

L I O N



M.D. "A" Edition Mar/Apr 2012

www.lionsclubs.org

We Serve

International Convention – Busan, Korea





Lions International Youth Exchange

For almost 30 years, the **Dunnville Lions Club** has been sponsoring teens from abroad at their youth exchange camp, as well as sending local youth to similar camps in various countries in Europe. One is never sure just how much these experiences affect the attendees of these camps in terms of appreciation, tolerance, empathy and the disconnect of other cultures unfamiliar to such young people. They are a group of United Nations being thrust together to cope with differences such as language, zone specific cultural attitudes, urbanization or skin colour. Everything is a raw experience and affects their time together. A metamorphosis will happen in these young adults during those few short weeks. These are the type of changes that aren't as noticeable as weight loss/gain or the start of facial hair or a changing voice octave. The changes are subtle, not immediately evident, not even to themselves; but in hindsight are stellar, meaningful changes. Changes that enrich their lives and foster their understanding and perspective of other cultures. Perhaps it is seeing things differently, like wearing contact lenses most of the time you can't tell you have them on, but you know the changes are positive.

One camp member who attended the camp 28 years ago was Andrew Wright from nearby Fenwick. In his adult years, Andrew eventually married, raised two lovely daughters, moved to Newfoundland, and became a minister.

As a minister he was asked to lead a worship to honour Lions members that had passed on over the

years. One Lion commented that normally they only have speakers affiliated with the Lions in some way, which is when Reverend Wright mentioned he had attended the Lions Youth camp in 1985. A bond was formed and the reconnection began.

Spurred on by his past memories, Andrew took the initiative to contact and visit with **Bill Evers** who was involved with the camp at that time. They enjoyed an afternoon this past summer, reminiscing and reflecting on their shared memories.

In his words "If the camp had not meant anything to me, I would not have remembered Bill", who surprisingly, he found was still an active member of the Dunnville Lions Club at the age of 98. In 2008 the St Catharines Lions International Exchange Camp was re-named the Bill Evers Friendship Youth Camp, to honour the years he was personally involved in organizing the youth groups.

Andrew's recollection of past events were both humorous and insightful. Not being able to learn to waltz... even from someone from Vienna, raccoons visiting their tent at night, being late for the bus leaving for Niagara Falls, enduring Bill's wrath for doing so, as well as a short term, long distance romance, were some of the highlights that came to mind. His 18th birthday was celebrated during his stay at the camp. Andrew can't remember the specific moments or just how the camp influenced him, but it did have an enormous impact. He confirmed "It was a huge part of growing up and who I was to become". He still has the postcards and letters as well as the yellow and purple T-shirt given to all participants who came from as far away as Denmark, Austria, Italy, Iceland and Mississippi.

Andrew describes himself as someone who was

rather shy and did not participate in enrichment or leadership courses but was an average student at the time. However; he went on to obtain three advanced degrees in later years. By this time, many of his unanswered teenage questions had been addressed. Grateful for the opportunity and the lasting effects it had; he suggests that "Possibly the group singing 'Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me'...with a bunch of young adults from around the world, is what has kept the peace that is in our own worlds....or perhaps it's just one of those things that you can't quite put your finger on." The experience was priceless and the benefits of those friendships continue into the future.

To quote Helen Keller: "The highest result of education is tolerance." "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

submitted on behalf of Lion Bill Evers by his daughter Gerrie Burnett

Editor's note: Lion Bill Evers passed away after sending me this article. Lion Bill will always be remembered for the Memorial Crosses he made for some of our Districts.



Lion Bill Evers, Andrew Wright, his wife Sharon and daughters Jennifer and Emily

120 Years of Lionism

The **New Hamburg Lions**, at their dinner meeting on March 8, 2012, honoured four of their members with a Melvin Jones Fellowship Award and lapel pin. The four recipients have been very active in our club. They have taken part in all of our club activities as well as serving in the capacities as presidents, secretaries and chairmen of special committees. Amazingly, our four honourees have amassed a total of 120 years of

service to New Hamburg and our surrounding communities.



left to right Lion Hans Lass, Lion Kevin Williams, Lion Jim Miller and Lion Henry Simon

Photo submitted by Lion Jim Bishop

Callander Lions Club

The Callander Lions are proud to welcome two new members, **Lion Janet Harris** and **Lion James Ecker**. Their induction was performed by Z.C. 17C **Lion Raymond Weiler**.



left to right: Lion Patti Harris, Lion Janet Harris, Z.C.17C Lion Raymond Weiler, Lion James Ecker, PDG Lion Maurice Turgeon



Front cover: The iconic Diamond Bridge snakes through Busan.

Photo from Lions International magazine Feb 2012

THE Lion



We Serve

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

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Lions Demonstrate the Power of Belief

One of my goals as international president is to meet club presidents. To date, I've been privileged to meet with 7,000 of them from dozens of nations. Are you impressed? Well, as I like to joke, I have only 38,000 more to go!

Those numbers attest to the size and scope of our association. But numbers can't match what is in the heart. The heart of a Lion is what makes us special. We believe we can make a difference in people's lives. Our belief in We Serve is enabling us to bring happiness and opportunity to others.

The power of our belief is why I decided against revising my goal to plant 1 million trees. Since we smashed that goal long ago, good-hearted Lions ask me, "Should a new target be set?" I've been telling Lions they've not only planted trees but planted a seed in their heart. Lions believe as never before, and the new target is hidden in their hearts. Lions will decide how far we go with the tree planting. Let's continue to

plant trees and demonstrate to one another and the entire world the power of belief and the power of we.

In these next few months until the end of this Lions year, please also continue to invite people to be Lions, to partner with Leos on projects and to nurture young people, our most precious resource. Most of all, resolve to care for fellow Lions like family members. At club meetings ask them how they and their family are. Visit or call when they are sick. Look for job leads if they are unemployed. The strength of our association is a result of the warm relationships among Lions. The more we care for one another the more we will retain our members and serve together effectively. If Lions can help others, we definitely can help Lions, too. That's what being a family is all about.

I invite you to witness and enjoy the Lions' family when we gather in great numbers in June at the international convention in Busan, Korea. We will reveal the final tally of trees planted as well as engage

in all the wonderful traditional events such as the flag ceremony, the parade and the swearing-in of the new president. Lions will show one another the power of belief and the power of "we."



Wing-Kun Tam
Lions Clubs International
President

Wing-Kun Tam
Lions Clubs International President

Trees Sprout Across the Globe

Maybe worldwide sales of shovels and spades jumped a bit this year. Around the globe Lions planted trees, beautifying communities, cleansing the air and soil, and responding in overwhelming numbers to International President Wing-Kun Tam's goal to plant 1 million trees.

Lions in Liberia planted 200 trees, symbolizing each club member. Members of three Saipan Lions clubs in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands planted

three dozen trees at the Lao Lao Bay, a valuable marine ecosystem endangered by erosion. Rededicating the Melvin Jones Memorial in Fort Thomas, Arizona, Lions improved the grounds with six saplings. Scarborough Lions in England planted a beautiful ornamental cherry tree to cheer patients and visiting families at Scarborough Hospital.

Two of the most notable tree-planting efforts involved Lions in Kenya and India. Kenyan Lions are partnering with the Aga Khan Development Network to plant 1.5 million trees. In southern India, in a mammoth one-day

blitz in August, Lions in Multiple District 324 planted 3.4 million trees.

As of March 1, Lions had planted 6,786,015 trees this Lions year. President Tam will reveal the final tally in June at the 95th International Convention in Busan, Korea. Lions then can breathe a little easier, knowing they fulfilled this service mission and because, well, it will be easier to breathe thanks to the trees' oxygen production.

Lions At Full Throttle as a 'Green Machine'

A Chinese proverb advises us to keep a green tree in our hearts and perhaps a singing bird will come. As we reach the last few months of this Lions year, I can say with certainty that we Lions have planted millions of green trees, our hearts and minds are full of belief and goodwill toward others, and "singing birds" in the form of beautiful landscapes, purer air and protection of soil and wildlife will descend on all corners of the globe. The trees we have planted are the result of the power of "We Believe."

We have planted 6,786,015 trees this Lions' year as of March 1. In many instances, our plantings were especially meaningful and poignant to our communities. For instance, Prattville Lions in Alabama planted 250 seedlings at a mobile home park where four people were killed by a tornado, and San Bruno Lions in California replanted California black oak trees in a canyon where a fire destroyed nearly 40 homes. Lions are not planting trees to merely meet a goal or compile an impressive statistic but we are responding to the needs of our communities. We are planting seeds of healing as well as health and well-being.

April is the time of Earth Day, and in the Northern Hemisphere the earth reawakens and brings us the glory of spring. Now is the time to keep picking up our shovels and beautifying and healing the planet. How much can we do? The answer is in your hearts, and

never underestimate the heart of a Lion. Our belief in our service mission and one another has propelled us into action. "I Believe" has become "We Believe." Our target rests in the hearts of all Lions. Let's see how high we can go!

We have been able to plant as many trees as we have because of our numerous partnerships. Lions in Kenya are partnering with the Aga Khan Development Network to plant 1.5 million trees, Lions in southern India planted 3.4 million trees with the help of several groups, and Lions in small towns and big cities in many nations are similarly working with others to beautify their neighborhoods. Lions roar loudest when we roar with others. That holds true not only with trees but also with our sight projects, disaster relief and youth programs. "We Believe" is so strong and powerful that it sweeps up others and channels their energies and resources to our goals. Let us continue to reach out to others and plant seeds of partnerships among goodhearted non-Lions.

Wing-Kun Tam
Lions Clubs International President



President Tam helps plant a tree in District O-4 in Argentina



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MARCH 2012 MEETING OF THE GOVERNORS COUNCIL



The third meeting of the 2011-2012 Council of Governors was held on March 3rd at the Howard Johnson Hotel in Markham. The following represents the topics of general interest raised during the meeting:

Administration – Interviews for the position of MDA Secretary will be held on March 24, in Markham. The successful candidate will be announced shortly thereafter.

Constitution & By Laws – As no changes were required or proposed to the MDA C&BL there will be no voting held at the MDA Convention.

Convention Advisory – The Friday night entertainment activity at Fort George is now confirmed and other major changes being a General Business Session which will include a 2014 Convention briefing to be held immediately following the Opening Ceremonies. Saturday will comprise a reduced number of information sessions and morning entertainment event sponsored by the International Advisory Committee. The Youth presentations will take place on Saturday afternoon.

Convention Ad Hoc Committee – Governors approved the recommendation that a condensed MDA convention program will be implemented for 2014 and be held at the normal timeframe (late May/early June).

Convention 2014 – The committee met with LCI and the planning continues to progress in accordance with the projected implementation plan. PDG Derek Bloomfield has returned to his duties on the committee and the services of a Chartered Accountant are still being sought. A 2014

Convention briefing will be held at the MDA Convention and a potential conflict with the Lions Parade and the Gay Pride International Parade has been averted. The winner of the Toronto Maple Leafs Hockey Ticket Draw was L. M. Burney from the Hickson LC.

Diabetes – Lions are asked to support the fundraising for the Lions Education and Health project at Camp Huronda.

International Advisory – LCI 1st Vice President Lion Wayne Madden has been confirmed as the International Guest at the 2012 MDA Convention in Niagara Falls.

LCIF Promotion – The Canadian Government had approved the Lions of Canada Fund for LCIF as a charitable organization authorized to provide tax receipts for individuals donating money to LCIF. Personal donation cheques can be sent to Lions of Canada Fund for LCIF, Barrhaven RO, PO Box 89059, Nepean, Ont. K2J 0R2. PCC Dave Voisey has been appointed as the fund administrator.

Lions Quest – The second (and final) installment on the \$75,000 MDA loan will be paid at the MDA convention. The Lions of Western Canada have now started to financially support the program. Work is underway to develop a LCIF Core 4 grant application. The Lions Quest program continues to require the financial support from all Lions Clubs in MDA.

Opportunities for Youth – The MDA Effective Speaking competition, hosted by District A2 and held in St.

Catharines this year will be held May 11-13, 2012. The Leo Conference is confirmed for May 25-27, 2012 to be held in Markham. The MDA Peace Poster winner is Diana Lawryshyn from District A-16.

Promotion – Busan, Korea – the MDA Breakfast has yet to be confirmed. The MDA contingent in the Parade which starts at 10:00 am on Saturday June 23 is number 89 in the entries and the Canadian Caucus meeting is scheduled for 3:00 pm also on the 23rd with room and location to be advised.

Research & Long Range Planning – Terms of reference for a special Ad Hoc Committee to review the format of the MDA Effective Speaking program was approved with a final report to recommend adjustments to the program to ensure relevance and affordability will be due by the time of the MDA Convention.

MDA Council Chair for 2012-2013 – District Governor Bradd Anderson from District A-2 was elected as the incoming Council Chair for 2012-2013

For more information, questions or concerns relating to these highlights please contact MDA Secretary Dave Voisey at email: secretary@mdalions.org or telephone: 613-843-1687.

FOR THE RECORD
As of October 31, 2011, Lions Clubs International has 1,355,532 members in 46,355 Clubs and 747 Districts in 208 Countries.

Relive History at the Rainbow Convention

The committee in charge of Rainbow '12 has proposed that at our Convention, attendees, at their discretion, may dress in the manner of British Upper Canada circa 1812. This would include breeches, waistcoats, cutaways and also kilts. Ladies could dress in feminine attire of the period. This outfit could be worn at any time during the convention where it is deemed suitable. We are planning a "Fashion Show" Friday night during the intermission.

If you have such attire bring it and wear it. It will add to the fun we hope to create.

This idea has been presented to the Governors Council and the MDA Convention committee. It was well received.

