

# L I O N

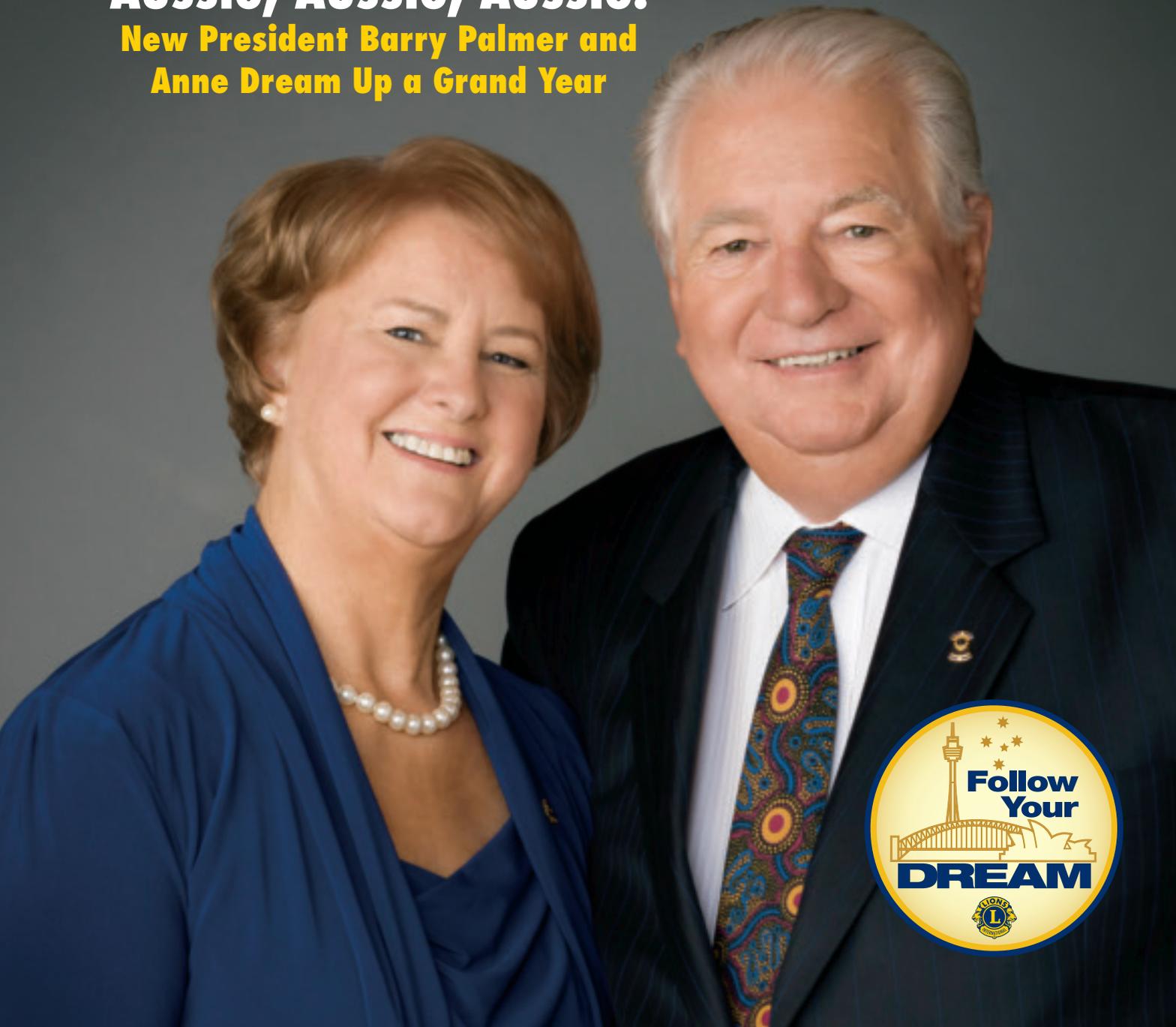


M.D. "A" Edition July/August 2013

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

*We Serve*

## **Aussie, Aussie, Aussie!** **New President Barry Palmer and** **Anne Dream Up a Grand Year**



## Cumberland Lions Club



Lion PDG and outgoing President Andy Etherington and PDG Gus Este presented Lion Gordon Kerluke with a Melvin Jones Fellowship Award



Lion PDG and outgoing President Andy Etherington presented Lion Dennis Asselstine with a Helen Keller Fellowship Award

## Simcoe Lions

These Lions were recently honoured by the Simcoe Club for their work in the Norfolk County community. **Lion Don Peacock** (right) earned the Helen Keller Fellowship award and **Lion David Stelpstra** received the Judge Brian Stevenson Fellowship.



Simcoe **Lion Chief Mark Rell** (left) and membership chair **Lion Ron Francis** (right) took part in the installation of life members **Lion Ross Dougherty** (front) and **Lion Keith Ashley** at the annual Past Presidents night for the Norfolk club. There have been 31 life members initiated by the Simcoe Club since 1931.



## Awards Presentations at 2013 Convention



Melvin Jones Fellowship presented to Karen Doyle by PID Bev Stubbens and DG John Chilvers



Melvin Jones Fellowship presented to Lion Arlene Saunders by DG John Chilvers and PID Bev Stubbens



Recipient is PDG Ed Firlotte – Leadership Medal for outstanding service within the Perth Lions Club and District A4 presented by DG John Chilvers and PID Bev Stubbens



Lion Al "HoHo" Page receiving the Presidents Medal from DG John Chilvers and PID Bev Stubbens for outstanding service at Multiple District A, District A4 and the International Convention

## Gravenhurst Lions Club



PDG Nancy Watt-Durant on the left receiving a Helen Keller Fellowship from Lion Wendy Fletcher

DGE Chris Lewis presenting a Melvin Jones Fellow to Lion Bud Leonard

## Grand Valley Lions

**Lion Josh Ince** was presented by **Lion Jim Shaw** with a Melvin Jones Fellow award on June 21st at the club's year end BBQ. In the picture with Lion Josh and Jim are Lion Josh's wife Alex and their children. Submitted by Lion Randy McClelland



## Lions Club of Clarence Creek

On June 7, 2013, Lions Club of Clarence Creek honoured **Lion Jacques Pagé** with the Melvin Jones Award. From left to right **Lion Donald Ouellette** Club's President, Lion Jacques Pagé and **Lion Claude Bertrand** from the **Orléans Lion's Club** who was officiating the evening. Submitted by Lion André Trépanier



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See pages 5 - 20 for the  
Presidential Theme of  
Barry Palmer

# THE Lion

*W*elcome to the July/August Edition of *The Lion*.  
To submit stories, photos, comments or suggestions, please  
contact your District Reporter (Pg 30) and please  
remember to check your camera settings to ensure  
highest resolution pictures.



**We Serve**

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Management Committee Lion Magazine  
John Stewart PDG  
Jack Fisher

# Lofty Dreams Lead to Great Service

Just beyond the modest home where I grew up in Australia was the bush, where kangaroos, wallabies and kookaburras roamed amid gum and wattle trees. My father, Jack, was an accountant who took the same train to work and sat in the same seat day after day. I trained to be a wool classer, rotely producing wool. *But I dreamt of doing something more influential.* So I eventually went into real estate and built up my business.

*As a Lion I also dreamt of making a big impact.* So when a young Australian woman spoke to our club about an orphanage she worked at in India, my club dove right in. The parents of many of these children had been killed by rebels. We helped get them better housing, and from that point many thrived in school.

For years I had another dream I kept to myself. I saw the remarkable ability of Lions to change lives,

and I wanted to fully devote myself to Lions. The dream came true a few years ago when I learned I was to be nominated for international president.

*Lions, follow your dreams.* They will not lead you astray. Nearly every great accomplishment began as a wildly ambitious dream whether it was landing a man on the moon, running a four-minute mile or webbing together the entire world through computers. Listen to your heart. Don't ever impede a great idea whose time has come. *To me, dreams are not visions that arise in sleep, but plans that don't let you sleep.*

Identify your dream and work to achieve it. It's up to you to decide what your dream is. Plant the seed and let it grow. Find inspiration and guidance from other clubs and from Lions Clubs International. *As I like to say, don't tell me to aim for the stars when there are footprints on the moon.*

Anne and I look forward to you Following Your Dream in 2013-14. Good luck, godspeed and congratulations – great service is the inevitable result of pursuing dreams.



**Barry J. Palmer**  
Lions Clubs International  
President



**Barry J. Palmer**  
Your Lions Clubs International President

## Get Up-to-Date on Down Under

A service club's membership restrictions led to the founding of Lions in Australia. In the mid-1940s, **Bill Tresise** served as National President of Apex, a community service organization of young adults in Australia. About to turn 40, the age limit for Apex, he was rebuffed when he tried to extend the limit.

Traveling overseas, Tresise, a builder, met a Lion entirely by chance, and when he returned to Lismore he began the first Lions club there in 1947.

Australia has 27,251 Lions in 1,249 clubs.

Australian Lions are particularly devoted to youth, and one of their most prominent activities is the Youth of the Year program. Many high-profile Australians have taken part in the program in its 46 years.

Typifying their carefree, casual attitude, Australian Lions marching in a parade often sing "Waltzing Matilda," a bush ballad or country song regarded as the unofficial national anthem. The title is slang for



**Bill Tresise**



**Youth of the Year**



**Waltzing Matilda**



**A sausage sizzle**

traveling by foot with one's goods in a "Matilda" (a bag) slung over the back.

Aussie Lions like to fire up the barbie. The sausage sizzle is a time-honored fundraiser.



**Ian Fraser**

Aboriginals played the didgeridoo, a conical wind instrument, in 2010 in Sydney at the 93rd International Convention and were also scheduled to perform in July at the 96th International Convention in Hamburg.

The most famous Australian Lion is **Ian Fraser** of the **Brisbane Inner West Lions Club**. A clinical immunologist, he was named the 2006 Australian of the Year after creating a cervical cancer vaccine.

