

LION



M.D. "A" Edition January/February/March 2024

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We Serve

LIONS ARE ON A MISSION

Lions set out to reach 1.5 million members and serve more people than ever before.



Lions International
see pages 11 - 18



Improving Vision.

Preventing Diabetes.

Protecting the
Environment.

Eliminating Hunger.

Supporting Children
with Cancer.

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Cover photo by Barbara MacDonald

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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Lion Marjorie Lewis • Lion Dave Hewitt PDG



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Rising to the Challenge



Dear Lions,

As we prepare for a great 2024, Lions remain committed to MISSION 1.5 — our drive to reach 1.5 million members and increase our capacity to serve those who need us. The need to grow is urgent, and I'm genuinely inspired by the way you are rising to meet this challenge.

More members will allow us to do more service over the coming years, and the momentum we create will have a powerful ripple effect into the future. As we grow, our stories of service will increase, our collective voice will get louder, and we will inspire even more people to serve with us.

The mission is bold, but so are Lions. Now is the time to be brave. Don't be afraid to invite people to join your club. Some will say "yes" and some will say "not now," but don't be

discouraged. "No" doesn't necessarily mean "never." I didn't become a Lion the first time I was asked because the timing wasn't right, but when I did, it changed my life. You have the power to change someone's life, too. All you have to do is ask.

Growing our membership and increasing our service in pursuit of our MISSION 1.5 goal — this is how we are Changing the World, together.

Sincerely,

Dr. Patti Hill

Dr. Patti Hill

International President, Lions Clubs International



We Serve

Highlights of the Council Of Governors' Meeting November 18, 2023



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FINANCIAL UPDATE

Please check that your club dues owing to MDA are up to date. The Council of Governors has received and approved the June 30, 2023, year-end audited financial statements.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The Council of Governors approved the application for MD "A" Life Membership for Lion Michael Hayes as received from the Ottawa Vanier Lions Club, District A4. Congratulations!

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:	134,185
Total Service Projects:	300
Total of Volunteer Hours:	7,814

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

There were a number of questions pertaining to discounted memberships. This is directly from the Board Policy Manual:

(h) DISCOUNTED MEMBER: A member of this club who pays discounted dues as a result of their family membership status, student status or participation in any other discounted membership program offered by the association who desires to retain membership in this club and meets the qualifications for discounted dues. The membership status shall be verified by the board of directors of this club. A Discounted Member shall be eligible to hold office in district or international meetings but shall pay such dues as the local club may charge, which dues shall include district and international dues. This membership category shall not be included in the club delegate formula calculation. [Above section effective January 1, 2024]

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

That the Council of Governors approved the Sheraton Parkway, Richmond Hill, as the site location for the 2025 Effective Speaking Finals.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The athletes will be attending the Winter National Games being held in Calgary, February 27th to March 2nd, 2024.

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENTIAL MEDALS

PID Allen Snider and PDG OJ Wilura presented A711 IPDG Ferdy Coronel and A711 VCC DG Ann Stevens will an International President's Medal for their outstanding service to Lions International.

Congratulations to IPDG Ferdy and VCC DG Ann!

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



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Highlights of the Council Of Governors' Meeting February 24, 2024



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COUNCIL CHAIR ELECTION 2024-2025

Congratulations to A711 VCC DG Ann Stevens on her election to the position of Council Chair Elect, 2024-2025. Did you know that it has been around 50 years since the last Council Chair Elect was from District A711? Congratulations, VCC DG Ann!

VICE COUNCIL CHAIR ELECTION 2024-2025

The Vice Council Chair will be elected at the

MDA Convention during the District Governor Briefing.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

There are some clubs in MDA with unpaid dues. Please check that your club dues are up to date.

CONVENTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The 2024 MDA Convention is being held in St. Catharines, Ontario at the Holiday Inn and Suites Parkway Conference Centre on May

31st to June 2nd, 2024. Meet 1st International Vice President, Fabricio Oliveira, plan to attend information sessions on Lions Foundation of Canada, Available Grants from LCIF and Vision Screening with Plusoptix. Come out and vote for our next International Director. To register, visit www.mdalions.org

ENVIRONMENT

Have you heard about the NEW fellowship available? This fellowship is a great way to

promote both the Environment and Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides as well as an opportunity to recognize fellow Lions.

What is this Fellowship called? The Lion Art Woods Golden Tree Fellowship

This fellowship recognizes the commitment, dedication, and 50 years of service of PID Art Woods. With Lion Art's passion for the environment and the LFCDG's Memorial Forest, funds from this fellowship will be directed to a dedicated garden space at the new training school.

Recipients receive a unique personalized plaque. Fellowships are \$350. A win for the environment – dedicated garden space at the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. A win for the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides – Funds to help create a world class training school. A win for Lions Club – an opportunity to recognize fellow Lions for their volunteering of service.

More information can be found on the LFCDG website under Get Involved tab, Lions Clubs tab – Lions Resource or contacting PDG Jennifer Batte at lionjenniferbatte@gmail.com or Nancy Chiasson, MDA LFCDG Chair at treasurer@mbblc.org

Earth Day is on April 22, 2024. Plan, promote, or continue an environment project as we work together taking care of the amazing planet called "EARTH".

Don't forget about the Environment Photo Contest that is happening this year. Information has been sent out to all the District Environment Chairs. Check out the MDA Environment Facebook Page for more information.

GLOBAL MEMBERSHIP TEAM

At the end of January there were 515 clubs in MDA with 12,135 members and we have added +927 new members. Sadly, we lost -873 for a total gain of +54.

There are four Districts that were or are in negative growth, but we are hopeful that this will turn around and these Districts will see a sharp increase in members as we work the Mission 1.5 objective.

There are five Districts with increased membership and one District is holding its own.

Lions, it is important to Plan Your Work and Work Your Plan. This has been proven to be successful.

Remember what your Action Plans are and tweak where you need to, you still have time. If it is not working, change it.

You are encouraged to always view the Lions International site for ideas and inspiration.

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

HUNGER

MDA CONVENTION HUNGER AWARDS PROGRESS YEAR TO DATE -

Q3: JAN – MAR 2024:

1. District Governor (DG) with highest #

hunger activities reported YTD; A-2 DG Tom MCLARTY (205)

2. District Hunger Chair (DHC) highest % clubs reporting hunger activity YTD; A-16 DHC Pat AITKEN (69.8%)
3. Lions Club (LC) with greatest # of SERVICE activities reported for hunger YTD; A-2 Fonthill LC (66)
4. Lions Club (LC) with most people SERVED per member for hunger YTD ; A-3 Land O' Lakes LC (35,874)
5. Lion Members with most volunteer hours reported for hunger and others YTD; A-3 Land O'Lakes LC (4,936)

Congratulations to all! Let's keep reporting.

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Lions International Board will be meeting in Vancouver, BC from March 14th to 20th. PID Allen will have updates available shortly after conclusion of the meetings.

Melbourne International Convention:

Canadian Meeting: Saturday, June 22nd from 4:00 – 6:00 PM

Crown Conference Centre – Promenade 1
Canadian Reception – Monday, June 24th
5:30 – 7:30 PM

MCEC -- Sovereign Room

LION MAGAZINE

Your current editor has been in place for over seven years, when considering all the circumstances it might well be time for a new editor, interested Lions should contact the present editor for further information.

LIONS OF CANADA FUND FOR LCIF

The current balance in the fund is \$3,038,937.43.

Two donations since the last report in November are as follows:

November 15, 2023 - \$ 30,900.08 30,77 to District A-4 – to purchase mammographic equipment.

December 4, 2023 - \$ 30,034.00 to Kitchener Lions Club in A-15 – to support Lions screening.

Congratulations to all recipients. It is wonderful to see Canadian Dollars remaining in Canada.

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Congratulations to the Lion IPDG Ferdy Coronel of District A711 for winning the Melvin Jones Photo Contest for Constitutional Area II, with the quote, "Together We Restore & Protect Our Environment."

Congratulations to the Lions of District A2 who has successfully obtained a Hunger Grant from Lions Clubs International Foundation. Nine Lions Clubs in the District were involved with this project. This grant purchased furniture for Riversyde 83, including tables and chairs. The project took aim at food insecurity in Norfolk County. This project will aid volunteers as they provide fresh meals, frozen meals, and food hampers to those in need. With the LCIF grants,

the Lions hope to reach out to over 10,000 people annually.

