

LION



M.D. "A" Edition May/June 2014

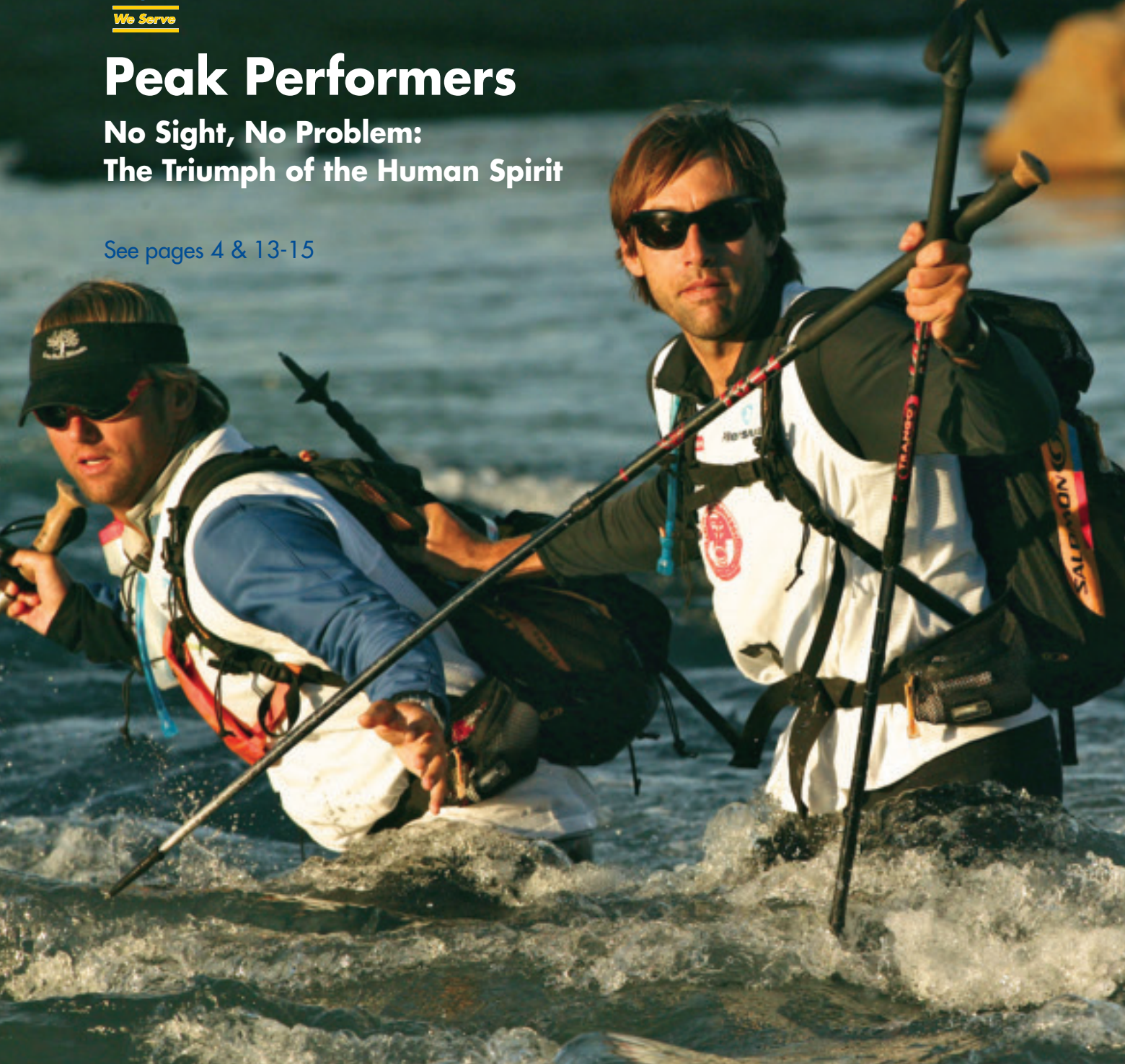
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Strathroy Lions Celebrate 90th Anniversary

The day consisted of an "Open House" in the afternoon, with many area Lions and others in attendance. In the evening a nice dinner was held, for members and Partners in Service.

Strathroy is the 3rd oldest Club in A-1 and the 10th oldest in Canada.



(L-R) Don Windsor (Rico Foods), Doug Hill (Cuddy Farms), Pres. Larry McKillop, ZC Don Geddy. Both Don and Doug and the Companies they represent are strong supporters of Lions in Strathroy and were presented plaques for their efforts



(L-R) Lion Mark Iggulden with Founders Award from Leader Dog, Lion Rob Dack with Melvin Jones Award, Lion Dorley Clark with Helen Keller Award, Lion Jules Nagy with Helen Keller Award, Lion Don Waltham with Melvin Jones Award



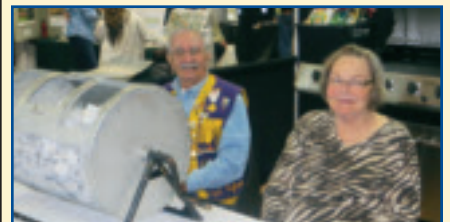
President Larry McKillop receives a plaque from DG Bob Tanner

April in Bayfield



Bayfield Lions President, Lion Larry Simpson received a Melvin Jones Fellowship award presented by District Governor Elect Tim DeBlock.

We also held our 17th annual Bayfield Lions Home and Garden Show. Shown below are Lion Lloyd and his wife Lois looking after the door prize drum.



THE Lion



We Serve

On the cover:
45-year old adventurer Erik Weihenmayer has not let his blindness prevent him from tackling things even sighted people avoid. Read more about Erik and other 'Visionaries' on pages 13-15.

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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The LION Magazine, official publication of Lions Clubs International, is published by authority of the board of directors in 20 languages - English, Spanish, Japanese, French, Swedish, Italian, German, Finnish, Korean, Portuguese, Dutch, Danish, Chinese, Norwegian, Icelandic, Turkish, Greek, Hindi, Indonesian and Thai.

Management Committee Lion Magazine
John Stewart PDG
Jack Fisher



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Barry J. Palmer
Lions Clubs International
President

including the mighty Mount Everest. **In fact, he was the first blind person to summit Everest.**

The cool thing about Erik is that he shares his gifts. He works with blind skiers, wounded veterans and abandoned children so that they, too, can leap over

Dream It and Then Do It

Erik Weihenmayer always has looked like the boy next door. He has an open face, a flop of hair and a ready smile. But a fire burned inside him: he didn't move mountains but he did climb them. He's scaled the tallest peak on the seven continents

barriers and gain the self-esteem and confidence that comes with great or daring feats.

In this issue we examine the remarkable lives of five people who are blind. Their disability does not define them. **What does define them is their courage, persistence and capabilities.** And their ability to follow their dreams.

This year I have urged Lions to Follow Your Dream. We can do so much more than we realize. *We can serve much more remarkably and wonderfully than we do.* I've seen it myself in my travels. On an incredible scale and in creative ways, Lions are enabling the blind, feeding the hungry and attending to victims of disasters. **Anne and I have been given a great gift this year: we've seen with our own eyes the scope and reach of Lions.**

I know that nearly every Lion serves admirably, giving of his or her time and talents. I appreciate and respect all you do. But perhaps you are climbing a hill and you can actually scale a mountain or two. *Go for the summit!* Follow Your Dream into the clouds and beyond where the sun shines with goodness and light and Lions are turning around lives forever.

Barry J. Palmer
Your Lions Clubs International President

We Dreamed and We Achieved

Earlier this year I met in India a hearty group of people who climb mountains, cross rivers, raft through rapids and face wild elephants. They take on these challenges to prove to themselves that limits and barriers exist often only in the mind. *Lions generously support this inspiring program for those with physical disabilities.*

As I traveled the world as international president I was similarly inspired by Lions' programs and projects that feed the hungry, give sight to the blind and teach youths responsibility. I urged Lions to Follow Your Dream this year. It's been humbling to fully realize and see for myself that Lions have been achieving dreams in innumerable ways and places year after year. **I hope my voice of encouragement aroused into action even more dreamers and motivated engaged Lions to keep moving ahead past new milestones and**

toward new dreams.

As my presidency winds down I realize more than ever the importance of dreams and the exalted role of Lions in serving our communities. We Lions are not made for ordinary stuff. Too often we encounter in society a "me-first" mentality. In the Lions kingdom others come first. **In our world, dreams become reality, and dreamers triumph over cynics, naysayers and pessimists.**

My best advice is to keep carrying on. *Our formula has worked for nearly a century. Let's not fix what is definitely not broken.* But I do urge a certain vigilance, a determination to think positively. Watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habits. Watch your habits, they become character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

Anne and I are deeply appreciative of the hospitality and warmth Lions have shown us. No matter where we traveled, we encountered kindness and caring. To speak as an Australian, "I dips me lid" to all of you. Continue to Follow Your Dream and may we meet at the other end of the stars—happy and fulfilled as Lions who relentlessly serve.

Barry J. Palmer
Your Lions Clubs International President

Convention Call

In compliance with Article VI, Section 2 of the International By-Laws, I hereby issue the Official Call for the 2014 International Convention. Our 97th International Convention will be held in Toronto, Canada. It begins at 10 a.m. July 4 and ends July 8. 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.

The fourth-largest city in North America, Toronto takes a back seat to no city. It offers a bustling urban core, incredible ethnic diversity and innumerable cultural attractions, restaurants and shopping venues. Its cosmopolitan makeup, contemporary setting and

innate vibrancy especially make it an ideal setting for our international gathering.

Convention Week is a splendid, unforgettable experience packed with fellowship, fun and learning. Lions will enjoy many longstanding 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 entertainer Olivia Newton-John, a talk by Ruchira Gupta, the presentation of the 2014 Humanitarian Award to David Foster and the installation of the 2014-2015 international president and district governors.

The Lions of Canada will warmly welcome their visitors and ensure that this convention is absolutely

outstanding in every regard. This year I have encouraged Lions worldwide to Follow Your Dream, and our convention in Toronto will be a showcase of the power and reality of dreams. 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 19th day of May 2014.

Warmest regards,

Barry J. Palmer
Your Lions Clubs International President

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, USA

FEBRUARY 28 – MARCH 4, 2014

1. Milan, Italy, was chosen as the site for the 2019 International Convention.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

1. Revised the Standard Form District Constitution, Article VI, Officers and District Cabinet, Section 2, Page 5 of the Board Policy Manual to correct a typographical error.
2. Amended the Board Policy Manual, Chapter XIX, Paragraphs B.1. and B.2. appointing Scott Drumheller as Executive Administrator & Secretary of The International Association of Lions Clubs.
3. Adopted a resolution to be reported to the 2014 International Convention to amend the International By-Laws, Article VIII by adding a section that will provide the council of governors with authority to remove a council chairperson.
4. Adopted a resolution to be reported to the 2014 International Convention to amend the International By-Laws, Article VIII, Section 4 to allow a current district governor or past district governor to serve as council chairperson.
5. Adopted a resolution to be reported to the 2014 International Convention to amend the International By-Laws, Article VIII, Section 1 to revise the duties of the council chairperson.

DISTRICT AND CLUB SERVICE COMMITTEE

1. Amended the Excellence Awards requirements to encourage more training and club development, as well as to recognize the district GMT and GLT Coordinators.
2. Decided that Lions leaders recommended by local Lions from provisional districts be appointed to serve as district governors for the provisional districts for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.
3. Resolved that Lion Guri Janmeja be appointed to serve as district governor for District 321-C1, for the remainder of this fiscal year.
4. Determined that the District Governor of 315 B3 be dismissed.
5. Discontinued the position of Coordinating Lion for Provisional District 301 A3, due to the positive development of the DG Team.
6. Revised the status quo policy and added a new priority status that would apply to weak and struggling clubs to provide greater support by the District Governor Team.
7. Recommended an amendment to the International By-Laws to outline procedures for removing a council chairperson.
8. Recommended an amendment to the International

By-Laws to allow current district governors to serve as council chairpersons.

9. Recommended an amendment to the International Constitution and By-Laws to clarify the Multiple District Council Chairperson position.
10. Requested that the Board Policy Manual and the Standard Multiple District Constitution and By-Laws be amended upon approval of previous requested constitutional amendments by the delegates attending the 2014 International Convention.

FINANCE AND HEADQUARTERS OPERATION COMMITTEE

1. Approved FY 2013-14 Third Quarter Forecast reflecting a surplus.
2. Approved the preliminary cost projections for FY 2015-16 two regular board meetings and charging the executive officer's airfare to their travel budgets effective FY 2015-16.
3. Approved modifying the policy so it no longer required that the hotel bill be in the district governor's name.
4. Approved changing the phrase, "Rules of Audit" in Chapter IX to "District Governor reimbursement policy."
5. Modified policy so that the review of the five-year projections by the Finance and Headquarters Operation Committee will be done at the final regular board meeting, instead of the October/November board meeting.

LCIF

1. Selected Perry Capital Management/Callan Associates as LCIF's independent investment advisor effective April 1, 2014.
2. Nominated three individuals for the 2014 Humanitarian Award, with the final selection to be determined by the International President.
3. Awarded a grant of US\$200,000 to support a microenterprise pilot with the Chaudhary Foundation and the Lions of Nepal.
4. Approved a plan to expand the LCIF development function in India, and included funding in the amount of US\$184,000 in the LCIF budget to support these activities.
5. Approved funding in the amount of US\$147,158 for Multiple District 107 (Finland) to support an evaluation study of Lions Quest in Europe.
6. Selected Dr. Yuichiro Ogura to fill a vacancy as a voting member of the SightFirst Advisory Committee (SAC).
7. Amended the LCIF Operations and Policy Manual

to update voting privileges for the technical members of the SightFirst Advisory Committee (SAC).

8. Approved 79 Standard, International Assistance and Core 4 grants totaling US\$3,771,227.
9. Tabled six applications, and denied one application.
10. Approved a Core 4 board-directed grant of US\$66,000 for the mammography center at the M.P. Shah Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya.
11. Approved the following actions with regards to the control of grant funds:
 - Requested Districts 317-E, 323-G1, and 325-A1 to submit required grant reports to LCIF by June 30, 2014. Failure to do so will result in a moratorium on the consideration of all LCIF grant applications from the district that will go into effect until a satisfactory report is received or the disbursed grant funds are returned.
 - Extended the deadline for the satisfactory transfer of grant 10907/321-C2 be extended to June 30, 2014.
 - Requested Districts 305-S2, 315-A2 and 322-D to return emergency grant funds in the respective amounts of US\$5,000, US\$5,000, and US\$7,305 by June 30, 2014. Failure to do so will result in a moratorium on the consideration of all LCIF grant applications from these districts that will go into effect through Dec. 31, 2016.
 - Requested Districts 323-B, District 316-H and District 323-E1 to submit satisfactory final reports or return the emergency grant funds in the amount of US\$5,000 each by June 30, 2014. Failure to do so will result in a moratorium on the consideration of all LCIF grant applications from the district that will go into effect through Dec. 31, 2016.
12. Revised the deadline for the current moratorium on the consideration of all grant requests from District 318-B to Dec. 31, 2014.
13. Amended the LCIF Bylaws with housekeeping revisions in the officers and committee sections.
14. Amended the LCIF Operations and Policy Manual as follows:
 - Housekeeping revisions in the officers and committees section to include language on the Assistant Treasurer position.
 - Additional language in fiscal planning section to reflect current practice for foundation expenses.
 - Revised language in the records and files section to be consistent with the record retention policy.