In 2005, Barry Palmer received the Australian Medal, the second highest honor accorded to civilians, for his service particularly as a Lion in and outside of Australia.



**Wombat Award**

Palmer's nickname among Lions' friends is Wombat, a native Australian animal with short legs and a rotund build. Palmer says the name fits for this reason: "It's a stubborn individual you'd never back into a corner because it will come out fighting. Otherwise it's a very placid, easygoing animal."

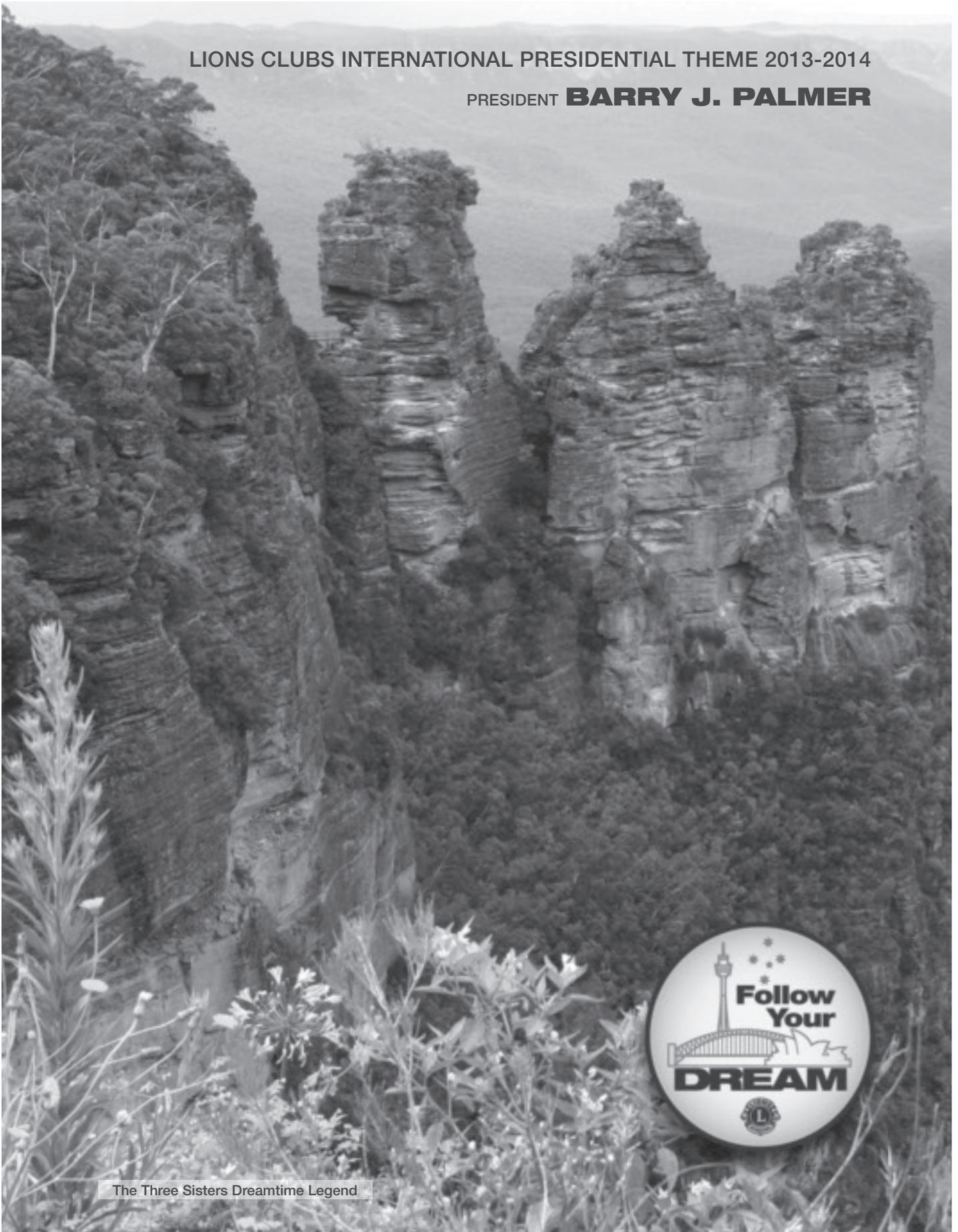
Australian Lions are immensely proud of Palmer as president and predict great things. "I think he is a visionary. He can see things as how they should be, not as they are," says **Nigel Jenny**, LCIF coordinator for Multiple District 201. Adds **Lion Helen Sham-Ho**, the first Asian-born member of Parliament in Australia, "I think he'll be a great international president. He's very, very much a person who can motivate people, who is gentle and who can impress people and drive them to do the right thing."



**Immensely proud**

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENTIAL THEME 2013-2014

PRESIDENT **BARRY J. PALMER**



The Three Sisters Dreamtime Legend

## **Follow Your Dream**

“If you can dream it, you can do it.” -Walt Disney

Martin Luther King did not say, "I have a goal." Or "I have an aim."  
The most powerful words in his famous speech were "I have a dream".

A dream embraces our most cherished longings. It embodies our very identity. We often won't feel fulfilled as human beings until we realize our dreams.

The innovative and gifted Danish architect Jorn Utzon had a dream – to build a structure that would be renowned not only for its aesthetic design, but also one that would define its surroundings while defying the principles of modern architecture. In 1957 he got his chance. His design for the Sydney Opera House was selected from over 200 entries. There were many naysayers, and more than a few famous architects who said it couldn't be done.

Work began in earnest in March 1959. Through both trial and tribulation, the opera house shell began to take shape. Finally, after 14 years, the opera house opened to the public in 1973. Today, it stands as a world-wide symbol for Sydney, and Utzon's dream lives on as both an architectural marvel and a perfect example of “if you can dream it, you can achieve it.”

We all have hopes and dreams. We all go through times in our lives when we come up with ideas of things that we would like to accomplish in the years ahead. It's a natural human tendency to come up with an ideal that we would like to fulfill in our future.

Everyone should have a dream – a vision – a goal, and something as unique as our very DNA. The challenge is really twofold: first identify your dream, and then work to achieve your dream, for there is nothing more disheartening than a dream unfulfilled.

**It's never too late to find your dream.  
Have you found yours?**



## **SERVICE.**

### **It's More Than A Dream, It's Our Identity**

We exist to serve others. It sets us apart and really defines us as an organization. It's why we can make the claim "The Global Leader In Humanitarian Service."



Our Global Service Action Campaigns of engaging youth (August), working with the blind and visually impaired (October), feeding the hungry (December and January), and working to improve the environment (April) solidify our reputation for service, providing clubs and districts with yet another opportunity to effect positive change – to make life better for our neighbors. Each year our Global Service Action campaigns account for over 200 million hours of service, with a direct impact on 16 million people.

In addition to these campaigns, I'm also challenging the Lions of the world to focus on reducing poverty through actions such as micro-financing and low-cost technologies that can improve lives and allow more people in need to break the cycle of poverty and realize their fullest potential.



As impressive as our impact is globally, our local programs – at the club and district level – really connect us to our respective communities.

With now over 46,000 clubs around the world – in urban centers, suburban areas, and small towns that dot the rural landscape, our tradition of service has established Lions clubs as the very fabric of the communities in which they serve. Last year alone, with only half our clubs reporting through the new service activity reporting system, we know we completed over 450,000 service projects, representing 500 million service hours, benefiting over 200 million people.

It's the local Lions club that sponsors youth athletic activities; that builds a community park or provides a scholarship to students. It's the local Lions club that furnishes meals directly to needy families, or keeps food on the shelves of a hometown food bank. When someone needs a pair of eyeglasses, it's the local Lions club that provides a voucher. We plant trees. We participate in activities to improve literacy rates. We sponsor youth exchange programs and youth mentoring programs. We assist the elderly, and so much more.

Lions dream big and take action to accomplish their dream. In the past several years, for example, Lions responded overwhelmingly to the challenge to improve reading and increase literacy rates through the Reading Action Program, and have planted millions of trees around the world to better our environment. Both the Reading Action Program and tree planting efforts are, of course, continuing as association programs. Together with the Global Service Action campaigns they help extend our reach by expanding our service footprint and increasing public awareness of who we are and what we do. When others see Lions in action, they want to share our dream of service for all.





## **FRIENDS AND FAMILY Can Share The Dream of Serving Others**

Survey after survey indicates a significant interest in volunteering. But with more constraints placed on people's time, available volunteer hours are at a minimum. Volunteers want to see immediate results and quick gratification if they are to invest free time serving others. In other words, it is no longer acceptable to simply attend a meeting or raise money for a cause. Volunteers want to roll up their sleeves and participate in a hands-on community service project. They want to see firsthand that at the end of the day, they have made a significant difference.

Volunteers want to belong to an organization dedicated to good – Lions clubs. They want an organization with experience – Lions clubs. They want an organization with global reach, but local impact – Lions clubs. They want to belong to an organization that nurtures a family atmosphere and fellowship. Again – Lions clubs.



We are a perfect fit for most people that are inclined to volunteer at the community level. So introduce your family, friends and neighbors to your Lions club.

I'm asking Lions during the month of April to sponsor "Friends and Family" events. Invite your family and friends to participate in a club service activity, open house, or casual gathering like a picnic or barbecue. There is no better way to introduce Lions to those who may be less than familiar with the organization you have come to know and love.

**“A dream you dream alone  
is only a dream.  
A dream you dream together  
is reality”**

- John Lennon

## **SHARE THE DREAM**

Lions Clubs International represents a global network of responsible Lions club members. Individuals who are dedicated to service, committed to creating a world without suffering, and whose relentless pursuit of their own dreams, help others to realize their dreams. We are a team. We share the Lions dream. Each of us is responsible not only for our fellow members, but for our association's future as well.

District Governor teams work The Global Membership Team (GMT) and Global Leadership Team (GLT) and others to stimulate membership growth through service and engagement, and identify and develop inspired, effective Lions leaders. They take focused action so that our dream of a better world can be kept alive and thriving.