LET'S DO IT

Hand weapons and firearms are forbidden (excepting the sgian dhub).

submitted by Convention Chair PDG Pete Bissonnette

Help Wanted

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

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



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Changing Lives Through Our Foundation

LCIF 2010-2011 Annual Report

Last year, thanks to the widespread generosity and caring from 1.35 million Lions worldwide and Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), millions of people were helped and millions of lives were changed across the globe. The following is just a few examples of the good work accomplished and lives changed.

Changing Lives in Japan

When the earthquake and tsunami struck Japan last March, many lives were devastated. But with an outpouring of donations to LCIF totaling more than \$21 million, Lions responded quickly.



"In the middle of the devastation, the Lions were ready to help people in the worst condition," said Lion Eigo Motohiro Oono of District 330-C, Japan.

One year later, the people of Japan have made great strides, but are still coping with one of their nation's worst disasters. Having Lions Quest in place in Japan allowed LCIF to immediately help more than 1,000 students in the Sendai region in coping with the tragedy. Eight Lions Quest workshops were held for 160 participants to help develop social and emotional skills.



Feeding refugees in Japan



Japanese-American club collecting in New York

Changing Lives Through Lions Quest

All over the world, LCIF is helping Lions create a brighter future for 12 million young people and counting through Lions Quest. A research-based program, Lions Quest has drawn rave reviews from educational organizations and governments. The curriculum helps foster important life skills, healthy attitudes, strong character, positive relationships and active citizenship. Seventy countries around the world are now implementing the Lions Quest program with 500,000 teachers trained. Growth was a key focus of the program last year, and, as a result, the program expanded to six new countries and new regions worldwide.



25 countries participated in regional trainings on four continents in 2010-2011

Our Impact:

- 14 percent overall increase in grade point average of students in Lions Quest programs
- 25 countries participated in regional trainings on four continents in 2010-2011
- 47 states in the United States are teaching life skills through Lions Quest; Montana and Alabama began the program this year
- 50 percent increase in graduation rates at Tilden High School in the Chicago Public Schools, Illinois, in the first year of using Lions Quest

"I know myself better, and in this way I am more independent," said Caterina Marangon, a student from Italy who has participated in Lions Quest. *"I know how to make my own choices and am able to say no to drugs, alcohol, bullying and other things I don't want to be involved in."*



Changing Lives Through Rebuilding Communities

Japan was not the only region of the world to experience tragedy this past year. Lions rose to the challenge with an enormous outpouring of generosity to those in need.

Some examples of Lions' work after an earthquake hit Christchurch, New Zealand, in February 2011 include:

- Providing support through social services
- Counseling and providing therapeutic activities for victims, especially for children



- Operating water stations and relief centers, delivering hot meals, bottled water, groceries and fuel vouchers, and going door-to-door to deliver supplies

In Haiti, relief continues two years after the earthquake. Examples of projects include:

- Homes for 600 Haitian families are being built as part of an initiative between LCIF, the Lions of MD 111 Germany and HELP, an international

non-governmental organization; the families moving into the homes were initially sheltered in Lions' three tent cities



- 400 additional homes are being built, along with a community center to provide vocational training, in partnership with Food for the Poor
- 350 students annually will be able to study in the new National Nursing School of Port-au-Prince, a construction project in partnership with HumaniTerra International



"The Lions helped us regain our hope," said Immacula Simeon, a grandmother in Haiti.

Changing Lives Through Meeting Humanitarian Needs

Lions expanded upon their longstanding commitment to improving health and lives of youth by launching the Lions-Measles Initiative. A disaster strikes 450 children each day. This highly contagious, deadly disease can be prevented through a vaccination that costs less than \$1 per dose.



Pascaline Rasoanjanahary, a mother in Madagascar, heard of a vaccination campaign and knew that she needed to get her nine-month-old son Patrick vaccinated. *"I've witnessed a child with measles. I do not want this for my son. This vaccination is very important,"* said Rasoanjanahary.

As part of a successful pilot program, Lions and LCIF, with a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates

Foundation and support from local ministries of health and other Measles Initiative partners, provided immunizations and a chance at life for more than 41 million children in Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mali and Nigeria. Since 2001, the Measles Initiative has vaccinated 1 billion children, preventing more than 5 million deaths.

In the next year, the program and partnership will expand to help millions more children worldwide



Measles Initiative



Chairperson with children at an immunization event

through One Shot, One Life: Lions Measles Initiative. As our efforts expand, Lions have the opportunity to help children in all countries where measles remains a heavy public health burden. LCIF and its partnership with the Measles Initiative aim to vaccinate 157 million more children in the upcoming year.

Other examples of humanitarian efforts last year include:

- 768 people provided hearing aids through the Lions Affordable Hearing Aid Project (AHAP)
- 200,000 athletes helped through 10 years of Opening Eyes, a partnership program with Special Olympics providing free vision screenings and eyeglasses to athletes around the world



Changing Lives Through Saving Sight



Piyadasa Hewavithana, a 63-year-old temporary worker in Sri Lanka, had his life changed by Lions. *"Before I was almost blind; no one wanted to employ me,"* said Hewavithana. *"The Lions arranged for me to be taken to a Lions Hospital. I do not have the words to thank everyone. I can now see. Lions' timely intervention saved my sight."*

Preventing vision loss and restoring sight has been at the core of Lions service since the organization was founded. Lions have mobilized \$415 million through two fundraising campaigns in support of the global SightFirst program, launched in 1991. This year, the program celebrates 20 years of saving sight and preventing blindness in underserved areas worldwide.

Lions' efforts are having a great impact. Lions and SightFirst have helped to eliminate onchocerciasis from Colombia, reduce the backlog of cataract in India and China, halt the spread of trachoma in Ethiopia and improve access to eye care around the world. With funds raised through Campaign SightFirst II, Lions are increasing programs to fight new and emerging threats to sight, while funding new projects aimed at research and rehabilitation.

Some of SightFirst's many successes include:

- 30 million people with improved vision through screenings, eyeglasses and follow-up care or surgery for those who need it
- 9 percent reduction in blindness and visual impairment globally, or 26 million people, since 2004, according to a 2010 study by the World Health Organization
- 121 million children protected from blindness through the childhood blindness prevention program in partnership with the World Health Organization



Changing Lives Worldwide

As the official charitable organization of Lions Clubs International, LCIF supports Lions' great work through numerous grants for projects focused on serving youth, providing disaster relief, combating diseases and preserving sight.

Last year, LCIF had a great impact in lives around the world through numerous grants. Some examples include:

- 2,064,829 people with saved or restored sight through 45 SightFirst grants totaling \$12.39 million
- 1,141,837 people have a brighter tomorrow through 136 standard grants totaling \$6.17 million
- 250,000 youth learning valuable life skills through 38 Lions Quest grants totaling \$1.67 million
- More than 75,777 people have clean water and access to health care through 28 International Assistance grants totaling \$377,026
- 70,850 people were provided with blankets, clothing, water, food and medicine through 200 emergency grants totaling \$1.69 million
- Lions worldwide volunteered an estimated 35 million hours, helping more than 350 million people

In fiscal year 2010-2011, LCIF received \$48 million in donations, a \$13 million or 40 percent increase in donations over the previous year! As a result, LCIF was able to award \$38.6 million for 519 grant projects in fiscal year 2010-2011.

These projects would not be possible without your help. The ones highlighted in this magazine are just a few examples of the work done all over the world last year. Thank you, Lions, for your support!

Read the complete annual report and more stories online at www.lcif.org. You can help support LCIF with a donation at www.lcif.org/donate.

Message from the LCIF Chairperson Bridging Our Helping Hands with Those in Need

Dear Lions,

I hope as you read the stories and examples of LCIF in action, you were inspired and honored to be a Lion, as I was. Remember that these are just a few examples of our work; our impact affects millions of people worldwide!

If you had asked me in July 2010 how I felt about being Chairperson of Lions Clubs International Foundation, I would have said I am proud and grateful. Our Foundation is at the heart of Lions Clubs International, the largest service organization in the world. We are giving happiness, and we are giving the opportunity for improved lives in every part of the world.

While all of that is true, a year later, my answer is more complex and filled with the sensations of experiencing our Foundation through the eyes and souls of those we have helped.

Margit and I are forever thankful for the many touching moments we experienced last year. The

smiles on all these faces we have touched will forever remain with us. One of these touching moments was in November when I was in Madagascar for our Lions-Measles Initiative pilot program and met Marie. She smiled and thanked me for this life-saving vaccine for her son! Another was in New Zealand in February when I went door-to-door with Lions to deliver water, which the people were so grateful for that they wanted to pay us!

Our partnerships are also a key to our success. You've read about some of our work with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to prevent measles, but they are just one of many important partners.

None of this would be possible without your continued support.

Think of those around the world you've impacted, and remember that you are bridging our helping hands to those in need. I know I can count on you to help us as we continue to grow. Ours is a bright future, full of hope and smiling faces. Together, we can meet even more needs and change even more lives.

With my cordial regards,



Eberhard J. Wirfs
Chairperson 2010-2011



60 Years a Lion

On January 17th 2012 the **Galt Cambridge Lions Club** hosted a 60th Anniversary Celebration in honour of **International Counselor Don Gamble** who started his career as a Lion as a charter member of the **Granby, Quebec Lions Club** in 1952.

Family, friends, and guests all gathered together to pay tribute to Lion Don for his many years of service. Among the speakers that evening were **PID Carl Young** who presented Lion Don with his 60 year chevron, **PID Art Woods** gave him and his wife Charlotte the International President's Certificate of Appreciation, his worship the Mayor of Cambridge Doug Craig presented him with a framed certificate from the City

for his work in making the community a better place to live, **DG Norma Peterson** bestowed him with International President Wing-Kun Tam's pin, and our **Lion Chief John Hynes** awarded him with a gift of a new pen as Lion Don continually loses his. His wife Charlotte also presented him with a T-shirt bearing the inscription "I am a Lion proudly active for 60 years - 2012".

I don't think many Lions ever achieve this level of service in the volunteer sector. Sixty years is certainly something to be very proud of. Lion Don can be used as an example for our new Lions to follow, a hard act to follow, a record that will indeed be hard to match.



PID Carl Young, IC Don Gamble, PID Art Woods

submitted by *Lion Louise Reeve*



We Serve

'Water is Life'

Lions Prevent Death and Disease by Providing Clean Water

by Jay Copp

The wind howls and sand swirls in Dissan, a rural village in Mali. Scattered huts dot the dry, forbidding land. Each morning, hundreds of women fight the wind to trudge as much as four miles under a searing sun. Temperatures often soar well beyond 100 degrees. The women determinedly make their way to the heart of village life—a crude, uncovered water well.

Using a donkey and a pulley system, the women hoist murky brown water from an aged pit. It takes an arduous hour to fill a rusted 42-gallon barrel. The women dip their pots into the communal barrel and slowly trek home with the water their families need for drinking, cooking, cleaning and bathing. The wearying water mission is repeated day after day without fail.

One of the women of Dissan who frequented the well for decades was Miriam, a mother of six. Like the other 1,000 villagers, she and her husband cultivate corn, raise chickens, live in a simple thatched hut and fear the day they may have to bury one or more of their children. Like many other water sources in Mali, Dissan's 90-foot open well was easily contaminated. Twenty percent of children in Mali do not reach the age of five. As elsewhere in impoverished nations, water-related disease proves deadly for many. Diarrhea is the second leading cause of death among children under five globally. It kills more young children than AIDS, malaria and measles combined.

Miriam and her husband labor hour after hour in the fields and at home to stave off hunger, disease and death. "She told me she can't go to sleep at night because her whole body hurts. It's a harsh life—the physical things they do to take care of their family," says **Dan Morris** of Chicago, who was in Dissan last year. "I kept thinking to myself, what if this were my mother, my grandmother?"

Morris graciously shared the local food villagers cooked for him but prudently stuck with bottled water instead of imbibing the discolored well water. Despite precautions, the water can become contaminated with human and animal excretions.



A crew digs the new well for Dissan, Mali

Photo by Dan Morris

The 2010-11 president of the **Chicago Windy City Lions Club**, Morris traveled to Dissan to oversee the drilling of a borehole. With help from LCIF, his club worked with Mali Lions to hire workers to drill a more

sanitary, more centrally located covered well operated with a pump. A harsh life for 1,000 people got considerably less burdensome. The threat of life-threatening water-related disease diminished. With more improvements, the villagers can irrigate their crops and prevent hunger and malnutrition.



Retrieving water from the old well in Dissan was laborious, and the water was often unsafe

Photos by Dan Morris

Villagers cried in joy when the water flowed from the new well. Morris, a 42-year-old cameraman who shot the BP oil spill and has covered other serious and dramatic events, wiped away tears, too. "It was a life-changing experience for me as well as for them. They have a hard life and it starts with water. They told me, 'If there is no water, there is no life,'" says Morris.



A well in Mali provided by Lions delivers the goods

Photo by Dan Morris

The well in Mali was one of the first projects for the Windy City Lions, chartered in 2008. Members wanted to make a big impact right away. Many other clubs, often aided by LCIF, also have chosen projects related to clean water or sanitation. Clubs drill boreholes, install water purifying systems, upgrade sanitation and provide water storage. Raising monies through typical fundraisers, Lions are saving lives in impoverished villages and improving the quality of life.

Global Crisis

Abundant clean water is a given in countries such as the United States and Canada. All it takes to quench thirst, cook dinner or wash one's hands is a twist of a knob. The situation is much more problematic for people in developing nations. Nearly 1 billion people—almost one in eight people on earth—lack access to clean water. The scarcity of clean water results in an unfathomable disparity in lifestyle. An American uses more water in a five-minute shower than a typical person in a developing nation uses in a whole day. While Americans and others can take water for granted, those in developing nations must spend untold hours and exertion to secure water.