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

1. Revised policy, effective 2014-2015, related to

Faculty Development Institutes to allow qualified applicants who are district governors to be considered for participation only on a space available basis.

2. Modified the GMT and GLT structures. Effective beginning in 2014-2015, the positions of GMT multiple district coordinators and GLT multiple district coordinators will exist only in those multiple districts assigned to a GMT/GLT area or special area comprised of two or more multiple districts. In multiple districts assigned to GMT/GLT areas or special areas comprised of less than two multiple districts, the GMT/GLT area leaders or GMT and GLT special area advisors will fulfill related responsibilities at the multiple district level.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. Granted conditional approval for U.A.E to become a new Lions country pending submission of written approvals, charter applications, fees paid and completion of country registration.
2. Amended Chapter XVIII, Paragraph C.4 (XVIII-7) of the Board Policy Manual by adding, "The designated head of household is not eligible for other dues discount programs." at the end of the paragraph.

3. Replaced "Membership & Club Growth Team," with "Membership and New Club Growth Team" in Chapter X, Paragraph I.(3.) (X-16), Item I.3., of the Board Policy Manual.
4. Added "The International Family and Women Coordinator will work with the GMT and GLT Coordinators and support women's and family committees, at the direction of the international president, and district and multiple district specialists." to Chapter X, Paragraph I.(3.) of the Board Policy Manual; also amended Chapter IX, Paragraph O.(2).(a.) of the Board Policy Manual by adding "and International Family and Women Coordinator" following "International Coordinator."
5. Resolved that the Standard Club Constitution and By-Laws Article III, Section 4, Paragraph (1), read, "(1) Submit regular monthly and other reports to the international office of the association containing such information as may be called by the board of directors of this association."

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

1. Increased the annual donation to Lions Float, Inc., to US\$50,000, and increased the donation to Lions Float, Inc., for fiscal year 2016-17 to US\$100,000.

2. Amended the Order of Precedence to place Regional LCIF Coordinators and GMT/GLT Leaders immediately after past international director, and to place multiple district chairpersons and coordinators (including LCIF, GMT and GLT) immediately after immediate past district governor.
3. Changed the first-place prize for the international website and international newsletter contests from plaques to certificates.
4. Modified Chapter XX of Board Policy to reflect previously eliminated International Contests.

SERVICE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

1. Named the 2012-2013 Top Ten Youth Camp and Exchange Chairperson Award recipients.
2. Modified board policy related to the composition and nomination criteria for the Leo Club Program Advisory Panel to alleviate chronic vacancy issues.

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



Official Notice

2014 International Convention, Toronto, Canada

The following proposed amendments to the International By-Laws will be reported to the delegates for vote at the 2014 International Convention.

These amendments require a majority affirmative vote for adoption.



ITEM 1: A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS WITH AUTHORITY TO REMOVE A COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That Article VIII of the International By-Laws be amended by inserting the following new paragraph as Section 6 and re-numbering the remaining sections accordingly:

Section 6. **REMOVAL.** At the request of the majority of the council of governors, a special meeting of the council may be called for the purpose of removal of the council chairperson. Regardless of the manner in which the council chairperson is selected or elected, the council chairperson may be removed from the council for cause by an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the entire number of the council of governors.

ITEM 2: A RESOLUTION TO ALLOW A CURRENT DISTRICT GOVERNOR OR PAST DISTRICT GOVERNOR TO SERVE AS COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That Article VIII, Section 4 of the International By-Laws be amended by inserting the phrase "current or" before the phrase "past district governor" in line 5 and line 22 of the section.

ITEM 3: A RESOLUTION TO REVISE THE DUTIES OF THE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That Article X, Section 1 of the International By-Laws be amended by deleting the existing language in its entirety and substituting the language as set forth below:

Section 1. **MULTIPLE DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON.** The multiple district council chairperson shall be the administrative facilitator of the multiple district. All actions are subject to the authority, direction and supervision of the multiple district council of governors.

In cooperation with the council of governors, the council chairperson shall:

- (a) Further the Purposes of this association;
- (b) Assist in communicating information regarding international and multiple district policies, programs and events;

- (c) Document and make available the goals and long range plans for the multiple district as established by the council of governors;
- (d) Convene meetings and facilitate discussion during council meetings;
- (e) Facilitate the operations of the multiple district convention;
- (f) Support efforts initiated by the International Board of Directors or the council of governors that are intended to create and foster harmony and unity among district governors;
- (g) Submit reports and perform such duties as may be required by the multiple district constitution and by-laws;
- (h) Perform such other administrative duties as may be assigned by the multiple district council of governors; and
- (i) Facilitate, at the close of his/her term of office, the timely presentation of all multiple district accounts, funds, and records to his/her successor in office.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MAY 3rd GOVERNORS' COUNCIL MEETING

2014 MDA/A12 Convention – The Multiple District 'A' Convention was held in conjunction with the District A12 Convention, May 2nd to 4th, 2014 at Deerhurst Resort in Huntsville. A total of 571 registered for the Convention with 409 attending the International Banquet & Entertainment, 358 attended the Awards Luncheon, 342 attended the Opening Ceremonies and 288 attended the Memorial Service.

2014 LCI Convention – The 97th Lions Clubs International Convention will be held July 4th to 8th, 2014 in Toronto. To date there have been more than 17,000 registrants from around the world. More than 1,100 Canadian Lions have registered with 700 of these coming from Multiple District 'A'. To date 550 Lions have enrolled as volunteers. The International Parade will be held on Saturday, July 5th with a step-off time of 10:00 a.m.

Promotion Committee – The MD 'A' Breakfast at the International Convention will be held on Saturday, July 5th from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at Simcoe Place Tower, 200 Front Street at Simcoe Street, Toronto. The cost is \$12.00 per person and advance tickets are required. The Canadian Lions Caucus Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 5th from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Royal York Hotel.

Global Leadership Team – Two separate information sessions were held on the Saturday afternoon of the MDA/A12 Convention. A special two day training workshop for the 2nd Vice District Governors is

planned for May 31st & June 1st.

Global Membership Team – The membership count in MD 'A' for this Lions year shows regained strength. Results suggest that the Districts are addressing the challenges. A GMT Session was held at the MDA/A12 Convention.

Opportunities for Youth – The MD 'A' Effective Speaking Competition is being hosted by the St. Thomas Lions Club and will be held Saturday, May 31st at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in London. Plans are well underway for a proposed CNIB/YCE Camp to be held this summer at Lake Joseph for visually impaired young people from overseas. A new Leo Club has been formed in Kleinburg (A711) sponsored by the Trillium Lions Club. The theme for the Peace Poster/Peace Essay Contests is 'Peace, Love and Understanding'. Kits are now available until October 1st at a cost of \$11.95 plus shipping. The following youth programs were highlighted at the MDA/A12 Convention: Youth Camp & Exchange, Effective Speaking, Leos, Peace Poster/Peace Essay and Lions Quest.

International Advisory Committee – In all likelihood there will be two candidates on the ballot for the election of 2nd Vice President, Lions Club International, at the International Convention in Toronto. The candidates will be PID Michael Butler of Texas and PID Bob Corlew of Tennessee. Elections will take place during the International Convention in

Toronto and all Lions who are entitled to vote are encouraged to exercise their franchise and cast a ballot.

Lions Foundation of Canada – With the expansion of the training facility in Oakville the number of dog guides has increased from 150 per year to over 200. Earlier this year saw the initiation of the first officially recognized Diabetes awareness dog guide program and the subsequent graduation of five dogs to their new owners. Over 200 registered dog walks are scheduled across Canada this year with a goal to raise 1.2 million dollars.

LCIF – Since 2010 Lions have helped to contribute to the vaccination of 200 million children against measles. Two million children in underserved areas across Asia will receive school-based vision screening this year. LCIF representatives and local dignitaries participated in a vision screening of 150 school children in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Historian – MD 'A' has been invited by Lions Clubs International to participate in the production of a coffee table history book to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Association.

Hearing Conservation – The official opening of Martin House in London will be held in June, 2014 with a specific date yet to be determined.

For more information, questions or concerns relating to these highlights please contact MDA Secretary John Stewart at email: secretary@mdalions.org.

3 Inducted at Zone Meeting

Congratulations to Zone Chair **Sheila Webb** for the induction of 3 new members at the recent Zone 36 West Meeting.

submitted by Lion Marj Lewis



Left to Right: DG Chris Lewis, Joe Reynolds, Jim Starshuk (Penetanguishene Lions Club), Doug Barker, Ken Labatt (Victoria Harbour and District Lions Club), Joanne Warren, Darren Kennedy (Coldwater Lions Club) and ZC Sheila Webb.

Multiple District A Convention - Muskoka Rocks

The first ever joint MDA-District Convention is now in the history books and from all accounts, it was a total success. On behalf of the **Muskoka Rocks** Convention Committee, I wish to thank the 571 members of the Lions Family who attended. Over 350 attended the Awards Luncheon and welcomed the opportunity to meet 1st VP **Lion Joe** and Joni Preston. The International Banquet did not disappoint the over 400 attendees. Live entertainment both Friday and Saturday evening had everyone dancing up a storm!

The occasional showers did nothing to dampen spirits and 48 hearty souls participated in the Stew O'Brien Golf Tournament. In addition to the training sessions, many enjoyed the bus tour to Camp Dorset, almost 50 Display Tables, the many activities Deerhurst has to offer or side trips into Huntsville.

Following a well-attended Memorial Service, the Closing Business Session got underway. **Lion Rodney Lloyd** of Napanee won the Early Bird Car Draw and the **Sault Ste. Marie Lions Club** was announced as the winners

of \$8,405 in the 50/50 draw. Council Chair **Tom** introduced Council Chair Elect **Bob Tanner** from District A-1, and the newly-elected Governors were introduced.

Once again, my thanks to everyone involved: attendees, Committee, and Deerhurst staff. You made it all happen. Thanks for the many new and renewed friendships . . . see you in Kingston!

PDG Jim Hilt, Chair, 2014 MDA-A12 Convention



PDG Jim Hilt, Chair

FOR THE RECORD

As of February 28, 2014 Lions Clubs International had 1,368,987 members in 46,281 clubs and 757 districts in 208 countries and geographic areas.

Candidates for Second Vice President

As of press time, there were seven candidates for Second International Vice President. The election is scheduled for July 8 at the 97th International Convention in Toronto. The winner will serve as international president in 2016-17.

Naresh Aggarwal

Naresh Aggarwal of Delhi, India, an international director from 1998 to 2000, is a businessman and chairman of the Railway Equipment Division of the Confederation of Indian Industry. A member of the Batala Smile Lions Club, he has been a board appointee and group leader three times. The recipient of the Ambassador of Goodwill Award and 20 Presidential medals, Aggarwal is a major lead gift donor and Humanitarian Partner of LCIF.



director from 1997 to 1999. Twice a board appointee and group leader, he is the founder of the Lions Eye Center in Lebanon and a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow. Moussan, the owner of a trading company, has chaired several forums and regional conferences and attended 25 international conventions.

Steven D. Sherer

Past International Director Steven D. Sherer of New Philadelphia, Ohio, has been a member of the Dover Lions Club since 1980. A licensed public accountant and the finance officer/CFO of New Philadelphia Public Schools, he is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and has received numerous Lions and professional accolades. Sherer served as an international director from 2006 to 2008, and was a GMT area coordinator for four years.



M. P. "Mike" Butler

M. P. "Mike" Butler, a member of the Kerrville Host Lions Club in Texas, served on the international board of directors from 1984 to 1986 and as a board appointee from 2006 to 2007. He became a Lion in 1974 and has held many offices within the association. Butler is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, area leadership and membership coordinator and served as the first global GMT chairperson.



Eugene M. Spiess

Past International Director Eugene M. Spiess, Ed.D., of Moore, South Carolina, is a retired college administrator and instructor. A member of the Spartanburg Lions Club since 1981, he was elected to a two-year term on the international board of directors in 2010 at the association's 93rd international convention. The recipient of numerous Lions awards and professional honors, Spiess is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.



Robert E. Corlew

Robert E. Corlew, of Milton, Tennessee, is a state chancellor [judge] and served on the international board of directors from 2011 to 2013. He has been a member of the Murfreesboro Lions Club since 1978 and is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow. In addition to his Lions responsibilities, Corlew is active in many civic and community organizations including the Murfreesboro City Council and Boy Scouts.



Rosane T. Jahnke Vailatti

Rosane T. Jahnke Vailatti served on the international board of directors from 2008 to 2010. A member of the Jaraguá do Sol Lions Club in Brazil, she was a teacher and is a lawyer and hotel owner. Active in many community and professional groups, Vailatti is a Melvin Jones Fellow, a recipient of the Helen Keller Knight of Sight award and assists children with special needs.



Salim Moussan

Salim Moussan of Beirut, Lebanon, is a member of the Beirut St. Gabriel Lions Club and was an international



Orangeville Lion Visits Newly Chartered Lions Club In Mexico

Orangeville **Lion Dave Ferrier** and his wife Cynthia attended a meeting at the new **Santiago Lions Club** in Mexico. The club has 22 charter members and the **Orangeville Lions** donated a gong and gavel to the new club.

There were 2 dignitaries in attendance at the meeting, Zone Chairman and the Lions Quest Chairman. The Charter President is **Jackie Avendano** and the charter treasurer is **Hector Uriastegui**, who hosted the meeting. There was a Spanish interpreter there so all understood the meeting. Lion Dave brought along 5 other Canadians who were impressed with the meeting.

It was a great honour for the Orangeville Lions to be part of the meeting of this newly formed Lions Club. This was a great international meeting of Lions and friends!!!

submitted by Lion Terry Sullivan



Alliston Lions

The Alliston Lions Club was recognized by Simcoe-Grey MP Kellie Leitch in the Service Club category for some of the outstanding work we do in our community through programs such as our Annual Christmas Hamper Drive, our work with the Sir Frederick Banting Legacy Foundation through our Banting Committee and our Annual Road Cleanup Program. The award was presented at the inaugural John Simcoe Recognition Awards Ceremony on February 22nd 2014, hosted at the Station On the Green in Creemore, Ontario. **Lion Rick Milne** accepted the award on behalf of our club.



Improving Student's Sight in India

by Allie Stryker

If S. Bhavani sits in the front of the classroom, it's because he wants to — not because he has no choice. But that wasn't always the case.