Good leaders do not function in a vacuum. Good leaders know the value of working together, and achieving success through teamwork. The first step down the path to effective leadership is to have a team around you that can help achieve a shared dream.

As you follow your dream, it's important to initiate action, promote teamwork, generate momentum and embrace risks. Share your dream with others. Engage every resource available to make your dream come true. Work hard, learn valuable leadership skills, develop confidence, and strengthen the foundation for our future by taking advantage of our variety of web-based and instructor-led training and development opportunities. Visit the online Leadership Resource Center for ideas and suggestions as you construct your dream.



PRESIDENTIAL THEME

## **The three R's - RESPONSIBILITY, RECOGNITION AND REACH**

As Lions, we all have a strong sense of awareness for the needs of others and a strong sense of RESPONSIBILITY in our continuing quest to make our communities better. We all know that responsibility means taking care of others, being accountable and being trustworthy.



Responsibility also means ownership: owning what needs doing, then finding a way to get it done. It means committing ourselves – to lead, to create, to solve problems – and then following through. It involves taking risks and working hard.



I think of responsibility as seizing what's in front of you, exerting choice, and taking control and having the ability to respond and take action. It's going out and creating what you want through personal choices. It is important to be aware of where our responsibilities end and where the responsibilities of others begin. We must let others be responsible for their own challenges, and yes – their own dreams, if they are to grow, and encouraging their dreams by recognizing their achievements.



RECOGNITION is a key component of member satisfaction.

Recognition is a behavior deeply rooted in the Lions heritage and tradition of service. It should be implemented on a regular basis. Timely recognition of the achievements and contributions of all members keeps club life fresh, and members motivated.

I have created the Dream Achiever Awards to recognize district governors and their teams, as well as awards for zone and region chairpersons. These awards are timely – with opportunities to earn awards each quarter, and they also require the cooperation and success at the club level. Criteria for the awards can be found on the LCI website.

Clubs can be recognized for achievement by fulfilling the criteria for the Club Excellence Award, and of course district governors can earn the District Governor Team Excellence Award. Both recognize excellence in service, management, leadership development and club growth.

But what about the individual club member? The one that can always be counted on to take an active role in service projects; the one that always calls when a club member is sick; the one that is always first to congratulate others for their achievements; and the one that no matter what, the club can always count upon. You know who they are. Don't forget to recognize THEIR achievement. Sometimes just a simple "thank you" or a handshake will do. Or why not create your own club awards – like a certificate for "unsung hero." Recognition and praise go a long way toward keeping morale high and adding to a positive club experience for members.

Member satisfaction is key to our ability to retain our members, and also key to expanding our service capacity and global REACH. Lions know what it means to reach out to other people. We've been reaching others through service since 1917.

Although all of us have individual dreams and aspirations, all Lions do share at least one dream – a world that knows no suffering. But community needs continue to escalate. We must extend our reach and expand our capacity in order to address those needs.

Reaching out to others is embedded in our heritage and our history. To understand the meaning of being a Lion and serving others, one need look no further than the Lions Clubs International Purposes and Code of Ethics. Consider the following excerpts:

#### FROM OUR PURPOSES

**TO CREATE** and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.

**TO TAKE** an active interest in the civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community.

**TO ENCOURAGE** service-minded people to serve their community without personal financial reward.

#### FROM OUR CODE OF ETHICS

**TO SHOW** my faith in the worthiness of my vocation by industrious application to the end that I may merit a reputation for quality of service.

**TO HOLD** friendship as an end not a means. To hold that true friendship exists not on account of the service performed by one to another, but that true friendship demands nothing but accepts service in the spirit in which it is given.

**ALWAYS** to bear in mind my obligations as a citizen to my nation, my state and my community, and to give them unswerving loyalty in word, act and deed. To give them freely of my time, labor, and means.

**TO AID** others by giving my sympathy to those in distress, my aid to the weak, and my substance to the needy.



I often have to refer myself back to some of those phrases to remind myself how important it is to share our dream of service with others and extend our reach.

The best way to expand our reach is by increasing our membership. The more members we have, the more service we can provide. You see – we don't work for membership growth simply to increase numbers. The aim of membership growth is to increase our capacity to serve and maintain our position as the world's greatest provider of humanitarian service. Each act of service brings us one step closer to our dream.

By inviting new members – women, young people, family, friends – and by focusing on member satisfaction through an improved club atmosphere, we can retain more members and increase our capacity to serve others.



## 1 In 5 Keeps Our Dream Alive

Members join for a number of reasons:

- To serve their community
- To be involved with a specific service or cause
- To serve with friends or family
- For the opportunity to become a leader

Members leave because many of those reasons are not fulfilled. It is critical that new members are made to feel welcome, and that their opinions are sought. It's equally important to involve all members in club activities, and that activities are meeting the needs and desires of club members. This might mean finding new ways to serve; updating club traditions; starting new traditions; and being open to new ideas. It may also mean ensuring that all members are given an opportunity to lead – either as a club officer or chairperson of a club project. Retaining our members is incumbent upon all Lions.

Although we enjoy a very high level of recruiting, I wonder how many more members we could recruit and retain, and how much better we can make their volunteer experience with the proper care, creativity, and dedication to providing a meaningful experience?

Recruiting new members has never been a major problem. Each and every year, we recruit on average 200,000 new members. But at the end of the year, when final numbers are tabulated, our net gain is a small portion of that. Why? We simply are not retaining enough of our members. Over the past 5 years, if we had reduced the percentage of members who left by 20%, our membership today would stand at nearly 1.5 million, with positive net growth in every constitutional area. In other words – if we had

retained just 1 out of every 5 members who left over the past 5 years, our membership would have increased significantly, thereby helping us keep pace with the growing needs of our communities.

A positive club atmosphere and meaningful service activities are the most important factors in member satisfaction. The primary tool available to clubs to ensure overall success is the Club Excellence Process (CEP), available on the LCI website. It amounts to a comprehensive guide to a more meaningful club experience. Two items in the Club Excellence Process checklist pay particularly big dividends – the *Community Needs Assessment* and the “*How Are Your Ratings?*” survey. Completing both of these items has the potential to re-energize a club's atmosphere and improve member satisfaction.

Ultimately, we want to retain each and every member and see our clubs continue to flourish, allowing us to continue to provide the service our communities have come to expect from the global leader in humanitarian service.





## **A 50/50 Proposition To Achieving Our Dream**

Since 1987 when the first woman joined Lions Clubs International, women are underrepresented in our membership ranks, but increasing. Women now represent 24.5% of our membership worldwide, even though women comprise just over half of the world's population. So we are only halfway to our full potential. My dream is to increase the percentage of women members by an additional 5.5% in the next 12 months, taking us to 30% by the end of 2013-14. In addition, I want to achieve a 50/50 parity of men and women joining our association by our centennial year.

A recent study found that:

- 83% of participants reported that they acquired, improved or developed their leadership skills due to volunteer participation, and 78% reported improvement in their communications skills.
- Some 50% of participants have been involved as volunteers for more than 5 years, and 22% for more than 10 years.
- Nearly 40% of participants started volunteering before they were 16 years old, and over 55% were volunteering by the time they were 30 years old.
- Over 90% said they volunteered because it gave them a sense that they were doing something to improve the lives of others.

That study was conducted by Woman's Way magazine, and all the respondents were women. Surprised? You shouldn't be.

In 2010, Lions Clubs International began a Women and Family Task Force to assess the needs of women in our organization. There have been many findings of the task force, and one thing was very clear – women volunteer for the very same reasons men volunteer. And women join Lions clubs for the very same reasons men join Lions clubs – TO SERVE.

We are making progress. There are more women filling leadership roles in our organization – at the club, district and international level – than ever before in our history. That's positive. But we can do better. We need to continue making significant progress toward achieving our ultimate goal of 50% women membership. Just remember – women join for the same reasons as men, and leave for the same reasons as men. All members want a satisfying volunteer experience.

To assist us in sharing our dream of service with others – men, women and young people, I am pleased to announce the association has developed a new tool – *"Just Ask! – New Member Recruiting Guide For Clubs."*

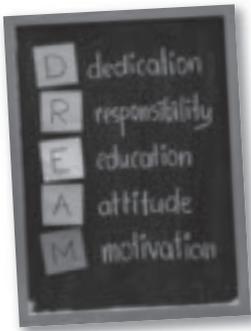




## Community New Club Extension

One of the best ways Lions have been able to expand global reach is to open new clubs.

New clubs create more opportunities for community and service-minded individuals to be involved in projects they care about. Forming new clubs allows Lions to identify and meet the needs of underserved areas within their communities. New clubs also create diversity by attracting new



members, including more young adults and women.

There are many success stories – too numerous to mention – whereby new clubs were formed to serve a particular need. New clubs infuse new ideas and bring new ways of providing service. More importantly, they allow us to reach new members, providing them with an opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of others.

As we try to accelerate our effort to extend new clubs, it is important to keep in mind that charter size matters. A recent LCI study shows that clubs that charter with at least 25 members are staying active longer. The higher number of charter members improves the club viability and vitality. My dream is to get new clubs to charter with 25 or more members, thereby improving their long-term success rate.

## Leos and Lions - Sharing The Dream of Service

Do you remember when you were 16, 18, 21? Do you remember your first date, homework, studying for college finals? Do you remember starting your first job, or balancing your budget while balancing your career and home life with a young family? That's the life of a Leo. And yet, in spite of an inordinately busy period in their lives, Leos find time to volunteer – often putting others before their own needs. Leos want to give and make a difference. Let them be young and experience volunteering on their own terms. Their Leo experience will go a long way in determining whether at some point in the future they will follow their dreams and continue their volunteer experience as Lions.

Our Leos are making a significant contribution. They have as much to teach us, as we have to teach them. We can learn from their enthusiasm, innovation and ingenuity, and we can continue to act as mentors to provide guidance, encouragement and recognition.

Their service is unique and inspiring. Embrace it, and continue accepting them as members of the Lions family.