People in developing nations rely on water that often is contaminated. A boy relieves himself through a walkway 30 feet above a river in Dhaka, Bangladesh. A girl collects water from a river

Photos courtesy of Water.org

The toll of dirty water goes far beyond inconvenience, of course. More than 3.5 million people die each year from water-related diseases, according to Water.org, a nonprofit group founded by actor Matt Damon and Gary White and based in Kansas City, Missouri. Half of the world's hospital beds are normally occupied by patients suffering from

diseases associated with lack of access to safe drinking water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene.

Every day, robbing families of precious time in school or labor in fields, millions of women and children spend several hours collecting water, which is often polluted and unsafe. The diarrhea and other diseases caused by the dirty water, if not lethal, can nevertheless lead to malnutrition and stunt growth and development in children.

The situation could very well grow worse before it gets better. Adil Najam, the keynote speaker at the 2008 International Convention and a professor at Boston University, shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007 with Al Gore for their work on climate change. But Najam argues that most people don't realize the growing problem of access to clean water. "We talk about climate as an energy issue but climate will become a water issue," he told Lions. "The issue of the future is water. ... When we think of climate we think of energy and cars and how much oil they use. But when you think of the impact of climate change most of the issues in the immediate term will be about water."



Lions in Malaysia teamed up with Lions from Japan and LCIF to produce clean water for Toboon, a remote village. Lions built piping to fill water storage barrels (left photo). A woman in Toboon washes dishes with clean water, and a mother cleans her baby

Photos by Dan Morris

Most civil conflicts and wars between nations kill far less than dirty water. "As a professor of international relations, I do not know what to do about the gun," he said. "As a professor of the environment, I know what I can do about the tap. I know there are Lions in the world who can do something about the water that comes out of that tap. That tap can save lives—today right now, right here."

Lions Act

Jan Hult and **Mats Bucht** traveled from Sweden to Melela Village in Tanzania to be there the day the new water well was dedicated. Local authorities decided to make that day last March a holiday. The schools closed. Villagers sang and danced as part of a fiesta. Commissioner Fatma Mwassa ("a woman with power, elegance and authority," said Hult) cut the ceremonial ribbon and started the pump. Giddy villagers sprayed the water over the Swedish Lions and fellow residents of the village of 8,000.

The project of **Lions in District 101-S** in Sweden took two years and cost US\$60,000. The 253-foot well pumps 2,650 gallons of water per hour. The water is "in compliance with the regulations of drinking water—also according to Swedish standards," says Hult. Before the Lions arrived, the nearest well was a shallow one a half mile from the village that used a balky hand pump.

More than 50 percent of all water projects fail within a few years, according to Water.org. Villagers are never trained in running and maintaining a water system. A repair that's needed cripples the system. Swedish Lions formed the 11-person (10 are women) Melala Water Committee and trained them to operate the new system. To increase the villagers' pride and investment in the well, Lions had them clear the land, dig trenches and help build the system.

Lions also understood the potential undermining effect of poverty. Desperation sometimes leads to theft of metal and cables, sabotaging a water system, so Lions fenced in the well area, protected the well with concrete, placed the electrical system behind locked steel doors and even installed alarms and floodlights.

Hundreds of Lions clubs globally are improving access to clean water and bettering sanitation:

- The **Lagos Ikorodu Lions Club** in Nigeria drilled a borehole for 10,000 people in Oju Agemo.
- The **Durbanville Lions Club** in South Africa installed a tank at a school to correct a sewage problem.
- The signature project of **Lions in District 324 E4** in India is "Dew Drops for Life," installing bio-sand filters and water purifying systems at schools and orphanages.
- The **Chiangmai Wiangping** and **Chiangmai Sriwichai Lions** in Thailand collaborated to provide underground water for people at Bann Nambowluang.
- **Bella Vista Lions** in Argentina built and repaired wells in scores of rural communities.
- **Santo Domingo El Million Lions** in the Dominican Republic raised awareness about sanitation by distributing materials door to door and putting up posters on good hygiene practices in schools, churches and grocery stores.

For the **Durham City Lions Club** in England, a recent project in Tanzania was a way to honor a beloved neighbor and prevent schoolchildren and villagers from getting sick by unsanitary water. The club provided thousands of dollars to help finance four wells and latrines in Kivulini. The village's shallow wells had dried up. Women were forced to walk three hours every day to wells shared by cattle and wild

animals and likely contaminated. The new wells and latrines especially protected two nearby schools with 400 children each.



Lions supported a clean water project for Kivulini, Tanzania

Mary Pearce, the secretary of the Durham Lions Club, also served as secretary of Dorothy's Well Project. Dorothy, her neighbor, had died of breast cancer in 2006, and her husband, Jim, initiated the well project in honor of his late wife after he was shocked by the primitive water conditions while visiting Tanzania.

Pearce visited the village to check on the wells and scout sites for new wells. Schoolchildren and parents erupted in song when she entered their village in a minibus and jubilantly waved banana leaves. The women whisked her away to dance with them. "I had to be rescued by the school headmaster from these exuberant ladies," Pearce says.

LQ Showcases Water Projects

LQ-Lions Quarterly video magazine ran a segment on Lions' clean water projects in its January 2011 edition. The nearly four-minute segment is posted at www.lionsclubs.org.

Trenton Lions Club

Trenton Lions Club Secretary **Sharon Astle Manuel** and **President Art Folland** gave free mints to the public to promote Lionism at Smileys Independent Grocer in Trenton. A donation jar at the event also raised \$437.10 towards Track Quest, an initiative to refurbish the track at a local high school.



Recovery in Japan

Devastation and Deprivation Remain But Lions Help Speed Rebuilding After The Tsunami

from the Japanese LION Magazine

It was a chilly day. Some towns even had snowstorms when the huge, terrifying tsunami hit the coast of the Tohoku region a year ago on March 11. The survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami are pressing forward to rebuild the devastated communities, bearing up under the harsh winter climate.

About 116,000 people from 48,000 households are still residing in temporary housing as of December. That number soars to as many as 330,000 when evacuees who live in rented accommodation or in their relatives' homes are included. The evacuees live anxiously, not knowing when their ordeal will end.

The tsunami caused catastrophic damage to the region's main industries, including commercial fishing, and left many people jobless. Some left their hometowns to find work, raising concern that the disaster-afflicted communities will eventually crumble.

Three international directors from Japan, together with council chairpersons of the eight multiple districts in Japan and six district governors from Multiple District 332, formed a central committee called Support Team to coordinate Lions' relief efforts. Supported by LCIF, the team has provided relief for those affected and begun to rebuild communities.

"Although we may have a long and rough way ahead of us, we will do our best to identify needs of the devastated and make the most out of the generous support we have received from across the world," said **International Director Seiki Yamaura**, the Support Team leader.

In December, heated carpets and warm, thick blankets were distributed to about 1,500 households in Minami Sanriku, Miyagi Prefecture. The **Minami Sanriku Shizugawa Lions Club**, including **Lion Jin Sato** who is the mayor of Minami Sanriku, organized the project with LCIF support. Town officials sent out announcements with application forms to all households not located in the temporary housing. On the distribution day, grateful people stood in line from early in the morning to receive the supplies.



President Katsumi Kosaka delivers heated carpets for the victims of the tsunami

The supplies were for evacuees living in rented accommodations and those affected by the tsunami but still in their own homes. Unlike evacuees living in

government-owned temporary housing, these residents are not tracked by the government and have often been overlooked by the government and nonprofit groups.

President Katsumi Kosaka, who participated in the distribution, says, "Relief efforts like supply distribution and soup kitchens are usually organized for evacuation centers or for temporary housing complexes where they moved into from the centers. Those who stay in their own homes tend to be excluded from all the services and left underserved. The government is falling behind in action too. Many complain that they receive hardly any information, let alone supplies. For our relief project, we used postal services to reach these people. I believe this enabled the town to get a large picture of the residency situation, which hopefully will help further assistance in the future."

Other Lions clubs in the affected area are delivering heating equipment to temporary houses and at-home evacuees.



Members of Ishidoriya Lions Club in Iwate deliver rice to residents of temporary homes

Supported by a \$200,000 LCIF grant, Lions in Ishinomaki are building a community center equipped with coin-operated laundries. Even before the disaster, many of the affected communities were aging and depopulated. The elderly who live alone can easily get isolated from their community. By providing a common place for people to gather, Lions hope to prevent this isolation and help neighbors stay connected.

Kesennuma in Miyagi Prefecture is a leading port of Japan. The tsunami swallowed its streets and cast large fishing boats ashore. Oil leaking from the boats caused massive fires. About 70 percent of the restaurants in the city and almost all of the restaurants in Minami-machi area were washed away.

Fukko Yataimura is a project to reopen restaurants in makeshift premises in Minami-machi. City officials hope to create a hub where residents, fishery workers, tourists and visiting volunteer workers can come together to help revitalize the port city. Funded by a \$300,000 LCIF grant, **Lions of District 332-C** provided cooking appliances, and the Organization for Small and Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation erected the prefab structures. In November, 22

businesses opened including restaurants that serve sushi, tuna, ramen and udon noodles, fish dealers and groceries.



An LCIF grant made possible this restaurant equipment

The tsunami flattened the downtown area of Ofunato in Iwate Prefecture; 57 out of 60 restaurants of the Ofunato Eateries Union were swept away. The members of the Union wanted to start an extensive food mall but they had no resources. The business owners received advice from **District 332-A Governor Masahiro Nakai**, who had organized a food mall in Aomori Prefecture, and met with **District 332-B Governor Haruhiko Takahashi** to ask for help. Thanks to a \$235,000 LCIF grant, Lions provided burners, sinks, ice machines, refrigerators, freezers and workbenches, and the Union finally opened their food district.

"Opening is not our final goal," said **Yusuke Oikawa**, executive director of Ofunato Yataimura Limited Liability Partnership. "Our mission is to light up rayless Ofunato with the food mall, where community members can casually drop in and communicate with each other, bringing the city back to life. It has only begun."

Oikawa and the restaurant owners decided to form a branch club of **Ofunato Lions Club**.



Children who moved into Fukui Prefecture from the affected regions including Fukushima enjoy food provided by the Fukui Aoi Lions Club

Similar projects are under way in another part of Kesennuma, where 50 stores are forming a temporary shopping district, as well as in other cities such as Kamaishi and Rikuzentakata. Japanese Lions will apply for LCIF grants for these projects also to help the disaster victims restart their lives and revive their communities.

While tsunami-struck communities are moving forward to recovery, people in Fukushima Prefecture are still forced to live in fear and dread of the radiation hazard from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. More than 83,000 residents reportedly were evacuated from near the plant. In the surrounding towns, decontamination work is an urgent priority. Municipalities are conducting decontamination operations starting with schools and parks for children, but it is a slow process. In Koriyama, a major city near the evacuation zone, 110,000 of 130,000 households in the city are subject to decontamination, which will take an estimated five years to finish.

Given the situation, many people are attempting to do the decontamination themselves. To support them,

District 332-D Governor Zenkuro Kubota applied for \$130,000 in funding to purchase 200 high pressure washers. These washers would be distributed to clubs

so they can rent them out or install them in public facilities.



Office buildings in Minami Sanriku are ruined



The tsunami destroyed the Minamihama district of Ishinomaki

Lions on Location



Hammering Away for Others

If I had a hammer ... chances are I might be a Lion in Finland. Members of the **Luumäki Lions Club** built a log playhouse for a daycare center and repaired the roof of a sauna used by veterans.

Ten members took care of the sauna roof. "They were able to work fast—half of the crew was on the roof and half on the ground," says **Juhani Partanen**, a Lion since 2004.



Luumäki Lions build a log playhouse for children

The log playhouse was more involved. It took 200 volunteer hours over several days and 3,000 euros (US\$3,900) for the wood, two thirds of which came from the club and the rest from a Lions' foundation. "The end result was well worth the work. The children and teachers were very enthusiastic when they saw the finished playhouse," says Partanen.

Both projects were done during the warm summer months. The club ended the summer by harvesting 50 bundles of grain, to be sold at a Christmas market to benefit the poor.

Bull's-Eye on Diabetes

Diabetes is now a scourge in developing nations as fast food replaces traditional meals, and Lions in India, Malaysia and elsewhere are holding diabetes screenings and raising awareness of the disease.

Lions in eastern India marked World Diabetes Day (Nov. 14) by partnering with a diabetes center on screenings for diabetes and educational seminars. "Simple Indian food is the need of the hour," A.

Swetha, a dietician with the Diabetes Specialty Center, told attendees. "Parents also have a responsibility to see their children don't overeat, exercise properly and avoid junk food."



People in eastern India form a human blue circle, the universal symbol for diabetes, to mark World Diabetes Day. A diabetes center in India that Lions partner with organized the demonstration

Swetha advised attendees to "eat traditional food items like jawar, bajra, bananas and dried fruits and nuts like cashews, raisins and almonds so that insulin levels decrease. Western fast food is affecting the health of not only urbanites but also rural folks who are eating chips and burgers."

An estimated 285 million people, or 6.4 percent of the world's adult population, have diabetes, according to the International Diabetes Federation. The number is expected to grow to 438 million by 2030. Four out of every five people with diabetes now live in developing countries with most of them being of working age.



Malaysians celebrate World Diabetes Day in an event organized by the Kuala Lumpur North Lions Club

Lions in Peru Get Festive

Each spring in Trujillo, Peru's third-largest city, streets and homes fill with decorations. Bullfights, surfing contests and dance competitions occur. Troupes of schoolchildren dance in the street, and beauty queens from around the world, flanked by colorful drum majorettes, parade before a crowd of 200,000 people.