A student in Hyderabad, India, Bhavani once had problems seeing the board. He had to squint and got headaches. Bhavani is nearsighted, and his condition could have gone unnoticed if not for the Sight for Kids program.

With 12.8 million children visually impaired due to uncorrected refractive error (URE) in Southeast Asia, it isn't surprising that S. Bhavani was diagnosed with nearsightedness, a form of URE. That is why the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) and Johnson & Johnson Vision Care (JJVC) partnered to create the Sight for Kids program in 2002.

Sight for Kids provides desperately needed eye-health education and school-based vision screenings for underserved children across Asia. The program also provides referrals to professional eye care for eyeglasses and surgery. This is an important service: poor vision can often go unnoticed in children and can impede the ability to read and learn.

Bhavani received his vision screening through Sight for Kids and the follow-up care he needed at the L. V. Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad, India, including free

eyeglasses provided through Sight for Kids. Today Bhavani can see the board, reads well and participates in extracurricular activities.

"I am so happy and confident. Now with this pair of spectacles, I am able to do all my activities without any difficulty. My thanks to you," says Bhavani. With his improved vision, Bhavani has great aspirations for his future. "I will become a doctor, helping my parents and society," he confidently adds.

Through Sight for Kids, more than 19 million students like Bhavani throughout Asia have received vision screenings with more than 322,000 treated for vision problems and more than 197,000 provided with eyeglasses.

In Kerala, India, Mary Sebastian, an assistant administrator at the Little Flower Hospital and Research Center, has been working closely with Sight for Kids since it launched in her region in 2005. Her hospital's ophthalmology department is dedicated to protecting children's vision. It's immensely gratifying for her to see Lions provide students with eyeglasses and vision-correcting surgery through Sight for Kids.

"It is a highly rewarding and satisfying experience to provide vision correction to students whose problems would have remained undetected but for the Sight for



In Kerala, India, students sign up for free vision screenings through the Sight for Kids program

Kids program," says Sebastian. "With Lions clubs, we are visiting unrepresented areas. If not for Sight for Kids, most of the cases would have gone unidentified because of lack of awareness."

Together, Lions clubs, LCIF, JJVC and partner facilities are making a big difference for students in need through Sight for Kids. Learn more online at www.lcif.org/sfk.

Wisconsin Lions Bring Sight to Dominicans

by Eric Margules

When the Lions from Kenosha, Wisconsin, landed in the Dominican Republic, it was 100 degrees warmer than when they first boarded the icy plane in Chicago that morning. But Lions set their sights on something more important than a little time in the sun.

With support from the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) and churches in the United States and the Dominican Republic, Lions from both countries came together to host a free vision clinic offering eye exams, prescription glasses, medication and eye surgeries for the residents of the small town of Sabana Yegua.

This was the second time the **Kenosha Lions** travelled to the Dominican Republic with the help of an International Assistance Grant from LCIF. This year, a \$30,000 grant, combined with funds raised by Lions and the St. Mary's and St. Anne's parishes in Wisconsin, made it possible for the group of nearly 30 Lions and community members from both countries to host the clinic.

Many people around the world including Sabana Yeguans are practically blind when it comes to reading. Says **Dr. Peter Emer**, a Lion and optometrist who helped organize the mission, "They don't even have access to

a basic pair of reading glasses. Without reading glasses, you can be blind—handicapped—for any type of close visual task."

After just four days in the Dominican Republic Emer and his colleagues examined 1,200 people, handed out 900 prescription eye glasses and made an additional 200 orders for specialized prescriptions.

Lion surgeon **Dr. Stephen Slana** and two ophthalmological assistants were on hand to correct dangerous vision problems identified during the exams. In total, they performed 118 successful surgeries, correcting everything from cataracts and pterygium to problems with eye muscles.

This year marked the first time the Lions set up satellite clinics throughout the Dominican Republic to treat residents unable to make the trip to Sabana Yegua. These clinics included a trip to a nearby Haitian neighborhood, where Lions performed eye exams in an old church, and a trip to a local prison, where prisoners and guards alike were provided with sunglasses, eye drops and baseball caps to protect them from the sun.

The international cooperation between the Lions from Wisconsin and the Dominican Lions made the trip successful. From transporting patients to gathering

patient information and arranging follow-up care, Dominican Lions were instrumental to the clinic.

Even after the success of this trip, the Lions are still looking for ways to improve on future missions. For their next trip, Lions are researching new clinic locations and looking for ways to further improve patient access to post-surgery follow-up care.

One thing is clear: the international partnership forged between Lions is a bond of commitment and service that transcends languages and borders. Just ask the thousands of Dominicans whose futures look brighter now than ever before.



Lion Peter Emer of Kenosha, Wisconsin, examines the eyes of a resident of Sabana Yegua in the Dominican Republic

Club Has International Flair

The backpacks come from Germany, the students who get them live in Hungary and the motivation behind the service can be partly traced to people without a country, the Roma (known as Gypsies).

The **Budapest Thomas Mann Lions Club** annually stuffs 70 or 80 backpacks with school supplies and books and presents them to disadvantaged children in or near the capital of Hungary. The German-speaking club has ties to Germany, from which the gently used satchels are secured.

The club secretary is **Erzsebt Cseh**, whose mother and grandmother set an example of service by giving food and clothes to a needy Roma family when Cseh was a child in Hungary. As a schoolgirl Cseh tended the garden at a home for seniors and read to the residents. After finishing school, volunteering became decidedly less appealing when she moved to Kiev in the former Soviet Union. She was required to do unpaid work on weekends including cleaning dormitory rooms that were not dirty and scrubbing a statue called Rodina Mat (mother of the homeland).

A Lion since 2008, volunteering is once again a joy for Cseh, a language teacher. "Volunteer work is a pleasure," she told the *Budapest Times*.

Among the recipients of backpacks this past year were students whose baby sister died of eye cancer. "We're a small club with just ten active members," says **Dieter Usseler**. "We count on friends and especially our family."



Children in Hungary receive the backpacks, a gift from Lions

No Whining About this Project

Two dozen blind people picked grapes for a day at a prestigious French-owned winery in Hungary's famed wine region, and the end result was 350 bottles of first-rate wine. Sales of the wine will buy tools and devices to make everyday life easier for the blind.

Peter Koleszar, vice president of the **Miskolc Lions Club**, has not drunk the wine yet, but the winery's winemakers have. "They told us: it was perfect," says Koleszar.

Forty-five Lions from five clubs labored in the Disznoko vineyard alongside the blind people including Lions from Slovakia and the Czech Republic. A Lion is the director of the vineyard, located in the Tokaj region in northeastern Hungary. The wine region was recognized as a World Heritage site in 2002.

The crew proved to be adept at their task, picking 700 kilograms of grapes (1,543 pounds) with a harvesting scissor. "It was very hard for them to work with the scissors. But our blind friends learned to use the tool very fast," says Koleszar.

Children who have endured long stays at hospitals designed the wine bottle labels as a pleasant artistic diversion. The wine will be sold at an auction. A bottle is expected to sell from \$15 to \$30.

Perhaps the best part of the Lions' project was the opportunity for the blind to enjoy the outdoors. "They enjoyed the day very well," says Koleszar. "Some of them smelt the fresh grape for the first time in their life."



Lions and the blind picked grapes all day to make wine

Pedaling the Wheel of Health

India: Before the dawn light hundreds of bicyclists hit the streets near Mumbai. Lions and traffic police lined the route to ensure the riders' safety or to encourage the riders. Altogether, more than 1,200 cyclists took part in the event, called Burn Fat, Not Fuel, and Drive the Wheel of Good Health.

The 16.4 kilometer ride (10 miles) was organized by the 176-member **Juhu Lions Club**, one of the most active clubs in the area. More than 100 Lions volunteered for the event, which raised funds from corporate sponsors, and an estimated 1,000 spectators watched the cyclists.

The **Juhu Leo Club** also recently caused a stir by sponsoring a movie for needy children in a multiplex. Nearly 200 children watched "Phata Poster Nikla Hero." The youths "munched popcorn and sipped that Pepsi," according to the club bulletin. "The children were dancing with complete joy after the movie."



Bicyclists burn fat, not fuel

Irish Music Legend Aided Lions

Friends and peers raised a pint to **Mick Lavelle**. He was a gifted musician and singer of traditional Irish music, a charming raconteur of boisterous stories and a loyal friend always ready with a word or two or three of advice or encouragement.

The local musical legend also was a friend of charity. For nearly 20 years he donated the proceeds of his tapes and CDs to the **Westport Lions Club** in County Mayo. After he died last year, the club held a night of music, dance and storytelling in his honor at Matt Mulloy's pub, where he sang and told stories nearly every night.

"We could have filled the room twice. But to keep it nostalgic we held it in the pub that Mick loved," says **Joan Collins**, president of the Westport Lions.

In his 80s when he died, Lavelle was most famous for his recording of "The Lotto," a song about a man who dreams he won the lottery. He often performed on television and radio in Ireland. Befitting his renown, he was crowned Ireland's King of the Culchies (country people) at the national Culchie Festival in 1991.

Westport Lions themselves travel in well-known circles. The club has co-sponsored the Mayo International Choral Festival and the International Rose of Tralee Festival, which gathers young women of Irish descent.

Matt Mulloy's is owned by the Chieftans, a well-known Irish band. The tribute to Lavelle drew more than 20 performing groups. The night ended at 1. "That was early by our standards, but it was held midweek," says Collins.



Photo courtesy of Janet Dowd

Clubs Help Babies Survive

Clara Maria weighed just 800 grams (1.75 pounds) when born at 29 weeks on Feb. 3 to Diana Chinello, 34, of Romania. Her baby's precarious health was particularly heart-wrenching to her because she suffered a miscarriage of twins two years ago.

Fortunately, little Clara Maria was one of the first beneficiaries of a sophisticated ventilator donated by Lions to the maternity ward at Timisoara County Hospital. The hospital had lacked key equipment to keep babies alive until Lions recently donated state-of-the-art medical equipment. The ventilator alone cost 18,000 euros (\$25,000).

Clara Maria remains under medical care. But her weight is up to 1,250 grams (2.75 pounds), and her outlook is promising. “We take it one day at a time. I can hardly wait to hold her in my arms and go home with our princess,” says Chinello, who runs her own company.

Two Lions clubs in Timisoara, a city of 320,000 in western Romania, raised thousands of euros from a charity ball to help purchase medical equipment both for the Timisoara County Hospital and the Louis Turcanu Children’s Hospital in Timisoara. The all-male **Timisoara Lions Club** counts 36 members, and 21 members belong to the all-female **Timisoara Iris Lions Club**.

In its 20 years the Timisoara Lions Club has saved or improved vision for many people. It financed a mobile vision van to do screenings and hand out eyeglasses in the countryside and sponsored a guide dog for a teacher at a school for the blind. The club also supports a senior home and feeds the hungry.

Both the clubs have doctors as members. “We contacted the hospital about their needs. It was a difficult choice because other projects were submitted to us, but we are convinced we made the right choice,” says **Misca Tomas Remus**, president.



Diana Chinello can't wait to take her princess home

Entrepreneurial Spirit Is in Fashion

Sweden: It was no accident that the **Ostersund Brunkullan Lions Club** ran a trade show for female entrepreneurs. Many of the 33 members of the all-women’s club run their own businesses.

Twenty-eight companies involving interior design, jewelry, flowers, health foods, ceramics, fabrics, beauty products and the arts participated. “The turnout was more than we had hoped for. The exhibition was very successful,” says Past District Governor **Annica Nordell**, who runs her own deli and catering business.



A pleased entrepreneur stands aside her booth at the exhibition held by Lions

The club still held its traditional fashion show as part of the event as well as a display of the work of three artists. Lions called their daylong event Beautiful Sunday. Proceeds went to the Lions Cancer Research Fund at Umea University.

Club Finds Its Niche

Australia: Yanco has no stop lights, and its one commercial street has a pub, a club, a hairdresser, a school and a small grocery store that doubles as a post office. “That’s about it,” says **Sue Parker**, one of Yanco’s 572 residents. But it’s not so small that it doesn’t have a Lions club.

The 13-member **Yanco Lions Club** holds an annual garage sale and ham raffle and uses its homemade van to cater sports and music events, sales and private parties. Yanco is small enough that everyone knows everyone else but not so small that a service club can’t make a difference. “Our role is to raise money for people that may be struggling and need a little help,” says Parker, secretary.

The club in New South Wales was bolstered recently by two new members. The nearest Lions club is in Leeton, five kilometers away. The next closest club is in Narandera, a distance of 25 kilometers. People in Yanco are hardy, self-sufficient and accustomed to close encounters with wildlife: kangaroos, wallabies, wombats and snakes often hop, amble or slither into town.

The club is a way for residents to not only help others but also to feel more at home in town. “Our meeting nights are filled with jokes and laughter,” says Parker.

Digital LION

Australian Lions craft a powerful public service ad warning of the dangers of drugs. Watch the video at www.lionmagazine.org.



Buster Ryan, club president, spins the wheel for the ham auction

Moms Get a Day

Dominican Republic: Moms and moms-to-be in Lagunas de Nisibón enjoyed a shower of sorts: they received a slew of baby care products and toiletries. Even better, a wide range of health care specialists treated them.

More than 450 women attended the Medical Day organized by several Lions clubs in District R 1. Their free maternity cases included sheets, mosquito nets, diapers, bottles, pacifiers, soaps, shampoo, cologne, brushes, combs and shoes. Six mobile medical units sponsored by the Ministry of Public Health and assisted by Lions provided medical care. Specialists

from gynecology, cardiology, dermatology, ophthalmology and dentistry attended to the women.



District Governor Yngri Joa de Sepúlveda enjoys one of the perks of serving at Medical Day for mothers and expectant mothers

English Lions Do It Batter

In the United States, Lions flip pancakes and then sell them. In England, Lions and others flip them but also dash through the streets while doing so. Call the difference a flip-flop of sorts.

The **Rugby Rokeby Lions Club** holds an annual pancake race in the town center. Contestants not only race while tossing a pancake in a pan but also do it while wearing an outlandish costume. Men typically cross dress.

The pancake race is held on Shrove Tuesday, the day preceding Ash Wednesday. In many countries Shrove Tuesday is also called Pancake Day because pancakes are eaten that day. The Rugby Lions have run their race for about 35 years.

The race in Rugby favors sprinters: the course down Sheep Street is only 100 meters. The pancake must be tossed once during the race. “Holding down the pancake by fingers or thumbs could lead to disqualification,” according to the official rules. But the spirit of the law is more lenient than the letter. “They are very flexible rules that are very liberally enforced,” says **Lion Terry Byrne**, the race organizer.

Contestants bring their own frying pans, which must be at least seven inches in diameter. A national lemon juice manufacturer provides the pancakes—entirely inedible plastic spheres. The real ones with flour and milk bit the dust a few years ago because, well, they literally ended up in the dust. “We had problems when it was windy. The pancakes were so light they’d end up in the street when tossed,” says Byrne.