## Are You Dreaming In New Ways?

There are many ways to attain our dream of increasing our service capacity. One way is through effective public relations.

At the turn of this century, Lions Clubs International invested several million dollars using traditional public relations outlets. We reached an external audience of 8 million people per year. In 2011, we invested only US\$300,000, yet reached an audience estimated at nearly 30 million people. That's a considerably higher return on our investment. How did we do it? Social media.

The widespread use of social media has fundamentally changed how people communicate and share information. Facebook now accounts for 12.3 percent of the time spent online versus just 7.2 percent in 2011.

PR is no longer left to the PR professional. Each and every one of our 1.35 million members now has the potential to increase public awareness of who we are and what we do – to tell the Lions story with passion and conviction – through websites and social media. But we have a long way to go. Currently, not enough of our clubs have websites and social media pages. We can do better. Through our e-clubhouse, every club can establish an online presence. I am pleased to announce that we have developed an automated e-clubhouse page for new clubs. Beginning this year, when a club receives its charter it will also be provided with an e-clubhouse site. It's a great way for new clubs to share their story as they begin their dream of service.



An improved online presence through social media and websites will allow us to communicate faster and easier, and reach a larger audience. And with an improved social media presence, no one will be able to claim we are “the world’s best kept secret,” because we can share our story and our dream with millions of other people.

Some of our best success stories result from the work we do through Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). Through LCIF, we are making dreams a reality.

Since its founding in 1968 LCIF has strived to sustain Lions’ humanitarian service goals throughout the world, awarding over 11,000 grants totaling more than US\$811 million, in the four key areas of sight, youth, disaster relief and other humanitarian efforts.

In order to continue to make dreams possible for others, LCIF relies on the generous support and collaborative efforts of partner organizations such as The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The Clinton Global Initiative, WHO, and governmental agencies. But most of all, LCIF relies on the continued support of Lions. Together, we can keep dreams alive for millions of people around the world.



**Identify your dream. Believe in your dream.  
Share your dream. And most of all - "Follow Your Dream"**

## **Dream On**

Many years ago, Anne and I had a youth exchange student from Indonesia stay in our home. Her name was Meita. One day I asked her what she wanted to do with her life. She replied, "I want to be a doctor and work with the poor in my community." We did not see or hear from her again for over 25 years. When I became an international director, I had the opportunity to speak at a Lions convention in Indonesia. I inquired if any Lions knew her as we were in her home town. The next day, Anne and I were walking through the lobby of our hotel when a young lady approached us with a gentleman and two children. She asked, "Are you Barry Palmer?" When I replied I was, she said, "I am Meita!" We were overjoyed to see her again, and not a bit surprised that she had achieved her dream of becoming a doctor and working with the underserved of her community.

Although it was difficult, and there were many obstacles placed in her way, she didn't give up. She did not listen to naysayers who said she would never achieve her dream.

Don't let anyone steal your dreams, or try to tell you your dreams are impossible.

We face many challenges. Even as we dream of a world where no need goes unmet, our dream stands in stark contrast to reality. But dreams are not achieved overnight. Dare to dream, and then work hard to achieve that dream.

In the end, remember that dreams give us reasons to be better than who we are. It doesn't matter whether you have more or less skills, charisma, or talent than someone else. It doesn't matter at all whether you come from a poor or wealthy background. Dreams know no boundaries, no demographics and no socio-economic standing. What matters is daring to have dreams and working hard to achieve them.



# The Palmer Method

## New President Dreams and Then Does

by Jay Copp

Barry Palmer said no, sorry, not able to make it. Lions from Germany were visiting his own club that same night. “Are you sure you can’t be there?” the club president asked him again. She wanted Palmer, then the District Governor, to present Melvin Jones Fellowships that night. Her club was an hour’s drive from his home in Hornsby, near Sydney.

“We’d really love to have you,” the club president persisted. Palmer fidgeted and did some quick mental math about the travel. “Well, I’ll come if you can start the meeting just a little bit early,” Palmer told her. “I’ll do it first, then I’ll have to leave.”

Not wanting to rudely rush away, Palmer lingered at the meeting after he presented the awards. What he witnessed next practically melted his heart. Lions rolled a young girl in a wheelchair toward a four-wheeled contraption with a seat in the middle. The Lions gently placed her in the seat of the Hart Walker, and the girl, strapped in an upright position, pushed forward and willed herself across the room. At home the walker empowered her by mitigating her disability, allowing her to set the table for dinner, grab the phone and draw nearer to visiting friends.

The next morning Palmer called the nonprofit in New South Wales trying to provide more children with Hart Walkers. A staffer told Palmer they were seeking donors and a letter had already been written for Rotary. “Have you posted it?” Palmer anxiously asked. “I’m waiting for my boss to sign it,” she replied.

“Well, change one word,” Palmer said.

“What’s that?”

“Change ‘Rotary’ to ‘Lions.’”

That bolt of sudden bravado left Palmer weak in the knees. “I put the phone down and thought, geez, what have I done. *But we got the money together within 12 months—\$300,000—and from there it just took off.*”

The Hart Walkers now are one of the signature projects of Australian Lions. There’s definitely a method to President Palmer’s madness. Our new international president dreams big and then finds a way to realize those dreams. Since becoming a Lion, he has spearheaded or played a major role in a host of service projects that have transformed lives and the overall direction of Lions in Australia. He set up the Education Builds Bridges program for Lions in Australia to provide downtrodden children in Indonesia with a solid education. He and his wife, Anne, persuaded his club to support an orphanage in India with their help. He represented Australian Lions in preparation for the Paralympics there in 2000 and championed Lions’ generous support of the well-respected Children’s Cancer Institute in Sydney.

People in need, especially children, bring out the Lion in President Palmer. “*Children always bring a tear to his eye,*” says **Lion Pauline Henebery**, who runs Education Builds Bridges. “He is very much a normal

sort of bloke in that sense. He sees a child taking their first steps in a Hart Walker and tears come to his eyes.”



**Years ago, President Palmer began an educational program for poor children in Indonesia**

Other Lions who know him well relate similar encounters. President Palmer visited areas in East Timor stricken by the massive tsunami in 2004. “You could see his heart welling as he told stories about what he saw,” says **David Thompson** of the **Hornsby Lions**. “He told us what the Lions had done, how the funding was working. It was heartfelt, and he was so proud of what we were achieving.”

President Palmer traces his compassion to his Aussie roots. “Disadvantaged children have always been my passion,” he says. “I guess it’s part of the Australian ethic—[root for] the underdog: those that can’t help themselves and even with sports teams. *If you’re the underdog you come out fighting.* And I think that’s why I’ve always gone for the underdog to help them get up.”

This year President Palmer wants Lions to follow his path—to dream big and to reach out even more to the needy and underserved. He has planned a substantial microfinance venture in India and other nations, a worldwide Lions Family Week in April for families and friends to have fun together serving, and a year-long focus on increasing female membership. But the larger focus will be on the method—following your dream, his theme. (See pages 5-20 for the complete Palmer program for 2013-14).

“I can’t give you what your dream will be,” he says. “It’s up to Lions to decide. It may relate to your club. It may relate to Lions. It may not. It may be something in your personal life. All we want you to do is plant the seed and go with it.”

President Palmer’s goal is ambitious, but longtime friends say don’t bet against him. “He has a very, very sharp mind and a very compassionate heart. And he’s a very hard worker,” says Thompson. “He’s a person who can talk to people to encourage them to do things they don’t think they can do. Very supportive. But he also has the strength to face the challenges that have to be faced. If hard words have to be said, he’s quite prepared to say them.”

Our new president became a Lion almost by

accident in 1976. Customers at his retail store near Christmas wanted a particular fruitcake made by Sara Lee. Palmer called Sara Lee; employees would not let him sell the cake and did not tell him why. Now more curious than ever, Palmer did some digging and discovered the company made them under license for Lions clubs.



**The Hart Walkers are one of the signature projects of Lions in Australia**

*photo by Dan Morris*

So Palmer called up a Hornsby Lion and offered to sell 20 cartons of the cake. “They thought I was nuts because I wasn’t going to make any money from it. But they didn’t realize that the cakes were bringing customers into the business,” he says with a smile. The club eventually invited him to a meeting to honor him with a certificate of appreciation. Then the light bulb finally went on, and Lions asked him to the next meeting. “I said, ‘Bill [Atlas], why didn’t you ever ask me to join?’ He said, *‘I thought you were too busy.’*”

Lion Palmer jumped right in, doing repairs for senior citizens, cleaning yards, painting, and, of course, grilling at sausage sizzles, the Australian Lion equivalent of a pancake breakfast. Lions became a way of life for him and Anne as they hosted exchange students, got involved in Lions’ drug education programs and began traveling and meeting Lions nationwide and worldwide as Barry took on more leadership roles.

The day he truly became a Lion was when he saw the effect the Hart Walker had on children. “I feel very emotional to know a child’s life has changed,” he says. “There was a case I remember very clearly with a little boy who refused to walk [in the Hart Walker]. The doctor said, ‘Oh, this sometimes happens.’ So as a

reward his parents bought a puppy. They brought it into the room and just held it near the door. *And this kid just took off and walked and grabbed his puppy.*"

President Palmer's challenge as president is not with one child or even a nation of disabled children but to effectively lead Lions of more than 200 nations. "What makes a good leader is somebody who is not afraid to surround themselves with people better than they are," he says. "Too many leaders go the opposite way and surround themselves with people who are not as good as they are. The last thing I want is 'yes men' or 'yes women.' I want people who will challenge me and throw their thoughts out there for us to think about.

That's my basic philosophy on leadership. It's as simple as that."

His goal is to translate dreams of Lions—even his own—into reality. A year from now he will stand on stage at the international convention in Toronto and know in his heart to what extent dreams came true. "My dream is that I'm going to hand over to **Peter Lynch** [senior executive administrator at Lions Clubs International] an envelope with my dream written in it. I will ask him to open it and read it in Toronto to see if we got my dream. But basically my dream will be for everybody in Lions to achieve their dreams for the year."