Melvin Jones Plaques - If you are looking at getting a Melvin Jones plaque to present at your district convention, please apply at least 8 weeks in advance of the presentation to ensure the plaque is received in time.

LIONS FOUNDATION OF CANADA

Spring Open House is Saturday April 6th. This is a great chance to tour the Dog Guides' Oakville facility and learn about the programs firsthand.

Spring Graduation is being held virtually on April 24th. It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all the newest teams, as well as the volunteers and sponsors that help make it happen. It is always so exciting to see how many Lions Clubs sponsor Dog Guide teams.

The St. David's Leos were spotlighted in the most recent communication from Dog Guides about the Difference Campaign. It is amazing to see a club of young people coming forward with such strong support for this project. In addition to the donation of \$5,000 they are donating tulip bulbs to be planted in the gardens at the new facility.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

MDA is looking for a Leo Chair. If you are interested, please contact CC Larry Irwin or PDG Barb Ennis, Youth Chair.

The Effective Speaking Final will be held in St. Catharines on Saturday, May 25th, 2024.

The registration form is available on the MDA website at <https://mdalions.org/pages/Youth/Effectivespkg>

SIGHT CONSERVATION

A special thanks to all the clubs in MDA that have donated to the Lions Lake Joe Bus project! Currently the application for the LCIF Grant has been submitted to LCIF and we do have a Matching Grant Application number, so the application has been received and is now part of the review process. The revised cost for the bus project is \$185,524.65 after receiving the current quotes. Our request was for \$92,762.00 CDN.

Lions have Raised from Fund Raising:

\$29,400.00 sent to the CNIB

\$36,200.00 from clubs in MDA

\$28,730.00 from clubs in A12 (DG Jerry

Rebidoux's District Project)

Total: \$94,330.00 - more than 100% of funds have been received!

Awards - the deadline for donations to be included in the count for the District of the Year / Club of the Year Awards is Friday, March 15, 2024. Winners are announced at the MDA Convention.

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

by Shelby Washington

In Pakistan, there are 570,000 adults grappling with blindness due to cataracts. This is the most common cause of avoidable blindness in the country with 51.5% of the blind community burdened with it. Additionally, 11.77% of citizens in Pakistan have type 2 diabetes mellitus, with 29% of those people experiencing diabetic retinopathy (DR), an eye condition that can cause vision loss and blindness in people who have diabetes. Lions saw the magnitude of this problem in Pakistan, and knew it needed to be addressed.

The Lions of District 305-N2 received a SightFirst Grant of US\$131,463 from Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) to develop infrastructure and expand diagnostic and treatment services for cataracts, uncorrected refractive errors (URE) and DR at the hospital of Khyber Eye Foundation (KEF). KEF was established as a charitable hospital in 1998. On average, KEF examines approximately 54,000 outpatients, organizes 18 outreach camps, and performs cataract surgeries on 5,500 individuals each year. Approximately 8,000 people with diabetes are examined and managed by their medical specialist or diabetologist each year. In addition, KEF monitors glaucoma patients

and performs glaucoma surgeries. Each year, KEF also diagnoses approximately 900 patients with glaucoma, performs multiple surgeries, and offers treatment using topical eye drops.

KEF is also dedicated to addressing these illnesses at an early age to ensure children are not burdened with the stress of vision problems. They run a school-based screening program for children ages 6 to 10. The program includes free eye exams to identify refractive errors and other eye conditions, free eyeglasses, referrals to KEF for students in need of further treatment, and education on avoidable blindness and personal hygiene. KEF has an optical workshop that provides a range of prescriptions for school children and paying individuals with URE. Between 2008 and 2016, KEF performed 17,118 refraction assessments and distributed 12,402 spectacles. Last year, 80% of patients who received a cataract surgery had good outcomes, so Lions are hoping to expand on that success to serve more people in Pakistan.

The LCIF grant will enable Lions to purchase the equipment necessary to conduct eye exams and treat cataracts, URE and DR. This includes a new argon laser, since KEF's current one has not been functional for the last three years, and will allow staff to reinstate laser treatments for DR patients. With this investment in equipment, Lions will ensure tens of thousands of people across the country never suffer from vision loss.

Through this impactful grant funding, Lions in Pakistan will reach people dealing



with diabetes-related vision impairment, cataracts, and more. Their efforts will prevent blindness and restore sight, offering patients a renewed chance to see.

Learn more about how Lions and LCIF work to improve the lives of the visually impaired at www.lionsclubs.org/en/give-our-focus-areas/vision and those suffering from diabetes at www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-global-causes/diabetes.



Childhood Cancer Project- District A9

District A9 Childhood Cancer Chair, Lion **Crystal Steffler** of the **Mount Forest Lions Club** put out a call to clubs in A9 to make blankets. A total of 153 blankets were received for distribution to local oncology units. Three members from Mount Forest Lions made a trip to Ronald MacDonald House in Hamilton where 28 of the blankets were delivered. Our Lion members were grateful for the tour of the facility. Very heart warming, especially knowing it's the last place any family wants to be.



Unthinkable Journeys – Serving Families with Childhood Cancer

by Shelby Washington

According to World Health Organization, over 1,000 children are diagnosed with cancer every day. While childhood cancer can be treatable, the outcome often depends on the child's access to the proper resources and healthcare. Nonetheless, it is a devastating journey for families.

Since cancer impacts many children and their families, Lions all over the world have found unique ways to support families facing this terrible journey. In Ribeirão Preto, Brazil, Lions decided to help expand the Children with Cancer Support Group (GACC), so they could serve even more people. The GACC is a nonprofit organization that provides a hostel for children receiving cancer treatment at Hospital Crianca. The Support House was able to accommodate up to 15 children at one time and serves an average of 250 children per year.

The Lions of District LC6 are using a Childhood Cancer Grant of US\$80,602 from Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) for this expansion project. Lions Clubs Ribeirão Campos Elisios and Ribeirão Preto Ipiranga were directly involved. Before the project started, only one member of a hospitalized child's family

could accompany them in the support home. Lions wanted the child to be able to have more support from additional members of their family while they are all struggling through this difficult time. In the instances where these could be the child's final days, Lions



recognized the importance of giving families the opportunity to live together and spend as much time sharing precious moments as possible.

Lions are working to construct and furnish a common space that will include a balcony, living room, pantry, classroom and external bathroom for employees, as well as three suites with two beds each, and one bathroom per suite. The new space will increase the number of patients served to an additional 27 children with cancer and 27 companions per year.

Beyond their work on the project, Lions used publicity techniques to raise awareness of childhood cancer, its impact on families, and how Lions' support is beneficial in these unfortunate circumstances. Their publicity through local media outlets and social media was a great way

to inspire the community to help those in need by partnering with Lions, and they have additional plans for spreading even more awareness.

Lions and Leos provide support for the needs of children and families affected by childhood cancer through impactful service activities like these and the help of LCIF grants. While the journey is difficult, not only for the child suffering from cancer but also for the family, Lions can offer hope and resources. With the expansion of the GACC, more families will be able to face cancer together.

Learn more about how LCIF is helping fight the battle of childhood cancer and providing hope to families dealing with this heartbreaking disease at www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-global-causes/childhood-cancer.

Dublin Lions

The Dublin Lions in partnership with the Municipality of West Perth and the Ontario Trillium Foundation celebrated the opening of new accessible outdoor park washrooms last in November. The renovated washrooms are located in the Lions Park in Dublin, next to the community center in a building that also saw upgrades to a storage area used by the Dublin Lions and other community groups. The project has been several years in development due rising costs and the pandemic. A grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation of \$38,200 and the Dublin Lions and West Perth each contributing \$12,500 made this project possible.



L to R: Keenan Haight (Lead Hand West Perth Parks and Recreation), Bob Parker (Ontario Trillium Foundation), Matthew Rae (Perth Wellington MPP), Hauke Behn (Dublin Lions President), Walter McKenzie (West Perth Mayor), Matt Feeney (Feeney Design Build), Dean Trentowsky (West Perth Deputy Mayor) and Darcey Cook (West Perth Parks and Recreation Manager)

Community Support Projects

Again this year, **Thamesford Lions** partnered with the local Royal Bank, Tim Hortons and the Ingersoll & District Inter-Church Relief Organization for our annual community Christmas Hamper distribution project. We started by collecting donations to the Christmas

Kettles at the Royal Bank & Tim Horton's over two weekends in November & December. On December 17th, we participated in the Thamesford Santa Claus Christmas parade and collected donated food, which was presented to the folks at Ingersoll Inter-Church

along with a cheque for \$ 5,438.00. Finally, we were pleased to deliver a total of seventy-three food & gift hampers to twenty-eight families in the Thamesford area who needed a helping hand the week before Christmas.