It's the International Spring Festival, created by Lions in Trujillo in 1950. The city of 810,000 has 17 Lions clubs, and Lions stage the festival to raise funds for their charitable work.

The 10-day festival offers more than 100 civic, cultural, artistic, sports and social events. It's held in late September (the beginning of spring in Peru).



Beauty queens are a staple of the International Spring Festival in Peru

Beauty queens from two dozen nations are a main attraction of the festival. They are featured in the mammoth festival parade, a loud, lengthy procession of spirited bands, serpentine conga lines and spectacular floats.

The festival highlights the marinera nortena, a romantic couples' dance with handkerchiefs that is the national dance of Peru.

Lions Blitz Homeowner With Kindness

Backyard Blitz is a popular TV show in Australia, and what Lions did for a family over a weekend was compared to that show by local media. Nearly 30 Lions and friends descended on a home headed by a single parent and renovated it while the father and his three children spent the weekend at a beach resort, courtesy of the Lions.

Lions painted rooms, hung curtains and even carved out a secure area under the house where the father could safely store his tools. The father has two daughters and an autistic son.

Members of the **Rockhampton, Rockhampton Fitzroy** and **Gracemere Clubs** did the work. Officials of the Family and Early Childhood Services agency had asked Lions to provide financial assistance to the family. Instead, Lions put in nearly 200 hours of volunteer labour.

When the family returned, “they were simply overwhelmed, overjoyed, blown away,” says Noel Baxter, who organized the service day. “In their words, ‘Lions are gods.’ What can we do to repay them?”

No payment was necessary. Instead, Lions planned to return to the home later to add a kitchen and put in a new floor.



Lions work at the home of a single parent

Monuments, Floods and Weddings: Korean Lions Step Up as Needed

Korean Lions will host tens of thousands of Lions worldwide at the 95th International Convention in June in Busan. Like Lions elsewhere, Korean Lions’ service runs the gamut. Osoo Lions in District 356 C shovel a trench to help rebuild a flooded area. They also distributed supplies and food to flood victims. Yungyang Lions in District 356 E mow the lawn at a national monument. Demonstrating that they love service, Lions in the Gunsan area in District 356 C hosted a marriage ceremony for 10 intercultural couples.



Lions in District 356 E mow the lawn at a national monument



Osoo Lions in District 356 C shovel a trench to help rebuild a flooded area



Lions in the Gunsan area in District 356 C hosted a marriage ceremony for 10 intercultural couples

Mountain Climb Becomes a Peak Experience

Cancer stole her vision when she was 1, but Severine Renard of Belgium flew to South Africa on her own and set off with others to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest point in Africa at nearly 20,000 feet. One of her guides was 57-year-old **Lion Alec Collier**, who held her hand, walked arm in arm with her or steadied her with the crook of his elbow. Collier fixed his gaze downward, telling Renard to step down or up and warning her of loose gravel, slippery boulders and low-hanging branches.

“I noticed that most of the blind persons lifted their feet higher than the sighted persons to avoid tripping over obstacles,” says Collier, an architectural draftsman. “Severine was quite tiny but extremely fit. I was extremely impressed with her courage.”

Lion Adrian Barnes guided Bryce Lindores, a blind Australian who won a bronze medal in cycling in the Beijing Paralympics. Barnes was struck by Lindores’ resolute, fearless independence and yet his complete openness toward others. “He was always asking questions and was honestly interested in what you had to say. That will stay with me forever—his absolute honesty and trust.” Their friendship blossomed despite a fierce sports rivalry. “We built up a good bond. You have to bear in mind that South Africa and Australia are bitter sporting rivals especially in rugby,” says Barnes, 48, a chief of fire and emergency services.

The two Lions from South Africa were among a 24-person expedition that reached the summit of Kilimanjaro. The group included seven blind climbers, the most ever to reach the summit together.

The trek in 2009 was led by Stephen Hilton-Barber of Australia and his father, dauntless adventurer Geoff Hilton-Barber of South Africa, who once sailed solo from his country to Australia. The non-sighted climbers included those blind from birth and those who

lost their sight later in life from accidents or illness.

Lion Alec Collier lives in Durban, as does the elder Hilton-Barber. Neither Collier nor Lion Adrian Barnes was an experienced climber. But the two Lions spent six days on the mountain guiding the vision-impaired climbers upward and living cheek-by-jowl with them.

During the ascent, paired with different blind climbers five to seven hours each day, the Lions vigilantly warned of ruts and tangled brush, gently steered them around slippery moss-covered rocks, discreetly escorted them to a private place when nature called and described the stunning scenery. “Severine asked a lot of questions about the scenery, plants, animals and birds. I had a great time trying to describe what I was seeing,” says Collier.



The expedition climbs toward the peak

At camp, the guides tended to the blind climbers’ aches and blisters, helped them pack food and water and kept track of equipment. The guides had to take care of any and all contingencies. “We had to remove the toenail of one of the Australian blind climbers. We joked with him that he had kicked every rock off the mountain,” says Barnes.

The blind climbers normally were self-sufficient. They used guide dogs or walking sticks at home and generally had families and jobs. They climbed mountains and traversed obstacles on a daily basis. But to climb Kilimanjaro was an altogether different challenge. They had to “step into the unknown, to give up their independence and rely on relative strangers for their daily needs,” says Collier. “Going on an expedition like this is daunting enough for a sighted person. It must have taken a tremendous amount of courage to say, yes, let’s do it.”



The ascent required teamwork

On the second day of the climb the group watched as a climber from another group, suffering from altitude sickness, was evacuated to safety, a drama that reinforced the seriousness of their undertaking. Near the summit the trail was so narrow that the climbers walked single file along a pass with a steep drop off

and the sky was so dark that even some of the blind climbers wore head lamps to help illuminate the path for the entire group.



Collier (left) and Barnes show their true colors at the summit

Reaching the summit was a thrilling achievement for the two Lions. But the friendship they forged with those they guided represented a new height in their personal development. "We interacted on a very personal level," says Collier. "We were able to ask questions and discuss subjects which in our normal day-to-day lives we would have avoided for fear of embarrassing ourselves or the person we were trying to interact with. This very personal interaction gave me a much better understanding of blind people, the problems they face in everyday life and how they see themselves.

"Like a lot of people, I have always been uncomfortable around people with disabilities. I did everything I could to avoid any situation in which I had to deal with them and I never really faced up to this shortcoming within myself. Sharing this time with them became extremely rewarding for me. I lost my discomfort around people with disabilities. I lost my fear of embarrassing myself or offending them. I learned how to treat them as individuals who existed outside of their blindness. I am now prouder of the

person I have become."

Barnes adds, "I think we were both a little uncomfortable around people with disabilities. After this experience I realize that people with disabilities are 'normal' human beings with a great attitude and we can all learn from them."

The blind climbers spent three months in training with the Lions and the other guides. Collier needed to train, as well. "I was unfit, overweight and 55 years old," he says. So he channeled his inner Rocky, South African-style. Each morning he awoke at 4:30 to climb hills, walk stairs, lift concrete boxes, dig holes, chop down trees and do countless sit-ups and squats.

"I realized that I could not allow myself to fail. If I failed the person I was guiding would not be able to summit," says Collier. "I found a new mental and physical strength I did not know I had in me."

Lions of District 410 C supported the climb, which took a team of 50 porters and two cooks as well as the guides. The climb benefited the Prevent Blindness Association in Australia and Horizon Farm Trust in South Africa.

The ascent gave Collier a new impetus to his life. He now takes overnight mountain treks. He also became a trustee at a home for mentally challenged adults, whom he escorts on climbs. Once he led a quadriplegic woman and a paraplegic woman, on the back of a special bike, to the summit of a mountain pass. Joining him on these treks have been more than 150 people, most of them Lions, who, too, want to push their boundaries and discover new ways of thinking, acting and relating.

Bread Promotion Not Stale

Baking and selling Grittibänzen ("sweet Santa bread") is nothing new for Swiss Lions. But last year a club advertised its product on YouTube.

The **Bachtel Lions Club** made a three-minute video at the Schneider Quer Bakery in Rütli. Dressed in white baker's garb, four Lions kneaded, formed and baked Grittibänzen. **President Andreas Haffter** spoke briefly on the mission of Lions Clubs International.

The club didn't have to pay a production company to produce its professional video. **Lion René Westermann**, 43, is the CEO of fairMeetings AG, an event and trade show planning company that includes WebCom TV. Westermann's crew provided equipment and guided the Lions through the undertaking.

Lions e-mailed a link of the video to family members and friends, and the film got more than 400 hits. Proceeds went to SightFirst.



YouTube spread the word about the Lions' sweet bread



Customers buy the Lions' bread

Killaloe Lions Christmas Activities



Lions Lin Tremblay and Mary Povey pack Santa's gift packages for the Santa Claus reception at the Lions Hall



Lions VP Karen Dupuis (left) and president Jim Homer (centre) join workers from the Community Resource Centre in packing food baskets for needy families



Lions Bruce Burnett and Bill Povey join Killaloe Town Councillor Isabel O'Reilly (Mrs. Claus) in decorating Santa's tree for the reception



Santa (Lions president Jim Homer) arrives at the Killaloe Lions Hall to see the children of the community

Stouffville Christmas Tree Sales Project

This project, which has been undertaken for many years, is a major revenue source, enabling the Club to support children or families in need, and many other worthwhile community initiatives. The Club sold approximately 450 trees from a fenced & lighted lot adjacent to, & donated by, the local Canadian Tire Store.

This project is heavily dependent on the help of many Lions & friends. In the attached photo, **Lion Joe Cote**, the project Lead, is shown below waiting for the first shift of the day to show up for work.

submitted by Lion Joe Boll



by Allie Stryker

Lions are champions of vulnerable populations, providing them with many needed services. Lions span the globe in their service, from children living on the streets of Brazil to athletes at Special Olympics games in South Africa.

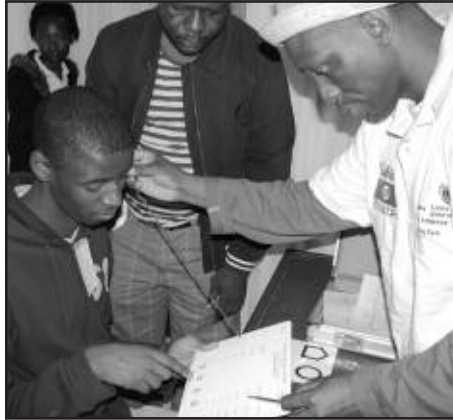
For the past 12 years, Lions and Special Olympics have been working together to ensure health and quality of life for Special Olympics athletes through the Opening Eyes partnership, which provides free vision screenings.

The need for vision screenings for these athletes is great. Research has shown that among Special Olympic athletes, 68 percent have not had an eye examination in three years, 37 percent are in need of eyeglasses and 18 percent wear clinically incorrect eyeglasses.

Recently, Aphiwe Qonya was one of the 250,000 athletes who can thank Lions and LCIF for a future with better vision. Aphiwe, a farsighted Special Olympics athlete and student in South Africa, was unable to read in class due to his vision impairment. His teachers were not even fully aware of his vision problem. Thanks to Opening Eyes, Aphiwe had his vision screened and tried on glasses for the first time. His classmates all clapped when he put on his new glasses, and he was finally able to read all the words and numbers in his school books rather than guessing at what was written. Aphiwe now has the opportunity to learn more in school.

Aphiwe was screened as part of a Family Health Forum, an expansion of the partnership between LCIF

and Special Olympics. Over the last few months, the Family Health Forums have been piloted in Aphiwe's home country of South Africa, as well as in Namibia, Nigeria and Tanzania.



An Opening Eyes volunteer tests a boy's vision in South Africa

Lions helped coordinate the forums, where over 250 families learned about Lions Clubs, Special Olympics and the Opening Eyes program. The forums were also a venue to help families and caregivers learn ways to overcome the challenges that athletes and their families face, while exploring ways to help facilitate better access to health care, education, social services and inclusion in their communities. This initiative

helps Special Olympics carry out a global goal of building communities through the participation of families and caregivers.

Families also received information tailored to specific community needs. In South Africa, the forum educated families about malaria, safe drinking water and the importance of physical activity in the lives of children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Malaria education, as well as information on the importance of keeping a clean environment around schools and social centers, was shared in Tanzania.

The community-tailored information in the Family Health Forums came with a much-needed benefit—vision screenings for the athletes. Untreated vision problems can add to the challenges of the athletes, whose vision needs can often be overlooked. The Opening Eyes program, through the support of optic industry leaders, Essilor International and Safilo, SpA, make it possible for athletes to receive free vision screenings and eyewear, if needed.

Opening Eyes events and screenings rely on thousands of volunteers, particularly Lions. LCIF has provided \$13 million in support of this partnership program, and more than 15,000 volunteer Lions along with more than 10,000 trained doctors have participated in vision screening events worldwide.

With the recent expansion of Lions' partnership with Special Olympics through Family Health Forums, athletes like Aphiwe and their families can now benefit in more ways, receiving vision screenings, eyewear and health education.



Lions' Help Boosts Eye Care Club Raises Funds for Specialized Microscope



The **St. Davids and District Lions Club** has helped eye care in Niagara in a big way by raising funds to purchase a specialized microscope used to perform cataract surgeries.

On March 12, members of the A-2 Lions Clubs were at the Ontario Street site of the Niagara Health System, where there was a special presentation to recognize their generosity.

When members **Glenn Connell** and 1st VDG **Allen Snider** (a St. Davids member) became aware of the great need for the equipment, an ophthalmic operating microscope, they immediately got to work. Members of Lions Eye Care Niagara and the St. Davids Club raised more than \$80,000 for the equipment. Needing more, the club sought the assistance of Lions Clubs International Foundation, which recognized the importance of the cause and provided a LCIF Core 4 Grant of more than \$65,000.