**President Palmer is no stranger to sausage sizzles**

## Lions Club of Stouffville

The annual, end of June, Stouffville Strawberry Festival is a major attraction for about 11,000 members of the community and visitors from surrounding areas. This year, Lions Club members and "Friends of Lions" hosted two major events: (1) the annual Lions Beef BBQ, and for the first time, (2) the "Rubber Ducky Races" fund raiser.

Hundreds of hungry people feasted on mouth-watering roast beef that had been slowly roasting for about 8 hours on an open spit.



**Lions & friends ready to serve**



**Lion President Sharon McClenney the project lead, Lion Bill Hodges, Lion Clare Palmer & a hardworking assistant preparing the beef for serving**

Also, hundreds of duck lovers, for a fee of \$5, bet that their chosen rubber ducky would win the race down a local stream for a prize of \$100.



**Lion Cap Cowan, the project lead is pictured in the attached photo with Lion Chris Larkin & the Town Crier**

## Blyth Lions Club

Upon the closing of the Blyth Public School in June, 2012, the students of the graduating Grade 8 Class decided that they wished to show their appreciation to the Blyth Lions Club for the Club's continued support throughout the years. The students through their fundraising efforts raised enough money to purchase a Lions Bench to be placed in the Blyth Lions Park. The Official Bench Dedication Ceremony was recently held at the Park with four former Grade 8 students joining **Lion President Ryan Lee** in the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.



## Palmer Rapids and Area Lions Club

Most of us consider our communities relatively safe to raise our children without fear of them being abducted or harmed and yet these crimes continue to occur. No community is immune from crimes against their children. Experience has shown though that crime against children can be prevented by educating children on how to respond should someone approach them wanting to do them harm.

The Palmer Rapids and Area Lions Club along with the Killaloe Ontario Provincial Police Community Officer Darcy Nichol, spent the week May 13 – 17 finger printing the children in the Palmer Rapids and Combermere areas. Officer Darcy spoke to the children about safety issues and what to do if they got into an unsafe situation. The Lions Club purchased the safety kits from Victims of Violence in Ottawa. The kits included information for parents to read and how to teach their children to protect themselves. There is a colouring book of basic safety rules for the children to colour, read and talk about with parents. The Lions Club thought we could help parents get started and used

## Orléans Lions Club

Orléans Lions Club is pleased to announce that it raised \$7000 at their first Orléans Bike'N Walkathon held on June 9. Encouraged by the success of this event, the Club has decided to make this into an annual event.

Funds raised will be distributed to the Fonds Gaultois and the Bruyère Foundation – two important organizations servicing the Orléans community. The Fonds Gaultois will direct the money raised to help students in need to access sports and cultural activities. The funds raised for the Bruyère Foundation will be allocated to renovating and modernizing the kitchen and dining areas at Saint-Louis Residence, helping to further enhance the quality of life of its residents.

Orléans Lions Club takes this opportunity to thank CI Investment (Denis Roy Financial Services Inc.), the principal sponsor of the event, along with the Orléans Caisse Populaire and the Scotiabank for their sponsorships. The Club further extends thanks to its partners Lacroixsource and Independent Stores (Bissonette-Dessureault-Grenon) together with some 50 local businesses without whose financial and in-kind support the event would not have been possible.

the very important finger print ink to finger print each child and put into each kit. On this page in the kit, parents are to put a photo of the child and description of the child. These kits are to be updated as the child grows, and new information to be added and kept in a safe place.

It's a known fact that in an emergency situation parents become flustered and stressed and unable to report all the information that the police may need in an investigation. Now these parents will have a record, with all of their child's pertinent information on hand.

The Palmer Rapids and Area Lions Club plans to continue to provide the new kindergarten students in both the Combermere and Palmer schools with safety kits in the coming years! We feel that keeping our children safe in our communities is a very important project.



# From the Outback to Out and About in the World

Barry J. Palmer is part Outback, part Sydney and all Aussie. "I'm proud to be an Australian because of our culture," he says. "It's very relaxed, very laid back, easygoing and friendly. People you've known for years, people in the shops, banks, always want to have a chat."

When Adam Scott hit a key shot at this year's Masters, he screamed, "Aussie! Aussie! Aussie!" President Palmer understands. "The success of our athletes—we do very well for a country of only 20 million people. And I guess our isolation has been a plus in some ways that we don't have a lot of problems and troubles or fights and wars. It's a very peaceful place."

Lions' 97th international president was born in the middle of World War II in Hornsby on the outskirts of Sydney. The bush was President Palmer's backyard. Wallabies hovered near his home. "You'd hear the thump, thump, thump, and you knew there was one hopping down the back fence line," he recalls.

Young Palmer was one of three children. His dad, Jack, was an accountant. Sylvia, his mom, ran the home. Barry played three soccer matches each week. "I love the team spirit of it. I like the skill of it. It's fast. It's open," he says.

Intending to work in the wool industry, he attended an agricultural high school. He worked in the bush and in wool sheds. He relished the outdoors. "I think it's important to be in tune with nature – to just sit in the bush for a while and listen to what's going on and observing the animals, birds and lizards." But the wool industry slumped, so he found a job at a bank.

Funny thing about the bank business—you see how money can be made. "I was meeting all these customers running their own businesses and doing quite well. So I decided that if I worked as hard for myself as I did for the bank I'd probably make a lot of money," says President Palmer.

He started buying businesses, improving them and selling them. Then he went into real estate. It went well for him with Remax. "He was pretty much the most successful real estate man around. He was known as the godfather of the industry," says **Lion Francesca Parrino**, a protégé of President Palmer's in the field.

President Palmer enjoyed furthering the dreams both of homebuyers and employees. "Assisting other



*The bush was President Palmer's boyhood backyard*

when I was employing people. I used to put a pen on the desk and say, 'Sell me the pen.' You could see how they reacted. Some of them couldn't sell me the pen. But at least they tried."

Young Palmer met Anne when she was 15 and he was 19. He was the drummer in a rock 'n roll band, and she came to see him play—over and over. Guitarist Vince Maloney later played with the Bee Gees, but the band fell apart. Barry and Anne were just beginning. Both quiet and reserved, they grew up and matured together as a couple. "Yeah, we hit it off. I couldn't put my finger on any one thing. It was just a progression of growing up and wanting to share my life with her," he says.

The Palmers have three children and eight grandchildren. He kicks the soccer ball around with



*The Palmers met as teenagers and have been inseparable since*

people is something I've done for the last 30 years whether it's a client or staff member," he says. "You used to get a sixth sense just by talking to them. I never used to go through a fixed questionnaire

when I was employing people. I used to put a pen on the desk and say, 'Sell me the pen.' You could see how they reacted. Some of them couldn't sell me the pen. But at least they tried."

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The Palmers have three children and eight grandchildren. He kicks the soccer ball around with



*President Palmer loves the outdoors*



*The president is devoted to his 97-year-old mother, Sylvia*

*photo by Dan Morris*

the younger ones. "Anne was desperately keen to be a grandma. But if someone's calling me grandpa then I'm getting old. So they call me poppy," he says.

In Hornsby, the Palmers have the best of two worlds. "I enjoy living in Sydney but on the fringe. I don't like the hustle and bustle," he says. "It's good to be at home where it's quiet and the birds are the noise you hear." Downtown Sydney is a 50-minute train ride away. "We would go there for the theater, for musicals, visiting bands. There are a lot of things to do there. I love going to Chinatown."

It's the world of Lions that will occupy them for the next year. "Look at the projects and the variety of things we do around the world," President Palmer says. "What I've seen so far just blows me away as to what we can achieve."

## St. George Lions Welcome Seven New Members

The St. George Lions Club were delighted to welcome 7 new members into their club on May 8th, 2013.

(\*new with their sponsors - left to right) **\*Glen McDonald, Gerry Glaves, \*Frank Rolson, Sandy Wilson, \*Irene Kuniuk, Boris Pancoe, Jim Gambacort, \*Kim Sabatino, \*Kelly Lahosky, Lyle Fair, \*Lorraine Ferretti, Bob Knowles and \*Steve Ferretti.**

*Submitted by Lion Kevin Hewitson*



# *Lions History*

## Missing Lions from the War of 1812

It seems as Lions we all try to emulate the positive attributes of this noble beast. I guess the positive might be brave and of good bearing. We think of Lions as noble as well and have added generous and caring. All through history peoples have looked to this animal for inspiration. It becomes our duty to help fellow Lions and come to their aid if they are missing.



The British as a nation and essentially us as we were in those times have an attachment to Lions. Richard the Lionheart was aptly named in this respect and the Lions Rampant still appear on the Royal Standard as it did for King George who was the Elector of Hanover at the time. It was quite symbolic to have Lions present at official functions and public buildings.



At Toronto 2014 many more Americans will "invade our Queen City" than did some 200 years ago and on

much friendlier terms. You see they quite literally invaded the town



of York in April of 1813, raised American flags, burned and pillaged our public buildings and many private homes.



We had already seen their resolve at Queenston Heights the year before



and would later send them packing for good at Stoney Creek. Our great war heroes of Brock and Tecumseh gave their lives in protecting our freedom. Other great heroes such as Laura Secord and John Strachan also help us through these anxious times.



Our little Parliament buildings were not very old when they were overrun by American soldiers who claimed to have discovered a scalp on its premises and used this as sufficient grounds to burn it to the ground. Inside were the Mace of Office and two symbolic Lions that were spirited away as war booty.



The Royal Standard that hung behind the Speaker's Chair bore the image of a Lion. Throughout British history it remains the only captured royal standard that has never been recovered. The other Lion was a sculpture with its front foot on a sphere that used to sit beside the Speaker's Chair.



Well it turns out those nasty Americans became some of our best friends and back in 1931 they returned the Mace as a goodwill gesture. It now resides in the lobby of the Legislative Assembly Building at Queens Park.