2023 Kitchener Waterloo Community Spirit Lions

In December, the KW Community Spirit Lions purchased and assembled holiday treat gift bags, which were delivered to residents at Sunnyside Seniors Supportive Housing apartments.

L-R: Lions Shirley Ruller, Lisa Lishman, Janice Fleming, Joanne McQuiggan, Janet Dawson Brock, Bill Blyleven, Marjorie Brown, Evelyn Fisher and Jack Fisher



Advanced Lions Leadership Institute (ALLI)

Let's congratulate a record 12 MDA graduates and facilitator proudly representing MDA Districts A2, A3, A4, A15 and A711 at the Advanced Lions Leadership Institute (ALLI) Grand Finale in January at the final dinner held at the Radisson Hotel in Vancouver B.C.

L to R: A15 VDG Lion Linda Vinette, Rockwood LC; A4 VDG2 Lion Jim Devenny, Iroquois LC; ALLI Facilitator A711 PDG Lion Dan Sibanda, Mississauga Cooksville LC; A2 VDG2 Lion Louise Agnew, Grimsby LC; and A3 ZC Lion Randall Ross, Cobourg Lions



L to R: PCT Lion Herbert Ehebha, Toronto Nigerian LC; Facilitator PDG Lion Dan Sibanda & PRC Lion Phoebe Kagumba-Sibanda, Mississauga Cooksville LC; RC Lion Cynthia Chu, Toronto Distinction LC; PRC Lion Danny Galicia, Toronto Banyanhan LC; PZC Lion Khalilah Megan Campbell, Mississauga Monarch LC; PDG Lion Tebo Richards, Thistletown LC; DC Lion Pamela Blanchette-Joseph, Malvern Onyx LC; PZC Lion Lawrence Onukwuba, Toronto Nigerian LC; and ZC Lion Floyd Linden Blyden, Malvern Onyx LC

The Serenity Suite: A Haven for Healing Hearts

by Shelby Washington

Losing an infant during, or before, birth is a devastating and traumatic experience. Until now, there were not suitable facilities in South Yorkshire and North Nottinghamshire, England, for the mothers and families who were experiencing this loss. They had to say goodbye to their babies in a busy labor ward, hearing other families celebrating the cries of healthy newborns around them. This often made an already extremely difficult experience even more painful, so District 105-N Lions decided to create the Serenity Suite facility, a specially designed space for families and parents to stay while dealing with the devastation of infant loss.

The Serenity Suite is located inside the Doncaster Royal Infirmery facility in Doncaster, England. It allows families to take time and space to mourn and begin the long, painful process of coming to terms with losing a child either

prematurely, during childbirth or soon after childbirth. The Serenity Suite is part of the larger charity campaign by Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals Charity, called "The Serenity Appeal."

The Suite is self-contained in a soundproof environment, equipped with a bedroom, kitchen, study area, bathroom, shower room and a storeroom, beautifully decorated and outfitted with soft furnishings and appropriate lighting, in order to provide as much support as possible during such a highly sensitive and emotional time.

Richard Parker OBE, Chief Executive at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals says, "For the families who go through this heart-breaking experience, the suite will now provide a comforting and private space, where all their needs are met, easing their pain with support from our specialist bereavement midwifery team."

Consultation between District 105-N Lions and the Doncaster & Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust set this project up for success. Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) provided a Matching Grant of US\$20,000 for this project and the Lions used local fundraising efforts to increase community awareness. Thanks to the Royal College of Nursing, the infirmary also received a special visitor, Princess Anne. In September 2023, The Princess Royal unveiled an official plaque recording the royal visit and the opening of the Serenity Suite.

The hospital estimates that 45-50 mothers and their families will benefit from the Serenity Suite each year. While speaking about the new space, bereavement midwife working at Doncaster Royal Infirmery, Rhian Morris says, "The Suite will help give the families a more comfortable, private environment to stay in, and give them time

to make everlasting memories with their baby. Giving them the time to say hello, whilst saying goodbye."

Matching grants provide capital funding to help establish or expand Lions-initiated humanitarian service projects that address critical and diverse human and social needs around the globe. They encourage Lions to identify what their community needs and the grant can help make it a reality.

Visit lcif.org/grants to learn more.



Hagersville Lions – IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!!!

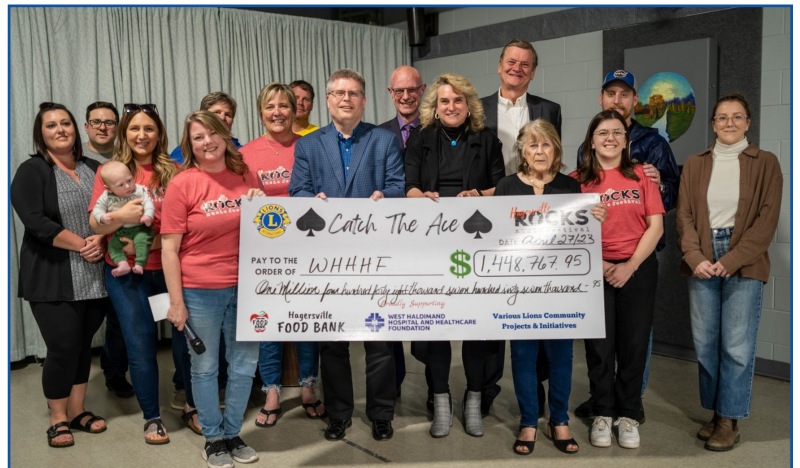
This is a repeat of an item in the October/November/December issue of the LION, it was a digital issue and your editor thought it appropriate to repeat it in print issue.

The West Haldimand General Hospital and Hospital Foundation are celebrating a monumental milestone in the Foundation's history. The Foundation has received the single largest gift ever recorded—an incredible donation of **\$1,448,767.95**.

The historic donation to West Haldimand General Hospital (WHGH) was made possible through the Hagersville Catch the Ace Draw, which spanned an impressive forty-five weeks.

Specifically, the funds will be allocated to bolstering Diagnostic Imaging, enhancing the capabilities of the Emergency Department, fortifying the Inpatient Unit, further optimizing Pharmacy operations, and propelling Laboratory Services to new heights.

For a comprehensive overview of the process and how this extraordinary donation will be allocated to these essential areas, please visit: <http://bit.ly/48eXfRC> or scan the Q.R. Code.



Lions Club of Merrittton Donates \$18,000 to Help Fight Hunger

Lions Club International now has over 1.4 million members worldwide, all focused on supporting five areas of need that present significant challenges to humanity. These five areas of need are Hunger, Diabetes, Vision, Childhood Cancer and the Environment. Lions worldwide, including the Lions Club of Merrittton believe it's our turn to meet them.

In line with this commitment, The Lions Club of Merrittton made donations totalling \$18,000 in the last quarter of 2023, to help fight Hunger. The donations were made to organizations focused on ensuring all community members have access to nutritious foods: Community Breakfast Program, Food-4-Kids Niagara, Community Crew, Niagara Nutrition Partners, Salvation Army St. Catharines, St. Catharines Ozanam Centre.

The Lions Club of Merrittton would like to thank all individuals that support our many fundraising and community events, throughout the year. Without your on-going support, service projects such as these would not be possible.

Fourteen community organizations received donations.

Each Merrittton Ward Public School received a cheque for \$1000 to help ensure nutritious food was available for their breakfast and lunch programs including Ferndale, Burleigh Hill, Applewood, Connaught, St. Theresa and Jeanne Sauve.

Community Care St. Catharines - \$5000 to help replenish food bank.



President Debbie Glenn (centre) and 1st Vice President Sharon VanVolkenburg (right) presenting cheque for \$2500 to Community Care CEO Betty Lou Souter



LOOKING BACK M.D.A. COUNCIL @ CONVENTION



L-R: A12 Jerry Rebidoux, A 7/11 Ann Stevens, A15 Garry Ransom, A5 David Kidd, A2 Tom McLarty, A1 Sydney MacLean, A9 Bill Yeland, A-6 Sudha Verma, A4 Barry Chisholm, A3 Frank Hewitt, Council Chair Larry Irwin.