The equipment provides the latest technology to

enable eye surgeons to perform high quality cataract surgery comfortably and safely. It allows for precision by providing brilliant resolution and increased depth of field. The clearer image shortens surgery time, allowing for more to be performed. The equipment is also less likely to malfunction, which will lead to less surgical delays and cancellations.

"The Niagara Health System, along with the Ophthalmologists and patients we serve, are extremely grateful for the donation made by the LCIF, Lions Eye Care Niagara and the St. Davids & District Lions Clubs", says Jaelyne Sonke, clinical manager at the NHS site. "Their continued generosity and support has benefited many people in the Niagara Region."

Currently, there are two sites in NHS where such surgeries are performed, Ontario Street and in Welland. From April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011, the NHS performed 5,501 cataract surgeries.



St. Davids & District Lions club member Doug Snider, Lions Club district governor Joyce Harvey, Niagara Health System charge nurse Ellen Brochu, Lions Eye Care Niagara president Glenn Connell and Lions member Dr. George Beiko stand in front of the new Ophthalmic Operating Microscope at the Ontario Street site.

(St. Catharines General Hospital Foundation Photo)



We Serve

Study Shows Lions Serve and Give Generously



We Serve

Lions live up to their “We Serve” motto: they are three times more likely to volunteer and 1.5 times more likely to give to charity than the average person, according to a new comprehensive study of Lions in 12 countries.

The study by the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University showed that 97 percent of Lions in the United States who were surveyed had volunteered, compared to 26 percent of Americans. Moreover, 97 percent of surveyed U.S. Lions donated to charity, compared to 65 percent of American households, according to the Corporation for National and Community Service.

The study also revealed that women are assuming leadership roles among Lions clubs. More than half of Lions surveyed in the 12 nations said that women and men participate equally in their club’s leadership. Between 60 and 93 percent of Lions in 11 of the 12 nations said men and women were equally considered for leadership roles (the question was not asked in one country), and similar percentages showed that gender did not limit the ability to advance as leaders.

While the majority of giving and volunteering was through the club, about one-third of volunteer hours were done outside the club. Beyond vision care, Lions were most likely to give to meet basic needs and for disaster preparedness and relief, as well as other international causes.

The survey randomly sampled Lions from the United States, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, France, Turkey, Australia, China, India, Japan, the Philippines and Nigeria. About 2,800 of the 24,000 Lions who were surveyed responded.

Key Findings

- Worldwide, 92 percent of Lions surveyed donated to charitable causes and 86 percent volunteered over 12 months.
- Women are leaders in Lions clubs internationally.
- Lions club members in most countries surveyed were greatly more trusting of family, people belonging to other religions and people of other nationalities than the general population.

Serving

- Lions club members are highly likely to volunteer:** In all 12 countries, Lions surveyed were more likely to volunteer than the general population. The total number of hours that Lions volunteered ranged from an average of 105 hours a year in Japan to an average of 367 hours a year in India, roughly two-thirds of which was done through organized club activities in most countries. In the United States, Lions volunteered an average of 192 hours over 12 months, compared to the national average of 33.9 hours volunteered per resident in 2010.
- Volunteering for charitable causes:** Volunteering for “community and environmental

services” was among the top three causes for which Lions volunteered in all 12 countries surveyed except France. “Health and wellness,” “opportunities for youth and children,” and “sight-related or blindness prevention” were also commonly cited volunteer activities.

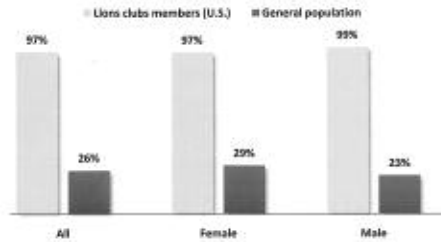
- Motivations for participating in LCI:** “Making a difference in my local community,” “making

the world a better place” and “concern about those less fortunate” were among the top three motivations for participation in LCI identified by Lions surveyed in most countries.

Giving

- Lions are highly likely to donate to charity:** Lions surveyed were more likely to give to charitable causes than the general public in all 12 countries. Overall, women and men were equally likely to make charitable donations in almost all countries.
- Lions donated to all types of charitable causes:** Lions surveyed in countries including Australia, Brazil, China, Japan and the Philippines were most likely to support “disaster preparedness and relief.” Meeting basic needs, such as food, housing and shelter, was the cause most likely to be supported by Lions surveyed in France, Mexico, Nigeria and the United States.
- Giving to disaster relief and other international causes by U.S. Lions:** About 35 percent of U.S. members donated for “disaster preparedness and relief,” and they gave \$118 on average. Around 16 percent of U.S. members reported charitable giving to other international causes, and the average gift size was \$212. By comparison, 6 percent of American households donated for international causes and the average amount given was \$272.

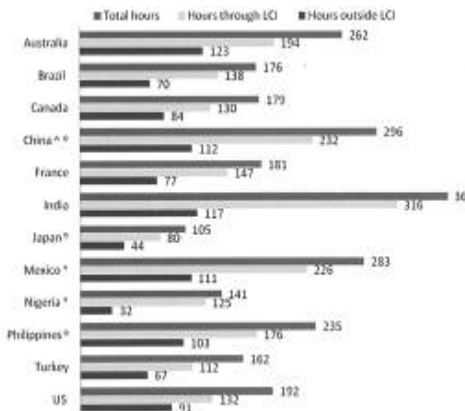
Incidence of U.S. Lions Volunteering



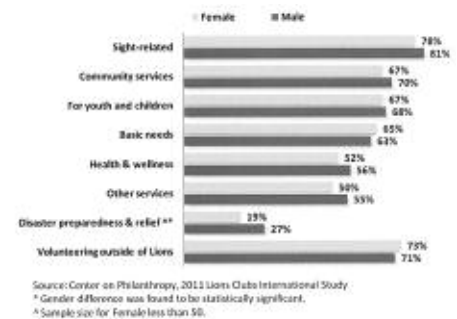
Incidence of Volunteering by Country



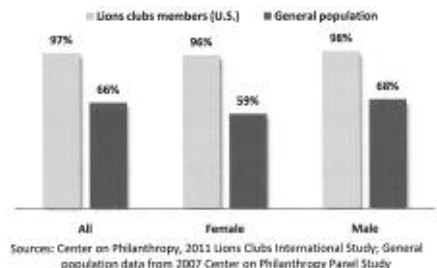
Average of Total Hours Volunteered Over 12 Months



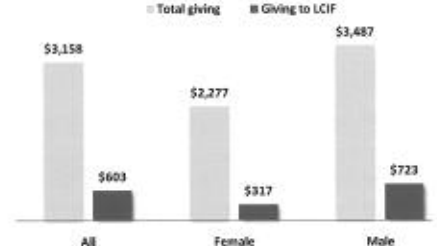
Incidence of U.S. Lions Volunteering, By Cause



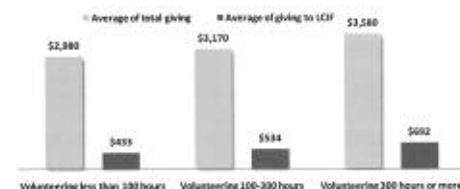
Incidence of U.S. Lions Charitable Giving (To Any Cause)



Average Amount Donated by U.S. Lions

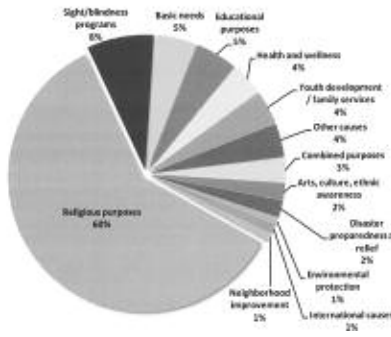


Giving of U.S. Lions, by Volunteer Hours

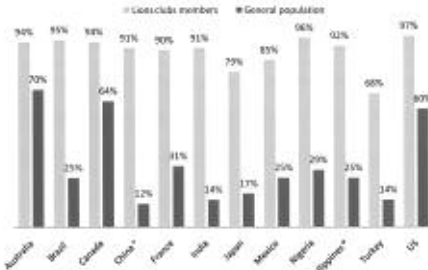


- Lions supported charitable causes both through LCI and outside Lions initiatives. Between 33 and 60 percent of survey respondents in each country made all or most of their charitable giving through their Lions club involvement. About one-third of members in most countries donated primarily through other channels outside of their Lions clubs.
- Motivations for charitable giving: In most countries, “giving back to the community” was the leading motivation for donating to charity. “Helping individuals meet their basic needs” was another strong motivation behind charitable giving.

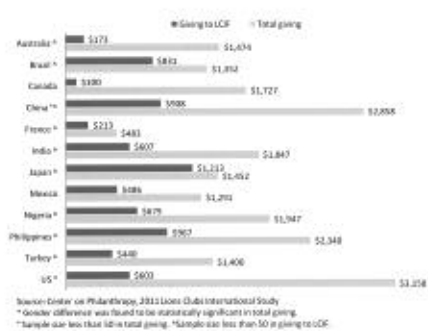
Percentage of Giving Amount to Causes for U.S. Lions



Incidence of Giving



Average Amount Donated (In U.S. Dollars)

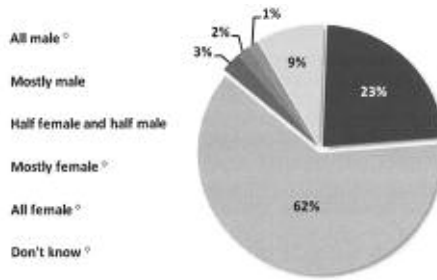


Gender Roles

- Gender composition of Lions club leaders: Overall, more than half of Lions surveyed reported that they belonged to clubs where women and men participate equally in club leadership.
- Women in leadership positions: In eight of the 12 countries surveyed, more than 80 percent of

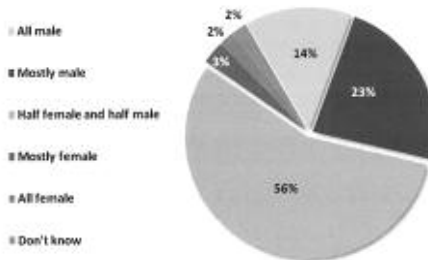
respondents indicated that women previously held leadership positions in their clubs, including serving on a club board or committee.

Gender of U.S. Lions Club Leaders



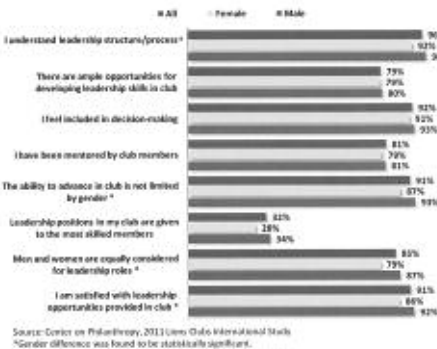
Note: * Sample size less than 50.

Gender of Lions Leaders, Global



- Perceptions of leadership opportunities (questions not fielded in one country): More than 60 percent (ranging from 60 percent to 93 percent) of Lions clubs members in 11 of the 12 countries agreed that men and women were equally considered for leadership roles. More than half (between 58 percent and 91 percent) of members surveyed agreed that gender did not limit their ability to advance as leaders.

Perception of Leadership Opportunities, U.S. Lions



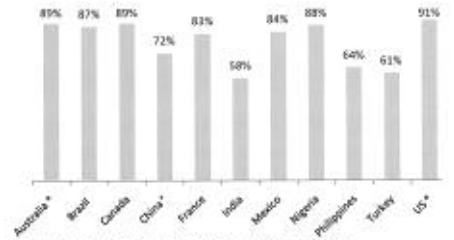
Social Trust

- Lions surveyed reported higher levels of social trust than the general population: Lions in most countries surveyed were greatly more trusting of family, people belonging to other religions, and people of other nationalities when compared to the general population.
- In the United States, 93 percent of Lions surveyed reported that they trust in their family completely, while 73 percent of Americans said

so according to a 2006 U.S./World Values Survey.

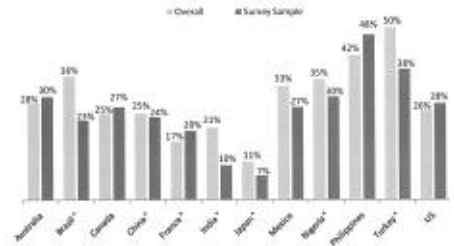
- Moreover, 26 percent and 23 percent of U.S. Lions indicated that they completely trust people of another religion and those of another nationality, respectively. In comparison, in the 2006 U.S./World Values Survey, only 6 percent and 4 percent of U.S. general population reported so, respectively.

The Ability To Advance In My Club Is Not Limited By Gender



Source: Center on Philanthropy, 2011 Lions Clubs International Study
* Gender difference was found to be statistically significant. ** Sample size less than 50.
* Question not fielded in Japan survey.

Percentage of Female Lions



Source: Center on Philanthropy, 2011 Lions Clubs International Study
* Sample size of female Lions club members in the survey less than 50.

The two reports generated from the study, *Serving, Giving, and Leading Globally* and *Serving, Giving, and Leading in the U.S.* can be found at www.lionsclubs.org.