After all they were pretty mad about the British burning down their White House, Capitol Building and bombarding Fort McHenry at Baltimore even if it did inspire their National Anthem.



Well whatever happened to those missing Lions?



Since the attack on York was for all intents and purposes a naval attack it made sense to start looking at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, where they keep a museum. Well "lo and behold" there they were and a very kind curator says would you like some pictures.



While they are not likely to return to us any time soon we can see them on display and as a matter of fact the statue of a Lion is on loan to the War Museum in Ottawa for War of 1812 commemoration.



By the way it turns out those Brits took a few things themselves. They found a pair of portraits of King George and Queen Charlotte in a warehouse in Washington and took them to Bermuda where they now sit behind the Speaker in the Session House at Hamilton.

*For The Good of Lionism*  
*Ray Charbonneau MD "A" Historian*

# Lions on Location

## Club Ups the Ante at Anniversary

For half a century **Tongeren Lions** of Belgium hit upon a simple formula: meaningful projects plus conviviality equal success and longevity as a club. To celebrate its anniversary members came up with another formula: 50 times 1,000. The club's goal is to raise 1,000 Euros for each year since its charter in 1963.

The funds (a total of US\$65,000) will benefit the club's longtime cause, TEVONA, a home for adults with mental disabilities; a school for children with learning difficulties or behavioral disorders; a group that helps children with disabilities; and a research fund dedicated to new therapies for cancer. Lions kicked off their anniversary celebration with a concert and also published a colorful club history.



**Musicians help launch the golden anniversary of the Tongeren Lions Club**

The club has flourished because of its strong social component, says **Koen Nulens**. "Serving the community as a Lions club is one thing. But being with a group of friends is another," says Nulens, a civil engineer who works as an investment manager. Members annually spend a fun weekend together, regularly attend other social outings and meet with its twinning club, **Zwolle Zwollerkerspel Lions** in the Netherlands. "Humor and the ability to relate to one another mean a lot to us," he adds.

Settled in 15 B.C., Tongeren is the oldest town of Belgium. The club's oldest and most popular fundraiser harkens back to the days of old: an equestrian weekend first held in 1982. The horses scamper and leap over barriers, and a huge circus tent accommodates bingo games.

## The Art of Making a Living

Lions in Dieppe, a French coastal city founded in the Middle Ages, have discovered that the past is a key to the securing of the future of working-class youths. The **Dieppe Doyen Lions Club** holds an all-day forum in which stone cutters, sculptors, glass workers, specialized roofers and other artisans involved in restoring and maintaining historic buildings showcase their talents.

The artists demonstrate that the durable beauty of the ancient castles, churches and other structures of Europe is no accident. Last year at the forum a mosaic artist created a likeness of the Duchesse of Berry (a legendary figure who invented sea bathing), a glass expert restored a church's stained glass window and a thatcher

explained the intricacies involved in repairing a thatched roof. The artisans answer questions about their livelihood, and the Lions, who partner with tourist officials and other regional authorities on the forum, produce a colorful, 30-page brochure on opportunities as an artisan.

Besides the artisans, students from technical high schools display their abilities with woodworking,



**Aspiring sculptors learn the craft at the Art Heritage Career Forum**

ironwork and cabinetry. Attending the forum are students from area middle and high schools as well as local residents interested in preservation and restoration. The Art Heritage Career Forum has drawn more than 2,500 attendees in its nine-year history.

A member of the Dieppe Doyen Lions Club who is the CEO of a company that restores historic buildings provides guidance for the project. "Our club pursues a simple ideal: encourage manual labor and show that local artisans are successful while supporting our heritage," says **Claude Landais**, project coordinator.

## Christmas Comes Early in Costa Rica



Living in a remote wooded spot in ramshackle homes and struggling to feed and clothe their children, several families in Costa Rica were visited by Lions and Leos bearing gifts. **Santo Domingo Lions** and **Santo Domingo de Heredia Leos** delivered food

and toys to the families, who gratefully received the gifts and warmly thanked their benefactors.



## Lions' Irish Eyes Are Smiling

A Lion for two years, **Sean Olohan** does more than tell people about Lions and their importance. The Irish musician sings about his favorite service group. Two years ago he wrote and now often performs "The Lions-We Have the Community in Our Hearts," a soft, lilting ballad with a catchy melody.

Olohan has fronted the Cantons, a four-piece band that plays rock, pop and traditional Irish music, since he was a school lad. Performing now mostly as AVOCA, the band has toured Europe and the United States, appeared on TV multiple times and recorded a couple of hit songs.

Lions clubs in Ireland don't sing at meetings. But Olohan and his mates from the **Wicklow and District Lions Club**



make up for it. They join together on his song while visiting hospitals and nursing homes. He plays it at his band's concerts, too. "It's good to have a captive audience to raise awareness of Lions," he says with a chuckle. "Generally speaking, the response is fantastic."

Olohan also will bring out his guitar and strum the song while at a pub kicking back pints of Guinness with Lions. He wrote the song for his club's 25th anniversary. It's a simple but effective declaration of Lions' motives: "As Lions, we don't hunt/we don't roar/we never, ever ask for more/what we give is right from the heart."

Olohan, who owns a music store, uses his talents to promote good causes. He wrote "Saving Lives," his most popular song, for the Lifeboat Rescue Service. He recently penned a tune about a hospice his town is building with support of Lions and others. That song, as well as the Lions song, will be on a new album of his with proceeds for the hospice.

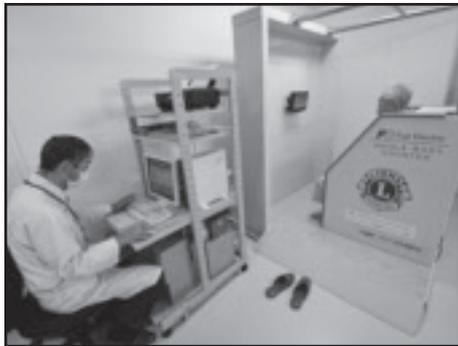
### **Lions Ease Radiation Fears**

Fidgeting with apprehension, hundreds of people come daily to the public health department in Koriyama, Japan, to test their exposure to radiation. Three nuclear reactors in the Fukushima district suffered a full meltdown after the devastating earthquake/tsunami in March 2011.

**Lions of District 332-D** partnered with Lions Clubs International Foundation to donate two whole-body radiation counters to government authorities. Lions and LCIF also donated the machines to the towns of Kawabata and Ono, as well as four thyroid gland ultrasound imaging units.

“People in Fukushima are on thorns worrying about radiation. We hope these projects will relieve their anxiety even a little so they can live with peace of mind,” says **Past District Governor Zenkuro Kubota**.

Kubota credits **Past International Director Jitsuhiro Yamada**, then a Lions Clubs International board appointee, for spearheading the donations. A former executive director of the Japan Hospital Association, Yamada worked as a liaison between the hospital association and the Great East Japan Earthquake Recovery Support headquarters.



**A whole-body counter measures a man's internal radiation level in Koriyama, Japan**

Expectant mothers and children were tested first, and the adults from areas with the highest levels of radiation were tested next.

The lifetime risk of contracting cancer rose slightly for a small group of people exposed to radiation in Japan, according to a report in May by the World Health Organization. But the trauma was worse, WHO warned. Disasters like this cause fear, anxiety, depression, and, in some instances, more severe psychiatric disorders.

### **Warm Food for Those Left Out in the Cold**

Nearly 20 years after the massive Kobe earthquake in Japan people left homeless continue to use a soup kitchen set up immediately after the disaster. Once a day the appetizing smell of curry cooked in a huge metallic bowl wafts over Minato-no-Mori Park, built to commemorate the city's reconstruction. Volunteers often serve 120 hungry people within 15 minutes after the soup is ready.

Members of the **Kobe Minami Lions Clubs** have supported the kitchen for eight years. They provide rice and serve the soup.

The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995, as it is known in Japan, killed 5,500 people and injured more

than 26,000. Kobe, which has a population of 1.5 million, was near the quake's epicenter.



**Free soup has helped the homeless since the Kobe earthquake in 1995**

Respect and civility are part of the routine of the soup kitchen. Patrons dutifully wash the dishes and utensils they use and return them to their proper spot. Lions and other volunteers, who know the regulars, chat and trade small talk with them. Through the years the number of patrons has gradually declined. “The Kobe Minami Lions don't mind providing service, but they are hoping the number of people needing this service becomes much smaller,” according to the Japanese LION.

### **Care for Children Crosses Borders**



**Keh Lee Lee gives a toy to a young patient at the Angkor Hospital for Children in Cambodia**

**Tan Chee Bin**, 60, taught English and geography in secondary schools in Malaysia and worked as a federal school inspector for a quarter century. After a lifetime of helping youths, he spends part of his retirement doing the same as a relatively new Lion. Members of his club recently travelled to Cambodia to bestow gifts and goods on disadvantaged children at a school, orphanage and hospital.

“We were able to make a small difference in the lives

of these needy and lovely Cambodian children,” says Bin, whose wife, **Lee Kit Yoke**, also is a Lion and retired teacher. “I think we were able to fulfil our club's motto of ‘We Serve Without Borders.’”

The **Bayan Baru Lions Club** has 39 members. Among them are businessmen, factory owners, insurance agents, lawyers, clerks and stay-at-home mothers. The club has undertaken similar charitable missions to Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia.

The club partnered in Cambodia with the **Siem Reap Angkor Wat Lions Club**, chartered in 2012. Many Cambodian children endure heartbreaking hardship. Nearly half are malnourished, and one in seven dies before the age of five.

The Lions club wisely worked with established charities with solid track records. They helped a Sanctuary Home for orphaned and abandoned children, run by The Children's Sanctuary; the Chres Village School and Orphanage; and the Angkor Hospital for Children, founded by New York-based Friends Without A Border.

“Our members put their heart and soul into our projects,” says Bin. “All of us returned home knowing we had brought cheers and relief to the suffering of poverty-stricken children.”

