebrated with **Lion Ross Jackson** and his wife Marg as they presented him with an LCI "LIFE MEMBERSHIP". Lion Ross served as Charter President of the Delaware Lions Club 1971-1972. Through his leadership and personal contributions for more than 41 years, Lion Ross has been a major factor in the success of the Delaware Lions Club and its Members. From initiating the formation of the Club, through his leadership and his endless contributions to

his Club's activities and projects, major and minor, Lion Ross has served his community as a true LION.



A lifetime of service

Lion Laverne Gibson, born in 1919, is still a member of **Millbrook and District Lions Club** at the age of 93.

Submitted by Lion Wilma Bush



Peace Poster Contest in its 25th year



LCI created the Peace Poster Contest 25 years ago to foster a spirit of peace and international understanding in young people worldwide. Since then, nearly 10 million boys and girls in more than 75 countries have shared their visions of peace with their classmates, families, friends and others. Whether this is their first time participating in the contest or their 25th, Lions can get involved by sponsoring the contest. Visit lionsclubs.org (search: Peace Poster).



1989



1990



1991



1992



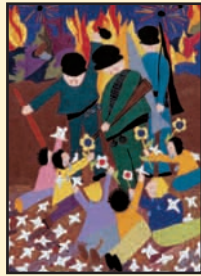
1993



1998



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2004



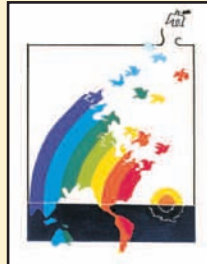
2008



2003



2011



2002



2006



2005



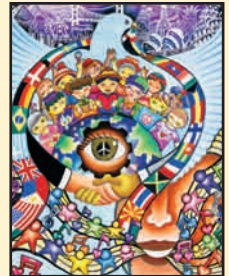
2009



2007



2010



2012

Agreement Number is:
41805020*