Among the racers are the mayor of Rugby (dark dress) and an editor of the Rugby Advertiser (white wedding dress)

The 28 runners this year raised 1,600 pounds (\$2,700) from sponsors. Meningitis sufferer Liam Corbett and his family were the beneficiaries. Corbett,

a 36-year-old chef with two small children, endured two weeks in an induced coma, two months in the hospital and 14 operations. He lost his right hand, toes, part of his nose and much of his hearing. The goal is to purchase for him a vehicle with a trailer to help him revive his barbecue business.

At least the race went off without a hitch. Two months of constant rain pounded Rugby before Shrove Tuesday, but that morning the skies cleared. "The day was a beautiful sunny one," says Byrne.

Education Rises After Era of Terror

Boys who enter the new library of Trakiet Elementary School drop a straw into a plastic container designated for their grade. Girls leave a clam shell. A quaint, practical way to track the usage of the library, the containers often are filled. Children who once ran outside during break times now race to the library to read.

The school is located in a small farming village 33 kilometers from Angkor Wat, the Buddhist temple that is the world's largest religious monument. The farmers are less than two generations removed from the reign of terror of the Khmer Rouge in which intellectuals, teachers and educated people were considered enemies of the state and murdered.

The school system in Cambodia is still recovering. The lack of schools means students are limited either to a morning or afternoon session. Teachers must take side jobs because of the low pay. School is free for nine years, but many children drop out to work to support their family or to take care of younger siblings while parents work menial jobs.

Members of the **Kota Lions Club** in Japan first visited the small village where Trakiet School is while on a fact-finding tour of Cambodia in 2008. The club wanted to help Cambodians as other clubs in Japan were. Standing alone in a rice field, the decrepit wooden school had two classrooms for 500 children. The banana-leaf roof was no match for heavy rains, and the school often was flooded and shut down.

The club raised funds and secured LCIF Standard Grants to build a new school and later a library. Villagers were so inspired by the cleanliness and sturdiness of the new school as well as by the increased

attendance and learning that they banded together to build a middle school next to the elementary school.

In the last decade, clubs in Japan have completed 38 LCIF education-related grant projects in Cambodia. Like the buried mines that continue to claim limbs and lives, the wounds inflicted on Cambodian society and its schools remain real and life-altering. But Kota Lions first recognized the transcendent value of education while touring India in 2005. **Tomio Yamamoto**, past club president, was "deeply moved to see the children's love of learning in spite of their poverty," he told the Japanese LION. He felt the same way when he witnessed the dedication of Trakiet School. "We were welcomed by the unclouded, shiny eyes of children. We gain energy from every time we visit," he says.

Lions who return periodically to the school bearing school supplies marvel not only at the avidity for learning but also its sheer loudness. School libraries in Japan are hushed—not so at all in Cambodia. The noise does not impede reading. The students "don't seem to care. They have their noses buried in the books," says the Japanese LION.



Students at Trakiet School read in the new library

Smooth Sailing at Last

Crime doesn't pay? It did for a Lions club in a New Zealand beach town.

Blockhouse Bay-Lynfield Lions anchored a boat which displayed Lions logos on its bow and stern at a busy traffic roundabout. The boat, dubbed the "Pride of the Bay," was the club's contribution to an association of local groups promoting the nautical character of Blockhouse Bay. (Lynfield borders Blockhouse Bay, and both are suburbs of Auckland City.)

In its 37 years, the active club has held carnivals, fun runs and sausage sizzles, donated rescue equipment to the Coast Guard, beds for muscular dystrophy patients and wheelchair lifts for the disabled, and served hands-on by chopping firewood, bagging coal and weeding the yards of senior citizens. The boat was a nifty branding tool. Its image was part of the club's stationery, website and signage.

The Lions weren't born yesterday. They cut a hole in the bottom of the boat and chained it to a tree to preclude a prank. Alas, the precautions proved to be insufficient. The boat disappeared.

That's when Lions turned misfortune into good fortune.

"We garnered quite a bit of publicity," says **Alan Gray**, secretary. "I immediately emailed an SOS to papers, radio stations and every contact we had in our address book."

No one stepped forward, but the boat reappeared within 24 hours. A young man reported that he had awoken to find it on his front lawn. "He said he would get his mates to bring it back to the roundabout," recounts Gray, who has his suspicions about who the culprit was.

Would-be thieves now would have to possess supernatural strength. The boat, back at the roundabout, is filled with soil and flowers.

Digital LION

Zany New Zealanders celebrate the 50th anniversary of their club in style. Watch the amusing video at www.lionmagazine.org.



The club's boat is a fixture in the beach town

Toronto Maple Leafs Getaway

The Lions and the Leafs

As part of their fundraising efforts, on Saturday March 29th, 2014 Lions Convention Committee Members **Carl Young**, Chairman, **Dr. Jack Bishop**, Director of Finance, **Alex Watson**, Director of Transportation and Hospitality and **Tracy Van Kalsbeek**, Deputy Director of Promotion and Publicity hosted the **Lions Club of Bobcaygeon** at the Leafs vs. Red Wings game.

Before heading out to the game, the group hosted a

meet and greet and then enjoyed a delicious dinner at the prestigious Platinum Club located at the Air Canada Centre. Although the Leafs lost their eighth consecutive regulation-time game since 1985, subsequently eliminating them from the playoffs, the Lions all had a fun time cheering for the blue and white.

Special thanks to Molson Coors for the donation of their fantastic skybox!

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True Visionaries

For five gifted people, being blind has not been a barrier to blazing new trails, serving others and forging hard-earned insights on the interconnection of all people.

by Katya Cengel

Andrea Bocelli

“What is given and taken is written in the book of Heaven,” insists Andrea Bocelli.

What was taken from him was his sight at age 12. What was given to him was a voice so extraordinary Celine Dion once compared it to how God might sound were he able to sing.

Bocelli long ago accepted both what he considers his gift and his loss with equal grace, using the former to propel himself to fame in both the classical and pop world while not allowing the latter to hold him back. At just 55, Bocelli has both a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records for simultaneously capturing first, second and third place on the U.S. classical music charts. He has sung for the Pope and at Ground Zero, received numerous awards and honors and standing ovations that last as long as 20 minutes. His voice is so compelling that it is often described as a separate entity, as if it exists apart from the man. But if his full and powerful timbre was made for the stage, his persona is the perfect accompaniment: a thoughtful and well-spoken artist wrapped in romantic tragedy.

He is fond of saying that the way he lives his life can serve as an example of overcoming difficulties. “This is what I try to do every day, falling and getting up, a thousand times,” he told Ability magazine.

Born in Tuscany, Italy, Bocelli was raised on a farm surrounded by vineyards. He started playing the piano at age 6, later adding the flute and saxophone and finally his famous voice. Despite suffering from congenital glaucoma, he was able to see, albeit badly, until he was hit in the head by a soccer ball when he was 12, and his world suddenly went dark.

Yet, as Bocelli explains, darkness is a visual sensation perceivable only by those who can see. “A non-seeing person cannot see “the darkness,” just like a deaf person cannot hear the silence which is an auditory sensation as opposed to noise,” he says.

In some ways, lacking sight has made it possible for Bocelli to see more fully. For there is more to seeing than just what the eyes show you, he says. Ocular vision provides an overview, while touch and hearing offer individual selections. A concept that is sometimes hard for the sighted to comprehend, the image in our minds is the outcome of both physical and metaphysical input, he explains.

When you are blind everyday life means finding alternative ways to do simple tasks that sighted people can do without much thought. Accordingly, Bocelli says he feels a great solidarity with those with vision impairments. “I think I understand the stumbling blocks they have to overcome,” he says. Yet his goodwill also extends to the sighted. We are all human, he says. “I believe that we should all—blind and sighted—have a special affinity as human beings.”

The work Lions already do for the vision impaired—from research to prevention to services available—is of “great importance,” says Bocelli. His goal with the Andrea Bocelli Foundation is to give back to blind people full and independent lives by helping them overcome the limits of their disabilities. Lions furthered the work of his foundation last summer in Hamburg at the international convention when Bocelli received the Humanitarian Award and its \$250,000 grant.

His own life has been far from empty. He studied law and briefly practiced it. He married and had two sons, and has since separated and had another relationship and daughter. And of course he sang—and still sings: the great arias mixed with popular music for which his albums are known. He performed in the opera the “Merry Widow” in 1999, at the New York Philharmonic in 2006 and at the Metropolitan Opera in 2011. “Singing is for me a sweet privilege, a medicine, a way to give lightness to life,” he says.



Bocelli says the obstacles he has overcome can inspire others

Gordon Gund

Gordon Gund, the former principal owner of the NBA Cleveland Cavaliers, has been around his share of prominent people including basketball superstar LeBron James. But it is another encounter that stands out in his memory – the one with Yannick Duwé. Duwé isn’t a famous athlete, artist or leader. He isn’t even an adult. He is a boy from Belgium who plays soccer, reads the blackboard at school and rides a bike — feats Gund calls “amazing.” Amazing because they are all things Duwé could not do before receiving gene therapy that helped restore his sight, therapy developed in part thanks to funding from the Foundation Fighting Blindness. As one of the founders of the nonprofit, Gund, who is 74, helped establish the world’s largest private funder of research into treatments and cures for blinding retinal diseases.

Duwé was patient number six in the gene therapy trials Gund’s organization helped fund. Meeting him was “really symbolic of what it’s all been about,” says Gund. Being CEO of Gund Investment Cooperation, co-owning the San Jose Sharks professional hockey

team, building a Cleveland arena—none of these accomplishments compare to restoring a child’s sight. Since its founding in 1971, a year after Gund went blind from retinitis pigmentosa, the foundation has raised more than half a billion dollars, a majority of which goes toward funding research around the world.

More than 10 million people in the United States are affected by inherited retinal degenerative diseases that lead to blindness like the one from which Gund suffers. But when Gund was in his mid-20s and began to lose his sight, little research was being devoted to the topic. The foundation was a way for him and his wife, Llura, to transform his loss into something positive.

“The important thing about losing any sense ... is to remember it isn’t the end of the world, it’s the end of a certain part of it for you,” says Gund.

Instead of focusing on what you can’t do, Gund believes you have to look at what you can. And there is a lot Gund can do. In addition to his business, sports and charitable endeavors, Gund is also a father of two, grandfather of six and successful sculptor. His pieces have been displayed at the Grounds for Sculpture in New Jersey, the sculpture garden of the Philadelphia Museum of Art and in the Cleveland Clinic. Sculpting allows Gund to be in touch with the world externally, to take things out of his head and put them in three-dimensional form. His animal figures capture the creatures at an instant in time: a dog stretching, a bird in flight, a fish in a circle. They are moments he recreates not from sight, but feel, something he is helped in by taxidermy samples provided by a local university near his home in Princeton, New Jersey.

Much of what Gund accomplishes is the result of collaboration with others. When you are blind you become dependent on those around you for even simple things such as moving around. You have to trust the people you are with to help you avoid unexpected obstacles. It is the same in business and philanthropy: you need a group to stand behind you. Gund’s philanthropy troop includes close to 300 Lions clubs. Of the 52 fundraising walks the foundation holds around the country, Lions clubs participate in 33 of them. “It’s a great pleasure for me to work with other people,” says Gund.



LeBron James once was on Gund’s payroll, but the former owner of the Cleveland Cavaliers is more impressed by the feats of the blind than by slam dunks

Erik Weihenmayer

When he lost his sight at 13, Erik Weihenmayer's biggest fear was not going blind, but missing out on life. He imagined being swept to the sidelines and forgotten, eating Ramen noodles in the dark, forgoing experiences and relationships. "Nobody wants that," says Weihenmayer, a 45-year-old adventurer who lives in Golden, Colorado. "But blind people often times get derided and that's their life."

It certainly hasn't been Weihenmayer's. In 2001 Weihenmayer became the first blind person to summit Mount Everest. He has climbed the tallest peak on each of the seven continents, competed in Primal Quest, known as "the most arduous adventure race in the world," and starred in ABC's "Expedition Impossible," a group race across Morocco's varied landscape. A former middle school teacher, Weihenmayer has led blind children and wounded veterans on daring expeditions and is currently training to kayak the Grand Canyon. He credits his accomplishments, the feats that have saved him from the life of a shut in, not to his own will or skill so much as to those who have stood by him along the way.

"I had a great team. I had a great family—that was my team," declares Weihenmayer.

If there is a captain of that team it would be his father, Ed Weihenmayer. A former Marine attack pilot and football captain, Ed helped equip his youngest child, who was born with retinoschisis, with the mindset needed to view his blindness as a challenge to be overcome and not a barrier to stand in his way. After Weihenmayer's mother was killed in a car accident when he was 16, his father pulled the family together by taking Erik and his siblings on adventures in places like Machu Picchu, West Irian Jaya and Pakistan. He encouraged his son to wrestle at his high school in Connecticut and stood by later as he took on paragliding, ice climbing and parachuting.

"He has spent his years having a dream, thinking that's possible even for a blind person and then trying to figure out how to do it," says Ed.

When Weihenmayer was told it was too dangerous to ice climb without being able to see the ice, he taught himself to determine its quality by listening to the pitch when he struck it. Even then he wouldn't have been able to ice climb if others hadn't supported his efforts, helping him plan, maneuver and carry out his escapades.

His whitewater rafting team includes Rob Raker, a filmmaker and Weihenmayer's kayak instructor; experts from a British company that designed specialized radios for them; and Weihenmayer's family: his wife, Ellen and children, Emma, 13, and Arjun, 11. With his teammates strategizing and supporting him, Weihenmayer can tackle things even sighted people shy away from. It is a system not unlike the one Lions use to battle blindness.

"I think Lions clubs in a lot of ways is that very team I'm talking about," says Weihenmayer. "You kind of come together in a collective vision that connects the team, glues the team. That in a way is like the fuel that drives the team forward."

Weihenmayer recognizes that not everybody is

lucky enough to have family and friends as supportive as his own. Through the No Barriers organization he tries to create team environments for groups as diverse as wounded veterans and abandoned children so they too can summit mountains.

Recently he worked with a young boy who had been left in a trash can at birth. His own challenges paled in comparison to the boy's, Weihenmayer realizes. "I think that's probably the biggest deficit in your life, when you're born and from day one you see the world in a trash can," he says. "You don't trust the world, you don't believe in the world, you don't believe in the goodness of people, you have a feeling that you can make zero impact in the world. And that's a way, way bigger disability than just being blind."



Always ready for a challenge, Weihenmayer competes in an adventure race

Marla Runyan

When she ran professionally, Marla Runyan couldn't tell how many competitors were in front of her. Six? Twelve? Once the pack had spread out she lost track. In the United States it didn't matter. The two-time U.S. Olympian was usually in front. When she wasn't she could rely on the English-speaking announcer to call out placements. But in larger international races it was different. She wasn't always in first, and the announcer wasn't always speaking English.

