

# L I O N




M.D. "A" Edition January/February/March 2023

[www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org)


*We Serve*

## LIONS ARE COMING FOR THE CITY ON THE HILL

Boston is ready for you, Lions.



Lions 105th Annual International Convention  
Boston, Massachusetts, USA  
July 7-11, 2023  
SEE REGISTRATION INFO ON PG 10

A young child with dark hair, wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and tan overalls, is walking on a paved path. The child is holding a white cane with an orange tip. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with greenery and a building.

Improving Vision.

Preventing Diabetes.

Protecting the  
Environment.

Eliminating Hunger.

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# THE Lion



Welcome to the January/February/March Edition of the LION.  
 To submit stories, photos, comments or suggestions, please utilize the services of your District Reporter. For photos, try to ensure your camera and/or smartphone is at the highest setting to provide quality images. The camera quality of most smartphones available today is excellent. A minimum of 300 DPI is desired. Images copied from the internet and/or Facebook or other social media are usually unsuitable.

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Management Committee Lion Magazine  
 Lion Marjorie Lewis • Lion Dave Hewitt PDG



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# Innovate—and Evolve. It's in Our Roots.

Hello Lions!

In 1917 a group of independent social clubs gathered at the LaSalle hotel in downtown Chicago. They asked themselves if they might join forces to help their communities. At the time, it was incredibly innovative. International service organizations had yet to become a driving force for good in the world. But with the birth of the International Association of Lions Clubs, a whole new era began.

Looking back, it seems so obvious. Of course those who have should band together and help those who have-not! But isn't that how it is with innovation? When we look back, it seems like it was there all along.

Lions, I love hearing about the smart, exciting, and sometimes wacky new ideas you come up with. I know my club is not the same club it was when my father was a Lion. And I

hope it will continue to evolve well after I'm gone.

Because that's how we grow. That's how we stay relevant. We take old ideas and we make them better. We make our service reflect what our communities need now, not what they needed a hundred years ago. We make our service better. We innovate. And we evolve.

Keep up the great work, Lions. I look forward to seeing all your evolutions of service.

Make a great day,

*Brian E. Sheehan*

**Brian E. Sheehan**  
International President, Lions Clubs International



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

#### Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA – March 24-26, 2023



#### AUDIT COMMITTEE

- Received a preliminary draft of The International Associations of Lions Clubs audited financial statements and report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022.
- Received an updated risk assessment, internal audit plan, and internal audit overview presentation from staff.

#### CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

- Reinstated Lion Sree Vidhya as district governor for the remainder of the 2022-2023 yearunicating the Salesforce change to members, branding the new member experience, and a new website navigation proposal.
- Discussed change management and member engagement approach needed to minimize the impact associated with a change to the digital member experience.

**For more information on any of the above resolutions, please refer to the LCI Web site at [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org) or contact the International Office at 630-571-5466.**





# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Highlights of the Council of Governors' Meeting February 11, 2023



### FINANCIAL UPDATE

97% of clubs have paid their MDA dues. Please check that your club dues owing to MDA are up to date.

### ACCESSIBILITY

The new MDA Accessibility for District Chairperson E-Book is now available on the MDA website at [www.mdalions.org](http://www.mdalions.org)

### CHILDHOOD CANCER

During a Zoom meeting held for District Childhood Cancer Chairs, we were excited to have a presentation by Sue Berringer of The Magic Yarn Project, which has 10 Chapters throughout North America. Sue is a Chapter President and has been working with the Dorchester Lions Club and a local Seniors Center, to produce wigs for children afflicted by Cancer.

The Wigs are fashioned after Disney Princesses like Rapunzel (Tangled), Ariel (The Little Mermaid), Elsa (Frozen) and Moana, to name a few, as well as other superheroes and delivered to Childhood Cancer facilities for children. Some children have several Wigs made from hypoallergenic yarn to aid in comforting the child during the traumatic treatment. Quality control is essential, and only new material is used.

For more information about The Magic Yarn Project, visit [themagic yarnproject.com](http://themagic yarnproject.com) or reach out to MDA Childhood Cancer Chairperson, PDG Jamie Jones, [jjrj@jrjoneseng.ca](mailto:jjrj@jrjoneseng.ca)

### CONVENTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The 2023 MDA Convention is being held in London, Ontario at the Four Points by Sheraton London on May 26, 27 and 28, 2023. Meet 1st International Vice President, Dr. Patti Hill, help make wigs for children with cancer or join the Walk for Dog Guides, just to name a few things that are happening during the weekend! To register, visit [www.mdalions.org](http://www.mdalions.org)

### ENVIRONMENT

The Lions Clubs of MDA have been very busy with Environment Service Projects since the beginning of this Lions year. According to MyLion, to date, clubs have reported the following:

Total People Served:	167,116
Total Service Projects:	354
Total of Volunteer Hours:	14,987

Way to go MDA Lions! Every environment project makes the WORLD a better place.

### GLOBAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Springtime brings the Districts to the election of District Officers for 2023 - 2024. Please submit the names of your District Officers as soon as possible following your convention. The Global Leadership Team is especially interested in getting training material sent out to the Second Vice District Governor-elects. Training for the Second Vice

District Governor-elects will be held on Saturday, June 10th (afternoon & evening) and Sunday, June 11th (morning) at the Toronto Markham Monte Carlo Inn.

### GLOBAL MEMBERSHIP TEAM

The Multiple District is trending in the right direction, with the net membership growth still positive. As of November 1st, 2023, MDA had a net membership growth of +129 members, compared to -17 in the same period last year.

Year to date, the Multiple District has added an impressive 1160 new members. However, the corresponding drops remain high at 1031 members. The Multiple District has chartered five new clubs. In the same period, ten clubs have been cancelled. Eight of these clubs disbanded, and two were cancelled due to financial suspension.

We continue to lose Leos. Year to date, we have lost 56 Leos (The net gain/loss has improved since November, when it was -75).

YTD, one Alpha Leo Club and one Omega Leo Club have been chartered and two clubs cancelled (one Alpha & one Omega).

The Multiple District received US\$10 000 upfront PR Grant payment from LCI. The balance of US\$5 000 will be forwarded to the Multiple District at the conclusion of the PR Grant activities.

By December 31st, six Districts had applied for grants. All six applications were approved - a total of C\$12 000.

Let us keep up the momentum. We can end the year with a positive membership growth!

### HISTORIAN

1937 Convention – MDA received an extremely rare original copy of the 1937 District A Convention hosted by the Lions of Region 5 in District A2. Wonderful story with pictures donated by Tom Goldring at the Markham Lions Club along with some 40's vintage LCI Attendance Pins.

Douglas Stevenson – A biography has been completed of this Lion from Fonthill, Ontario who is credited with our Motto being “We Serve”. This was put together with the help of several individuals who are familiar with genealogical resources and presented to the Lions Club of Weston.

Barbara Ann Scott – MDA received 8 (78 rpm) records from a 1948 celebration for Olympic and World Champion Canadian Figure Skater Barbara Ann Scott. In the Crystal Ballroom of the King Edward Hotel, she was also presented with the Lou Marsh Trophy (now called the Northern Star Award) by Lion Charlie Ring of Toronto Central who had donated the original trophy. She won this award 3 times, second only to Wayne Gretzky (4 times).

Records were digitally converted to MP3 recording on a flash drive. 2nd International Vice President Walter Fisher gives an excellent Lions message.