### **Huffing and Puffing for Others**

Swiss Lions and Leos in Baden pedaled so troubled girls could start new lives. For a day several Lions and Leos transported more than 100 passengers in five bike taxis around Baden, a picturesque town of 18,000 near Zurich known for its mineral hot springs. Proceeds went toward a home in Zurich for girls and young women from abusive homes and for a project in Nepal to lift girls out of poverty.

Members of the **Baden Heitersberg Lions Club**, including a 69-year-old, and the **Baden Leo Club** took turns in the taxis, which had weak electric motors that need to be supplemented by pedal power. Among the passengers was a newly married couple. The rides generated 6,000 francs (US\$6,300), which the Lions matched.



**Lions' bike taxis raised money for troubled girls**

# Lions Quest Canada Responds to Bullying

According to PrevNet, Canada's national network of leading researchers and organizations, working together to stop bullying in Canada, "Bullying is a form of abuse at the hands of peers that can take different forms at different ages. It is targeted and repeated. It involves power, aggression, intimidation and shame. It preys on vulnerability and exposes both children who bully, and those who are bullied, to a number of social and mental health problems and a lifetime pattern of abuse. Any abuse - in particular the kind of abuse that can lead a child to contemplate suicide - is anything but harmless." Lions Quest Canada is one of the original community partners of PrevNet.

How do we stop this bullying behaviour that seems to have reached epidemic proportions? At Lions Quest Canada we support caring adults who teach kids from day one that looking out for one another, being empathetic, being responsible for another's well-being and treating others as we would like to be treated is the norm. We support teaching children that threatening, mean behaviours or excluding others will not be tolerated. That it is not funny, fair or productive to pick on each other to gain power and that the gifts and sparks that make us unique are things to be celebrated and encouraged, not personal traits to be ridiculed and repressed.

We advocate for the teaching and modelling of positive behaviours for our children in our homes, their preschools, their classrooms, their activities and their communities. We support parents who are looking for positive ways to raise their young children. We work with preschool professionals who teach children how to fill each other's buckets every day with positive actions and that taking from someone else's bucket or 'bucket dipping' is not right. We help our young

people build positive values, social skills and positive identities in our schools by providing them with support, opportunities for empowerment, boundaries and expectations, and constructive use of time.

Millions of dollars are spent on projects and programs about bullying that are put into place once our young people reach middle school or high school. By this point it is often difficult or too late to change these habits. The impact of the effort often depends on the ability, commitment and relationships of the person who is the champion at the heart of it. Efforts based on one person's or family's experience can be powerful for starting the conversation or drawing attention to the behaviours but sustaining that effort can be costly both financially and emotionally.

Wouldn't it be great if the same code of conduct followed us from our homes to our pre-schools to our elementary schools through to high schools and post secondary on to our daily lives? Share - take turns - try hard - look after one another - encourage one another - respect one another and that bullying behaviour will not be tolerated.

Lions Quest Canada has worked in schools and communities across Canada for almost 30 years now, and over the years we have worked diligently to address concerns related to children and youth around drug use and now bullying. We have seen many projects and programs come and go based on the whim of government or the passion of a grieving community.

What we know to be true from years of evaluation and study is when children and youth are equipped with the skills, knowledge and experiences to help them build positive habits that bullying behaviours, harmful risk taking like drug use, early sexual activity and violent actions all decrease. We also know that maintaining good health, valuing diversity, success in

school and leading and helping others increase when these building blocks of development are in place.

How does Lions Quest Canada make this happen? We build community capacity around children and youth. We take the lead to bring our communities together. We use the same concepts that have been at the heart of our Lions Quest School-Based Programs for almost thirty years to reach out in support of our parents, our youth leaders, our coaches, our teachers, our agencies and other caring adults to use that same code of conduct - share - take turns - try hard - look after one another - encourage one another - respect one another - and that bullying will not be tolerated in our community.

---

## And the Winner Is ... The Drumbo Lions Club! The Lions Quest Promotional Contest

We were honoured to have the winning entry drawn by First Vice President **Barry Palmer** on Sunday, June 2, 2013 at the Lions Multiple District A Convention in Richmond Hill, Ontario.

Our Board Chair **Bruce Murray** paid a visit to the lucky Lions upon his return from the Convention to share the good news. The Drumbo Club was chartered in 1956 and is part of District A15 (Ontario).

We extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the Clubs that took part in the Promotional Contest - your support continues to make a difference and is essential for reaching more children and youth across Canada.

Watch for the next issue of The Update for details on our next promotional contest which will offer you a different way to go 'cruising'!

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## A June Graduation: A Lions Legacy

This June's graduation of two Lions of Canada DogGuides had a dual meaning for the Beamsville Burton family: providing assistance and support to individuals in need and establishing a legacy on behalf of a father and brother.

As a proud member of the **Beamsville Lions Club**, when **Horace Burton** passed away last year his bequest was to provide assistance to those in need through one of the many Lions Clubs International programs: DogGuides through the Lions Foundation of Canada. During the family discussions that followed, Horace's daughter Donna chose the sponsorship of two specific DogGuide assistance areas.

Special Skills Dog 'Effie' will be providing Katie with a renewed sense of safety and independence by performing a wide range of daily tasks (opening doors and retrieving objects).

Autism Assistance Dog 'Colt' will be with Andrea and her family by providing safety, companionship and

unconditional love to a young family member who has been diagnosed with autism.



*Pictured left to right: Standing - Donna, John, Ruth and Doug Burton; Seated: Katie, Effie, Colt and Andrea. John Burton (2nd from left) is currently fostering his 8th DogGuide puppy*

## Orangeville Lions Club

On June 8 the Orangeville Lions SportsPad was officially opened. With the support of fifteen local businesses and the Trillium Foundation, the Orangeville Lions Club were able to construct an outdoor sports facility. Factoring in volunteer labour by the Orangeville Lions, this facility cost \$250,000.00. The Town of Orangeville Staff defeated the Orangeville Lions Club in their first annual ball hockey challenge by a score of 3-2.

*Submitted by PDG Wayne White*



# A Lion Gives Us Sight

If you can see and have ever bowled, have you tried to imagine what it might be like to bowl but unable to see?

**Lion Bill Sowrey** of the **Garden City Lions Club** has. And he wants us all to be able to experience what it is like! Here, in his own words, is how it came to be.

*My name is Bill Sowrey, and I am visually impaired. I helped organize a sight awareness bowl-a-thon with the help of my wife Linda, and the Garden City Lions and Merriton Lions. The reason why I did this was to educate people to what visually impaired and blind people have to live with. When totally sighted people put on the special glasses, they become visually impaired for 2 hours while they bowl. Someone who is visually impaired or blind has to live with the problem 24 hours a day. In the last 3 years of putting on the sight awareness bowl-a-thon we have raised \$18,000 with all proceeds going to the Lions Foundation Dog Guide School in Oakville.*

Lion Bill is an amazing person, a tireless worker in everything he does. He is a modest man who shuns praise for himself. He and **Lion Linda** are a team; they have a saying which is not "why" but rather, "why not?"

Lion Bill has been elected as president of our club for 2013-14 and I can't wait to see what he'll have us doing this coming year. *Submitted by Lion Larry Rendall*



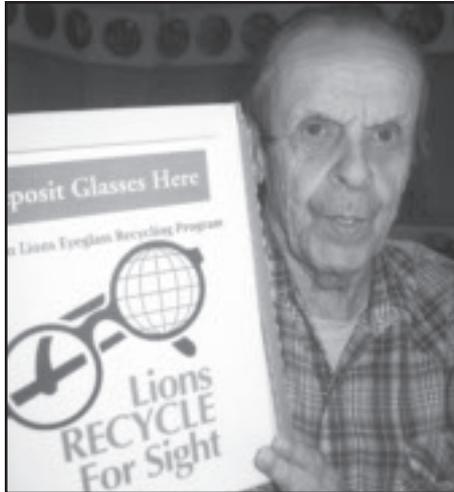
# Eyeglasses

he is again' and I enjoy it. It's something that needs to be done."

Gardner, who joined **Bradford Lions** in 1952, has no idea how many eyeglasses he's collected but figures it is well over 100,000 pairs. Some of those glasses have gone to the optometry school in Waterloo and others are distributed across Canada and around the world to people who can use them.

At one time, optometrists would evaluate the lenses and catalogue the strength, eventually matching up a person with a need to the right prescription. Today, the frames are the most valuable part. Lenses can be ground to the right strength, even in the field.

"I think we are collecting more glasses today than ever before," Gardner said.



**Don Gardner, who turned 87 in May, has been collecting eyeglasses for more than 60 years, dating back to his joining Bradford Lions in 1952. He's been a Simcoe Lion since 1963 and estimates he has picked up more than 100,000 pairs for future use**

**Lion Don Gardner** has been collecting old eyeglasses for as long as he can remember.

Gardner, a retired math and guidance head at Simcoe Composite School, began collecting used eyeglasses soon after moving to Simcoe in 1963. He retrieves the spectacles from various pharmacies and optometric centres for future use as a reclamation project by **Simcoe Lions**.

"**Bill Foster** would go around and collect them one month and I would do the next," Gardner recalled from the early days of the project. "I go to 11 different places to pick them up now."