Petrolia Leo's

On November 27th 2011, the Petrolia Leo's held their 'Stuff a Bus Full of Food' event. The Leo's raised over \$3,000.00 in food for the Petrolia Food Bank.

submitted by M.B Wilson



Lions Restore Sight in Sri Lanka

Cataract is the leading cause of blindness in Sri Lanka. Piyadasa Hewavithana, 63, is one of 16,500 Sri Lankans who have the Lions to thank for regained sight through cataract surgery. Once nearly blind, he now enjoys reading the newspaper and is able to work again. "My sincere thanks to the doctor and staff of the Lions Hospital at Panadura for providing free vision for poor people who would otherwise go blind," he says. "I have got a new life. I pray that Lions will help many more poor people to get their sight back."

About 18 million people worldwide are blind from cataract, representing 48 percent of all cases of blindness. In developing countries surgical services are often inadequate or inaccessible. Or there are long waiting periods for operations, shortages of supplies and transportation problems that impede access to the underserved.

Sri Lanka emerged from a 26-year-long civil war in 2009. Resources that would have otherwise been available for health care had been diverted to military spending. However, even during wartime, SightFirst prevented vision loss. Between 1993 and 2008, SightFirst provided nearly \$1.8 million. In addition to surgeries, eye care wings were constructed at three government hospitals, four government eye wings were upgraded and three Lions eye hospitals were supported through infrastructure development, human

resource training and cataract subsidies.

Dr. S. Chandrashekar Shetty, SightFirst technical advisor for Sri Lanka, says, "Lions of Sri Lanka have joined hands with national and provincial governments of Sri Lanka, other national and international NGOs, voluntary organizations and civil society in providing need-based, comprehensive, quality eye care services in the underserved population of Sri Lanka in the last two decades."

As cataract remains the leading cause of blindness in Sri Lanka and many other developing nations, Lions continue to focus on cataract surgeries. One of the indicators used to determine the degree to which the cataract issue is being addressed is the cataract surgical rate, or the number of cataract surgeries being carried out by all eye care providers, per million population. The Sri Lankan average is 3,804, but this number fluctuates wildly between the 25 districts of Sri Lanka, with figures ranging from 571 to 8,889. These new figures will help guide Lions eye hospitals to reach the underserved.

Specifically, the Lions seek to expand their outreach beyond the greater Colombo area in Sri Lanka and have started working with the ministry of health and VISION 2020, a global initiative to eliminate blindness, to play a proactive role in building the eye care systems in other parts of the country. They have

explored partnering with government hospitals in Jaffna, Trincomalee and Batticaloa for upgrades to help address the areas' cataract surgical backlogs. A new Lions eye hospital in Ratnapura, financed through a SightFirst grant and a generous donation by the Lions of Finland and their government, will address eye care needs in another underserved part of the country.

Through these efforts, the Lions can answer Hewavithana's prayer to "help many more poor people to get their sight back."



A nurse prepares a patient for a cataract surgery in Panadura, Sri Lanka

Doing Good After Evil

by Jay Copp

In lots of ways, **Max Herzel**, 9, was fortunate. His father, Oscar, was a diamond cutter. His mother, Nachama, was a seamstress. The family, including an older brother, huddled around the sewing machine often until midnight helping his mother fill her orders. The work was hard, but the family was together.

But this was 1940 in Europe, and Max was Jewish. When the Nazis invaded Belgium, his family crowded into a dirty boxcar and after seven long days arrived in France, where they were swept up by police and dispatched to a work camp. Max's mother had a breakdown and tried to kill herself. Older brother Harry joined the French Underground. The Nazis captured Oscar. At age 44, Max's beloved father died at Buchenwald, three months before the war ended. Max had gone into hiding. He somehow survived the war and the Nazis by posing as a Catholic orphan and living with a family on a remote farm in the Alps.

After the war, eventually settling in Birmingham, Alabama, Herzel desperately sought a normal life. He also wanted to refute the horrors he knew, to stand as a personal testament to the goodness of the world.

He joined the Lions.

"I saw evil and wanted to do good," he says modestly. "I wanted to prove something to myself by doing good. It was a reversal. I wanted to prove the world was not all

about evil and has lots of good people."

A Lion since 1978, he has served as district governor. Today he is president of the **Homewood Metro Lions Club**. "I've met a lot of good people. I've made lifelong friends," he says.

One of his favorite memories as a Lion was visiting a recycling center and seeing the mounds of glasses, a stark contrast to the piles of glasses and shoes the Nazis plundered from their victims.

Herzel's wife, **Cecille**, also is a Lion. They have two children. After coming to the United States in 1948, Herzel served in the U.S. Air Force and then enjoyed a long career with the Veterans Administration.

In France as the war raged, he spent several years shuttled from orphanage to orphanage before finding safer haven with the Catholic farming family. "I left all my friends. It was a small town. I didn't know anybody. It was lonely," he says. But it was not unbearable. "I was well treated. I was never abused. I was part of the family," he says.

Two dozen or so times a year he speaks about his experiences at schools, churches and even Lions clubs. Reliving those days is hard. But he wants his story to show the resiliency of people. "I'm trying to work against hatred, bigotry, injustice. I'm trying to change the world in a small way.

"I tell the kids that it was only four-and-a-half years of my life. It was a painful part of my life. But you have to take everything in context. I'm blessed to be a senior citizen. It's been a blessing to be in the United States."

He knows his time is running out. He has a simple goal. "I came into an evil world," he says. "I would like to leave a good world."



Max Herzel helps collect eyeglasses and aid the needy as a Lion, a deliberate attempt to counter the hatred he grew up with in Europe in the 1940s. This photo is part of an exhibit at the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center. "Darkness to Life: Alabama Holocaust Survivors Through Photography and Art" features the work of photographer Becky Seitel and painter Mitzi J. Levin



Green Hands, Green Hearts

Lions' Environmental Work Has Been Transformative – On Many Levels



by Jay Copp

They canceled Earth Day. That riled Lions and others in Gilroy, a small, tidy city in California with a dozen well-tended parks, a creek preserve and such a high concentration of trees that city boosters describe the landscape as an “urban forest.” So Earth Day happened anyway. “We told the club just because the city canceled [citing lack of funds] doesn’t mean it has to be canceled. That was not acceptable,” says **Marilyn Mitri** of the **Gilroy Lions Club**. “We pulled together our talents and resources.” So three years ago, continuing to today, hundreds gather in April at Christmas Hill Park to hike through nature, gaze at a Lion’s vast insect collection and to build bird houses with materials provided by Lions.

In Prescott, Arizona, Lions have been saving trees since the late 1970s. Fourteen trailers and eight bins are parked at stores, the library and apartment complexes. People in Prescott, population 37,000, know what to do once they’ve finished reading the paper. “There’s a trailer at almost every grocery store. It’s ridiculous to throw a newspaper away,” says Lisa Fornara, a business owner. Recycling newspapers takes a lot of manpower but generates a lot of dough for charitable causes. The **Prescott Noon Lions** have collected 36,130 tons in the last 20 years and turned a profit of \$2.5 million.



Lions in Prescott, Arizona, have newspaper recycling down to a science
Photo by Ken Gantz



Prescott Lions log 10,000 hours each year on their recycling
Photo by Ken Gantz

Clear across the country, Bowie, Maryland, in the vanguard a half century ago when famed suburban developer William Levitt built vast tracts of homes here, once again leads a charge, this time one with a green hue. “Green Bowie,” the city’s wide-ranging environmental plan, includes stream cleanups,

recycling, rain barrels, backyard habitats, tree plantings, alternative storm water management, a green expo and municipal LEED-certified buildings. Lions are in the thick of it. “I’d like to leave the planet greener and I’d like for people to be able to take care of it better than we are,” says **Karl Taschenberger**, 70, president of the **Bowie Lions**.



Karl Taschenberger of the Bowie Lions Club in Maryland is green at heart, evidenced by his rain barrel and his home’s solar panels

In one sense, Lions are the original recyclers, refurbishing unneeded eyeglasses for the needy for decades, long before environmentalism entered the mainstream. But since 1972, when Lions Clubs International first officially encouraged Lions to care for the environment, Lions have been fully engaged in common environmental activities such as cleaning rivers, planting trees and sponsoring environmental contests at schools. Lions are a green machine.

This year, working together globally, Lions have taken their green commitment to another level. **International President Wing-Kun Tam** asked Lions to plant 1 million trees. As of late February, Lions already had planted more than 6 million trees.

The decades of green projects amount to more than just an aggregation of completed projects. There has been a profound shift of thinking—as well as a wistful realization of the possibility of doing more.

Lions who take part in environmental activities often take to heart the need for lifestyle changes. Unthinkingly wasting resources becomes unthinkable. Old ways are reconsidered. Hopelessness at the idea of what one person or what one club can do turns into hope. “Growing up I didn’t think of the environment. We burned trash in the backyard. We swept coal dust from our front porch every morning. I didn’t think much about it. It would be different today,” says **Lion Bill Hensley**, 77, who grew up in West Virginia near a steam engine plant.

Hensley’s club, the Scott Depot **Scott Teays Lions**, does roadside cleanups and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones. Bins and old mailboxes, painted Lions yellow, fill up at the library, the Kroger grocery store, a bank, an optometrist’s office and at the motor vehicle office. Waiting for proper disposal at Hensley’s home are four egg container boxes stuffed with ink jet cartridges. (“My wife wants me to get rid of them!” he admits.) A small club with 22 members, the Scott Depot Lions do what they can to roll back waste. “Just think what it would be like if all clubs did this?” Hensley ponders.

Recycling Royalty

The first capital of the Arizona Territory, Prescott was part of the Old West. Men like Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday hitched their horses here and frequented saloons on Whiskey Row. The city still retains a western and cowboy feel thanks to its restored buildings in its Historic Districts. Last year *True West Magazine* named Prescott as its top Western town.

Prescott Noon Lions chartered their club in 1949. Their newspaper recycling is one of the oldest and most successful Lions’ environmental projects. It almost failed miserably. The club began collecting discarded newspapers in fits and starts in the 1970s. It was hard to find a buyer. The club even got stiffed by an unscrupulous business person.

A transplant from Texas where he had worked in aircraft certification for the FAA, **Billy Parker** joined the Prescott Noon Lions in 1990. Club leaders put him in charge of recycling. He found a reputable broker. A plant in Snowflake would pay \$25 a ton to recycle what the Lions collected as newsprint. The club had been getting a measly \$5 a ton. “The first shipment was in 1991. We were on our way,” recalls Parker, a folksy, easygoing retiree.

Prescott Lions have recycling down to a science. Twice a week two dozen or so Lions get behind the wheels of their pick-ups early in the morning to transport the trailers and the bins of newspapers to a city yard, where other Lions await. A Lion-traffic director guides the incoming rush of vehicles. Two Lions hop into the trucks (“guys without knee problems,” observes Parker) to load the papers onto a conveyor belt system that leads directly into a 53-foot trailer.

A few years ago, when the Lions were younger and not wiser, they lifted the paper, armful after armful, from the trucks to trailers. Then they looked around and noticed **Lion Adrian Langhus**, a retired dairy farmer from Wisconsin who knew a thing or two about conveyors. The seven conveyors enable Lions to load the trailer in two to two and a half hours.

The whole operation is almost cost-free. The club leases the yard for \$1 a year. The Lions don’t pay for the trailer nor for the trip to Snowflake.

The newspaper recycling concept may be simple, but the execution requires careful planning and loads of volunteers. “The biggest challenge is making sure the trailers are scheduled for pickup,” says Parker. “We do this in all kinds of weather—ice, snow. The mailman has nothing on us.” The club has 103 members, and about 55 of them either work the yard or do a pickup. “We average 10,000 volunteer hours a year on this. I talk to other Lions at conventions and so on, and they can’t believe we do this—in a town of 37,000. But it takes manpower,” says Parker.

The recycling has been around so long and the trailers are so conspicuous that it’s a given that people in Prescott know about it. Just to make sure, the club advertises twice a year in the local newspaper. (The ad was once free. But “times are tough now” for newspapers, concedes Parker.) The ad thanks the community for its support and reminds them that funds are returned to the community.

Lisa Fornara is an avid—and valuable—supporter of the Lions’ recycling. She owns Brochure Works. She stocks 60 racks with brochures and magazines of hotels, restaurants, casinos and art galleries. When the materials are updated and replaced, she dumps the old publications in a Lions’ bin, even though she could use the city’s recycling program. “By dropping it off [with the Lions], I know folks are getting glasses,” she says. She also appreciates the responsiveness of Lions. She once told a friend, Angie McElfresh, that it was hard to maneuver her vehicle near the trailer she used. McElfresh happens to be Parker’s daughter. Parking was not an issue the next time Fornara drove up to the repositioned trailer.

The decline of newspapers in the Internet age has hurt the club’s bottom line. In 2006, it recycled 5.4 million pounds and that dropped to 2.9 million in 2009. That’s still a lot of papers. “It’s a good fundraiser and helps the environment. We get paid for it and can give money to charities,” says Parker.

Environmentalism may have entered the mainstream in the 1970s, but Parker and other older Lions can attest they actually learned the value of reducing and reusing in their boyhoods. “I was a Cub Scout during World War II. I got used papers, cans of grease, to help the war effort,” he says with a grin.

40 Years of Work

Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring*, a searing examination of the dangers of pollution, launched the modern environmental movement in 1962. Environmentalism took another huge leap forward with the first Earth Day in 1970. A broad spectrum of people began to become concerned about the degradation of the planet.

Lions Clubs International jumped aboard the green movement 40 years ago. In October 1972 the International Board of Directors issued a policy statement that encouraged Lions to embrace environmental aims. The policy statement cited “the profound impact of man’s activity on the inter-relations of all components of the natural environment, particularly high-density urbanization, industrial expansion, resources exploitation and new and

expanding technological advances.” LCI’s policy will be “to help create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony.”