Then she really was running blind, the first legally blind person to compete in the Olympics. She finished 8th in the 1500 meters at the 2000 Olympics and earned a gold medal in the same race at the Pan American Games the year before. She is also a three-time U.S. national champion in the 5000 meters.

Although she lacks central vision, Runyan has peripheral vision and can see things on her sides, above and below. She can see the ground she's running on. She just doesn't see it the way everybody else does. It is a concept sighted people often have trouble understanding, she says.

"In general if you say 'I'm blind' they know what that means," says Runyan, who is 44. "But they don't know what low vision means. They don't know what it means to have some vision."

Before she retired from running in 2006, journalists held fingers up, asking her how many she could see. People couldn't conceptualize her vision status and wanted to define what she could and couldn't do based on what she could and couldn't see, she says. That has never gone over well with Runyan, a fierce competitor who began losing her sight at age 9 to Stargardt

disease, an inherited form of macular degeneration. For Runyan function and vision are separate entities.

"Because what you do and how you function is based on your own intrinsic motivation, it's based on how you concentrate, your skills and how hard you're willing to work—not how many letters you read or didn't read on an eye chart," she says.

The doctor who diagnosed her as a child in California informed her parents she wouldn't be able to do well in school, she wouldn't be able to compete in sports and she wouldn't be able to attend college. Runyan decided then and there she was going to prove him wrong. It was no longer enough to do well—she had to outperform her sighted classmates in the classroom and beat them on the field.

"I had been given this challenge. I kind of took it on and said, 'I'm going to show you. I'm going to prove to you that I can do this,'" says Runyan.

And she did. She obtained two masters degrees, competed in two Olympics and was the top American finisher in three marathons. In 2002 she married her coach, Matt Lonergan, and in 2005 gave birth to a daughter, Anna Lee. She now lives in Massachusetts where she teaches at Perkins School for the Blind, an institution whose famous former student Helen Keller challenged Lions to tackle blindness.

Runyan's own education was helped immensely by the closed circuit television a Lions club gave her in the fifth grade. It was her first visual aid and it made it possible for her to read her books again.

"I remember it pretty well," said Runyan. "At 10 years old I knew what Lions was."



Runyan once could run with the swiftest

Sabriye Tenberken

The hand was dirty and small. But it pushed into Sabriye Tenberken's own and led her where no one else in Mumbai, India, would: to the address she needed to find but could not see. The boy waited while she was inside. He was a street child who couldn't read or write, but he had taught himself perfect English by listening to a tiny radio a tourist had given him. Later Tenberken tried to give him something as well, to thank him. But he refused to take anything from the blind woman, telling her "you're one of us." It wasn't the first time a street child in a developing country had helped Tenberken. And it wasn't the first time a street child had refused payment.

"It was very sweet," recalls Tenberken, one of the world's foremost blind humanitarians. She now resides in southern India.

Street children relate to her because of their own

marginalization: “not being in the mainstream of society, which actually is a beautiful way to bond,” she says. Tenberken, who is 43, has a way of turning things on their head. Where others see the difficulty of traveling in developing countries—no chirping crosswalks or sidewalk ramps with tactile clues—she notes the ease of contacting people and the abundant non-visual indicators such as smells.

“Sometimes it smells like a public toilet,” she says. “But then also there are smells of temples. There are smells of incense. There are smells of lots of flowers which are just given as a sacrifice. This is something that makes the whole surrounding very rich.”

Tenberken was 12 when she went blind from a degenerative retinal disease. She was 22 when she developed a Tibetan script for the blind and 26 when she embarked on a solo trip to Tibet. Instead of being discouraged by obstacles, she is energized by them.

Upon discovering there were no tools to aid the blind in studying Tibetan, she created a Braille script which became the official writing system for the blind in Tibet. It took her two weeks. Later, when humanitarian organizations in her native Germany informed her she wasn’t suited for work in developing countries she found her own organization.

“It’s always good to be forced to find new ways,” she says. “I sometimes pity people for not having these

pinching points, these barriers to overcome.”

Her Centre for the Blind in Tibet was the first of its kind, offering education to blind children, long shunned in Tibet due to the belief that blindness was a punishment for the wrongs of past lives. It was in Tibet that she met her boyfriend and business partner, Paul Kronenberg. Together they formed Braille Without Borders, which now encompasses the Tibetan program and Kanthari, an institute in Southern India which provides leadership training for innovators with ties to marginalized communities. In Tibet the program has expanded to include a massage clinic, a Braille book production center, a farm, a bakery and a music program all designed to educate and employ the blind.

“It is wonderful to work with a partner that also doesn’t think in ‘borders,’” Kronenberg wrote in an email. “This provides a very fertile ground for finding solutions fast and efficiently.”

And with Tenberken those solutions, and the results, are bound to be surprising. One of the stories she likes to tell is that of a little boy in Tibet who one day declared how happy he was to be blind. His reasoning was that he was the only one in his family who could read and write, the only one in his village who could speak three languages fluently and the only one in the region who knew how to use the Internet, all things he had learned at the center where he went because he was blind.

For Tenberken blindness has its rewards as well. It improved her concentration, communication and ability to solve problems. “Blindness has a different life quality,” she says. “And from my perspective I’m very, very grateful for everything that happened.”

That is the main message she wants the sighted world to understand, including Lions. From the beginning Lions clubs have supported her work financially, and she is grateful for all they have done. But Tenberken, typically blunt, also has a little advice concerning the program name “SightFirst.” “Sight first is a wonderful thing. But the blind are not last. We should never forget the blind,” she says. Still, she admires and respects Lions who have supported her efforts “again and again.”



Tenberken is one of the world’s foremost blind humanitarians

LCIF

A Day of Soccer, Football and Inclusion

The CIVO Stadium in Lilongwe, Malawi, roared with excitement as the crowd waited for the kickoff of the African Leaders Forum on Disability. On tap were not only a football (soccer) match and music but also a high-level policy summit and health education talks.

The purpose of the three-day forum in February, the first of its kind, was to support people with intellectual disabilities. The expanded “Mission: Inclusion” partnership between Special Olympics and Lions Clubs International (LCI) also was involved.

Since 2001, Special Olympics and LCI have screened the vision of more than 350,000 Special Olympics athletes and provided more than 110,000 athletes with prescription eyeglasses. “Mission: Inclusion” goes beyond vision screenings to create programs to support the acceptance and inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in their communities. This includes the integration of Leos into an inclusive sports model called Unified Sports®.

The African Leaders Forum on Disability was an historic event that drew attention to the plight of individuals with disabilities, namely intellectual and developmental disabilities. Her Excellency President Dr. Joyce Banda, a Lion, and the Republic of Malawi hosted the event.

Senior African government officials from 12 nations and representatives of top health and disability organizations attended the forum. As a global partner of Special Olympics, LCI served as a core convening partner with top Lions leaders attending.

“Lions Clubs International is very happy to be

partnering with Special Olympics Malawi. It’s a win-win situation. It fits in with our global support of Special Olympics’ Opening Eyes initiative, and the partnership here in Malawi in particular is helping us expand the Lions clubs here,” says LCIF Chairperson Wayne Madden.

During the forum, Banda announced the formation of the African Leadership Alliance on Intellectual Disabilities, an organization dedicated to improving the lives of those with intellectual disabilities. In areas of limited resources, partnerships like “Mission: Inclusion” are integral in breaking down barriers that make individuals with intellectual disabilities some of the most marginalized and discriminated-against community members.

“Before we can tackle the environmental barriers that block our children from school, before we can address the lack of training of doctors that block our children from hospitals, before we can strengthen the social policies that streamline family services, this stigma must become yesterday’s news,” says Banda.

In the spirit of international teamwork, Leos from Malawi and District 412 energetically suited up alongside Special Olympics athletes from Malawi, the Malawian Football Federation, government officials from Malawi and South Africa football greats such as Mark Fish, Phil Masinga and Desiree Ellis. It was the first time in Africa where Leos and Special Olympic athletes have participated side-by-side in inclusive sports.

In addition, an LCIF-sponsored Family Health



A boy with special needs takes part in the African Leaders Forum on Disability in Malawi. Photo by Fernando Cambeiro

Forum brought together more than 100 families of children with intellectual disabilities, nonprofit organizations and others to work with the local community on strategies to integrate this marginalized population into health, education and social initiatives across the country.

Special Olympics and LCI are working to bring the impact of “Mission: Inclusion” to the lives of children and adults with intellectual disabilities globally. The organizations speak with a united voice to an undeniable mission: SERVICE to those who need Lions most.

President's Hunch About Lunch Pays Off



Clubs in New Zealand kicked it off with a lunch at noon, and then, like the rays of the sun racing across time zones, Lions around the world gathered for lunch, shared fellowship with prospective members and in some instances performed service. More than 2,200 clubs and nearly 200,000 people took part in the Lions World Lunch Relay on April 4. International President **Barry Palmer** of Australia established the project as part of his Family and Friends Month to promote membership and interest in Lions.

The formats for the gatherings were as diverse as the menus. **Surabaya Kharisma Lions** in Indonesia served heaps of food for 60 needy children. **Celje and Celje**

Galerija Mozaik Lions from Slovenia and **Zadar Lions** from Croatia collected food from stores for the poor. **Tustin Host Lions** from California cleaned a beach and talked to beachgoers about Lions.

Clubs shared hundreds of photos on the LCI World Lunch Facebook page (clockwise from top left): **Lima Lions** from Peru cooked ethnic food, **Chihuahua Fuerza Lions** from Mexico played games, **Delhi Aishwarya Lions** in India fed the hungry, **Nagercoil Lions** from India organized games, **Port Harcourt Lions** in Nigeria enjoyed fellowship, **Sofia Saint Ivan Rilski Lions** in Bulgaria ate outdoors and **Wahiawa Lions** in Hawaii spelled out a message.



Bradford Lions Holds 60th Mammoth Car Draw

Yes that right....60 years of Bradford Lions Car Draws!

Our planning started in Jan 2013 for our Sept 2013 draw. We needed to organize OLG approval, entertainment (music & social gaming event), meals, bar, volunteers and most importantly the sale of 1700 tickets at \$100 each.

This represents a massive undertaking by the club and our largest fundraiser for the year. All of our membership takes an active roll in bringing this event to fruition as many hands make light work (or should we say lighter work...it is not an easy task!).

The committee tries to have our tickets ready for April. We have our 1st Early Bird July 1, second Early Bird mid August and final Early Bird at our Customer Appreciation BBQ the weekend before the actual draw in September. Every minute of time is needed to get those tickets sold....a task that requires the drive of every Bradford Lions member.

While membership strives to push our tickets, none

of our efforts are possible without the fantastic support of our Bradford West Gwillimbury and surrounding community. That includes our corporate sponsors and partnerships.

Being the 60th anniversary, we had two vehicles and a prize board totaling approximately \$109200. The entertainment was our Elimination Draw, Social Gaming evening along with a Legends Band concert (Neil Diamond, Frankie Vallie, Tom Jones, Stevie Wonder, Elton John, Bee Gees and closed with Garth Brooks)..... what an evening! Our patrons are still talking about it.

Based on our great community support, we sold out early (an accomplishment not seen for several years). Long time customers were attempting to find tickets at the last moment.

While we tend to be exhausted at

the conclusion of the draw, this is quickly offset by the fact that we've had great community support that created the opportunity to raise some funds for our many worthwhile causes including allowing the club to chip away at our Quarter Million dollar pledge towards the new Bradford Leisure Centre.

We thank everyone for the support and encourage every Lions Club to strive for perfection in their respective fund raising efforts.....good luck to all!



Peace Poster Winner Draws from Experience

by Jay Copp

Rail-thin and quiet, Tongbram Mahesh Singh, 13, does not stand out from his peers. His grades are average at Little Birds School in Moirang, India. He plays football (soccer) and performs in school plays. He fits in. His demeanor is what people notice. Adults admire his honesty, humility and obedience.

Tongbram's mother works as a weaver to support him and his disabled younger sister, who is blind and

doesn't speak.

Tongbram lives in a normally safe neighborhood. But violence looms in the region. A northeastern state, Manipur is wracked by insurgency. More than 30 militant groups roam its hills and valleys. Killings and kidnappings occur with frightening regularity. Roadblocks and blockades are part of daily life.

Tongbram has drawn and painted since first grade. "When I was lonely, I painted," he says. Last fall he submitted a peace poster for the contest of Lions Clubs International and then forgot about it. A few months ago, while being tutored, his teacher told him he had won the grand prize. In utter disbelief, he ran out of the room. "At first he did not believe he could win the prize," says **Dr. Kshetrimayum Umananda Singh** of the **Moirang Lions Club**.

His poster is an extension of his protective personality. "Children of different countries are together painting a world. A big dove with an olive branch in the beak is behind them as if the chicks are protected by the mother hen," he wrote of his poster.

He portrayed children from America, Europe and Asia. "We belong to different countries, different religions and colors, but the feeling for love of peace and hatred of violence and war is the same to us," he wrote. "My native state, Manipur, is a conflict society. My friends in Lebanon, Syria, Tibet and Africa are suffering from the same strife. It makes us fear. When we fear we cannot enjoy playing. That is why we want love and peace. Where there is love there is peace."

His mother says his \$5,000 award will be put in a bank to finance Tongbram's education. He wants to be a cartoonist. Maybe by then, when he is an adult and drawing cartoons for children, peace will have come to Manipur.

View all the 2013-14 Peace Poster winners at www.lionsclubs.org.



What an Accomplishment – 50 Great Years of Service

By Lion Liam Brennan

Lion Gerry Huizing was introduced to Lions 53 years ago, by his sponsor **Lion John Milne**. That was in 1961 in Wawa Ontario.

In April 1963 when his job had him move to the Sault he transferred his membership to the **Lions Club of Sault Ste. Marie** there. And has worked tirelessly for the good of the community ever since.

Never shy to volunteer he has taken our motto "We Serve" to new heights! He has served on the White Elephant Sale Committee, the Rose Day Committee, the Bingo Committee, The CTV Telethon, and many other committees over the years. Lion Gerry has been active on the Board of Directors of the Sault Club almost continuously since 1965; he was a two time President first in 1977-78 and again in 1988-89.

He has been a director of the Sault Ste. Marie Lions Housing Board from 1986 to 1989 and again from 1991 to 1999.

He was one of the founding members of the Lions Pointe Des Chenes Campground and has been on the committee since its inception in 1985 chairing it several times.

Lion Gerry exemplifies what it means to be a Lion. His accolades read like a Lions Award Encyclopedia! He has been a Melvin Jones Fellow since 1994

He is a Lions Foundation of Canada Life Member since 1988



Lion Rick Boucher, the Sault Ste. Marie Lions President, presenting Lion Gerry with his 50 years of service patch

Lions Clubs International Foundation Honour Roll Member since 1990

District A5 Convention Chairman 1993 – 1994 under PDG Bill Copeman Jr.