### HUNGER

MDA CONVENTION HUNGER AWARDS  
PROGRESS YEAR TO DATE -

Q3: JAN – MAR 2023:

1. District Governor (DG) with highest # hunger activities reported YTD; A-2 DG Bob TOWNSEND (196)
2. District Hunger Chair (DHC) highest % clubs reporting hunger activity YTD; A-16 DHC Pat AITKEN (56%)
3. Lions Club (LC) with greatest # of SERVICE activities reported for hunger YTD; A-2 Fonthill LC (63)
4. Lions Club (LC) with most people SERVED per member for hunger YTD ; A-711 Mississauga Central LC (615)
5. Lion Members with most volunteer hours reported for hunger and others YTD; A-3 Land O'Lakes LC (4292)

Congratulations to all! Let's keep reporting.

### INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1st International Vice President, Dr. Patti Hill will come in as International President at the International Convention, Boston, Massachusetts, July 2023. This is a chance for Canadian Lions to show our support and be there to take part in her demonstration. Please consider attending the International Convention and if you would like to Volunteer, please see the link below for the volunteer website.

Dr. Patti Hill's Volunteer Website:

<https://Pattisbostonvolunteers.ca>

### LION MAGAZINE

The LION Magazine is experiencing issues with members not receiving their print copies. The mailing list is derived from files received from Lions International however, an updated list has not been issued for last year or this Lions year. The editor is working with the headquarters magazine department to correct this situation. In the meantime, we are continually updating the list locally as a result of submissions from the members outlining their situation.

### LIONS QUEST

Visit [www.lionsquest.ca](http://www.lionsquest.ca) to view the newly launched Lions Quest website.

### LIONS OF CANADA FUND FOR LCIF

Current balance in the fund is \$2,542,171.52.

5 donations have been paid out since the last report.

1. \$15,789.94 to District A-15 – Kitchener – to support child vision screening.
2. \$16,893.45 to District A-4 to buy smart beds for Carleton Hospital.
3. \$28,620.08 to Lions Quest Canada.
4. \$132,172.08 to Lions of 5MD to purchase Ophthalmic Microscope for the Thunder Bay Hospital.

5. \$56,270.41 to Edmonton Bridge Healing Project to furnish a transitional homecare facility. Congratulations to all these Districts, Clubs and Lions. It is wonderful to see Canadian Dollars remaining in Canada.

**LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION**

MDA has achieved just over 60 % of the LCIF goal for the 2022-2023 Lions year with 442 donations to an average of \$236.64 per donation and \$14.86 per member for MDA. Donations now total \$179,843.04. Personal donations total only 1.9% of the donations. All figures presented are from January 24, 2023, in US dollars. Please consider a personal donation to LCIF during your charity donations for the year.

**LIONS FOUNDATION OF CANADA**

In MDA there are 280 Dog Guide clients, and currently 84 people on the waiting list. The waiting lists remain closed to new applicants at this time. So far this Lions year, MDA Clubs have donated just over \$290,000 to Dog Guides not including contributions to the Capital Campaign. These donations came from over 100 clubs. Great work! Upcoming events to support Dog Guides: Mosborough Busy Busy Lions and Halton K9 Lions Trivia Challenge – April 15th and the Oakville Ride for Dog Guides – June 24th. The motorcycle ride starts at Dog Guides in Oakville and ends at Dog Guides in Breslau. Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides official date is May 28th, 2023. Congratulations to District A12 for having the highest sales in Green Capes calendars. District A12 is allowed to help with naming a litter of future Dog Guides. Four Ontario Clubs were in the top six sellers this year, A3 Prince Edward County, A15 Floradale Friends, A4 Gananoque, A12 Washago.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH**

The Peace Poster/Peace Essay Contests were well received with posters received from all 10 Districts. The winner of the Peace Poster for MDA was Nandine from District A7/11. The Peace Essay (for visually impaired youth) winner was Keaton from District A16. The winning poster and essay will be sent to Lions International. The Effective Speaking Final will be held May 5, 6, and 7, 2023 in Sarnia at the Quality Inn, hosted by the Petrolia Lions Club. The registration form is available on the MDA website.

**SIGHT CONSERVATION**

A special Thank You to committee member Mark Nelligan of the Gananoque Lions Club for his service to Lions and the Lake Joe committee. Currently the committee is looking for another member with a passion for the blind community, to sit on the committee. The committee meets usually virtually four times a year. Please contact PCC Bob Tanner or PDG Barb Ennis if you are interested. New activities at the camp for 2023 CNIB Lake Joe had over 2,300 visits: 1,833 total program participant visits (739 in-person program visits and 1,094 virtual program visits) in 26 camp programs. 510 unique program participants (473 in-person guests and 37 virtual with some attending both the virtual and in-person programs). Virtual programs are ongoing. 300 visits at conferences, special events, mission-congruent external bookings and Lake Joe programming at CNIB Mobile Hubs. Lions Lake Joe Bus Campaign is off to a slow start having only raised \$3,500 and another \$2,000 that we know is in the mail. Your help is needed to get

our Blind Friends to Camp and activities at camp! For information on the bus, you can go to [www.cnib.ca/LakeJoeMinibus](http://www.cnib.ca/LakeJoeMinibus) Blind Golf Ontario – PCC Bob Tanner was contacted by the executive of Blind Golf Ontario facilitated by PDG Andy Etherington. A zoom meeting was held with this passionate group of blind golfers. PCC Bob was introduced to Lion Kevin Frost an accomplished blind athlete. A passionate golfer and spokesperson for this group. Lions in different Districts have assisted this group in the past. There are three site categories that were established by the IBGA (International Blind Golf Association) in the late 1990's. Ranging from B3, blind golfers with 5-10% of their vision, B2, blind golfers with 0-5% of their vision, and the ever inspirational, B1 blind golfer with 0% vision. The pandemic and a corporate takeover have caused this group several challenges. First, they need volunteers to work with the blind to assist them on the golf course and to help with tournament play. The group has been very fiscally responsible. They have always carried a reserve in their bank account mainly due to a corporate sponsor. Due to a corporate takeover, they have lost their sponsor and need to find a new one. This program has been successful and needs a boost from our Knights of the Blind. This is an example of a grass roots service project. If you need further information or would like to volunteer, please contact PCC Bob Tanner. A list of tournaments will be coming out this month and will be posted on the Blind Golf Ontario website.

**For more information on any of the above resolutions, please refer to the LCI Web site at [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org) or contact the International Office at 630-571-5466.**

## Townsend Lions – Sponsor Lions' Supported Charities

Recently the Lions Club of Townsend donated a total of \$10,525.90 to several charitable causes the club supports.

Two of the supported causes were cheque presentations made to Campfire Circle (aka Camp Trillium - Childhood Cancer) and Lions

Camp Dorset (Dialysis Family Camp).  
*Submitted by: PDG Zoltan Dohar, Townsend Lions*



Townsend Lions – Cheque Presentation for Lions Camp Dorset



Cheque Presentation for Campfire Circle (aka Camp Trillium, Waterloo)

# St. Davids LEOs – Making a Difference

The St. Davids LEOs very much prefer to be active during their monthly Sunday afternoon meetings. Since the Lions had an accumulation of loose and unsorted eyeglasses the LEOs enthusiastically boxed and packaged the recycled eyeglasses for shipping to CLERC in Calgary. That Sunday afternoon, the LEOs processed over 4000 pairs!

The St. Davids LEOs recently invited the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides Ontario Director Nancy Chiasson to a LEO club meeting. Following Nancy's update on LFCDG's the LEOs presented Nancy with a \$2000 cheque towards the new Dog Guides facility building project. The LEOs raised these funds during the Bingo event that was part of their club sponsor's Annual Lions Family Carnival.

Following a \$1500 donation to the McMaster Children's Hospital Oncology (cancer) Clinic Bravery Bead program) the LEOs goals received a thank you Zoom call from Sherri Bocchini the hospitals Development VP along with a video tour of the newly renovated and Lions Club supported MacKids Cancer clinic.

Currently, our LEOs enjoy assisting during the St. Davids Lions Friday Fish Fries.