Iroquois-Matilda Lions

On May 23rd 2023, Lion **Barry Fawcett** of the Iroquois-Matilda Lions Club was presented with the Melvin Jones Fellowship. Lion Barry has been a strong member in their Club since 1995. He has been Club Secretary and Club Membership Chair as well as being part of the Club's Theatre Production which is held every two years. Barry has appeared in every play since 1996 for a total of 14 plays. He has been Chairperson of the play production three times. Lion Barry is well known as the caller in the club regular bingo events.



Lion Barry Fawcett and Lion Evonne Deleagarde



LIONS ARE ON A **MISSION** TO GROW.

MISSION 1.5 is the drive to reach 1.5 million members worldwide so we can better meet the growing needs of our communities.





THE WORLD NEEDS LIONS LIKE NEVER BEFORE.

For more than a century, Lions have stepped up in their communities — giving, supporting and serving. Each Lion matters to the people who depend on us. And every club is doing their part to make their communities stronger, healthier and kinder places for all.

But as we strive to increase our service and extend our helping hands far and wide, the needs of our communities — and our world — are growing beyond our reach. To ensure we can be there, when and where we're needed, we must also grow.

That's why Lions are taking action now.

THE MORE WE GROW, THE MORE WE CAN GIVE.

More Lions = more service. The equation is simple, but the challenge is bold. **MISSION 1.5** is our drive to reach 1.5 million members worldwide by July 1, 2027. It will help us meet the growing needs of our communities. It will help us serve more people than ever before. And it will help make our clubs, our communities and our service stronger than ever.

That's why Lions are rising to the challenge.



YOU

*ARE VITAL TO
THIS MISSION.*



There's never been a challenge too big for Lions. Now is the time for Lions to step up. Now is the time to redefine the future of service. Now is the time to grow. And we all have role to play.

That's why your fellow Lions need you to join the mission.

**Because together,
we are unstoppable.**

ACHIEVE ROCKSTAR STATUS

The ultimate prize for reaching our **MISSION 1.5** target will be the lasting effect our growing membership has on our capacity to serve. But there are also opportunities to be celebrated for being a membership rockstar along the way.

High-performing clubs can earn signature pins, plaques and banner patches. And every Lion can earn special recognition for inviting a new member.



▶ Learn more at
lionsclubs.org/mission1.5-awards.

GEAR UP FOR THE MISSION

Show your commitment
with this exclusive
MISSION 1.5 T-shirt.

Get yours today at
lionsclubs.org/shop.



10 TIPS FOR GROWING MEMBERSHIP

- 1** "Make sure your club is open to accepting new members and the new ideas they bring."
Lion Robin Woolmer, British Columbia, Canada
- 2** "Be enthusiastic when you talk about being a Lion. When you're excited, your enthusiasm will transfer to the person you're talking to."
Lion Vicky Dulin, Texas, USA
- 3** "Invite friends, co-workers and peers to participate in activities and experience the joy of serving your community firsthand. Side effects include bonding, team building, learning and having fun."
Lion Christin Jentzsch, Berlin, Germany
- 4** "We do our routine service projects and get the news of those projects published in local newspapers and on social media."
Munish Mehta, Jalandhar, India
- 5** "You can never invite enough people or ask them enough times to be a Lion. I've met people who were asked five times before they accepted. They joined when they were ready."
Lion Dan O'Reilly, Illinois, USA
- 6** "A compelling story is our most powerful tool for attracting new members. Incorporate personal stories highlighting the impact of your club's work to connect with potential members and inspire a sense of belonging and purpose."
Lion Dipendra Aryal, Nawalparasi District, Nepal
- 7** "Service, service, service. Your club can grow by engaging prospective members through service."
Lion Augusto Valera Jr., California, USA
- 8** "Celebrating your success is important. Promote the service you provide and the number of people you help. Tell your stories to make your community aware of everything your club does to improve the lives of others."
Lion Len Day, Ontario, Canada
- 9** "We print lots of trifold brochures (downloaded from the Lions International website and tailored to our club) that include an application on the back. We bring these to every event and hand them out to all interested parties!"
Lion Carol Jeane Miller Mitchell, Texas, USA
- 10** "There are so many people around us who want to join us but may think it's not their thing. It's up to us to inform them that this is our thing. We all have a duty to make a difference in our communities."
Lion Dans Naturinda, Uganda



BONUS TIP

Find out what a prospective member is passionate about and offer being a Lion as a means to that end. Opening our clubs to new members means opening our minds to new ideas and new ways to serve.

International President Dr. Patti Hill



FIVE WAYS

Your Club Can Rise to the Challenge

Tap into our global network for information, resources and inspiration as you work toward your club's **MISSION 1.5** goals.

1
2
3
4
5

Find information and resources online.

Learn more about the mission and find information and resources to help you create and activate your club growth plans.

lionsclubs.org/mission1.5

Connect with the Global Action Team.

Tap into your local network of Lion leaders for ideas and support to help your club grow and be successful.

lionsclubs.org/gat

Use a proven process.

Our Global Membership Approach provides a process and resources for all clubs and districts to achieve growth.

lionsclubs.org/global

Recruit and celebrate on social.

Download ready-to-use, customizable social media graphics to help you recruit and celebrate new members. Be sure to include the #MissionToGrow hashtag.

lionsclubs.org/socialkits

Get recognized.

MISSION 1.5 is your chance to make history as a Lion — and your dedication will be recognized. You can earn signature pins, plaques and banner patches for reaching specific milestones and achievements.

lionsclubs.org/mission1.5-awards



MISSION 1.5 MOMENT

Phoenix Asian American Lions Club

THE MISSION:

MISSION 1.5 is the drive to reach 1.5 million members so we can serve more people than ever before.

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED BY:

Phoenix Asian American Lions Club (PAALC)

LOCATION:

Phoenix, Arizona, USA

SUMMARY:

The PAALC is the largest club in Arizona with 92 Lions, 14 Leos, 10 Cubs — and growing.

ABOUT THE CLUB:

Chartered in May 2015, the PAALC is Arizona's pioneering family club primarily made up of working couples and their children. Since inception, its membership has spanned a wide range of professional backgrounds and included more than 10 nationalities. The club regularly celebrates cultural diversity by hosting potluck socials with themed cuisines like Vietnamese, Filipino, Mexican and Ukrainian.

While the PAALC's diversity and family-friendly nature play significant roles in attracting new members, founders Ethel Luzario and Ron Smith believe their greatest appeal lies in their frequent and varied service. The club completes over 20 projects a month focused on hunger relief, pet rescue, youth engagement and active military personnel support, to name a few.

The PAALC isn't just dedicated to growing their own roster, they also help keep membership strong in the surrounding area. By inviting nearby clubs to serve with them, they're keeping Lions in smaller clubs active and engaged, and creating more fellowship opportunities for all. The PAALC enacted a strict policy of not accepting transfers from within the Phoenix metro area, which helps to encourage clubs' participation and alleviate any fears of losing members.

READY TO JOIN THE MISSION?
Visit lionsclubs.org/mission1.5.

Phoenix Asian American Lions Club's five tips for club growth

- 1 Diversify your service.** Offering a variety of service projects ensures there's something for everyone.
- 2 Make it family-friendly.** The only thing better than having a new member join your club is welcoming an entire family.
- 3 Fuel the passion.** Members who are passionate and proud to be Lions will invite others to join.
- 4 Keep meetings fun and productive.** When members enjoy going to meetings, they'll want to bring friends and family with them.
- 5 Create a plan for engaging new members.** Having a plan in place for involving new members is as important as inviting them to join in the first place.



MISSION1.5

**THERE'S NEVER
BEEN A CHALLENGE
TOO BIG FOR LIONS.**

BUT WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT

YOU.

JOIN THE MISSION.



LIONSCLUBS.ORG/MISSION1.5



District A5 Eyeglass Program

District A5 has had an active eyeglass collection campaign for over three decades. Clubs donate used glasses collected from their communities for grading, cleaning and repair. They are then shipped to several countries. They are in turn given to people that do not have access or cannot afford them. Recently, a local woman in Sudbury dropped off over 7,000 pairs of glasses to our packer and shipper, Lion **Brian Scagnetti**. The lady was collecting them to take overseas but was not able to travel. They have now been packaged and shipped to be redistributed by Lions in 3rd world countries.