Subsequent to the statement, LCI published materials detailing the deterioration of the planet and suggested ways people and clubs can preserve the earth. Today, LCI continues to encourage clubs to protect the environment. Its website has links to Lions experts on cleanup projects and tree planting campaigns. Lions also can request “Green Team” kits that include tote bags, tip sheets, event flyers and press releases. Many clubs have taken their cue from LCI and initiated debris removal, river and road cleanups and recycling of cell phones, medications and even shoes.

Occasionally, in the last few decades, clubs or districts have undertaken large-scale or particularly noteworthy environmental projects. Two clubs in Uruguay spearheaded the planting of—this is not a misprint—50 million trees; Lions in Georgia and Florida donated pine seeds compatible with growing conditions there. Canadian clubs in Multiple District A compiled statistical data on the effects of noise pollution and shared their findings with clubs in other nations. Lions in Germany played a key role in improving a river’s ecosystem by altering its path.

Lions have developed green technologies or advocated for change. The **Eugene Bethel Lions** in Oregon created an experimental solar unit to provide energy for their community recycling center. A French **Lion, Michael Baury**, helped build an electric traction car and then raced it in 1990 in a Grand Prix event. Lions in Italy developed an international court to preserve the Mediterranean Sea. Eventually, 18 member countries sat on the court, based in Rome.

More commonly, clubs set their sights on incremental change within their own communities.



Lions have tackled huge environmental projects for decades. A Lion in Italy played a key role in submerging barriers to prevent erosion

Twice a year, Scott Depot Lions assemble other volunteers, obtain gloves, bags, safety vests and pickup tools from the state and rigorously clean a two-mile stretch of busy Poplar Ford Road. Residents let them know they are making a difference. “People roll down their windows to say thanks,” says Hensley.

In Gilroy and nearby towns, 25 miles south of San Jose, green spaces are treasured. “We’ve been careful to maintain green areas. The towns aren’t running into each other,” says Mitri. For Earth Day, Lions pre-cut wood that children use to construct birdhouses, intended for smaller, more vulnerable species whose nesting sites are grabbed by larger birds. Saving a tiny

bird is a small but vital step in saving the earth. “If we are not careful, we will lose everything,” says Mitri.

Green Mind-Set

In Bowie, Karl Taschenberger’s 55-gallon water barrel catches the rainwater from his downspouts. A five or 10-minute rain is enough to fill the barrel, hooked up to his soaker hose. “I open the spigot and it takes 15 to 20 minutes to water the flowers and garden,” he says approvingly.

Just like that, Taschenberger has reduced his water use, helped put organic food on the table, and prevented pesticides and other contaminants from degrading nearby Chesapeake Bay, a linchpin of the regional economy.

He’s saving the earth. But don’t call him a tree hugger. He’s a 70-year-old retired school principal. And a loyal Lion since 1969. The Bowie Lions made that barrel and 300 others they’ve sold in a partnership with the city.

Lions also co-sponsor a Green Expo with the city and chamber of commerce and provide a cadre of volunteers for the city’s frequent cleanups of the 50 miles of streams in the city. Green Bowie is the city’s 12-part comprehensive plan to protect the city’s natural resources, and Bowie Lions provide an instrumental small army of volunteers supporting the ambitious plan.

Bowie has one cloddish foot in the past—post-war suburbia and its environmental shortcomings—and one green foot in the future—a community committed to conserving resources. The prototypical suburban home builder, Levitt built about one third of Bowie’s homes, hardly paragons of insulation and utterly tied to the car culture. Yet, slightly ahead of his time, he dug detention basins. Flash forward to the present. The mammoth shopping complex Bowie Town Center relies on a retention pond, which gradually shakes loose pollutants from the water column.



Bowie was partly built by famed suburban developer William Levitt

Photo by Tiffany Wright



Bowie Lions clean up one of the town’s many streams

Photo by Mark Trendel

The prevailing mind-set is not yet as green as other, typically more affluent, regions in Maryland, according to Tiffany Wright, the city's watershed manager. But the city is moving quickly ahead in that regard. The city has reached a 46 percent tree canopy coverage, topping its 40 percent goal, reduced landfill use per household by 24 percent and built a new 79,500-square-foot city hall/police department for which city officials applied for a LEED silver rating.

Another sign of Bowie's progressive bent is that it even has a watershed manager employee, a "not common at all" position, says Wright. Lions and other residents clean the city's streams twice a year. Since April 2008, 1,775 volunteers have plucked 13,320 pounds of trash and 12,025 pounds of recyclable materials.

The rain barrels help protect economically critical Chesapeake Bay, 20 miles from Bowie, from storm water runoff that invariably contains engine oils, pesticides and a host of noxious chemicals. Wright, along with the Lions selling barrels at farmer's markets for \$75 (they cost the Lions \$35 to make), prudently emphasize the practical, personal benefits of the barrels. Rain water is superior to tap water for plants and flowers. And clean streams could mean healthier children. "We make the connection to people's backyards. The Bay is so important to the economy, such a critical resource. But it's a little hard for me to stand up at the mall and say 'save the Bay.' The streams go right behind your homes. It's where your kids play. They make that connection," says Wright.

First held last year, the Green Expo is held at the Parks and Grounds facility, a LEED-certified building that features rooftop gardens. Last year close to 40 vendors hawked electric cars, solar panels, wind power systems, energy-efficient windows and siding, organic food and non-toxic household cleaning products. Did Bowie residents show interest? "I sent out the forms to the 39 vendors. Gave them two and half weeks to respond. They're all coming back. Must have been worth their while," says Taschenberger. The expo this year will feature a new vendor—goats that eat away hard to reach growth in yards.

Wright is pleased with Lions' green touch. "All I knew about Lions was they collected eyeglasses. I was amazed when I learned about all the other things they do for their communities," she says.



The Bowie city hall has a green roof and recycled materials in its brick, steel and concrete

Photo courtesy of Ken Wyner and Grimm+Parker Architects

The synergy between Bowie Lions and Bowie officials shows how a spark of green can lead to a shower of green: over time and in fits and starts, people change, clubs change and cities change. One element influences another until a confluence of shared purpose builds and grows. And even an older principal can be taught new lessons. Growing up in the post-war era, Taschenberger was typical of his times. "Back then we turned on the spigot and let it run. Gas was 17 cents a gallon. We didn't think about the cost or how far you drove," he says.

He didn't become interested in green issues until he was in his late 40s. "The city was doing a lot and that got me interested," he says.

Last year Taschenberger installed 20 solar panels on his home. "One month's kilowatt usage went from 1,032 to 668. I'm really looking forward to June, July and August," he says.

Next on his list of environmental projects may be solar panels on the Lions clubhouse. The club may be able to secure a state grant. Eventually, the club likely will be able to sell electricity back to the grid, a real savings and an apt symbol of how Lions, with green hands and hearts, can give back to the community.

Making a Difference

What can one person or one club do to help the environment? Plenty. That's the well-informed opinion of Adil Najam, who directs Boston University's Frederick Pardee Center for Study of the Longer-Range Future. Najam shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former U.S. Vice President Al Gore for their work on climate change, and he was the keynote speaker at Lions' 91st International Convention in Bangkok in 2008.

"I think people can do a lot and people can do everything," says Najam. "And what that means is that it is our everyday small decisions. And small inefficiencies that have landed us into this trouble of climate change. And the only way to solve it is for people to change their habits, not in ways that make them uncomfortable, but make their lives more efficient in terms of climate. That means how we drive. That means how we live. That means how we heat our houses. That means the clothes we wear. Everything we do has a small impact on the environment. And the good news is small actions can make big change."

Lions clubs are uniquely suited to tackle environmental problems. Says Najam, "Climate and environment are the quintessential global problems. And the Lions Clubs is really the quintessential global organization. It's an organization that has members everywhere. The type of challenge that we face requires that type of global action which an organization like the Lions Clubs can pull together. It is this sort of network that can pull ideas in from all over the world and bring small change in each community, in each country, in each little club. That's what's required and that's why Lions Clubs is such a great organization to think about this."

Monkton Lions



Group photo taken after our 2011 Christmas dinner



Monkton Lions Christmas float



Lions Chad Pestell and Tony Smith entered the 4th place float. Fellow Lions members including two in Lions outfits accompanied

Dunnville Lions Club

Gerry Broemser of Dundas and his Guide Dog Houston graduated on December 15, 2011 from Lions Foundation of Canada.

Gerry is very happy to have Houston give him back some independence.

On the right, **Lion Chief Hank Kerkdyk**, presents a cheque for \$6,000.00 to Julie Jelinek for the training of another dog (the fifth one sponsored by this club).

Also attending the ceremony were Dunnville **Lion Ted Tomlin** and **Lion Peter Dunlop**.

submitted by Lion Bill Evers



A Greener Globe

Lions worldwide are saving the earth in projects as wide as the sea and as small as a light bulb.

Bright Idea

Balla Balla Lions in Australia are replacing as many as 6,500 regular light bulbs in homes with energy-efficient ones.



Grease Release

Restaurants, homes and schools in **Thailand** routinely and unthinkingly dump cooking grease in waterways, resulting in clogged pipes, unsightly conditions and unsafe water. Lions in **District 310-B** devised a simple, inexpensive method to trap the grease and collect it in a bin. The grease is then buried near trees as fertilizer or dried in the sun to become charcoal.



Flower Power

Wyndham Way, the road that leads into Portishead, **England**, bursts into a ribbon of yellow each year thanks to Lions, who for 20 years have planted 250 pounds of daffodils. After a typically dreary wet winter, "Everyone enjoys seeing the daffodils in the spring," says **Lion Keith Fuell**. Lions also visit schools to help children make birdboxes.



Waste Containment

Trujillo El Boqueron Lions in Peru transform corroded metal containers into bright, shiny waste cans.



Learn While Playing

Mihama Lions in Japan name their event "Let's Play in Lake Kukuji!" The schoolchildren do get to splash around in the lake, but the real purpose of the day is to teach them about the lake's fragile ecosystem. The children attend an eco-study workshop, catch clams, make soup and clean the lakeshore. They finish up by writing an essay on the environment.



Sea Savers

Lions in **Italy** including the **Agrirento Lions** drew up a plan to save the Mediterranean Sea in accordance with United Nations' guidelines. Lions sponsored lectures and seminars on safeguarding the sea from pollution and held fundraisers to support the plan. In a state-funded project in which a Lion played a key role, three 250-meter barriers, made from rock, were submerged in the sea near Realmonte to protect the coast from erosion. **Giuseppe Di Bartolo**, an architect and past president of the Agrirento Lions, helped lead the effort to preserve especially the area's famous white coast. "To be a Lion surely helps him to be strong and conscientious about the environment. He brought his 'Lions values' to his work," says Natalia, his wife.



Convention Extra

Relive History at the Rainbow Convention

Thursday – The Golf Tournament is at the Niagara Parks Whirlpool Golf Course. This is for ALL Lions. This is an excellent course. A full Buffet lunch, golf cart etc. is included in the price (\$85). Foursome is your own or make it up at the tournament.

Friday – The somewhat free evening. We will have tours of Fort George – weather permitting at Niagara-on-the-Lake and a demonstration (not a reenactment) in the early evening. Transportation and tickets arranged. Later in the evening a semi cabaret with a concert band – maybe dance a bit – at the hotel. Tickets at the door.

Tourist and Casino area of Niagara Falls are within walking distance. Enjoy the evening light show over the falls. Bed in decent time or?

Saturday – Banquet night. No other entertainment is planned at this time for those not attending the banquet. We have, because of cost, gone to a buffet style – more lines of the best the hotel provides.

At this Convention, as at others, we will have the displays of merchandise and information about Lions sponsored activities – camps etc. – as well as Commercial businesses which involve themselves in Lions fundraisers. We hope you will visit all of these concessions.

Set-ups are available for Pin Traders and just simple traders of pins.

Various seminars and Lions information meetings are scheduled as are "History lessons" for those interested (when you find the time).

Did you know that a large percentage of the British troops on the Canada/USA frontier were Scottish as were a great number of the Canadian residents of the area. The bulk of the Irish immigrants came in the late 1840s and '50s and since. The English settlers were regular immigrants and for some period the population of "Upper Canada" was heavily British.

From the Once Capital of Upper Canada we send this invitation. "Join us and Relive History". *St. David & District Lions per IC Pete Bissonnette Chairman*

ALLOWABLE CLUB DELEGATES AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

MEMBERSHIP	DELEGATES ALLOWED
1-37	1
38-62	2
63-87	3
88-112	4
113-137	5
138-162	6
163-187	7
188-212	8
213-237	9
238-262	10
263-287	11
288-312	12
313-337	13
338-362	14
363-387	15
388-412	16
413-437	17
438-462	18
463-487	19
488-512	20
513-537	21
538-562	22
563-587	23
588-612	24
613-637	25
638-662	26
663-687	27
688-712	28
713-737	29
738-762	30

Delegate count is based on the club's membership as shown by the records of the international office on the first day of the month last preceding the month in which the convention is held as provided in Article VI, Section 2 of the International Constitution and Chapter XVII – Membership, Paragraph B.3., of the board Policy Manual.

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(Mail to LCI before May 1, 2012)

Lions Clubs International Convention – 2012 Busan, Korea




Club Identification Number: _____ District: _____ Number of allowable delegates: _____
Club Name: _____ Members: _____
Address: _____

See page 22 for the allowable delegate table.

Please select one: DELEGATE OR ALTERNATE DELEGATE

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____

The undersigned hereby authorizes that the above named person is an active member and a duly selected Delegate/Alternate Delegate of said Lions Club to the stated Convention of The International Association of Lions Clubs.