Greeting the guests, placing their meal order, processing payment and bussing tables.

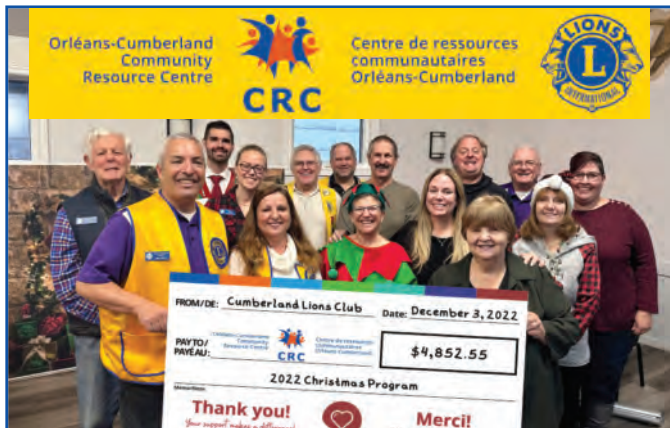
The St. Davids LEOs...'Making a Difference'

*Submitted by PCC Bradd Anderson  
St. Davids & District LEO Club Advisor*



# Cumberland Lions

District A4's Cumberland Lions Club members held their annual Breakfast with Santa this past December. This event is held to sponsor the Orléans-Cumberland Community Resource Centre (local foodbank). As a result of this fund-raising event the club was able to donate \$4,852.55 to the resource centre.



# Norwood Lions

A huge Thank You to everyone who supported Norwood Lions Club Annual Christmas Draw. The club obtained local business Gift Certificates and sold draw tickets. Thanks to Norwood Foodland owner Chad Joliceur for his ongoing support.

Norwood Foodland \$400.00 Certificate and eight others from JJ Stewart Motors, Norwood Home Hardware, Ralphs Butcher Shop, Norwood Home Hardware- Julia Barber, Norwood Centennial Pharmacy, Lynn's Flowers & Gifts, Papa's Pizza, Becky's Café and Donna's Pizza.

Thanks to our local merchants for supporting this event and the all-important ticket buyers.



Foodland Owner Chad Joliceur, the draw master and Lion Don Bryan



Lion Don Snider seated & Lion Don Bryan standing



# A Smile for Sight

by: Elizabeth Edwards

Sight is one of our most valuable senses. It allows us to connect with the moments in life and with each other.

After a premature birth, twins Kaya and Alime were both diagnosed with an eye disease called retinopathy of prematurity, and they needed treatment to protect their sight and prevent blindness.

Their parents, Ibrahim and Nilufer, traveled more than an hour and half from their home to the city of Izmir, Turkey, to find help for their children. Thanks to care provided by ophthalmologists at the first and only children's hospital in the country, Kaya's treatment is completed, and he is healthy. Alime continues treatment at the hospital.

The twins are only two examples of more than 15,000 children that will benefit from the Izmir Pergamon Lions Club's project annually from support from Lions in District 118R and a US\$10,050 Matching grant from Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) to purchase advanced eye equipment.

Lions in Izmir call the project SMILE because they are determined to make someone smile by helping give the power of sight, and even created a special mascot, called Lionopticool, a small-stuffed Lion, to help make children more comfortable during a vision screening, and represents their dedication to vision.

Lions provided the eye equipment to the Izmir Dr. Behcet Uz Child Disease and Pediatric Surgery Training and Research Hospital, the

first and only children's hospital in Turkey. The hospital opened in the 1940s and serves the entire Aegean Region, which is about a quarter of the population of the country.

Throughout the project, Lions in Izmir also raised awareness about the importance of regular eye checkups for infants and children.

"Eye health is underestimated around the world, and the necessary precautions for preventable visual impairments are unfortunately not sufficient," said Faika Evrim Uysal, executive project manager. "As Lions clubs, we take this matter very seriously. Sometimes a project can do many things to help raise awareness and protect and improve more people's eye health."

Helping support children's eye care is essential because the deterioration of children's eye health can impact their success in school and future.

Starting in the fall 2022 school year in Turkey, Lions and ophthalmologists started screening eyes with LCIF grant-supported portable eye equipment in schools and orphanages. If the screening indicates a child needs advanced care, they are referred to a health care provider.

"In order to make our communities healthier, more conscious, more sustainable, and happier, as District 118 R Lions, we undertake life-changing projects for infants', children's, and

women's health; and we do all of this together," said Teoman Akcali, immediate past district governor.

Ever since Helen Keller inspired Lions to champion the cause against avoidable blindness in 1925, Lions and Leos have served and advocated for blind and visually impaired. Worldwide, about 2.2 billion people have a vision impairment. At least 1 billion of those cases could have been prevented, according to the World Health Organization.

Nearly a century later, this long-standing mission continues.

Learn more how you can support vision grants and can help make a child smile: [lionsclubs.org/LCIFvision](https://lionsclubs.org/LCIFvision).



## Aldershot Lions Club of Burlington Support Local School

Following completion of its highly successful garage sale program, the Aldershot Lions Club has donated \$2,000 toward the King's Road Public School breakfast program for children.

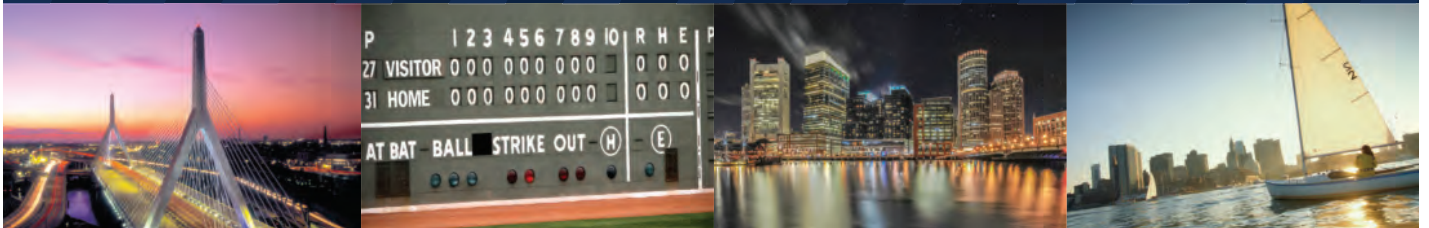
Acting Principal Gord Truffen accepted the cheque from Lions **John Howard** and **Rick Craven**.

The school offers its young students a breakfast opportunity each day of the week. It is a "Grab-and-Go" event Monday, Wednesday and Friday, with the children picking from a variety of healthy snacks. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, a hot meal is available. More than 50% of the school's population take advantage of the program. The entire effort, run by volunteers, costs the school about \$10,000 per year. The Halton Food for Thought program is instrumental in organizing the entire effort. The Lions Club has been supporting causes in the Aldershot community since 1956. Its most recent project, an indoor garage sale, sustained itself for five years and raised thousands of dollars for Aldershot and other programs, services and charities.





# COMING TOGETHER. MOVING AHEAD.




## Celebrate service in Boston

At LCIcon 2023, Lions and Leos will unite to forge a path to a better world. Come celebrate service with us, and enjoy the sights, history and culture of Boston.

- Enjoy historical trails and indulge in excellent food and drinks.
- Take part in empowering seminars, hear from Lions leaders and inspirational speakers.
- Enjoy world-class entertainment and meet your fellow Lions and Leos.
- Join the Parade of Nations on the historical streets of Boston.



 **SCAN ME  
TO REGISTER**



Lions 105<sup>th</sup> Annual International Convention • Boston, Massachusetts, USA • July 7-11, 2023

# United in Kindness

by Elizabeth Edwards

When the war in Ukraine started in March 2022, thousands of Ukrainians fled and crossed the border into Poland and other countries for safety and security.