Melvin Jones presentation L-R: PDG Rollie M. dela Cruz , PP Lilia E. dela Cruz, PDG Dan Sibanda, Treasurer Arlette Jarencio and Marichel Jarencio

Wishing Well Lions

Last October the Wishing Well Lions celebrated their 65th anniversary. It was a grand celebration, highlighted by the presentation of a Melvin Jones Fellowship to Lion **Arlette Jarencio** for his dedication and service. There are many more photos available on the Wishing Well Lions facebook page.



L-R: PDG Rollie M. dela Cruz, DG Ann Stevens, PDG Dan Sibanda, Treasurer Arlette Jarencio and Marichel Jarencio

L-R: PP Arlyn Tiam-Coronel and IPDG Ferdy Coronel



CNIB Lake Joe

Lake Joe has published a recent newsletter, with more info to follow in the next edition.

Please use the link or scan the Q.R. code to be directed to the newsletter.

There is a complete summary of the happenings at Lake Joe, including but not restricted to:

- More new programs and activities being offered!
- Lake Joe is “going green”, many upgrades to the facilities
- Staff and volunteer opportunities
- Minibus Campaign Update
- Club of the Year & District of the Year Awards
- Recognize your fellow Lions for their hard work with a Brick on Lake Joe Walkway

For more information, please contact:

Steven Smyth, Manger, Philanthropy &



Campaign Lead (CNIB Lake Joe) at steven.smyth@cnib.ca or 416-319-5493

Sherri Helsdingen, Manager, Community Engagement, CNIB Lake Joe at sherri.helsdingen@cnib.ca or 705-241-290. The Lake Joe Update is available at: www.cnib.ca/lakejoe



Editor Position Available

Here is your chance to be involved in publishing the Lion Magazine!

We are looking for someone with a bit of computer experience and reliable access to email. You will liase with Lions International and District Reporters ensuring that stories and information are passed along to the Graphic Developer in a timely manner.

Contact Lion Bob Pearson at bobpearson50@gmail.com or at 289-238-8877.

A2 Youth Exchange

Edited Article from Niagara Now by Somer Slobodian

Travelling to other countries can give you a lot of perspective about where you come from. For example, exchange student Bridget Bontekoning is from the Netherlands and has spent three weeks in Ontario as part of a program with the Lions Club International. She said she's realized this province – in comparison to her home country – is a pretty big place. "The Netherlands is so small: everything is so close. You have to drive like two hours and you're in another country," she said. "Here, you drive six hours and you're still in Ontario," she added.

Bontekoning and a handful of other young people visited Niagara-on-the-Lake, just one stop on their month-long trip in Ontario with the Lions International Youth Exchange Program. Dorothy Soo-Wiens and Erwin Wiens hosted a barbecue at their home for the travellers, and the youths were treated to jet boat trips thanks to the **Stamford Lions Club** and the **Niagara Lions Club**.

The exchange program offers young people between the ages of 15 and 22 the chance to explore new cultures, gain a better understanding of the world, and make new friends. It runs throughout the world in various Lions' districts. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the District A-2 Lions Club of Southern Ontario hasn't been able to run the program – until now.

The A-2 District welcomed 13 exchange students here at the end of June of last year, ending an almost four-year hiatus. **Bill MacKenzie**,

the coordinator of the Ontario Lions Youth Exchange for the A-2 District, said they usually have 20 participants, but it's been hard to find host families.

Families across southern Ontario who are part of a Lions club host the students. The students spend 20 days with their host family, then they spend 10 days at camp on a bison farm near Hagersville. MacKenzie has been involved with the program for about 20 years and enjoys the experience from start to finish. "The changes you see in these kids over a month is unbelievable," he said.

As part of the camp experience, the youth go on excursions to popular destinations across Ontario – including Niagara-on-the-Lake. Soo-Wiens said her daughter went to Croatia with

the exchange program in 2017, and she's been hosting the barbecue at her house since about 2016.

By the end of camp, the youth had visited Niagara Falls, Toronto, NOTL, Turkey Point and Port Dover, to name a few locations. Faustine Roy from France and Bontekoning really enjoyed their time with their host families in St. Thomas and Hagersville, respectively. "It has been absolutely amazing," said Roy. Bontekoning said making new friends at camp was a highlight. "Getting to know each other and how they say a word in their language and our language and just comparing everything, I think this is really cool," said Roy. "We spend a lot of time together just talking about our countries," she added.



Coniston and Shumacher Inductions

Recently two clubs inducted new members into their clubs. The Schumacher Lions welcomed four new members. The ceremony was presided over by Induction Chairman Lion **Mike David** and Co-chair Lion **Chris MacInnis**. After they were sworn in, they were presented with vests by their sponsors Lion **Estella Chow** and Lion **Evelyn Beboso**. These new members are well known to the Schumacher Lions as they have volunteered at many events.

The Coniston Lions inducted two new members, **Carla Skinner** presented by her sponsor Lion **Darren Dumontelle** and **Gilles Seguin** presented by his sponsor Lion **Bea Winter**. Zone Chair 47 East Lion **Brenda McLay Lalonde** presided over the candlelight ceremony. They were welcomed with a Lions roar.



District A5

It has been too long a time since the Lions had a float in the Sudbury Santa Claus Parade, but this past year that changed. Covid reared its ugly head and participation ended and there hadn't been a float since. Lion **Charlene Sabourin** from the **Minnow Lake Lions** wanted that to change and with the help of a committee of enthusiastic volunteers from several Lions clubs, the Lion's hockey float was came to be.

First came getting a trailer, and the good folks at KPI Industrial Controls were generous enough to supply a truck and trailer. Lions from Minnow Lake, **Azilda**, **Onaping Falls**, **Coniston**, **Sudbury** and the Leos put together the items for the float, decorated it and got together enough volunteer Lions to walk beside the float to give out candy to the children that came to see the parade. It is what can happen when many Lions work together. Everyone had a great time and per Lion Charlene, "The best part was seeing all the smiles on the kids faces".



Mattawa Lions

75 years have passed since the Mattawa Lions became a reality. Mattawa is a small community where the Mattawa and Ottawa Rivers meet. Mattawa means "Meeting of the Waters" in Ojibwa. The Mattawa Lions has been a part of this heritage for the past 75 years and proud of it. From Canada Day celebrations, to planting over 250,000 trees in the area, to helping the food bank, annual kids fishing derby, halloween movie day, seniors dinners and assisting in any way. A few years ago, the Lions came through again when the town was flooded and badly needed help. Many people lost their homes or couldn't reach them. The Mattawa Lions received a grant from LCIF and used this money to provide food and supplies to the many displaced families. The Lions made sure food and water were delivered

to everyone in need for almost a month, even though their own Lions Den suffered severe damage from the flood.

As part of the Lions celebration the club inducted five new members, including Lions **Josee O'Hare**, **Monique O'Hare**, **Kerri MacKay**, **Jo-Anne Groulx** and **Zoe Forest-Cooter**. Guiding Lion PDG **Verner Presse** actually "knighted" the new lions. A great dinner, inductions and presentations rounded

out the evening of fellowship and friendship. We are looking forward to the next 75 years.



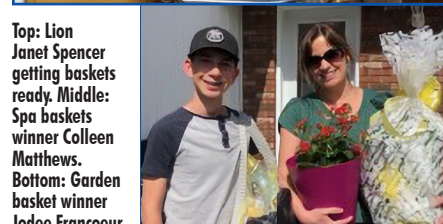
Minnow Lake

The Minnow Lake Lions are very proud supporters of the Legion and our veterans. Each year, we donate to the poppy fund, lay wreaths at the cenotaph, and send Christmas Cards to those serving to defend the freedoms we enjoy. Thank you to all our veterans and their families.



Temiskaming Shores Lioness Lions

Recently, the Temiskaming Shores Lioness Lions held a fundraising draw to raise money for the local community. Thanks to local sponsors, they were able to put together three major basket prizes, A spa package along with garden and kitchen baskets. The ticket sales were a great success and the winners were delighted with their prizes. The money raised will help the club in their many efforts to help their community.