He received the Province of Ontario Volunteer Service Award in 2008

He became a CNIB Knight of the Blind in 2003

He was the club's Lion of the Year in 2008

He has a Helen Keller Fellowship Award - 2010

And he received one of the first Lions Quest Fellowship Awards in 2011, as it was a new award to raise money for The Canadian Centre for Positive Youth Development.

And to add to all of his Lions achievements he has 53 years of perfect attendance!

When I asked Lion Gerry what was his best memory of being a Lion was, he said, "The Fellowship from the Club! The year a lot of us drove to the international Convention in Minneapolis. That was great fun and I enjoyed the fellowship on that trip!"

And when I asked him what he thought the biggest change to the Lions Club was over the years? He paused in reflection and then said, "Women in the Club. And that is a good change!" (Lion Gerry's daughter, **Lion Cyndi**, is a Lion in the Sault Club.)

Congratulations Lion Gerry

Their Summer Place

The Louisiana Lions Camp offers a fun-filled haven for special needs children to be the 'normal' ones.

by Jake Clapp

Maya, 15, hollers with excitement as the beanbag she launched with a catapult lands with a light thud on a small platform a couple of feet away. Maya chooses her prize—a stuffed animal that she glancingly admires before stuffing it into a large bag already filling up with other toys. She then quickly rolls her wheelchair to the next game.

Around her, Matthew's Midway is bustling. It's the weekly carnival night at Louisiana Lions Camp, one of the camp's most popular evening events. Lions who live nearby in Leesville and Anacoco grill sausages, make snow cones and run typical carnival attractions such as Skee ball, sponge toss and face painting.



The mission of the camp is to give disabled children a normal summer camp experience

A quiet, older camper named Tim is trying his first snow cone, a banana flavored ice ball. Yu, a counselor, asks him if it's turning his tongue yellow. Tim smiles and sticks out his yellow-dyed tongue, prompting two other campers around him to stick out their own to be checked for red and green. Meanwhile, Kristian and his girlfriend Ashley, two campers who met at Lions Camp, sit on a bench watching younger kids try their hands at a Wheel of Fortune game and the water balloon pop.

It's become tradition for both campers and counselors to come in costume for the evening. A group of older boy counselors dress in wigs, jogging shorts and sorority tank tops, trying to look like the sorority pledges you might find on the University of Louisiana at Lafayette campus. More than a few campers and counselors are dressed as zombies. One camper is wearing a Batman mask while his counselor is a mild-mannered Clark Kent.

Before the night is over, several campers and their



A counselor gets blasted with water after camper hit a target with ball

The night is an exciting mid-week highlight during the Lions Camp session for physically challenged campers. It's one highlight among many. There is the Kangaroo Court, in which campers can accuse counselors and staff of "not cheering enough" or having "bad taste in music," resulting in the punishment of being slimed or sitting in ice. Also memorable are the spectacular July 4th fireworks show and the teary-eyed final night campfire. There will be a lot for both campers and counselors to remember. There always is at "Our Summer Place," as campers affectionately call the camp.

LC Love

For 56 years, 51 at its current location outside of Leesville, the Louisiana Lions Club has operated a residential summer camp for youth with special needs, diabetes and pulmonary disorders. Broken into seven one-week sessions over the summer and featuring a small counselor-to-camper ratio, the camp provides the state's children with a place where they can have a memorable summer camp experience—complete with archery, swimming, fishing, volleyball, basketball and other outdoor sports—that they might have otherwise missed. As several campers, counselors and alumni put it, at the Lions Camp "no matter the disability, the campers are the normal."

The camp is completely free for boys and girls in the state. Louisiana Lions cover the costs, and many clubs sponsor local children for whatever additional cost it might take to get them to camp. Clubs also



Campers and counselors joke around

counselors are hauling multiple large garbage bags filled with stuffed animals around the area. Campers will now face the difficult decision of which ones they can shove into their luggage for the trip home in a few days.

The effect is a chain reaction of good feelings called "LC Love" that seems to catch anyone who turns off U.S. Highway 171 and drives past the lion statues onto the Lions Camp grounds. Symbolized as an "L" drawn into a heart, LC Love is seen everywhere on the campgrounds—scrawled with Sharpies on picnic tables and benches and painted into mosaics.

As Cecil puts it, the summer camp is like any other camp, where kids can have normal experiences with others like them. Family bonds begin to form between the campers and also draw in the counselors and staff, many of whom once were campers themselves. It's what keeps campers and staff wanting to come back year after year.

charter bus trips for area children to get to the camp. Ray Cecil's first encounter with the camp dates to 1977 after he finished eighth grade. He rode with his father to pick up a camper to bring to the Lions Camp. He had never before been to Leesville but liked the camp enough to volunteer the next summer. Now the camp's executive director, the 2013 summer marked his 26th year at the Louisiana Lions Camp.

"The campers have a way of intertwining their lives into yours, and you learn all sorts of things," Cecil says.

Really, the more things change, the more they stay the same. And tradition-wise, the mission of the camp—with what we're trying to offer to the kids—that hasn't changed," Cecil says. "This is their place and that's what we want them to know. This is their home, they're looking forward to this every summer. They've been packed [to come here] for weeks."

Building Confidence

The Lions Camp summer typically begins in June with Camp Pelican, a program hosted with Louisiana Pulmonary Disease Camp, Inc., for children with cystic fibrosis, severe and chronic asthma and those with tracheostomies. Camp Pelican is followed by a week of training for summer staff, then two weeks for mentally challenged campers ages 8 to 19, two weeks for physically challenged campers ages 7 to 19, followed by a diabetes camp for ages 6 to 10 before a week for diabetic campers ages 11 to 14. On average, more than 500 kids will go through the Lions Camp during the summer, Cecil says.

The first physically challenged camp week last summer saw 47 kids with 57 staffers. Children with disabilities such as spina bifida, visual impairments, cerebral palsy and Rett syndrome cycle through the day's activities: swimming, archery, arts and crafts, fishing and team sports. They are split into groups, called patrols, based on their ages, with the staffers divided out among them. The girls go into the Cherokee, Sioux, Caddo and Cree patrols, while the boys are divided into the Apache, Comanche, Crow and Hopi. The groups quickly form team bonds and learn to work together to win challenges: which patrol

can cheer the loudest or earn the most points at an activity.

“Kids come away with a lot more confidence,” says Brittany Barbier, the camp’s program director. This is Barbier’s eighth summer at the camp, a place she credits for her current career path as a special education teacher.

“This shows them they can do anything they want to do. They don’t have any obstacles bigger than what they have already faced,” she says as she points to a camper in the swimming pool. The young man has a form of arthritis that limits his arms’ range of motion, but he has learned to catch a Frisbee and ball.

During diabetes weeks, campers are taught tips to help keep their blood sugar in check, and some young campers even learn how to administer their own insulin shots. In fact, several current staffers once were diabetes campers.

Kristian Bellard, a camper with spina bifida from Pine Prairie, has been going to the Lions Camp since he was 10 years old. Now 17, Bellard has won nine state championships in wheelchair racing. “[I’ve learned] to be lucky that I have what I got,” Bellard says. “I’m lucky that I’m not like some other kids. You learn to live with what you got.”

Away from Cruelty

Any time during the day chants and cheers can be heard echoing across the campgrounds. There seems



A camper lets out an “evil genius” laugh during the Kangaroo Court at the request of Ray Cecil, the camp director. Chants, cheers and yelling are regular occurrences at the camp

and they’re shouted at the top of each camper’s lungs. If you’re lucky, you might even get your own chant, like the energetic, gravel-voiced Ferlandric Bell. “The smiles on the campers’ faces, when we do the cheering, it really does something to me, it really melts my heart,” Bell says.

Bell, a junior at Northwestern State University of Louisiana, began volunteering in 2010, and by the 2013 summer he was the BB gun and archery instructor.

to be a chant for everything: when campers are late for an activity, when it’s time to eat, when someone drops something, or when a camper wins a challenge—not to mention the unique cheers each patrol has for their own group names. The enthused yells are a big part of the camp experience,

and they’re shouted at the top of each camper’s lungs.

Alumni Cherish Time at Camp

Even after more than 50 years, Dean Navarre, Carl Cortez and Joe Territa still talk about their first summers at the Louisiana Lions Camp like it happened last July. The three will go on for hours on the pranks they pulled, the trouble they caused—and narrowly avoided—and the lifelong friendships they made in the early 1960s.

The three men regularly stay in touch, and through the Louisiana Lions Camper Alumni Association, an organization they helped shape, they work to keep past campers connected and foster “LC Love” years after they’ve passed the camp’s age requirements. The memories of the camp are powerful and long lasting. Ask any alumni and they’ll gladly share why the camp was important to their lives.

Can’t Leave

Celeste Naquin lied about her age for six years just to be able to continue attending Lions Camp past the cutoff age of 19.

Celeste, who is now 37, began attending camp when she was 13, but her mother, Cindy Naquin, admitted to being hesitant to let her go that first year and called the camp multiple times to check in. She relaxed after that first summer.

“The first thing [Celeste] told me when she got off the bus, ‘Can we go back next year, please?’” Naquin says.



Celeste Naquin and her mother Cindy

Celeste was able to make it to 25 before someone noticed she was too old for the camp. Still, her devotion to the camp was honored with a plaque.

Skills for Life

“We had counselors who believed in us,” says Brenda Hughes DuFour, who attended camp five times between 1958 and 1965. “We didn’t believe in ourselves, but the counselors believed in us. I have confidence today because of what I did at Lions Camp.”

When Hurricane Andrew blew through south-central Louisiana in 1992, DuFour volunteered with the Red Cross at a shelter, helping to unfold Army cots—a skill she picked up while setting up cots at camp.

DuFour spent most of her childhood in foster care. The camp gave her stability in her life. “The thing that I held on to, kept me above water, was the fact that I went to Lions Camp.”

Priceless Peers

While New Orleans native Greg Johnson was at the camp from 1964 to 1967, he gravitated toward archery—proudly earning every award he could with the bow and arrow. “Those years were priceless,” he

“You know, away from here [campers] might not ever get to experience going out to a dance,” Bell says. “The world can be cruel and if you’re not like everyone else, you can be excluded. But here they can experience things that they might not normally. Like shooting BBs, archery and things like that. That’s what I love about camp.”

Maya Humphrey, who is in her sixth summer at camp, says she mails off her camp application letter the day after she gets it in the mail and “likes coming for the kids like her.” Bailey LeBlanc, a Cherokee camper, shares a similar sentiment, although she adds she comes back every summer to see Brittany Barbier.

The counselors aren’t allowed to choose favorites, Barbier says, but that doesn’t stop the kids from having favorite staffers and forming friendships.

“The most difficult part is saying goodbye to the kids,” Barbier says. “Knowing that it’s their last year and they won’t be back next summer. It gets hard.”

To help stay connected, alumni associations have started for both staff and campers. Many alumni have left their own mark on the camp. Matthew Palm, a camper who passed away in 2008, is the namesake behind Matthew’s Midway.

Happy Tears

In 1957, a group of Lions wanted to send a few post-polio and physically challenged children to summer camp but couldn’t find an accepting program.

“You could not put any kind of value on it. ... I think it was the idea of seeing people that I could relate to. Seeing kids that really understood me, with the handicap that I have and just knowing you’re in the same group of people that have problems just like you. Not like going back home and you’re one in thousands.”

Passing the Lessons

Chris Usé Stoll remains one of the few campers who was asked back to be a junior counselor—a younger staff member who helps around the camp. “It was real experience because I worked with different disabilities while I was there,” she says.

Stoll became a teacher for more than 25 years. Her time at Lions Camp influenced how she worked within the classroom. “When I think about what I possibly would have been without camp, when I think about all the things we did in our lives because of it, that is the utmost thing in my mind,” she says. “I hated school, but I became a teacher because I worked with children of all disabilities at camp.”



Chris Usé Stoll



The most common graffiti at the camp is the LC Love symbol, signifying the affection for the camp

Taking matters into their own hands, they founded the Louisiana Lions League for Crippled Children, Inc.

For the first few years, the league piloted a program at Camp Windywood, until the Leesville Lions Club donated 100 acres of piney woodlands north of town to build a permanent camp. Lions Camp occupies about 8 acres, plus the lake. The first camping session opened on July 9, 1961, and since then, the camp has become an American Camp Association accredited

camp with more than 22,000 children having attended, all for free.

The league made every Lion in Louisiana a charter member who is personally responsible for the financial stability of the camp, says Logan Morris, president of the Leesville Lions Club and grandson of one of the camp's founders. "It takes a good bit of money to fund the camp season, and it's funded entirely by donations, 90 percent of which come from the Lions Clubs of Louisiana," Morris says. The full cost is met through pledges, memorials and donations to the Louisiana Lions League for Crippled Children.

"Our camps typically stay pretty full," Morris says. "The thing we fall short on is identifying the campers in local school systems as they are available or may exist, and to adequately explain to the parents that they can be comfortable letting their kids go."

But once parents do let go, or a staffer volunteers for the first time, the positivity is infectious. "You're bit, and you can't get away," Morris adds.

"A prime example of that is a lot of kids that come here for the first time are crying when they get off the

bus, or out of their parents' car. They do not want to go to camp. But by Friday night, they'll be crying because they don't want to leave, and they can't wait to come back. If you can get them here for the first time and let them see the experience, they will never forget it."



The grand fireworks display draws a crowd
Photos by Erin Arledge

Digital LION

It was a summer of fun in 1966 at the Wisconsin Lions Camp as detailed in the LION. Get the complete story and photos at www.lionmagazine.org.

Port Stanley Leos

On Tuesday, February 18th, the newly formed **Port Stanley and District Leo Club** was chartered. Sponsored by the **Port Stanley Lions Club**, the ceremony was held in a St Thomas restaurant. **Lion Bob Nemett**, the M.C. for the ceremony, introduced many distinguished guests, who were there to lend support and bring good wishes. Included were Lions District A1 Governor **Bob Tanner**, Central Elgin Mayor Bill Walters, County of Elgin Warden Dave Marr, Lions Zone Chairman **Ron Reid**, and many other visiting guests.

The stated purpose of Leo clubs is to promote service activities among the youth of the community, which will develop individual qualities of Leadership, Experience and Opportunity. To unite its members in friendship, fellowship and mutual understanding. Leo clubs are composed of young people of good character, who are members of the local community with an age range between 12 and 18 years old.

Many gifts were presented to the new club, including a Club Banner, Flag and Gavel. The Leo club's first charter President, **Leo Jamie McAdams**, gave a gracious

speech of acceptance on behalf of her club, and gave special praise to Lions President **Henry VanBroekhoven**, **Lion Rick Nemett** and **Lion Jim Colautti**, for their help and guidance in helping to form the new club.