“The days leading up to the Russian invasion, everyone was on their nerves,” recalls Yaroslav Jaszniak, a Ukrainian citizen. “Everyone was expecting something bad, but actually no one had ever expected that it would be that disastrous and that full scale.”

Jaszniak, 29, lived in Kyiv, Ukraine, his entire life, but when the invasion began and after an artillery shelling about 15 miles from his home, he developed a plan for his family to leave. After a three-week journey, Jaszniak, his wife, Ivanna, and their three young children arrived in Krakow, Poland, after crossing the Polish border.

The Jaszniak family are only one story of thousands of families that fled Ukraine in search of refuge. When a humanitarian crisis of this magnitude happens, Lions and Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), are among the first to offer help.

To date, LCIF has awarded 53 grants totaling more than US\$2.7 million in 17 countries to support Lions’ projects to help Ukrainian refugees. Funds ensure Lions are there to cover a broad spectrum of refugee needs, including immediate survival needs, transitional needs for mid- or long-term settlement, and support for services to help them integrate into their new communities. The grant funds will support more than 230,000 refugees.

“Lions and LCIF should continue to help us because we have a lot of refugees in need,” said Lion Roman Monastyrskyy, a Ukrainian citizen and one of the Lions that answered the call to help his community.

Monastyrskyy, who helped with projects in Lviv close to the Polish border, remembered when the war started, and he began receiving calls from Lions in Poland, Sweden, France, and Lithuania asking how they can help. In the beginning, with the support of LCIF, Ukrainian Lions provided refugees with warm food, clothes, and medical supplies in schools and hostels in Lviv, and then they started transferring food to families in the eastern part of Ukraine, where most of the conflict is happening.

Because of the increased need in some areas, LCIF awarded Lions in Poland the largest amount of grant funding, totaling US\$1,289,789. Lions in Ukraine have received the second largest amount, US\$895,000, to support refugees who remain in the country.

While LCIF grant funding is helping provide comfort to the refugees forced to leave their homes during this immensely difficult time, there are some challenges.

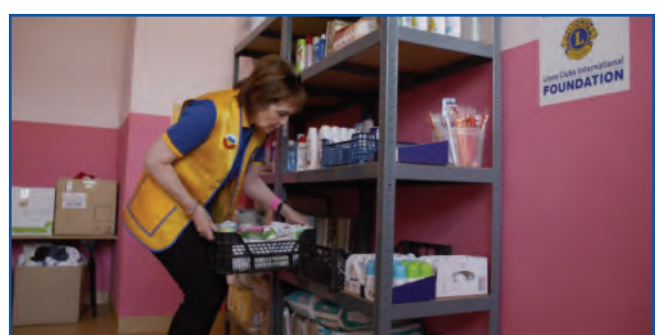
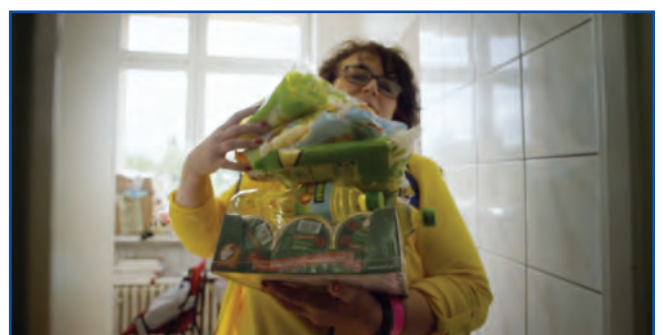
PDG Katarzyna Gebert, one of the Lions leading projects in Poland, says it is difficult implementing projects for the people of Ukraine because of their trauma and great sadness after their war experiences.

“Tears in women’s eyes, trembling voices, children’s sad faces, perfunctory stories about the atrocities they experienced or witnessed—the emotional sphere, the clash with the reality of war, suffering and the terrible fate of people whom Lions provide support is something unprecedented,” she said.

Together, Lions and LCIF can provide continued hope for refugees by donations to the LCIF’s Refugees and Displaced Persons Fund, which will help ensure that Lions are always there to help support refugees during their time of great need.

“Lions International do a great job supporting people of Ukraine who flee from the conflict,” Jaszniak said. “That really makes everyone safe and truly makes a difference.”

To learn more about the continued effort and watch a video, visit [lionsclubs.org/UkraineResponse](https://lionsclubs.org/UkraineResponse).



# The Greatest Catch

## Traders pin their hopes on the ultimate find

by Annemarie Mannion

It's not the sun, surf, and swaying palm trees that Lion Bill Smith remembers most about attending his first Lions International Convention in Miami Beach in 1973, it's the trading pins.

If you've ever been to a Lions event, you've probably seen one, two, or two hundred of them—tiny, colorful metal brooches sporting designs ranging from patriotic to whimsical, and all centered around Lions.

For decades Lions have used the pins as a kind of currency, trading them, collecting them, and displaying them proudly in their homes and on their Lions vests.

True collectors are always on the hunt. But what exactly are they looking for when they go fishing for the pin of their dreams?

### HOW IT STARTED

Smith, 92, a member of the Fairfax Lions Club in Fairfax, Virginia for 55 years, has been collecting and trading pins for more than five decades and is one of about 800 members of the Lions International Trading Pin Club, which was founded in 1973 at that very same convention in Miami.

The group began with fewer than 50 members from 11 states and districts and now claims members from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, most provinces of Canada and 18 other districts and multiple districts from around the world. Personal collections can number in the hundreds of thousands.

### A LITTLE PIN HISTORY

It all started in 1929, the first year Lions put out a 100% attendance pin, says Kent Clovis, immediate past president of the pin trading club.

Trading pins as a hobby took off in the late 1950s and 1960s when Lions started exchanging them as a way of breaking the ice at conventions—a practice that continues today.

“Handing another Lion a pin that references where you come from is more personable than a business card,” says Clovis, a member of the Stroud Lions Club in Stroud, Oklahoma. “Even though we may not speak the same language, we can still make a connection by trading pins.”

“When you went to a convention back in the day, everybody would be walking around looking [at other Lions'] jackets and vests to see what pins were there,” adds Lana McCaulley, a member of

the Mechanicsburg Lions Club in Mechanicsburg, Pa. and secretary of the International Pin Trading Club.

The earliest pins were made of materials that didn't last, such as cardboard or leather, and thus are rare finds, highly sought after by today's pin traders and collectors.

“That's what makes them valuable,” says Larry Shaull, a pin trader and member of the Stewartstown Lions Club in Stewartstown, Pa.

Over the years, the materials evolved into plastic and then into aluminum and metal, which are used today.

### PIN TYPES

Pins can be made by individual Lions, clubs, state organizations, and districts. It's not known exactly how many pins are produced every year, but Smith estimates it's in the “thousands upon thousands” range.

All 50 states and multiple districts within the U.S. and Canada produce at least one state or province pin each year to commemorate the site of the annual Lions Clubs International Convention.

In addition, almost every country or geographical area within Lions International issues pins.

But it doesn't stop there. All of those individuals, clubs, and districts may also produce different series of “prestige pins” designed with a chosen theme.

Some past themes have been farming/gardening, with pins that might feature tractors, scarecrows, or pumpkins; a circus/carnival theme featuring a circus train, or a trapeze artist; or even a Wizard of Oz theme with Dorothy, the Tin Man, and more.

“Whatever topic you're interested in, you can find it on a pin,” says Clovis.

The seven-set Wizard of Oz pins, which includes Dorothy and her little dog, Toto, were produced by Lions in Kansas in 1983 and are among Clovis's favorites.

Shaull, who works for a pin manufacturer, says the process of designing pins is simple. It starts with roughing out an idea and then sending it to a manufacturer who has an artist that creates a design.

While the process is fun, there are some pin design rules to follow. Number one rule? Keep it simple.