Top: Lion Janet Spencer getting baskets ready. Middle: Spa baskets winner Colleen Matthews. Bottom: Garden basket winner Jodee Francoeur

North Bay Lions

The North Bay Lions are well known in their community; partly due to their TV Bingo held every Sunday night. Two teams of members alternate each week to keep this major fundraiser going. Not only is it a good fund-raiser, it helps with the club efforts with foodbanks. The Lions not only run the TV bingo, but they also look after the delivery of the bingo cards to retailers and centres in the area. The funds go to many North Bay organizations to help those who need a little help. What a great group of Lions!



Lion Gwen Daly packing bingo cards



Lion Tina Golding working as the caller



Lions Sharon Fleguel, Shorty Jodouin and Henry Larochele working at the bingo station

Minnow Lake Lions

Every year Minnow Lake Lions give a deserving member a “Lion of the Year” award. This year, the award was given to the “Community Gardeners Committee”. This is the second year that our garden, spearheaded by Lion **Keith Argent**, is proving to be a great success. This dedicated group of Lions make sure that the garden is well monitored and watered. The vegetables that are grown feed the seniors of the community and the Blue Door Café on Elgin Street.



Rockwood & South Wellington Lions

Every Wednesday, people in need from Rockwood and surrounding area can visit the new Community Pantry Project for groceries, clothing and small kitchen items, and stay to enjoy a bowl of hot soup. The pantry is organized by the Rockwood Lions Club at St. John’s Anglican Church in Rockwood from 3 to 5pm weekly. The project is supported with volunteers and donations from the South Wellington Community Lions Club.

Rockwood Lions volunteer Lion **Dawn Raynard** told us when the pantry launched in July, it had just a few recipients and took place at Waterside Park. Now it’s grown to serve around thirty-five weekly and moved to the church before the cold weather made meeting at the park impractical. The church was happy to help. They have lots of volunteers and supporters including Lions and community members.

Rescued Food: “We get a lot of our food from The Seed in Guelph,” Raynard said, as well as Rockwood Foodland. Much of the fresh produce from The Seed is donated by local farmers, community members have donated gift cards to use to purchase food.

The project also “networks and shares” with similar organizations such as the Food For Life programs in Acton and Ospringle. Much of the food distributed by the community pantry is “rescued”, food that grocery stores can’t sell anymore but is still in good condition.”



A15 Global Service Team

Bye Bye January and February, anyone still working on a New Year’s resolution? Did your club have any new service projects? Remember making a donation to your local food bank or a local organization is a behind the scenes donation. Bring your club front and center in your community, host a fun day for families and combine it with a food drive to engage the community. This brings awareness about your club and potentially new members and new ideas. **Here Are a Few Highlights from District A15 Clubs:**

Glenn Morris Lions: Sponsored a Dolly Parton Imagination Library which provides a monthly book to children in Junior Kindergarten, working to build a lifetime reading habit. Glen Morris also have all the right moves and provided local residents a space to practice YOGA.... bend and stretch. Did any members participate in yoga?

Rockwood Lions: Hosted a New Year’s Levee, a place for their Mayor, councilors and staff to meet with the public for an information discussion.

St. Jacobs Lions: Danced the night away by hosting a teen dance for grades 5 - 8, giving parents a much needed break. What a great way to engage with the age group that will be needing volunteer hours and connect with the parents.

Kitchener Waterloo Community Spirit Lions: Continues to support vision screening of senior kindergarten students. All eyes on our young people.

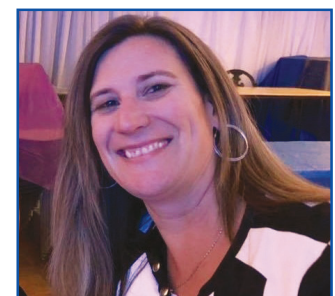
Cambridge Highlands Lions: Collected food donations for the local food pantry and helped the environment by collecting milk bags and egg cartons for recycling and waste management. The club also hosted a Community Chili Luncheon with the Hespeler Village Neighbourhood Association and St. James Anglican Church. Warm up on the chilly days with some Chili!!

Thamesford Lions: Going Fishing? In collaboration with Upper James River Conservation Authority, township of Zorra & the Department of Fisheries and Oceans plans are in the works to install fishing platforms at Lions River Park. Thamesford also purchased a new walker that can be loaned out to community

members to support in their recovery. The club also collaborated with the Upper James River Conservation Authority to educate Grade 2 students in the River Safety Course. Knowledge is POWER - educate away!

What Is Your Club Doing? Post all your club’s service projects in MyLion. This allows you to get the recognition you deserve, share your great service ideas and by posting upcoming activities you give others the opportunity to come out and support your club.

Doing more when we work together, all in all, over 700 people served!



Lion Anita Ertel – GST Coordinator

Woolwich Community Lions (WCLC) - Keeping Busy

In October WCLC hosted their Halloween Spooktacular bash which has been on hiatus since Covid 19. There was an excellent turnout of guests dressed in costume and ready to celebrate. Prizes were donated for a raffle thanks to the generosity of local businesses and club members.

Awards were for for best group, couple, and overall. D.J. "Frogman" provided the tunes and the dance floor was rocking to the end. Proceeds totaled \$2,182 all of which have been shared between the local food bank as well as to nutritional programs in local schools.

Non-Food Food Drive.

The Service Club's of the Woolwich Christmas Goodwill Food Fund Drive took place in November. Known for the last two years as the Non-Food Food Drive, the annual fundraiser has been rebranded to the Community Food Drive. The pandemic forced them to move away from traditional collection of non perishable items and discovered it turned out to be a better option. Monetary donations proved to be a great way to purchase gift cards and distribute to needy families allowing them to purchase items they needed; particularly perishable items. Donation tables were set up at local businesses in Elmira and St. Jacobs. WCLC members volunteered to man a donation table for 2 days of the food drive. In collaboration with other local service groups;

WCLC helped to raise \$29, 893.11 to support needy families within the community.

Remembrance Day Wreath



"Fame", a future dog guide, and WCLC Lion Chief, **Cheryl Bauman** had the honour of laying the Woolwich Community Lions Club wreath at the Remembrance Day ceremony in Elmira. Having been to the Somme, D-Day landing sites, and World War Cemeteries, scattered throughout Normandy, France, this truly was a special privilege for Lion Cheryl to remember those who sacrificed their lives for freedom.

An Affair to Remember

For the 18th year, WCLC hosted their signature event, "An Affair to Remember" Christmas gala. Families and small businesses were invited to a festive evening of dining, dancing, and a visit from Santa Claus to celebrate the Christmas season.

Four evenings of celebration were hosted by WCLC providing a unique, fun, and unforgettable experience complete with a delicious roast turkey and ham dinner, all the trimmings, a vast array of desserts, a full bar, and a picture with Santa. After dinner, guests were entertained with a DJ, dance party and door prizes. This event requires in excess of 1000 hours of volunteer work and we are so thankful to our club members, spouses, and friends who assisted. Over the course of four evenings the club raised over \$18,000 to assist with local community services, as well as other Lions global initiatives.

WCLC "Christmas Goodwill" launched November 1, 2023. There were many great ways to give back during the Christmas Season, and WCLC chose to participate in the Christmas "Wish Trees" program. With the assistance of Lion **Shelly Taylor**, our club received about 40 wish stars provided by families in need. Wish tags outlined specific items such as clothing, food gift cards, and toys submitted by needed families. Club members took a wish item from the list received, and purchased that item. With the generous donations from club members, we were able to complete our list and deliver a sizable amount of items to Woolwich Community Services.

TV Telethon with the Lions of Sudbury

Once again, the Lions of Sudbury and area came together with a host of volunteers to help raise money for the Children's Telethon. This event provides toys to over 15,000 children from Blind River to Gogoma, all of Manitoulin Island and Sudbury and District. Record moneys were raised this year over the 9 hour televised event. Lions had a great time working the phones, organizing the entertainment, taking in donations and cheque presentations.





Melbourne 2024

106TH LIONS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

On top of the world, Down Under.

Your ticket to Australia's cultural capital.

- Tourist's dream – colorful laneways, beautiful beaches, exotic gardens, Aboriginal art
- Seafood lover's paradise – fresh squid, prawns, lobster and oysters caught daily
- Coffee nirvana – more than 2,000 local cafés and some of the world's best baristas
- Shopping destination – brilliant treasures from vintage markets and one-of-a-kind boutiques

Register
today!