Zone Chairman Lion Ron Reid, inducted Leo's **Julia, Nicole** and **Lucas Amodeo, Jack Collins, Megan Fleming, Rebecca Laemers, Jamie McAdams, Amanda Simpson, Christine Timmons, Dorothy** and **Destiny VanBroekhoven** as charter members. District Governor Lion Bob Tanner installed Leo Jamie McAdams as President, Leo Dorothy VanBroekhoven as Vice President, Leo Rebecca Laemers as Treasurer and Leo Amanda Simpson as Secretary.

The new Leo club meets on the First and Third Thursday of each month, at the St Joseph's High School Library in St Thomas, and is actively trying to recruit new members from the Port Stanley, St Thomas and area communities. For more information please go to their Facebook page 'Port Stanley District Leo's Club', or speak with any Leo, Port Stanley Lion or Lioness member.



Cumberland Lions Club

The Cumberland Lions Club celebrated their 46th Charter Anniversary on January 18th 2014.

President **Larney Make** and 2nd Vice District Governor, **Lion Kris Schultz** presented **Lion Ray Ball** with a Life Membership award.



Batawa Lions

The Batawa Lions Club took on the work needed to have 3 rinks prepared for the 2014 Pond Hockey Classic held in January. Many volunteer hours to prepare the ponds, and maintain them by nightly floodings.



Port Dover Lions Club

Port Dover Lions Club entertained members past and present of St. Paul's Club on April 14 in the popular Cove Room of the Erie Beach Hotel. It was the Lions way of thanking the church group for catering at their bi-monthly dinner meetings continuously since March 6, 1944 in their Anglican Church hall. Seventy ladies accepted the invitation for the evening that included dinner, music and songs by a **Jarvis Lions Club** quartet and a gift presentation for every lady. Master of Ceremonies **Lion Walt Long** welcomed the guests, saying, "this thank-you has been a long time coming, 70 years, you have served us very well over all those years, and we want to show our appreciation". A plaque commemorating the auspicious

occasion was presented to St. Paul's Club president. For the past several decades the Port Dover Lions Club roster has been in the 60 to 70-member range.



Lion Lee Buffin and St. Paul's Club President Sylvia Bruley (standing) chat with seated guests

Amherstview Lions

In March, Lion President **Andre Havreluck** and Activity Chair **Carman Fisher** of **Amherstview Lions Club** presented a cheque to Amherstview Volunteer Firefighters Association in support of their Community Sign. The Amherstview Lions Club held a special Pancake Breakfast to raise the funds to assist the volunteer firefighters.



Little Current Lions Celebrate 75th Anniversary!

By The Manitoulin Expositor

Seventy-five years ago in November 1938, the **Little Current Lions Club** was officially chartered and began seven and a half decades of service to the community by deciding to take on the responsibility for setting up and decorating a large Christmas tree in downtown Little Current.

This decision to organize a community Christmas tree, seemingly a small activity by 2013 standards, was nonetheless the very first act of service by Manitoulin Island's very first service club.

The club had a seventy-fifth anniversary party on November 30 and while the event was more fun than anything else, with congratulations on reaching this landmark delivered from other clubs, MP Carol Hughes, Mayor Al MacNevin and many others, the club was modest about its accomplishments since that Christmas tree project all those years ago. Guest speaker for the evening was A5 District Governor **Lion Brian Closs**.

A few things leaked out, like how the club has been very involved in each of the community's three successive hockey rinks over the years, including taking on the ownership of the original, privately owned indoor rink, just to keep it operating in the years following the Second World War.

There was also a reference to assistance the Little Current site of the Manitoulin Health Centre has received over the years, including cheques for \$50,000 and for \$30,000 for capital projects.

A former club member who could date his membership from the early 1950s reminisced about the dream of a community park at Low Island, set in motion by the Lions who initially acquired the property in the late 1960s. A current Lions Club member noted how this dream has been realized in partnership with the municipality and the park now includes a double soccer field for youth play, two baseball diamonds, Sisson skateboard park, a swimming beach and docks, a picnic area, beach volleyball courts, public washrooms and two years ago, the Little Current Lions Club and the Northeast

Town cooperated to build a permanent pavilion to service events at the ball park.

Quite a list of accomplishments have stemmed from that dream of a community park nearly 50 years ago.

These are just a few examples of the club's public accomplishments over years, but the smaller acts of generosity, the support for sports clubs, school activities, the Sea Cadet program currently and, previously, support for Cubs, Scouts, Guides and Brownies.

And so Little Current is rightly celebrating its service club.

But it is not unique on Manitoulin for there are Lions Clubs in Mindemoya (**Central Manitoulin Lions**), Manitowaning (**Southeast Manitoulin Lions**), **Gore Bay/Western Manitoulin Lions** and also the **Spring Bay/Providence Bay Lions**.

Each of these Lions Clubs, and the Gore Bay Rotary Club, has provided and continues to provide the same kind of services to its own community.

As a recent example, the Spring Bay/Providence Bay Lions Club took a lead role in the massive redevelopment of the children's playground on the Providence Bay beach, creating an economic opportunity in the process by making the famous white sands of Providence Bay's long beach an even more desirable place for family visits.

There is often, if not always, an aspect of economic development associated with service clubs for their fundraising endeavors are almost always associated with major community events which, in their own right, create direct economic activity.

Locally the examples are all around us: the Little Current Lions Club's Haweater Weekend in the summer and Winterfest in the winter, the Central Manitoulin Lions Club's Homecoming Weekend every Canada Day Weekend in Mindemoya, the Southeast Manitoulin Lions Club's Summerfest Weekend in July, the Gore Bay/Western Manitoulin Lions Club's Summerfest Weekend, also in July, and then the club's joint event with local Lions branch and Rotary Club

two weeks later: Harbour Days. In Providence Bay, the Spring Bay/Providence Bay's annual corn roast has quickly become that town's annual family activity.

There is a pattern here because in each case, in all of these communities, the service club's major fundraising activity has become that community's annual 'Big Weekend' and focus for community fun.

Service clubs, like the one that turned 75 in November and all of the others, are win-win for their host communities. They raise money and then give it away to enhance and improve their communities and also create major community festivals in the process of fundraising.

Congratulations to the Little Current Lions Club, and also to all of the other Manitoulin Island service clubs. It's clear that every community fortunate enough to have a service club (or more than one, as is the case in Gore Bay) is very fortunate.



District Governor of A-5 Lion Brian Closs presenting their 75th Charter Certificate to Little Current Lions President Lion Steve Nunn



Little Current Lions Club members gather for a picture with District Governor Lion Brian Closs, 1st Vice Lion Harold Huhtanen and 2nd Vice Lion Gerry Bertrand

Lions Club Pointe Des Chenes Campground

For 29 years the **Lions Club of Sault Ste. Marie** has operated a beautiful campground on the shores of Lake Superior.

You can choose from over 100 sites for camper trailers or tents, and some, easy pull trough's for bigger RV's. There are two comfort stations and a tuck shop for supplies. Everything you need is there for your convenience and to make your holiday enjoyable.

You can relax on the mile long sand beach in the hot afternoon sun letting the soft breeze off the lake wash over you keeping you cool as you work on your tan.

Later, from your front row seat on top of one of the sandy dunes, you can watch gorgeous sunsets. All season it appears as if the fiery red ball in the sky slips slowly into the cool blue waters of the big lake creating a spectacular array of orange, red, yellow, on a blue background, all reflected in the waters of the bay.

In the evening there are activities for the whole family not the least of is the famous hay-wagon ride

pulled by a brightly coloured antique 1947 Dodge Fargo Tractor that gets a lot of attention with its odd sounding horn.

And every night you can hear the gentle laughter of families sitting around their campfire roasting marshmallows or hotdogs on an open flame!

This is where everyone should spend his or her summer holidays.

The Campground opens in May and runs until the end of September. For reservations Call (705) 777-2696 - Call now for prime spots -

Tell them that you read about it in the Lions Magazine!



Canadian Diabetes Association

I know it may be hard to believe but summer is around the corner and with that thought in mind over 70 local children with type 1 diabetes need your help to attend D-Camp this summer. Lions are the Honorary Guardian of Camp Huronda and I hope your club can help with subsidizing the Campership fees for these local children and we can make this happen together!

In my travels this year I have met personally with 64 clubs in A15, A 711 and A9 educating members about what diabetes is, how to prevent and manage certain types of diabetes (which several clubs had high numbers of members with type 2), how the Canadian Diabetes Association helps people within their community living with diabetes and as well explaining the strong relationship that the Lions Clubs have with the Canadian Diabetes Association but even more importantly their role as Guardians of Camp Huronda. Canadian Diabetes Association provides the only overnight camp in Canada for children with type 1 diabetes! As well the Association is not funded by the government or the United Way, we provide unique programs tailored to each unique community's need that we serve and as such rely on community partners like Lions to help serve our community.

Camp Huronda offers children with diabetes a unique opportunity to be with kids just like them. They learn how to manage the daily challenges of living with diabetes within a fun filled summer camp environment. Children share their stories with one

another and realize they are not alone. The sense of self confidence and maturity that results from the experience brings memories and lessons that will last a lifetime.

Diabetes is reaching pandemic levels with over 9 million Canadians affected by the disease. Each year over 1300 children in Canada are diagnosed with type 1 diabetes and more than ever we need the support of Lions to assist us in providing support to these children and their families. For many families, the financial burden to send their child to camp is a luxury out of their reach.

Whether it is a partial subsidy of \$350, \$500, \$1000 or a full subsidy of \$1350 for a child to attend one week at Camp Huronda your donation will not only ensure a child's dream of going to camp is a reality, but will also be an investment in our future community members and leaders.

Looking forward to working with your club in supporting our 70 local children with type 1 diabetes, Nicole Holder, Mission Funding Coordinator

Canadian Diabetes Association
Central West Leadership Centre
14 Irvin St. Suite 1, Kitchener, ON N2H 1K8
Phone: 519 742 1481, Fax: 519 712 1282
Cell: 226 791 4523 | diabetes.ca | 1-800-BANTING
| *Setting the world standard*

PS – Looking forward to some fun and seeing you at the convention in July!



Dunsford Lions

The Dunsford Lions had a great turn out and profited from their Sweetheart Country 105 Video Dance on Valentine's Day to the tune of \$7280.00 which will be given back to our community. We are gearing up for our Wheels in Motion Car and Bike Show at the Dunsford Community Centre on Mother's Day where we be serving a Mother's Day Breakfast.



Dunsford Lions inducted a new member **Ray Kirkby**. Attending the ceremony was Past District Governor **Ray Howlett** and **Lion Mike Jancsik**.

Ariss Lions

The **Ariss and District Lions Club** presented a specially designed bicycle to Jackson, a local child with autism. Pictured below are L-R: **Lion Bob Halliburton**, mom Sarah, dad Jake, **Lion Brian Kurtz**. In front is Jackson on his new bike that he is very proud of and enjoys riding. Jackson also has a younger brother with autism.



The Sunshine Foundation

The Sunshine Foundation of Canada helps children with severe physical disabilities realize that nothing can stand in the way of a dream. By fulfilling their dreams, The Foundation helps Sunshine Kids build confidence in their ability to pursue other goals.

The Sunshine Foundation was established in 1987 by a Canadian police officer who lost his teenaged son to muscular dystrophy. As a lasting legacy to his son, he sought to brighten the lives of other children with challenges by fulfilling their most cherished dreams. Since that time, Sunshine has fulfilled more than 7,000 dreams for children across Canada through its DreamLift and Individual Dreams programs.

The Sunshine DreamLift program gives children with severe physical disabilities the opportunity to take part in a one-day trip to a Disney theme park. Accompanied by medical volunteers, kids get to enjoy what is often their first plane ride and their first day away from mom and dad. The goal of the DreamLift program is to leave kids with a sense of independence and a desire to pursue other lifelong dreams.



DreamLifts have given kids like nine-year-old Owen the opportunity to feel confident in their abilities. A few months before the London DreamLift in October of last year, Owen was preparing for major

surgery related to his spinal muscular atrophy. One of his health care providers called him to let him know about Sunshine's DreamLift.

"They thought if he had something to look forward to, it would help him to get through his surgery," said Angela, Owen's mom.

"Owen is driven, charismatic and very outgoing," said Angela. "At the same time, he was apprehensive about going without us because he hadn't really tested himself not to depend on other people." He was nervous until his first phone call with Kevin, a member of the London Police Service and the DreamLift buddy Sunshine matched with Owen. "I was really excited that he was on the London Tac[tical] team because I'm really into police," said Owen.

For his parents, one of the best moments came after the DreamLift. "We've convinced him to go to camp. This experience gave him the confidence to go. The world's got a lot to offer if you're willing to take a risk. With risk comes reward."

Sunshine also provides kids with the opportunity to have an Individual Dream fulfilled. Individual Dreams

are experiences personalized for each child, based on their unique interests. They take many forms, from a family vacation, to meeting a favourite celebrity, to getting a customized sports wheelchair. The Individual Dreams program plays an important role in helping children with severe physical disabilities realize that if they pursue their dreams they really can come true.

Sixteen-year-old Austin participated in Sunshine's Individual Dreams program. Austin, who lives with paraplegia, was never the kid sitting in front of the television after school. He was always racing around, being active. "On the ski hill, his dad would put him between his legs and go down the hill," said Sandy, Austin's mother. "Austin always wanted to go fast."

Austin was six when he started playing sledge hockey and started racing when he was seven. "It's an adrenaline rush. I like coming in first." He loved racing, but he found that he was always borrowing chairs — chairs that people had used and usually outgrown. Chairs that didn't fit Austin quite right. "I was settling for the equipment I was using. Definitely, I was not operating on a full deck."

Austin's mother suggested applying to The Sunshine Foundation of Canada to fulfill his dream of having his own customized racing chair. His coach measured him and Sunshine arranged to have a chair made that would fit Austin perfectly. When his racing chair was ready, the family drove down to Florida to attend a high-performance training camp and to pick up the chair. With his new racing chair, he achieved his personal best on the first, second and third races of the season. "There was a clear leap in performance and that was due to the technology of the chair," said Austin.

Austin is currently a member of Athletics Canada and with his custom chair he has won four Gold medals and set a new Canadian record in the 800 meter race at the Canadian National Championships in Moncton, New Brunswick.

These achievements put him on the path to compete in the Swiss Series races, Desert Challenge in Arizona, the Canada Games in Sherbrook, Quebec and the World Championships in Lyon, France. Austin is in training for his next dream — competing in the Rio



2016 Paralympic Games.

"It's so hard to express the kind of nervous energy that takes over when thousands of people are screaming in the stands with the camera crew in your face at the starting line announcing your name and your country," said Austin. "[Being] ready in my custom chair gave me and my parents and all our friends and family such a great sense of pride.

"Sunshine has had a really awesome impact. It's helped me reach my goals. Sunshine helps kids reach their dreams and do exactly what they want to do."