“You put a whole project on a pin and you lose peoples' interest pretty fast,” Shaull says. “Keep it simple. Don't try to write a book on a pin. You need something that is easily recognizable.”

### HAULING THEM IN

To keep traders abreast of what's out there in the vast sea of Lions pins, the International Pin Trading Club produces an annual catalog of the latest designs that typically includes between 2,000 and 4,000 pins.

Only pins that are at least five years old can be sold, but the annual catalog is helpful to traders looking to add to their collection; or just looking. “Some pins are so rare that I've never seen them,” says McCaulley. “But I know they exist because they're in the catalog.”

“It's amazing to see some of the designs of the pins and the creativity of the Lions who make them,” says Clovis. “Some are really intriguing.”

Annual pin trading swaps are a chance for pin traders to make trades, hunt for the ones they're missing, and build camaraderie.

The sorts of pins that traders are interested in varies by person.

Joseph Trezza, a pin trader and member of the Antioch Lions Club in Antioch, Calif., already has about 100,000 pins. “So, I try to limit my collecting to one pin per state per year,” he says.

He displays pins that are rare or special to him in frames mounted on the walls of his home, and keeps others stored in boxes or on pads of foam.

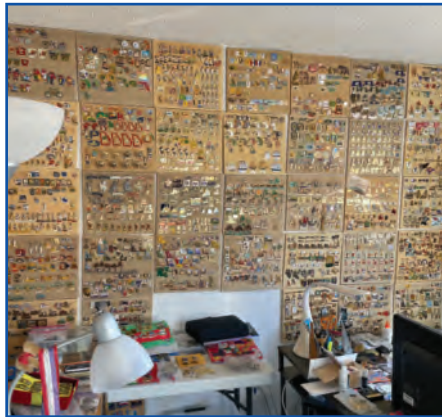
One of his prized pins is a 1982 Oregon state pin that features an O in either white or green encircling a meadowlark. While Trezza has both, the one with the white O is more rare because



fewer of those were made.



Describing his pins, he jokes, “They are all over the place. My wife says ‘You have to get them out of here.’”



Smith, on the other hand, collects pins featuring the American flag.

“I never in my wildest dreams would have thought there were so many Lions pins with the American flag on them,” he says. “I can go to a pin swap where there are a hundred people, and I will easily come home with 50 to 60 American flag pins.”

Smith has about 3,000 American flag pins, along with pins featuring Santa Clauses, lighthouses, and sailboats. He estimates his entire collection contains about 40,000 to 50,000 pins, which he keeps in 900 glass trays on custom-made racks.

Smith, who worked for the federal government and then as an antiques dealer before retiring, spends about six hours a day on scanning photos of his pins, marking off from a master list the



ones he’s acquired, organizing them, putting them away and winnowing out the ones he wants to trade.

### **TRADING THEM OUT**

The trading process at a swap is simple. Traders lay out the pins that are up for grabs on tables for others to scour in search of those elusive pins they want to snag.

One particularly coveted pin is known as the Colorado snowflake and was hand-made in 1972 of metal with points that were liable to break.

“They were so delicate. They didn’t survive,” says Shaull about what makes that pin so desirable.

Another rare find is the Pennsylvania Keystone pin that was fashioned after the commonwealth’s nickname. It was made of plastic and last sold for US\$800.

The first pin produced in Virginia sold at a swap in November 2022 for US\$700. The pin, known as the ‘flat I’ was made in 1960. It features an outline of the commonwealth and a less elaborate Lions insignia than is used today.

While trading pins doesn’t have to cost the participants anything, the swaps often organize pin auctions to raise money for charitable causes.



In June 2022, the International Trading Pin Club presented a check for US\$70,000 to Lions International—funds that were earned over the previous two years at their auctions.

Individual swaps may also include a service component, such as collecting canned goods for those in need.

### **A FAMILY AFFAIR**

McCaulley started trading pins with her husband, Tim, in the 1970s. They even put an addition on their house to hold their pins and some other collectibles. Tim passed away in 2021, but McCaulley still has the pins.

“The pins are conversation pieces,” she says. “When someone comes into your home, they want to know everything about pin trading.”

Trading pins was a family affair for the McCaulleys when their daughter, Erica McCaulley, was younger. On weekends they’d pack their pins and head off to a swap. When they first started they had enough pins to fill a fishing tackle box. Eventually, they could fill their whole car.

But it wasn’t really about the pins.

“We certainly didn’t have a lot of pins to start so it has always been the friendships we enjoyed,” she says.

Hunting and trading pins was also a way that Clovis connected with his grandson when he was younger.

“It was a good thing for us to do together – before he discovered girls,” he says.

Clovis, who helps design between 12 and 25 pins a year, says it’s exhilarating to track down a pin he’s long been wanting, but the friendships among traders provide the greater thrill.

### **THE WHITE WHALE**

After pursuing the hobby for many years, going to swaps “is like a family reunion,” says Clovis.

For Smith, it’s less about the pins themselves, and more about what they represent. “I remember the camaraderie and friendliness of the pin traders and their enthusiasm,” he says. “That’s what got me started. They gave me handfuls of pins and I was off and running.”

While trading is their focus at a swap, plenty of time is spent laughing over meals, playing cards, and just catching up with one another.

In fact, traders say it’s the friendships that continues to spur their interest in trading pins.

“I’ve often bragged that I can go to any state, call someone up in a pin club and have dinner or visit with them,” Smith says.

“Everybody has a story about a great trade or a great friendship they made,” McCaulley says.



# **MOVING FORWARD**

**IN 2023**

**MDA  
CONVENTION**



**Save the Date!**  
**May 26th, 27th & 28th 2023**  
**Four Points Sheraton in London**

**For More Info contact:**  
**Lion Rick**  
**[waiter@rogers.com](mailto:waiter@rogers.com)**



**Fillable Registration Form Available At:**  
**[mdalions.org](http://mdalions.org)**

# North Oshawa Lions Celebrate 50 years of operating Youth Programs

For the past 50 years, the North Oshawa Lions Club has made youth one of their primary interests to support. To accomplish this goal, they opened the Harold McNeil House in August of 1972 as a "detention-observation home" for juveniles. As a result of the success of the McNeil House, the North Oshawa Lions Club was approached by the Ministry of Community and Social Services to open a second facility. This second residence, known as

the Murray McKinnon House, opened in 1986. In 1987, the club was again asked to take on another program, which became their third facility, known as Oakwood House.

In 2005, the McKinnon Attendance Centre was opened to house the Community Based Programs which includes the Reintegration Outreach Support Program and the Non-Residential Attendance Centre. In 2013, the Ajax Alternative Classroom

Program was started. In October of 2021, the Anti-Human Traffic Program facility was opened. All of these programs and facilities operate under the umbrella of the Murray McKinnon Foundation.

The Board of Directors and the CEO of the Murray McKinnon Foundation are pictured below.



The Board of Directors and the CEO of the Murray McKinnon Foundation from L-R: Lions Peter Stephenson, Steve Bedley, Ross Hartwig, Melissa Redden, Joan Pumphrey, CEO Suzette Lewis, Eric Buss, Sarah Moir and Lyle Hargrove

## Pining for a bit of fun

### Lions in France throw a popular event for a unique sport by Erin Kasdin

Have you ever been inspired to throw a pinecone? If you have, and if you've gotten any distance with your throw, you may want to consider heading to France to compete, where Lions have made it their mission to bring not only the sport, but the world championships, to their hometown of Biscarrosse.

After a three-year break due to a storm in 2019 and COVID in 2020 and 2021, the World Pinecone Throwing Championships were back on for the Lions Club Pays De Born in Biscarrosse. Located in the Landes Region on the southwestern coast of France, the area is home to the Landes Forest, which is the largest maritime pine forest in Europe.