106th Annual International Convention • Melbourne, Victoria, Australia • June 21-25, 2024



MDA Environment Report



Submitted by PDG Jennifer Batte February 2024

Did you know that MDA is reporting highest number of Environment Service Project to date, across Canada? According to MyLion, to date, the clubs have reported the following:

	MDA <u>Current</u>	MDA <u>Total to date</u>	Canada <u>Total to date</u>
Total People Served	177,543	134,185	288,578
Total Service Projects	434	300	762
Total of Volunteer Hours	12,939	7,814	28,585

Feature Story **A WIN/WIN**

Have you heard a NEW fellowship is available that I would call a WIN/WIN? Not the real name but a great way to promote the Environment and Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides and an opportunity to recognize a fellow Lions.

What is the fellowship?

It Is The  Drum Roll Please

“LION ART WOODS GOLDEN TREE FELLOWSHIP”

This fellowship recognizes the commitment, dedication and 50 years of service of PID Art Woods. With Lion Art’s passion for the environment and LFCDG’s Memorial Forest, funds from this fellowship will be directed to a dedicated garden space at the new training school. Recipients receive a unique personalized plaque. Fellowships are \$350.

- A win for the environment
- A win for the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides
- A win for Lions Clubs – an opportunity to recognize a fellow Lions for volunteering service.

More information can be found on the LFCDG website under the Get Involved tab, Lions Clubs tab – or contact me, PDG Jennifer Batte at lionjenniferbatte@gmail.com or Nancy Chiasson MDA LFCDG Chair at treasurer@mbblc.org.

Now that’s a WIN/WIN

Challenge for all Districts of MDA – EARTH DAY is April 22, 2024. Plan, promote, or continue an environment project as we work together taking care of the amazing planet called:

“EARTH”

Don’t forget about the Environment Photo Contest is happening this year! Information has been sent out to all the District Environment Chairs, check out MDA Environment Facebook Page.

LIONS FOR EARTH DAY

April 22nd is Earth Day. Lions are becoming increasingly aware of environmental issues, and what we can do as leaders in our communities and stewards of our land to help solve such issues.



We are challenging all clubs to select an environmental project before Earth Day. We realize such a project will not be started or completed for some time, the challenge is to select a project. Many clubs are already involved in various environmental projects, so for you the challenge may well be to continue such project or perhaps add another one or two to your list.

Please report projects in your monthly Service Activities Report with a copy forwarded to MDA Environment Chair, Lion Jennifer Batte, Box 656, 3 Oriole Circle, Walkerton, Ontario, N0G 2V0 lionjenniferbatte@gmail.com.

All projects will be evaluated by the MDA Environment Chair, and the most deserving entry will receive an Art Woods Golden Tree Environmental Fellowship to a deserving Lions Club in MDA. In addition, we ask clubs to select an outstanding member who has contributed the most to his/her club,



involved in environmental projects, and purchase an Art Woods Golden Tree Environmental Fellowship from LFC for the member. Thus, we address two important goals of Lionism:



- Improve our Environment
- Assist LFC to raise funds for new training facilities

Remember: "Lions for Earth Day"

MDA Environment Chair: Lion Jennifer Batte
LFCDG Community Partnerships Manager:
Danielle Rosenblum

SUGGESTIONS

- Pollinator Garden
- Walking/Biking Trails
- Bottle Drive/Recycling
- Eye Glasses Recycling
- Memorial Garden
- Used Battery Collection





The Difference

Campaign for Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides

Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides (LFCDG) is in its second year of The Difference campaign with Lions to help build a new state-of-the-art national Dog Guide training school in Oakville, Ontario. With the increasing need for specially trained Dog Guides in Canada, the foundation must grow to meet the demand, but this cannot be achieved in the current facility. After 40 years, it is time to move to meet our full potential. We've embarked on a once in a lifetime event, building a new training school that will enable us to help more Canadians and organizations through Dog Guides. It will be fully accessible and provide clients and Dog Guides the best training experience for a long and successful partnership.

Lions from coast to coast are running with this exciting project, with clubs generously contributing \$3.1 million to date. But we're not there yet. Your help is needed to reach the Lions' goal of \$4.5 million and make what was once a dream a reality. Partner with us to achieve this by giving a special donation or pledge to the Difference campaign

The Art Woods Golden Tree fellowship recognizes the commitment, dedication and 50 years of service of PID Art Woods. This fellowship can be purchased to recognize a fellow Lion's efforts in environmentalism. With Lion Art's passion for the environment and LFCDG's Memorial Forest, proceeds from this fellowship will be directed to a dedicated garden space at the new training school.

Each gift will bring the foundation one step closer to ensuring that more Canadians living with disabilities and going through traumatic situations have access to specially trained Dog Guides that will help them live a life of increased independence, inclusivity, opportunity, confidence, safety, and mobility.

Visit us [online](#) for additional information about the new training school and The Difference campaign.

If you would like to have a presentation for your club, please email thedifference@dogguides.com or call (905) 842-2891 or 1 (800) 768-3030, ext. 218.

To donate, please visit www.dogguides.com/the-difference-donation.

Vittoria Lions

Article from the Port Dover Maple Leaf by Heather Walters, reprinted with permission.

Vittoria Lions Donate \$10,000 to Building New Community Hospice

They may be small but they are mighty. The Vittoria Lions Club, with its small membership of only a dozen volunteers, raised a whopping \$10,000.00 with its local fundraising efforts. They recently presented a cheque for that amount to members of the Norfolk Haldimand Community Hospice board at the Vittoria Community Centre. Vittoria Lions President **Ron Meulemeester** said the club's fundraising efforts are always well supported and that they couldn't be happier to raise funds for such a necessary venture.

Although the hospice is still in the very early stages of planning, its need in the area has been well established. Currently, residents requiring hospice stays have to travel to Brantford or Hamilton. Spokesperson for the hospice board Tracey Webster noted this donation will go directly toward building costs once a suitable central site has been identified.

The Vittoria Lions sent out a direct challenge to all other service groups in the area to match or beat their efforts, stating that if a "small club like ours can do it – what can you do?"

Vittoria Lions members welcome new members to join and become involved in the many community endeavours they support all year long.



MDA Directory Information

Council of Governors' Meeting Dates

- Council Meeting – September 29/30, 2023
- Council Meeting – November 17/18, 2023
- Council Meeting – February 23/24, 2024
- Council Meeting – May 31/June 1, 2024 (Convention)

District Conventions

Dist	Location	Date
A1	Four Points Sheraton, London	March 22-24, 2024
A2	Holiday Inn, St. Catharines	March 22-24, 2024
A3	Best Western Plus Cobourg Inn & Convention Centre, Cobourg	April 12-14, 2024
A4	Hilton Garden Inn, Ottawa Airport	April 19-21, 2024
A5	Northbury Hotel, Sudbury	May 3-5, 2024
A711	Sheraton Toronto Airport Hotel & Conference Centre	April 12-14, 2024
A9	Best Western, Walkerton	April 26-28, 2024
A12	Allure Hotel and Conference Centre, Barrie	April 12-13, 2024
A15	Quality Inn & Conference Centre Festival, Stratford	April 5-7, 2024
A16	Scugog Island, Port Perry	April 19-21, 2024

Schumacher Lions

The Schumacher Lions Club step up for the District Governor's project by making a \$5,000.00 donation. The project, Northern Ontario Families of Children with Cancer (NOFCC), is a non-profit organization that gets no funding except from private donations. They provide to families the support they need while their child is going through cancer treatment out of town. This includes hotel costs, meals, travel, household bills, and any other expenses they are having a hard time covering so that they can concentrate on their child's treatment and recovery. Fighting childhood cancer is also a special project of Lions International. NOFCC helps families in all District A5 and has supported Timmins area families in the past.



L-R: Lion 1st VP Jim Nault, Zone Chair Lion Pete Martel for 1520 North and Lion President Danny Ansara

The Club received \$13,649.31 from Tim Hortons for participating in the Holiday Smile Cookie campaign. Volunteers from the Lions decorated the cookies, which were sold at Tim Hortons franchises throughout Timmins. Funds are being used to purchase food vouchers for needy families with children through the club's Stan Fowler Christmas Fund.