Sunshine is volunteer-powered, with volunteer chapters Canada-wide, supported by one small national home office. As a charitable organization, Sunshine is governed by a national volunteer board of directors that ensures every dollar we raise annually is well spent. We receive no government or United Way funding and we rely on the generosity of individual and corporate donors to achieve our mission.

Sunshine is grateful for the support of Lions Clubs, like the Lucan Lions Club. Since 1997, the Lucan Lions Club has raised nearly \$200,000 for Sunshine.

There are many ways you can help us fulfill more dreams for kids in local communities across Canada. Engage your Lions Club to fundraise for Sunshine. Or, talk to your Club about donating to Sunshine. Your support will help children realize that dreams really do come true.



Straffordville Lions

Firefighter, Captain Steve Volks was happy to receive a donation of One Thousand Dollars from the Straffordville Lions Club member Doug Schram. The donation will be used for an on-site air fill station for refilling the Firefighters air tanks on site.



(left to right) Capt. Kevin Kitching, Capt. Greg Cole, Capt. Steve Volks and Lion Club member Doug Schram

Lions Quest

Our 2014 Promotional Contest Closes Soon - Make Your Donation Now!

For a donation of \$250, your club will receive:

- 50 tickets on the draw for the 1989 Classic Mercedes 300SE
- recognition as a Champion Club with a banner patch
- one Guest Speaker Thank You Certificate acknowledging that a donation has been made to Lions Quest Canada

For a donation of \$500, your club will receive:

- 100 tickets on the draw for the 1989 Classic Mercedes 300SE
- recognition as a Champion Club with a banner patch
- 2 Guest Speaker Thank You Certificates acknowledging that a donation has been made to Lions Quest Canada
- 1 Lions Quest Fellowship for a worthy recipient to be named by your club

For a donation of \$1000, your club will receive:

- 200 tickets on the draw for the 1989 Classic Mercedes 300SE
- Recognition as a Champion Club with a banner patch
- 5 Guest Speaker Thank You Certificates acknowledging that a donation has been made to Lions Quest Canada
- 2 Lions Quest Fellowships for worthy recipients to be named by your club

Contest closes July 6, 2014 and the draw will be held in conjunction with the Lions Clubs International

Convention in Toronto being held July 4-8, 2014. Remember that when you are supporting the Promotional Contest you are not buying tickets on a car, but donating to Lions Quest Canada which is a service activity so you don't have to use Admin funds. For more information about the 2014 Promotional Contest please contact Kay Nelles at 800-265-2680 ext 102.

Lions Quest Canada Presents Current Research About Positive Youth Development To Cadets Canada And Junior Canadian Rangers!

On April 14, 2014 Pat Howell-Blackmore, Director of Communications and Programs at Lions Quest Canada, joined officials from Cadets Canada and Junior Canadian Rangers via teleconference to deliver a presentation about the current research and practice of Positive Youth Development in Canada. The group was eager to hear about the work of Lions Quest Canada as they met as part of their continuous improvement of the Cadets Canada and Junior Canadian Rangers programs.

One of the many ways that Lions Quest Canada - The Centre for Positive Youth Development generates income to fund our mission is by providing consulting services in the area of Positive Youth Development, Asset Building, Program Development, Staff Development and Community Development focusing on children and youth. Do you know of a group, community or organization that may be interested in these services? For more information contact Pat at 1-800-265-2680 ext. 108.



Club Lion de Knowlton

La clinique ophtalmologique mobile des Clubs Lions sera à Knowlton le 10 mai prochain au Centre Communautaire de 9 h à 12h et de 13 h à 15h

La clinique mobile offre principalement un service de prévention. Toutes personnes de 50 ans et plus qui n'ont jamais consulté un ophtalmologiste ou qui ne l'ont pas fait depuis quelque temps sont particulièrement invitées à s'y rendre. Les personnes qui font du diabète, de l'hypertension artérielle ou qui ont une histoire familiale de maladies oculaires sont également fortement encouragées à se servir de la clinique mobile. La clinique mobile est un véritable bureau médical sur roues. Vous devez présenter votre carte d'assurance maladie. Il s'agit d'une clinique sans rendez-vous. Ne pas se présenter pour une prescription de lunettes, ce service n'est pas offert par la clinique mobile. Du personnel de Diabète Brome-Missisquoi sera sur place pour effectuer des tests de dépistage du diabète. Pour info.: Bob Seymour (450) 263-5881.



Sharbot Lake

Sharbot Lake and District Lions Club recently held a very successful breakfast, with the proceeds going to support the District A3 Hearing Project.

Submitted by Lion Wilma Bush



Lions Club of Orleans

Lions Club of Orleans recently inducted new members including three women. Shown below are 1st Vice Governor **Rick McCauley**, new **Lions Christine Marier** and **Pauline Messier**, President **Gerry Carisse**, new **Lions Lise Stone** and **Gilles Rozon**, and 2nd Vice Governor **Kristina Schulz**



IMPORTANT DATES

MDA Convention

2014/15 Ambassador Hotel & Conference Centre, Kingston, ON May 22 - 24, 2015

International Conventions

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
101st	Las Vegas Nevada, USA	June 29-July 3, 2018
102nd	Milan, Italy	TBA

USA - Canada Forums

Sept. 18 - 21, 2014	Puerto Rico
Sept. 17 - 19, 2015	Grand Rapids, Michigan



Westport Lions Club

The Westport Lions Club has initiated three new events with the purpose of raising funds for the club and providing fun for all who participate. We wanted to take advantage of our beautiful natural setting on the shore of Westport Sand Lake and to create events that would appeal to a young demographic. We wanted to show our very supportive community that being a Lion member can be fun and rewarding. The young people who participated in these events may not join our club in the near future but hopefully it will plant the seed for future association.

Our first event, held on July 20th, was a beach volleyball tournament. This was a successful co-ed tournament which was well attended.

Our second event was a pond hockey tournament. The hockey gods must have been with us on that day because we had a perfect February day with lots of sunshine, no wind, and near perfect ice. We had men's divisions of ages 19-34, 35-50, and 50+, plus a female division. For the championship game in the 50+ category the men recruited a couple of the females to strengthen their rosters.

Both these events were so successful that the organizing committees are keen to run them again next year.

Our third endeavour is a series of 'Open Mic' nights, which offer toe tapping fun for music lovers at the club's beach house. Every Friday night during March we invite musicians, vocalists, and spectators of all ages to join together for some good ole fashioned

fun. All three of these new outreach initiatives have increased the profile of the Westport Lions Club and hopefully made Westport a better place to live. For more information check out our Facebook page and our website, <http://westportlions.ca/>



Temagami Lions

Temagami Lions Club partners with several organizations and volunteers to Help Mother Nature

A while back, the Lions Club of Temagami took on a tree-planting project of a magnitude bigger than the club could do by themselves. By partnering with five other organizations including, the **Mattawa Lions Club**; and along with the Municipality of Temagami; the Ministry of Natural Resources; The Bear Island Native community and the Ministry of Transportation, they were able to complete a project that would not have happened if it was left to any one of the singular organizations. It took months to co-ordinate and hundreds of man-hours by the Lions Club and many meetings to get every one to a successful conclusion. Each of the partners contributed their unique expertise, money, and resources to the success of the project.

The initiative of the Lions Clubs and their partners was to restore vegetation to a large burned out area along Highway 11 leading into the community of Temagami.

To accomplish this task they knew they would need more hands than the club could supply. Each of the partners was asked to put out a call for help. The response was overwhelming! Students from 2 area schools, the Bear Island community, and The Local Girl Guides along with numerous volunteers from the area and as far as North Bay came out that weekend to plant the seedlings.

Planting took place in an area that was destroyed by fire in 1999. It is directly south of the Town of Temagami and borders along the Trans Canada Highway. If you have ever traveled along that stretch of road you have seen the devastation and destruction. The fire, which threatened Temagami severely, burned all the existing vegetation to the point where 14 years later there was minimal regeneration in the parts where the fire was the heaviest.

Planting of the seedlings took place closest to Temagami. There were 600 White Pine, 300 Jack Pine, 300 Red Pine, and 300 White Spruce planted. Along with the existing natural regeneration, this area will now represent a fully stocked forest at maturity in 20 or so years.

Great Work Lions! This is an excellent example of how partnering with other organizations we as Lions can accomplish projects that are bigger than what we can do by ourselves.

Submitted by Lion Ike Laba



Everyone helped out with the planting even these two enthusiastic little helpers

The Gore Bay Winter Festival Lions Dinner and Fundraiser

Despite bad weather and substandard road conditions many people from in and around Gore Bay made their way to the United Church Hall on Friday February 8th to attend the Lions Club Dinner.

This year they had a record number of attendees. More than 100 people paid \$14.00 at the door to be pampered with the hospitality and good humour of the Lions Club. 11 additional meals were delivered to housebound seniors so they could feel included in this Winter Festival Dinner.

On the menu was a buffet of Pulled Pork "a la Lions style", lots of healthy salad and vegetable accompaniments as well as a delightful assortment of homemade fruit pies with optional ice-cream.

And it is a good illustration of how Lions in a small centre can raise awareness of Lions Clubs by participating in a community event such as their Winter Festivals.

This was another **Gore Bay/Western Manitoulin Lions** success!

Good Work Lions of Gore Bay!

Submitted by Lion Jeff Dorosch



Windsor Downtown Lions Club Serves The Needy

On Saturday February 15th 2014 the Windsor Downtown Lions served lunch to the Windsor Downtown Mission. Lunch consisted of chicken, potatoes, green beans, soup, salad, buns, and dessert.

Food was prepared and served by Chef **Don** and Lion members. 162 meals were served and meals were enjoyed by all. Chef Don donated his time and the club paid for the meal. It was a great way to celebrate Lions Day.



Lakefield Lions Club

Lakefield and District Lions Club have taken on a new commitment by joining OHA Lakefield Fitzsimmons Towing and Repair Junior C Chiefs and Team 55 (founder Dave Pogue), who are leaders in the community, with taking strides in educating the community about "safeTALK". It is a LivingWorks' suicide alertness program that teaches community

members to recognize persons with thoughts of suicide & connect them to suicide intervention resources.

The Lions Club, with the Chiefs and Team 55, will be holding safeTALKs during the coming months in the community. Each safeTALKs will have a LivingWorks Certified safeTALK trainer as a speaker.

Sessions are limited to a maximum of 30 people and last approximately 3 hours with certificates being provided for each attendee. Pictured is Doctor Kerstin Kelly, a LivingWorks Certified safeTALK trainer, who has experienced this tragedy first hand. It is through these safeTALKs that the Lions of Lakefield hope to prepare community members to be suicide alert helpers in only a few hours.

Any Lions Club wishing to participate in this safeTALK programme may get information by contacting Chairman of safeTALK **Lion Kit Martin** at 705-749-1227 or **Lion Nancy Lane** 705-652-1372.



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: mdatheionmag@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 Liam Brennan | email: lembrennan@hotmail.com |

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

District Reporters

- | | | |
|-------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| A711 | Lion Jennifer Boyce | email: bevin@hotmail.com |
| A9 | Lion Al Leach PDG | email: adleach@hotmail.com |
| A12 | Lion Michelle Heyduk | email: fredheyduk@hotmail.com |
| A15 | Lion Bob Rutter | email: lionmagcor@a15lions.org |
| A16 | Lion Shekhar Bhalla | email: sbhalla@rogers.com |

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
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(include all code numbers)

New address will be (Please Print):

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New Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____ PC: _____

Club #: _____ Member #: _____

Date of Change: _____

**WE AT THE LION CANNOT CHANGE YOUR
ADDRESS, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR CLUB
SECRETARY TO HAVE YOUR ADDRESS
CORRECTED AT LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL**

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.

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Nancy Island Lions, April 2014



Food collected for the food bank by Nancy Island Lions – \$450 cash and 1000lbs. of food in one day



Lion Fred and Richard of Nancy Island Lions handing out flyers for a fertilizer sale fundraiser



Dining in the Dark with Nancy Island Lions with funds from event going to C.N.I.B.



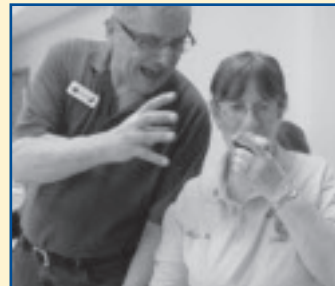
Elmvale Leos helping out at our event Dining in the Dark



Lion President Mary of Nancy Island Lions Club, Kaillie Pezic – new member of Nancy Island Lions, Alex Smardenka of Boston Pizza and Sandy Smardenka of Boston Pizza



Mayor Cal Patterson at Dining in the Dark



Easter Eggstravaganza cupcake decorating with Nancy Island Lions



submitted by Lion Michelle Heyduk

Kendal Lions

On March 19th, 2014 Melvin Jones Fellowships were awarded to Kendal Lions **Lion Dorothy Longyear** and **Lion Bill Scott**. They are shown below with Region 10 Chair **Susan Taylor** and President **Lion Ray Christopher**.



Penetanguishene Lions

Club President, and Region Chair **Randy Hargrave** presents Penetanguishene Lions Club members, **Pam Vaillancourt** and **Yves Quesnelle** with well-deserved Melvin Jones Fellowships.



Orangeville Lions Honour Members

At a meeting this spring **Lions Paul Snell** and **Dave Baker** were presented with Melvin Jones Awards and **Lion Greg Bryan** was presented with a Life Membership.



From left to right: A9 District Governor **Lion Jim Prenger**, **Lion Paul Snell**, **Lion Dave Baker**, President **Lion Robert Ralph**

From left to right: District Governor **Lion Jim Prenger**, PRC **Lion Barry Sinclair**, **Lion Greg Bryan** and President **Lion Robert Ralph**

Marmora Crowe Valley Lions

Marmora Crowe Valley Lions awards were presented at their May dinner meeting by Past District

Governor **Earl Oliver** and President **Kevin Roy**.



Lion Leo Provost received **Judge Brian Stevenson Fellowship**



Lion Stew Fisher received **Helen Keller award**



Lion Wilma Bush received **Helen Keller award**



Lion Charlie Murchison received **Melvin Jones Fellowship**

Kingston Lions Club

A3 DG **Lion Albert Munneke** presented Melvin Jones Fellowship Awards to **Lion Naydene Shanks** and **Lion Eric Stevens** of Kingston Lions Club.

Lion Naydene has served 33 years including with Lioness. A past president after serving as 1st Vice and Director twice, Lion Naydene was Chair of Vision Screening and worked on fundraiser projects (Tag Day, Christmas cakes, office secretary, decorating, catering, etc).

Lion Eric transferred from **Chateauguay Lions**, Quebec in 1995 where he was president and served on many committees for total of 35 years service.

He has been president twice, chaired sale of Christmas cakes, worked at Dog Walk, Tag Day and to date has collected 20,000 recycled eye glasses. He received a plaque for 10,000 pairs in 2006 and a Helen Keller Award.



Agreement Number is:
41805020*