Hence all the pinecones suitable for throwing.

In this particular region of France, a sport called Pelote, in which players use the palm of their hand to hit a ball, is quite popular. You might say this skill comes in handy when throwing pinecones. But not all the nearly 400 competitors in the 2022 championships were locals. Participants came from all over France, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Great Britain, and even Ecuador.

Though it isn't really a surprise that so many people know about the unique sport. The World Pinecone Throwing Championship is not new. The popular annual event dates back to 1998 and local radio stations and newspapers regularly cover it, dispatching reporters and photographers to document the fun. Held every year on the last evening of July, it's regularly featured in the list of official summer

activities for the region, drawing tourists who are curious to see exactly how far a pinecone can be thrown.

To get in the spirit of things, all the organizers wear traditional white Landes outfits, red scarves, and Landes or Basque berets. An announcer keeps the crowd engaged while traditional Landes music plays in the background throughout the evening. The whole ordeal is quite festive.

Participants of all ages can compete and are divided by gender into eight different age groups. Only Landes pinecones can be used in official competition. Competitors throw one (or two) pinecones as far as possible on a Basque pelota court. The pinecones must weigh in at 120 grams (4.2 ounces) plus or minus 10 grams (0.4 ounces), and measure 14 centimeters (5.5 inches) plus or minus 1 centimeters (0.4 inches) to be used in competition.

The throwing field, called a "Pignodrome" ("pigne" means "pinecones" in French) is approximately 50 meters (164 feet) long. Each competitor is entitled to two consecutive throws. The thrower stands in the throwing area, called a "Pignon", and throws one or two pinecones as far as possible along the Pignodrome.

The throwing distance is then measured, and the best throw is recorded on a scoreboard for everyone to see. While only two throws can be made at any one time, competitors can return to launch cones as many times as they wish by returning to the registration

line.

Sixteen world champion titles are at stake, one each for boys and girls, in eight different age groups. A chief referee, called "Pignolet", guarantees compliance with the regulations of the event. At the end of the competition, the best performances in each category are rewarded with trophies: sixteen golden pinecones on varnished pine wood base (one for each champion of each category), two ceramic mega-pinecones for champions in all categories (men and women), and two crystal pins for the record holder.

In the most recent event, throwers and spectators alike were enjoying themselves so much that officials had to do a bit of convincing to close down competition at midnight, but not before the evening produced two new world record holders.

Solen Friteyre, competing in the girls aged 10 to 14 category, threw a pin at 29.23 meters (95.90 feet), beating the previous record of 28.13 meters (92.30 feet). And Marius Petitpre, in the boys aged 0 to 4 group, beat the previous record of 9.20 meters (30.18 feet) with a throw of 10.46 meters (34.32 feet).

The proceeds from the night go to ongoing and future Lions Club Pays de Born projects, including equipping the beaches with devices allowing people with reduced mobility to swim, replacing the bus for a local nursing home, helping establish an Alzheimer's day center, and creating a reception center for young people with autism and their caregivers in partnership with the Bisc'Atypique association.



# Essay CONTEST

for the visually impaired

## Newmarket Lions

### FRIENDS AS LEADERS

by Keaton Hamilton, age 12

Canadian 6th Grader, Keaton Hamilton, Takes Home the Grand Prize in Lions International Peace Essay.

Keaton, a 12-year-old from Newmarket knows what peace is. He put pen to paper to illustrate his ideas for the world in his award-winning essay entitled "Friends as Leaders" which demonstrates the good that can come from standing up for what is right.

"Young people experience the world in a unique way, and the Lions International Peace Essay Contest empowers participants to show us what can happen when we lead with compassion," said Lions International President Brian Sheehan. "We can all learn something from Keaton and answer the call to promote and spread peace."

Created to give young people with visual impairments an opportunity to express their feelings about peace, the Lions International Peace Essay Contest is a staple of Lions clubs around the world. Lions work with local schools and area families to identify young people interested in participating and who could benefit from this program.

"I am lucky to live in a country where I am safe, comfortable and supported," said Hamilton on the topic of peace. "I don't have to worry about food and shelter and being safe. I wish everyone would feel safe and comfortable in the world."

The winning essay was selected for its originality, organization, merit and portrayal of the contest theme, "Lead With Compassion."

The Newmarket Lions Club sponsored the local contest that gave this talented 6th grader the opportunity to participate in this global event and share his words of peace with the world. Through his essay, Hamilton shares the idea that the most valuable leaders are those who set an honorable standard by speaking up even when it might be easier to remain silent. His words also highlight the importance of being a support system in the community and making accommodations for those around us when they need a friendly face and a helping hand. The 6th grader ends his essay by encouraging us never to be afraid to ask for help because there will always be someone around ready to lead with compassion. "I try to take advantage of opportunities in school, sports, activities and writing," added Hamilton. "The Lions International Peace Essay Contest gives a chance for the blind and low vision community to express themselves in writing and have a chance to succeed. The 12-year-old hopes to help create more opportunities for the visually impaired community around the world, and perhaps in outer space, by becoming an astronomer.

As the contest winner, Hamilton received a US\$5,000.00 cash prize, an international president's award and attended Lions Day with the United Nations in New York and is slated to go to the International Convention in Boston.

Right now, wherever you are at this moment, I would like you to imagine that you are a new student in grade 5. You are 5 feet tall, like video games, play sports, and you're just like an ordinary kid. But there's a wall between you and the rest of the students, in this class (not literally of course). You can't see that well. Not the writing on a white page, but the objects around you. Not the colours of anybody's eyes, but the colour of desks, chairs and markers. Now, a short kid with black hair looks at your white cane, hanging on a hook by the door. "Uh, what is that like a spear or something?" he says with the intent of making others feel sad. "No, it's ... my cane," you say in a small voice. "Don't they tell you no weapons at school?" "It's not a weapon it's my white cane." "Do you know it's white or..."

"Stop being rude," says a strong voice coming from another student. "It is what they use to know what's around them, no need to think they can't do anything when they are blind! Don't bully them about something they can't control." That student who stood up for you. That was completely their choice. They could have said nothing or ignore you all they wanted. But, they went out of their way and stood up for you. This is just one example of "leading with compassion", and even without this example you could probably think of a time in your life where someone looked out for you, assisted you with something, gave you a general hint, etc. When you were in school, maybe your teachers lead with compassion by giving you work in a form that was best for you, whether that be on a computer, on paper with pencil, or upside down. Your friends lead with compassion. After all, somebody who does not is bossy and only thinks about himself.

We all know the feeling of being looked out for, and having friends to fall back on. Knowing that someone has your back while accomplishing any difficult task and achieving goals is one of those shiny diamonds in life.

We all play a role in ensuring that our peers feel welcome and safe in learning environments, groups and while alone. While being a best friend is not required, at least look out for people and make sure to help if they ask for it. Everybody in a community is responsible, should feel like they belong, and should try and assist any one in need of a helping hand. Even if it's just another local citizen that seems troubled, you can at least smile or offer guidance. That's how new friends are formed. And remember, there's no harm in reaching out for help. A good person would respond and you can look out for each other. That is what friends would do, and that's what leading with compassion is all about.



Keaton with Lion Sylvia Brock and International President Brian Sheehan



Keaton Hamilton, age 12



Keaton with his mother and Lion Sylvia Brock, Newmarket Lions Youth Opportunities Co-Chair



# 2022- Peace Poster Peace Essay Contest

by Council Chair Mark Kelso



One of the best tasks for the Council Chair each year is to judge the Peace Poster /Peace Essay contests selecting the best from MDA to send to Lions International to be included in the worldwide contest. This year's entries from our districts were outstanding, I am sure this is not an exception to the rule. I want to congratulate all the young people who put their minds and talents to use describing "Leadership through Compassion" whether it was through art or the written word.