L-R: Stan Fowler Fund Chair Lion John McCauley, Lion President Danny Ansara, Tim Hortons franchise owner Linda Venerri, store manager Neil Chalmers, general manager Sarah Boudreau and manager Faith Spalding

In conjunction with local radio station Country 93.1, the Schumacher Lions Club held its annual Stan Fowler Christmas Fund RadioThon. Volunteers answered the phones to take pledges as the radio station continuously plugged the event during a live 12-hour broadcast. All funds raised were used to purchase food vouchers and given to needy families with children. The club raised \$80,222.00 through this amazing event. Thanks to all of those that sponsored, volunteered and donated to this important event.



Stan Fowler Christmas Fund Chair Lion John McCauley takes down the pledges



Lion Bob Dufour and Lion Sue Martel man the phone lines



L-R: Lion President Danny Ansara, MPP for Timmins George Pirie, and Stan Fowler Christmas Fund Chair Lion John McCauley

ANNOUNCEMENT



In the Spirit of Lions Vision Awareness, I would like to take this opportunity to announce to the Lions family, that we have a new member called the “Canada True Vision Cyber Club Branch”.

The club is in District A-16, in MDA, sponsored by the North Newmarket Lions Club. We have members from Canada from Ontario, British Columbia, and Newfoundland, as well prospective members from Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia.



We are a cyber branch club primarily made up of members with sight loss/ blindness and non-visible challenges. We also have a members who are fully sighted. We received approval by Lions International on August 30th, 2023.

In honour of International *White Cane Safety Day*, we want to introduce ourselves and invite members of your clubs and families and friends who experience life with or without vision to join us as we share our experiences, challenges and successes as active productive lions and members of our communities.

Yours in Service,

Lion Khristina Engel, President
Canada True Vision Cyber Branch Club
kengel@lionsa16.com
905-252-7004



Callander Lions

The Callander Lions club held their 50/50 draw late last year. The winning ticket was drawn by Mayor Robb Noon and President Lion **Brian Barlow** at a Lions meeting. We are pleased to announce that the winner of \$1,250.00 is Lori Mitchell of Callander pictured with Lion **Claire Restoule**. A special thanks to the Callander Foodland for letting us sell the tickets at their location. Without community support, the Callander Lions would not be able to assist the members of our community. The profits from this draw will be going to help the Callander Foodbank and Callander Christmas Cheer. A little club can do a lot in their community.



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Helping You is What I Do.



Kitchener Waterloo
Community Spirits Lions Club
Charter Member



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 Lion Al Leach: adleach@hotmail.com
- A-12 Lion JoAnn Warren: joewarren66@gmail.com
- A-15 Lion Bob Pearson: bobpearson50@gmail.com
- A-16 Lion Tim Cheung: tcheung@lionsa16.com

Editor Lion Bob Pearson
bobpearson50@gmail.com

IMPORTANT DATES

MDA Convention

2024	Holiday Inn and Suites Parkway Conference Centre	
	St. Catharines	May 31 - June 2, 2024

International Conventions

106th	Melbourne, Australia	June 21 - 25, 2024
107th	Mexico City, Mexico	July 4 - 8, 2025
108th	Atlanta, GA, USA	July 3 - 7, 2026
109th	Washington, DC, USA	July 2 - 6, 2027
110th	Singapore	June 23 - 27, 2028

USA - Canada Forums

Sept 5 - 7, 2024	Louisville, Kentucky
Sept 18 - 20, 2025	Atlantic City, New Jersey

District A711 proudly presents

LION DAN SIBANDA



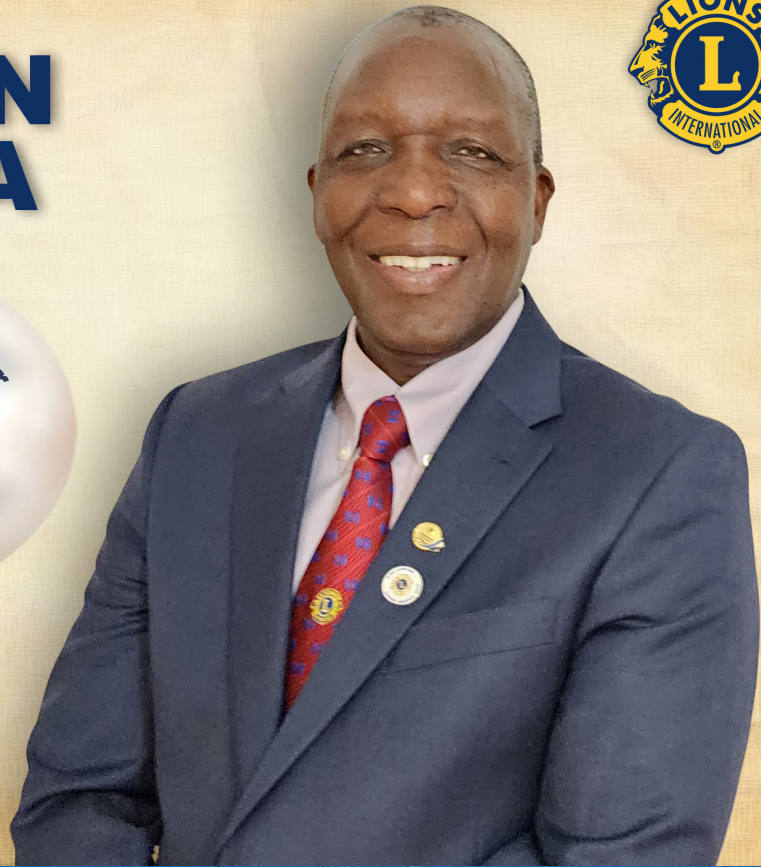
Candidate For
International Director
2025-2027



"Creating a Caring World"



The Lions of District 7/11 are
requesting your support for Lion Dan
at the MDA Convention May 31st
to June 2nd, 2024 in St. Catharines.



District A16 proudly presents



Debbie Dawson

Candidate
International Director
From Canada



2025 - 2027
"Dedicated to Service"

On behalf of the Lions of District A16, we request
your support for Lion Debbie at the
Multiple District A Convention,
May 31 – June 2 2024 in St. Catharines, Ontario

www.debdawson.com



LEN DAY
CANDIDATE
INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR
CANADA
2025-2027



“BELIEVE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE”

The Lions of District A12 are requesting your support for Lion Len at the MDA Convention May 31st - June 2nd, 2024 in St. Catharines.

Time To Move On?

As your editor, I have been in place for what I thought would be a two year assignment. Almost seven years has passed and it has been a blast. What an amazing experience.

PDG **John Daniels** sent me down this path and I thank him for the opportunity. He was and still is an exceptional mentor.

My job was made easier by the work of the District Reporters, past and present. They made the process seamless, but worked hard to educate club members on how the system worked; and it does.

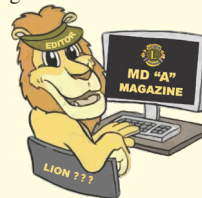
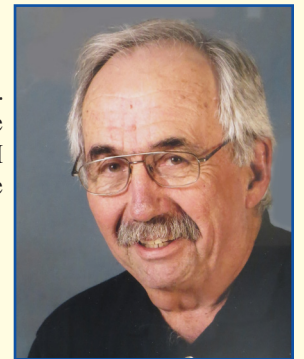
I've had the distinct pleasure of working with the highly professional staff at **Thompson Printing** in Paris, owned and operated by Lion **Herb Thompson**, a member of the **Paris Lions**. Herb has bent over backwards to be of assistance and with his guidance we have been able to produce a quality magazine.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the two ladies that, in my opinion are the nuts and bolts of the of the magazine. **Kari Ross** as the Production Coordinator and **Barbara MacDonald**, the Graphics Editor; both have contributed immensely. I owe them a big THANK YOU!

Moving on to the second phase of this message, we will be seeking a replacement. If you are interested please contact me. I have seen a ton of submissions over the years and there are quite a few qualified candidates within our membership. Computer skills are a necessity and it would be an asset if the editor was close to the geographic centre of District A15, but this is not an absolute need.

Please contact me if you have an interest. When a transition takes place, I will be more than willing to assist a new editor. I am proud of the progress of the magazine and will do everything I can to maintain it.

Lion Bob Pearson
 bobpearson50@gmail.com
 289-238-8877



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 41805020*