"They get to know me and they will say 'Well, here



**Simcoe Lions George Jacob, Fred Kent and David Walker spent an afternoon sorting through used eyeglasses. Club members get together three or four times a year to package up recycled glasses for future use**

## MDA Directory Information

### Council of Governors' Meeting Dates

- Council Meeting: September, 6/7, 2013
- Council Meeting: November, 1/2 2013
- Council Meeting: February 28/March 1, 2014
- Council Meeting Convention: May 2-4, 2014

### District Conventions

Dist	Location	Date
A1	Holiday Inn, Sarnia	April 4-5, 2014
A2	Holiday Inn & Suites, St. Catharines	March 28-30, 2014
A3	Ambassador Conference Resort, Kingston	April 11-13, 2014
A4	Brookstreet Hotel, Ottawa	April 11-13, 2014
A5	Radisson Hotel, Sudbury	April 11-13, 2014
A711	Delta Meadowdale Conference Centre, Mississauga	April 11-13, 2014
A9	Holiday Inn Express, Kincardine	April 4-6, 2014
A12	Deerhurst Resort, Huntsville	May 2-4, 2014
A15	Holiday Inn, Guelph	April 11-13, 2014
A16	Quality Inn, Oshawa	April 12-13, 2014

## IMPORTANT DATES

### MDA Convention

2013/14 Deerhurst Resort, Huntsville, ON May 2 - 4, 2014

### International Conventions

97th	Toronto, Canada	July 4 - 8, 2014
98th	Honolulu, Hawaii	June 26 - 30, 2015
99th	Fukuoka, Japan	June 24 - 28, 2016
100th	Chicago, Illinois, USA	June 30 - July 4, 2017

### USA - Canada Forum

Sept. 19 - 21, 2013	Overland Park, Kansas
Sept. 18 - 21, 2014	Puerto Rico
Sept. 2015	Grand Rapids



# Lions Quest - Did you know?

Having personally experienced (and still experiencing) the challenges to which our youth are exposed, several months ago I wrote a short article on the Lions Quest program and explained that the program is no longer entirely dependent on school boards for achieving its aims as community workshops can go a long way into filling the void.

The purpose of this message is to explain that there are two distinct aspects related to the funding of the Lions Quest Program in Canada. The first is the continuing funding support required to organize and hold the workshops that actually teach and inform the schools and the interested public on how to respond to the challenges of our youth.

The second, and at this stage the most important, is to ensure that the program in Canada is fully functional and sustainable. For a variety of reasons the program suffered a shortfall in its operational budget and experienced a debt of some \$450,000. A lot of this was due to the royalties charged by LCI in providing materials and subsequent negotiations have eliminated this item. There were some issues with managing the program and both of these have subsequently been addressed and solved. To assist in reaching this goal a loan was approved by MD"A" in the amount of \$75,000 to pay off outstanding taxes and staff salaries. This too has subsequently been eradicated thanks to the 2012-2013 Council of Governors and the overall debt as of this date is now reduced to less than \$100,000.

While clubs and districts have supported the workshops with donations over the past 15-years a

critical aspect has been neglected and that is the Lions Quest operational program, which requires operational dollars for marketing and program support. When the program started the revenue from workshops was sufficient to cover all of these costs, but with fewer workshops and significantly lower fees for the workshops, the dollars invested in local training for schools and communities just cover the hard costs to deliver them.

The shortfall is the dollars required to promote the work that will be accomplished through workshops and Lions should be aware just what is involved (travel, purchase of promotional material, videos, website). The District Lions Quest chairs need financial support with presentation material and training. Since Lions are the primary sales-force at the community level, ways are needed to reach out to those communities without clubs, as well as provincial and national governments and organizations. We as Lions should be proud of the work we do through Lions Quest and we need to make this known.

It also takes funding to ensure the programs stay current – investing in developing new training models, providing Canadian supplements to the US material, producing documents that show how our school programs match the curriculum mandates in every province, and ideally better use of technology (online curriculum and training), and we need to support our trainer network – ensuring they are kept up to date with the latest research and training models.

Lastly the Lions are asked to support and connect with the 50,000 plus people who have been to one of

our workshops or conferences – ensuring they are aware of new material and answering questions they may have about our programs when they implement them in their schools and communities.

In summary to do all of this, funding is required to keep the office open, the lights on, the phones answered, the material shipped, the website up to date, the photocopier filled with paper, and update our 10 year old computers.

I would be the first to admit that one's direct interest in a particular Lions program can be closely linked to personal experiences within their own family circle. Perhaps a selfish attitude and one of which I am entirely guilty. It has therefore encouraged me to try to make Lions aware of the type of funding support that is required to maintain Lions Quest Canada as a viable program. If no other message is offered, a donation to Lions Quest is an investment, it has helped numerous children overcome the adverse pressures that they are exposed to as part of their daily lives. A program as Lions we should be proud to add our name.

My personal message to all Lions is that when reviewing your annual club budgets, please be aware that the Lions Quest program comprises a double-edged need, one to fund community workshops and the other for general program support. Without support for each, Lions are in danger of losing one of the most important opportunities to support and invest in our youth.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Yours in Lionism.

Lion Dave Voisey

## Galt Cambridge Lions Club

**PID Lion Art Woods** inducted 3 Past District Governor's wives into the Galt Cambridge Lions Club at their June 18th Partners' Night

From left: Past International Director Art Woods, **Lion Denise Daniels**, Sponsor **Lion John Atkins**, **Lion Afua Ayim**, Sponsor **District Governor Daniel Ayim**, **Lion Charlotte Gamble**, Sponsor **International Counselor Don Gamble**



## Coboconk Lions Park Getting New Facelift

Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott joined members of the **Coboconk and District Lions Club** to survey the improvements made to the park thanks in part to a \$148,600 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Coboconk Lions Park is getting much needed renovations, to enhance the park and increase its use for all community members.

The Coboconk and District Lions Club have embarked on a very ambitious plan to renovate the Lions Park in Coboconk. A new skate board park has been installed and the beach area has been reclaimed with new sand added. In addition a fountain has been added to improve water quality and geese deterrent lights installed as well. The OTF grant is supporting Phase Two of the project, set to begin in the month of July. The additional funding will help to install two new picnic shelters, improved access points and an entrance gate. In addition, a 300 seat amphitheatre and stage for summer concerts will be installed in the park with the appropriate electrical requirements and a greatly improved landscaped environment for all to enjoy.

Established in 1953, the Coboconk Lions

Club's mission is to empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote understanding. The Club participates in ongoing fundraising activities and it supports individuals in need (e.g. fire victims, disabled), community youth (e.g. school breakfast program, bursaries, playground equipment, soccer program, etc.), and the community in general with capital projects such as the Coboconk Community Centre and the Coboconk Medical Centre.



Several Members of Coboconk and District Lions Club with Government Dignitaries

# Le Club Lions de Knowlton présente des avertisseurs de fumée aux élèves des deux écoles locales

Le Club Lions de Knowlton est fier de supporter le programme Anges Gardiens du Service de sécurité incendie de Lac-Brome. Ce programme vise notamment à voir à ce que soit installé dans les chambres à coucher de tous les étudiants de nos écoles, un avertisseur de fumée afin de leur procurer un maximum de protection surtout durant leur sommeil. Récemment le Club a fourni au programme 90 avertisseurs de fumée, qui sont équipés de piles intégrées bonnes pour dix ans, pour distribution aux enfants de la maternelle et aux nouveaux arrivants de l'École St-Édouard et du Knowlton Academy. Lors de la présentation aux élèves, le capitaine Hugo Brière du Service de sécurité incendie de Lac-Brome en a profité pour les sensibiliser à des consignes de sécurité et de prévention incendie. Il a aussi insisté sur l'importance

que chaque famille détermine un lieu de rencontre situé à une certaine distance de la maison en cas d'évacuation d'urgence. Le président du Club, **Winston Mason**, a profité de cet événement pour souligner la contribution de monsieur Brière, du directeur Pierre Laplante et des volontaires du Service de sécurité incendie et ainsi que des Premiers Répondants de Lac Brome au bien-être et à la sécurité de notre communauté.

Sur la photo : Lors de la présentation des avertisseurs de fumée à l'École St-Édouard. De gauche à droite, deuxième rangée Josée Vaillant, un parent, **Winston Mason**, président Club Lions Club, **Joan Treacy**, ex-président Club Lions Club, le capitaine Hugo Brière, du Service de sécurité incendie de Lac-Brome et premier répondant, à l'avant des nouveaux étudiants

de l'École St-Édouard avec leurs avertisseurs de fumée.



## HOW TO GET INTO THE LION Contact your District Reporter

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

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

*Lion John Daniels, Editor Lion Magazine* email: [mdathelionmag@hotmail.com](mailto:mdathelionmag@hotmail.com)

- |           |                     |   |
|-----------|---------------------|---|
| <b>A1</b> | Lion Shawn Davison  | email: <a href="mailto:shawnw@yaho.com">shawnw@yaho.com</a>                 |
| <b>A2</b> | Lion Wayne Scott    | email: <a href="mailto:w.scott@a2lions.org">w.scott@a2lions.org</a>         |
| <b>A3</b> | Lion Wilma Bush     | email: <a href="mailto:wilma.bush@sympatico.ca">wilma.bush@sympatico.ca</a> |
| <b>A4</b> | Lion Sandra Baldwin | email: <a href="mailto:slbaldwin@rogers.com">slbaldwin@rogers.com</a>       |
| <b>A5</b> | Lion Liam Brennan   | email: <a href="mailto:lembrennan@hotmail.com">lembrennan@hotmail.com</a>   |

- |             |                       |   |
|-------------|-----------------------|---|
| <b>A711</b> | Lion Jennifer Boyce   | email: <a href="mailto:bevin@hotmail.com">bevin@hotmail.com</a>           |
| <b>A9</b>   | Lion Al Leach PDG     | email: <a href="mailto:adleach@hotmail.com">adleach@hotmail.com</a>       |
| <b>A12</b>  | Lion Michelle Heyduk  | email: <a href="mailto:fredheyduk@hotmail.com">fredheyduk@hotmail.com</a> |
| <b>A15</b>  | Lion Nancy Ransom PDG | email: <a href="mailto:nransom@sentex.ca">nransom@sentex.ca</a>           |
| <b>A16</b>  | Lion Allan Argue      | email: <a href="mailto:allargu@persona.ca">allargu@persona.ca</a>         |

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### District Reporters

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Date of Change: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## MD "A" Lions Resource Centre Website

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

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

# D DARLINGINSURANCE

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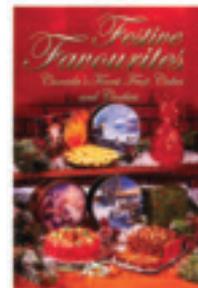
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# MDA 2013 Convention



We Serve



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