I knew as Council Chair the ultimate choice of the MDA winners would rest with me. When I

saw the entries that were presented as the best from each district, I was almost overwhelmed. I have a hard time drawing a stick man, and these young people had presented us with masterpieces. I knew I could not judge them alone. I enlisted the help of my motorcycle group of Bikers for Christ, South East Ontario chapter.

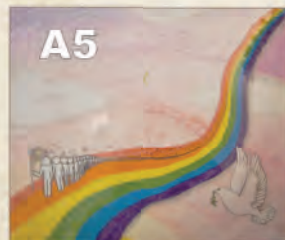
On Dec 5th we got together with our group, it was a hard task, all the posters were outstanding in their own right. It was determined the poster by Nandini Paliwal, age thirteen, sponsored by the Mississauga Central Lions of District A7-11 was the overall winner. The judges picked a first and second runner up. First was Asmi Chandra, twelve, sponsored by Orangeville Lions of District A9, and second runner up was Clay Ferber age eleven sponsored by the Rockton Lions district A15. The winning poster was forwarded to LCI for judging among all the best in the world.

A certificate has been given to each District Governor to be presented to their district's finalist. Each certificate bears the following inscription and a picture of their poster;

*"Congratulations on becoming one of Multiple District A's Peace Poster Finalists for 2022-23. Your imagination and excellent artwork have placed you in 2nd place for all Multiple District A. Thank you for participating and presenting your poster for this contest, you did not make the judge's job easy in picking an overall winner. Keep up the great work and continue to reach for your dreams."*

There was also a winner in the Peace Essay contest. Keaton Hamilton, age eleven, sponsored by the Newmarket Lions of District A16 wrote a fantastic piece entitled "Friends as Leaders". The talent of these young people is outstanding. I want to thank Lion Janet Dawson Brock, the MDA Peace Poster Chair for her tireless work promoting this project and to the District Peace Poster Chairs who encouraged their clubs to participate. Poster and Essay kits for the 2023 contest are now available.

## MDA PEACE POSTER CONTEST



**Nandini Paliwal age 13 sponsored by the Mississauga Central Lions from District A711 was the overall winner. . First runner up was Asmi Chandra, 12, Orangeville Lions A9, second runner up was Clay Ferber, 11, Rockton Lions A15.**

**Congratulations to all the entrants!**

## Fergus Lions

The Executive Director of the Groves Hospital Foundation, Lori Arsenault, recently was presented with a cheque for six thousand dollars, by Club President **Margaret Murray** (center) and Treasurer **Michael Fleming**. The cheque is to cover the cost of a new Halo-Bassinet, a device that allows new mothers to provide bedside care for the newborns from the comfort of their bed. This is especially welcome for C-Section birth mothers or those who need bed rest, as the bassinet swivels over the bed for ease, and all required essentials (diapers, wipes, etc.) are stored on the bassinet.



## Storrington Lions/Battersea Lions

Back in December the Storrington Lions had their first post-Covid Breakfast with Santa. Face painting and crafts were popular, second only to the Grand Master of Ceremonies (Santa). The turnout was a resounding success especially since it coincided with the Battersea Santa Parade. The club had the largest turnout since they started these events. The two clubs were not finished, they followed up the breakfast with the Battersea Lions Santa's Claus parade.



Lion President D'Arcy Marconi and his wife Lion Brenda



## Exeter Lions

Leadership of Exeter Lions Club helps to raise more than \$1.285 million at Conservation Dinner over 32 years for community projects.

The hard work of Exeter Lions Club volunteers, working with Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation, neighbouring Lions Clubs, and the local community has created a successful charitable dinner and auction since the 1990s; the 33rd Conservation Dinner is to take place in person in 2023 on April 20th.

The Lions have a long standing relationship with the foundation, a full press release is

available using the links shown below and the Q.R. code. A historical photo collection over the years is also available, the links are shown here. Shown in the photo from the 2017 dinner are Lions **Craig Herbert** on the left and Paul **Anstett**, both long time supporters of the annual event.

A full press release from December of last year can be viewed as well, the links are here for you to scan the code.



photos

<https://bit.ly/3DJCeIN>



press release

<http://bit.ly/3wB75Np>



# Fenwick Lions "Dog Guide Champs" Double Take

During a recent Lions Club of Fenwick Dinner Meeting, Lion President **Jeff Pickup** presented two (2) \$25,000 cheques to Danielle Rosenblum, Community Partnership Manager, of the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guide program.

Cheque #1 was made possible due to the club's successful 2022 Classic Car Raffle. The donation is for the sponsorship of two (2) Canine Vision Guide

Dogs PLUS \$13,000.00 of a \$50,000 commitment over 5 years toward the new Lions Foundation of Canada Guide Dog Building.

Cheque #2 was made possible by the \$25,000.00 donation from Fred Adamson's Estate which requested the estate proceeds be directed toward the sponsorship of LFC Guide Dogs.

Frank Adamson was in attendance helping present the donation cheque to the LFC Guide Dogs. This donation is for the sponsorship of one (1) Autism Dog, one (1) Facility Support Dog and one (1) Canine Hearing dog in Fred Adamson's memory.



Cheque presentation L-R Nancy Chiasson, Danielle Rosenblum, Club President Jeff Pickup



Cheque Presentation with Dog Guide 'Yeit' are from L-R Lion Nancy Chiasson (Ontario LFC Director), Danielle Rosenblum (LFC), Club President Jeff Pickup and Frank Adamson



A special Thank You to committee member **Mark Nelligan** of the **Gananoque Lions Club** for his service to Lions and the Lake Joe committee. Currently the committee is looking for another member with a passion for the blind community, to sit on the committee. The committee meets usually virtually four times a year. Please contact PCC **Bob Tanner** or PDG **Barb Ennis** if you are interested.



## Sight Conservation Update

Lions Lake Joe Bus Campaign is off to a slow start having only raised \$3,500 and another \$2,000 that we know is in the mail. Your help is needed to get our Blind Friends to Camp and activities at camp!

For information on the bus, you can go to [www.cnib.ca/LakeJoeMinibus](http://www.cnib.ca/LakeJoeMinibus)

of blind golfers. PCC Bob was introduced to Lion **Kevin Frost** an accomplished blind athlete. A passionate golfer and spokesperson for this group. Lions in different Districts have assisted this group in the past. There are three site categories that were established by the IBGA (International Blind Golf Association) in the late 1990's. Ranging from B3, blind golfers with 5-10% of their vision, B2, blind golfers with 0-5% of their vision, and the ever inspirational, B1 blind golfer with 0% vision.

The pandemic and a corporate takeover have caused this group several challenges. First, they need volunteers to work with the blind to assist them on the golf course and to help with tournament play. The group has been very fiscally responsible. They have always carried a reserve in their bank account mainly due to a corporate sponsor. Due to a corporate takeover, they have lost their sponsor and need to find a new one. This program has been successful and needs a boost from our Knights of the Blind. This is an example of a grass roots service project.

If you need further information or would like to volunteer, please contact PCC Bob Tanner MDA Sight Conservation Chair or PDG Barb Ennis, contact info on MDA website.



**Blind Golf Ontario** – PCC Bob Tanner was contacted by the executive of Blind Golf Ontario facilitated by PDG **Andy Etherington**. A zoom meeting was held with this passionate group

# Newburgh-Camden Lions

Looking back the Newburgh-Camden Lions had a busy December. The first weekend they welcomed families to Breakfast with Santa. Everyone enjoyed the event and the children were delighted to make crafts, visit with Santa and choose a present they could take home.

The third weekend was Christmas Baskets. Food, clothing and monetary donations were collected from local businesses, churches and schools. The request for the baskets this year was up substantially. We were fortunate to be able to assist the families.

The club do bingos in Kingston and from those earnings they were able to make a donation to the Lennox and Addington County General Hospital Foundation (\$6,000) and to the Salvation Army Food Bank (\$3,500)

It was a busy and rewarding time for the Newburgh-Camden Lions who are always happy to serve their community.



# District A2 Multi-Club Project

“Church Out Serving” board member **Eric Haverkamp** and Lions District A-2 Governor **Bob Townsend** celebrate the donation of furniture for the Riversyde 83 Food Hub through a LCIF Hunger Grant. The facility constantly addresses hunger needs in the Community.

Thanks to donations from the **Simcoe-Lynn Valley, Simcoe, Port Dover, Waterford, South Brant, Jarvis, Vittoria, Townsend** and **Hagersville Lions Clubs** and Lions Clubs International Foundation.

There is a lot of good information about this project and other similar situations in a report from DG Bob Townsend on the MDA web site. Use the link or scan the QR code. <https://bit.ly/3LgkVNrthis>



## MDA Directory Information

### Council of Governors' Meeting Dates

- Council Meeting – November 18-19, 2022
- Council Meeting – February 10-11, 2023
- Council Meeting – May 26-27, 2023 (Convention)

### District Conventions

Dist	Location	Date
A1	Four Points Sheraton, London	Mar. 31, Apr. 1-2, 2023
A2	Holiday Inn, St. Catharines	March 24-26, 2023
A3	Four Points Sheraton, Kingston	April 28-30, 2023
A4	Four Points Sheraton, Kingston	April 21-23, 2023
A5	Northern College, Kirkland Lake	April 28-30, 2023
A711	Sheraton Parkway Hotel	April 14-16, 2023
A9	Sure Stay Best Western, Kincardine	April 28-30, 2023
A12	Allure Hotel and Conference Centre, Barrie	April 14-16, 2023
A15	Best Western, Brantford	April 14-16, 2023
A16	Holiday Inn, Peterborough	April 21-23, 2023

## IMPORTANT DATES

### MDA Convention

2023 Four Points Sheraton, London May 26 - 28, 2023

### International Conventions

106th	Boston, Mass., USA	July 7 - 11, 2023
107th	Melbourne, Australia	June 21 - 25, 2024
108th	Mexico City, Mexico	July 4 - 8, 2025
109th	Atlanta, GA, USA	July 3 - 7, 2026
110th	Washington, DC, USA	July 2 - 6, 2027

### USA - Canada Forums

Sept 14 - 16, 2023	Reno, Nevada
Sept 5 - 7, 2024	Louisville, Kentucky

# St. Davids and District Lions "Character in Action"

The St. Davids & District Lions show their generous character by giving back to St. Davids Public School. The club's donation allowed for the school to purchase over sixty 'sublimated' or infused team logo athletic wear jerseys. The school is bound to be a standout at local sporting competitions!

Back row center (shoulder to shoulder with some St. Davids LEOs) are PCC Braadd Anderson and ID Allen Snider. The photo was taken during a school assembly designed to give a big thank you to the Lions for their continued support



## District A 7/11

On January 14th District A7/11 celebrated the birthday of Melvin Jones, there was a great turnout of previous fellowship recipients and new fellowships were awarded



## Uxbridge and District Lions

The Region of Durham presented an Accessibility Award to the Uxbridge Lions for their work in bringing the first fully accessible, universal playground to life in Durham Region North.

The club is committed to creating a space families of all ages and abilities can participate.

The project has been a community effort, partially funded through community fundraising and designed with community feedback and input. "In 2020, a local family came to our Dream a Playground event, one

child in a wheelchair and another one without mobility issues," said **Jean Doucet**, club president. Uxbridge Lions Club. "They were so excited and so thankful at the idea of having a place where both of their kids could play together, that's what this is all about." The design will allow people to play together. "If you have a



grandparent with a walker or in a wheelchair you can bring them in to the playground instead of sitting on the edge looking in," added Bob Armitage, chair of the club playground committee. "This was on our minds for a long time, and it's been a long haul from approval to breaking ground. We never expected to receive such an

award, but we are honoured to be recognized."

The Uxbridge Lions Club continues to champion inclusivity for the town of Uxbridge. The group broke ground on the new playground in early October, and it is expected to be completed in the spring of 2023. An event is planned to bring the community together in the celebration. "The concept is wonderful," said **Sally Kotsopoulos**, a Lions volunteer who has a background in early childhood education. "It's a fine line to join safety and challenge enough to keep kids interested, but I think we've hit it," said Kotsopoulos. "I think we've come close to creating some really great places to play amongst friends."

### ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

#### District Reporters

There is a reporter designated for each district, their function is to assist clubs and the magazine staff with submissions that include high resolution photos and a summary of the service activity. Please utilize their services. They can be contacted as shown:

- A-1 Lion Michelle Mundy: michellemundy@live.com
- A-2 DG Lion Bob Townsend: b.townsend@a2lions.org
- A-3 Lion Kim Carr: tater@sympatico.ca
- A-4 Lion Bill Vermilyea: b.vermilyea@outlook.com
- A-5 Lion Brenda Lalonde: bmlsudbury@hotmail.com
- A-7/11 Lion Astrid Simola: a.simola@sympatico.ca
- A-9 PDG Jennifer Batte: lionjenniferbatte@gmail.com
- A-12 Lion JoAnn Warren: jowarren66@gmail.com
- A-15 Lion Bob Pearson: bobpearson50@gmail.com
- A-16 Lion Tim Cheung: tcheung@lionsa16.com

Editor Lion Bob Pearson  
mdathelionmag@hotmail.com

## Dorchester and District

The Dorchester and District Lions, Ontario Canada & community volunteers have been working with the Magic Yarn Project over the past 7 months to create wigs for young warriors with childhood cancer. Chemotherapy treatments often leave young scalps too sensitive for scratchy traditional wigs but yarn wigs are comfy, soft and warm. Magic Yarn wigs are inspired by beloved Disney characters and invite children back to the world of play and daydreaming. They

are a beacon of fun, laughter, and imagination during a scary time. Wigs are made for both boys & girls using special yarns that are extra soft for their sensitive scalps. This is an ongoing service project that brings Lions & community members together and serves to contribute to one of global causes, Childhood Cancer.





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# Wilmot Lions / Lioness

The Wilmot Lions / Lioness invited Amiera Black and her mother, Jennifer, to tell their story about her accomplishments. In the fall 2022, she entered the World Down Syndrome Swimming Championships in Albufeira, Portugal. She won eight medals and has a goal in the future to continue to reach higher. These medals include: junior gold - 100 metre freestyle; junior gold, 200 metre freestyle; junior gold, 100 metre backstroke; junior gold, 100 metre butterfly; junior silver, 50 metre backstroke, junior silver, 50 metre butterfly; junior silver, 100 metre individual medley. Amiera thanked the Wilmot Lions / Lioness for their support. The club, along with the New Hamburg Optimist Club and New Hamburg Sobey's helped to fundraise for her journey to Portugal in the summer.

This was an exciting evening for our club and quite an honour to host such an amazing young woman and her mother..



**New Hamburg Sobey's**  
 With much thanks & gratitude for your overwhelming support in helping me to reach my goal to compete at the  
**2022 World Down Syndrome Swimming Championships**  
 in Albufeira, Portugal

**Amiera Black**

Junior Gold Medalist - 100m Freestyle  
 Junior Gold Medalist - 200m Freestyle  
 Junior Gold Medalist - 100m Backstroke  
 Junior Gold Medalist - 100m Butterfly

Junior Silver Medalist - 50m Backstroke  
 Junior Silver Medalist - 50m Butterfly  
 Junior Silver Medalist - 50m Freestyle  
 Junior Silver Medalist - 100m Individual Medley

Agreement Number is:  
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