Signature of Club Officer (Club President, Secretary or Treasurer)

Mail the above to LCI (Club Officer & Record Admin.) before May 1, 2012. After that date, bring it to the convention.
Lions Clubs International • 300 W 22nd Street • Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842 USA



DELEGATE/ALTERNATE DELEGATE COPY

(Bring this copy to the Convention)

Lions Clubs International Convention – 2012 Busan, Korea



Club Identification Number: _____ District: _____ Number of allowable delegates: _____
Club Name: _____ Members: _____
Address: _____


LCI stamp for
Alternate
Delegate
certification

See page 22 for the allowable delegate table.

Please select one: DELEGATE OR ALTERNATE DELEGATE

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____

The undersigned hereby authorizes that the above named person is an active member and a duly selected Delegate/Alternate Delegate of said Lions Club to the stated Convention of The International Association of Lions Clubs.



Signature of Club Officer (Club President, Secretary or Treasurer)



We Serve

Earth Days

Clubs Recycle, Reuse and Reduce in Myriad Ways



We Serve

A Case of Novel Thinking

Lions are renowned for recycling eyeglasses. But has anyone ever thought to recycle eyeglass cases? **Jo Hallum** did. For several years his club, the **Stayton Lions** in Oregon, has made personal hygiene kits out of old eyeglass cases. Leos at Woodburn High School and students from Regis Catholic High School meticulously fill the cases with toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand sanitizers, Band-Aids and other necessities. Lions have distributed 5,000 cases to the homeless in Portland, Salem and other towns. Hallum learned the hard way to make sure the cases go to the hardcore homeless—people living on the streets and under bridges. The needy who had been receiving the cases at drop-in centers and soup kitchens sometimes discarded items they apparently could obtain elsewhere. A side benefit of the project is the lesson in volunteerism received by the Leos, most of whom are first-generation Hispanic-Americans. “They’re learning the local culture. It’s a great experience for them,” says Hallum.



Trash into Treasure

Drive up Route 4 into the western mountains of Maine in August and on a hill in Strong, population 1,259, you’ll find a neat white ranch home with a yard full of second-hand goods and bargain hunters milling about. **Mary and Steve White** and other members of the **Phillips Strong Lions Club** collect leftover treasures and convert them into cash. The Whites’ lawn sales began a decade ago before they were Lions and the Whites asked around for donated items to sell to help friends whose son was seriously ill. Each year proceeds are for a specific good cause: a headstone for a young person who died, an animal shelter, a volunteer fire department, a park, an autism camp. Except for furniture and a few other items, most of the goods have no price tag. That adds to the sense that the whole enterprise is not a commercial transaction but about helping others. The Whites certainly don’t worry about the money: they’ve bought two large tents and constructed storage buildings for the annual project. Maybe the best part of the yard sale is that the recycling does not end when the sale does: what’s left is given to other groups for resale or reuse.



Tsk, Tsk: Disc upon Disc

Like an alien invasion, an estimated 4.3 million plastic discs, twice the diameter of a quarter, washed up last spring all along the Merrimack River and then on the beaches of New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The culprit: a wastewater treatment plant in Hooksett, New Hampshire. The solution: Lions, who were among the many volunteers who picked up the unexpected beach litter. The white plastic discs with a screen mesh are used to encourage the growth of bacteria that helps process waste materials. Officials at the plant, located along the Merrimack River, said heavy rains let loose the discs and 300,000 gallons of raw sewage. The discs were not considered hazardous.



Operator Assistance

A women’s shelter and a homeless shelter in Yankton County in South Dakota supply patrons with recycled cell phones. Officials program the phones so they can dial only 911. But first the phones have to be sorted and checked for problems after they are left for donation at a Yankton County building. Members of the **Yankton Lions Club** perform that chore. It’s busy

MDA Directory Information

Council of Governors’ Meeting Dates

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

District Conventions

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

IMPORTANT DATES

MDA Convention

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

International Conventions

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

USA - Canada Forum

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



work, a task the county is glad to “outsource” to Lions. The shelter officials are “so appreciative that the ones we checked can be used right away,” says **Carol Becker**, past club president.



Animal Havens

From the spacious windows of her Virginia home **Sally Kenavan** and her mother, Millie Baden, watch in delight the wild animals that descend on their backyard. Turkey buzzards, Canadian geese, groundhogs, squirrels, mallards, herons, crows, blackbirds, cardinals and thrush come and go. The home is one of six belonging to members of the **Aquia Evening Lions Club** that have been recognized as Certified Wildlife Habitat sites by the National Wildlife Federation. To qualify, the properties must provide wildlife with food, water, cover and places to raise young. Thirty-five miles from Washington, D.C., Kenavan’s home sits on a creek off the Potomac River.



“Wild geese walk past the side of the house to the front yard to the bird feeder. They waddle around. It’s entertaining,” she says. Certified habitats also must protect the environment, which Kenavan has taken to heart. “When I first got the home the yard was a mess.

I got a fertilizer service. A neighbor said, ‘You can’t do that. It will get in the creek.’ So I stopped the service,” she says. The animals are not a nuisance: “I have an abundance of plants. The fact they nibble on some leaves is no big deal.”

Lions Serve Up Lionfish

The unfortunately named lionfish, with no known predators, has ravaged whole reefs of native fish in parts of the Bahamas and Caribbean. **Hopkins Lions** in Minnesota held an “Eat for the Ecosystem,” serving \$5 fish kebabs that included tomatoes, peppers and seasoning. An environmental lesson also was served: the club played a DVD for patrons that detailed how the invasive species, now ravaging South Florida waters as never before, threatens the environment, the livelihoods of indigenous fishermen and even the tourist industry. Patrons contributed to a good cause and enjoyed “a very tasty” fish that is “a cross between a snapper and crab,” says **Lion Chuck Ryan**, a co-owner of a fishing company that secures lionfish from spear-wielding fishermen from Mexico and Belize (spearing is the only way to catch the fish). The lionfish derives its name not for its ferocity but because of its mane-like appearance.



A Green Dream Home

For nearly 60 years **Edmonton Host Lions** in Alberta, Canada, have sold a “Lions Club Dream Home.” Two years ago it once again commissioned a builder to construct a home for the fundraising lottery, but for the first time it was a green home. Valued at \$850,000 (Canadian dollars), the fully furnished, 2,000-square-foot bungalow featured triple-glazed windows, an energy efficient heating system and appliances, above-

standard insulation, non-carbon-based siding and floors made with wood not in short supply. “We wanted to make a statement. We looked at what we put into the home and made it as reusable as we could,” says **Terry Kozma**, chair of the home committee. The icing on the cake was that the lottery winner “was thrilled. They wanted a green house,” says Kozma.



Tree-mendous Focus

Lions in densely wooded Oregon found a way to honor fallen soldiers and to beautify the earth: they planted 61,000 trees to memorialize U.S. soldiers who died in the Vietnam War. In the early 1990s Lions worked with Frank Lockyear and his ReTree International nonprofit to plant the trees on state forestry lands. Last May, the Oregon Lions/Vietnam Veterans Memorial Forest was rededicated in a ceremony attended by Lions, Lockyear’s daughter and veterans. Johnny Appleseed has nothing on Oregon Lions: last year they held their 22nd Annual Youth Tree Plant as 975 schoolchildren and Scouts planted nearly 3,700 firs, pines and cedars. For six years, Oregon Lions also have sponsored tree plantings in Tanzania.



Twenty years later, the Veterans Memorial Forest thrives.

Photo by Lee O. Webb

Bobcaygeon and District Lions



Bobcaygeon and District inducts Peter Overington into Lionism, who was sponsored by Lion George Oberlander

Building Momentum is Focus of GMT in MD'A'

When growth ceases – death begins. Global Membership Team (GMT) is driven to promote growth.

Admittedly, Lions grow weary of Lion Leaders promoting membership growth, but the alternative is neglecting our promotion of awareness leading to complacency, which results in decline.

Our most successful Clubs and Districts have established a program of developing written commitment to membership growth. One model sees each club in the District submitting a written plan, early in the Lions year, with Club Membership Chair and the Club promoting growth and retention continuously.

Ideal size of Club and predictable attrition are both considerations in planning, but it is the responsibility of Club Leadership to create and promote programs that

interest and engage their Lions.

The Club Excellence Process (CEP) has recently been developed by LCI. Our Global Leadership Team (GLT) has been charged with roll-out of CEP and early success is apparent with demand exceeding resources in 2011-2012 in MD'A'. Clubs need to contact their District GMT & GLT Chairs to enroll, in order to quickly take advantage of this exciting new program.

We encourage Club Membership Chairs to move quickly to ensure they become involved now to ensure that they, and their Club, are positioned to become a positive part of the solutions required to grow this great organization.

Let's prove to LCI that **“We lead the way in MD'A'.”**

submitted by MD'A'Co-ordinators for GMT

York Lions donate van to seniors group

Humber Community Seniors' Services received a generous gift over the holidays that will help give back to the community it serves.

The local organization that serves about 500 clients within the former city of York got the keys to a brand new Dodge Caravan donated by the York Lions Club.

"The Lions Club is terrific," said Laura Browning, co-ordinator for Meals on Wheels, one of the programs offered by Humber Community Seniors' Services benefitting from the donation.

Browning said the new van will also help with the transportation program that provides seniors with rides to their medical and social appointments.

Other programs offered include house cleaning for seniors living at home as well as general maintenance such as snow shoveling in the winter and grass cutting during the warmer months.

Mike Stacey, treasurer of the York Lions Club, said it was a "win-win situation."

"What we try to do is make the community better," said Stacey, noting the club has been around since 1935.

The van, which cost nearly \$25,000, was bought with money raised from the bingo events that the Lions Club holds regularly.

"That enables us to donate to different organizations throughout the year," he said.

Courtesy of InsideToronto, a division of Metroland Media Group.

The York Lions Club's Mike Stacey turns the keys to a brand new Dodge Caravan over to Humber Community Seniors' Services' Renata Borges de Mello on Jan. 3

Photo/COURTESY



MD "A" Lions Resource Centre Website

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

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

HOW TO GET INTO THE LION Contact your District Reporter

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

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

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

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

District Reporters

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

MOVING SOON?

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

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300 W 22nd Street

Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842

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

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New address will be (Please Print):

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New Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____ PC: _____

Club #: _____ Member #: _____

Date of Change: _____

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mdathelionmag@hotmail.com

or mail to

Lion Classifieds/John Daniels
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Cambridge, ON N1R 2Z8

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



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MDA Rainbow Convention Annual Stew O'Brian Golf Tournament

Thursday May 31, 2012 at the Niagara Parks Whirlpool Golf Course

Tee time: 8:00 am Modified Shotgun Start, Scramble Format.

Cost is \$85.00 includes golf, cart, lunch and a gift.

Longest drive, closest to the pin and hole-in-one contests with a chance to win a New Trailer or a New Car (possible) and much more!!!

Dress code in effect, collared shirts, no denim, no sweat pants or shorts allowed. Shorts must be dress shorts and Bermuda length. Shoes must be soft soled and soft spikes only.

Open to all Lions and friends, we are limited to 88 golfers so book early.

To book your foursomes or as an individual contact Lion Steve Burrows, Golf Chair.
905-988-9461 or email at smjk.burrows@sympatico.ca



The Whirlpool Golf Course is one of Canada's most highly rated and renowned public golf courses. It is owned and operated by the Niagara Parks Commission and is located in a spectacular setting against the backdrop of the Niagara River Whirlpool and Gorge.

Lion History

The Convention Vest



That familiar purple corduroy vest with the golden fringes is still popular more than 60 years after it was first

introduced. How many of these have borne the weight and prickliness of the many Lions pins used to adorn them. Its origin and history

begin right here in our own Multiple District "A".

Purple and gold have been our official colours since the beginning of Lions Clubs International although blue and yellow are evident of late. In the early years men wore suits and hats for the most part and at conventions some would wear something distinctive of their state or province for parades.

In the 1920's some clubs would wear a fez supplied by the Lions International supply catalogue and in the 1930's District "A" had a convention dress of white pants and spats and a dark blazer. In the 1940's gold silk and later cloth wedge hats began to be worn owing to the use of soldiers in WW2.



W. Mac Fiddell



On a previous vest in use through the 40's and 50's, a stylized maple leaf appears on the back of a lightweight silk material. The one shown here

was worn by PDG Stan Darling of Burks Falls in A5 and is still proudly worn by his family.

Lion Frank Bartlett of Hamilton, a very enthusiastic promoter of The Canadian Association of Lions Clubs, proposed and designed this new Jacket for use of all Canadian Lions. It was made by Past Canadian President Heber Merrill of Lethbridge, Alta., who operated a clothing manufacturing business. Lions across Canada proudly wore this new Jacket at the International Convention of 1957 in San Francisco, where it was judged as the prize winning parade costume.



As a Past Chairman of The Canadian Association, Lion Frank became eligible to serve as International Director for Canada in 1959-1961. He and PIP Harry Newman were the only Lions in the MD "A" to serve as International Directors having never served as District Governor.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION - SAN FRANCISCO, June 26-29, 1957.
 The Hotel Chancellor was the Canadian Headquarters and hospitality centre. The Lions of Canada, and particularly those of District A-2 were indeed very jubilant in having marched in the parade and been awarded first prize for parade costume. They proudly wore the new Purple and Gold Canadian Jacket featuring the Club name and the Maple Leaf on the back. Past D.D. Governor Frank Bartlett of Hamilton proposed and promoted this new jacket. P.D.G. Douglas Fleming of Dundas, was elected to the office of Canadian Representative on the Board of Lions International Relations.
 LIONS INTERNATIONAL - became a member agency of C.A.R.E. in May, 1956.



In the 1970s after Tris Coffin of Montreal had served as International President we saw the appearance of other familiar Lions wear such as the Plum Jackets of District Officers and the so-called measles shirts and white pants that we continue to wear at International Conventions. (Aren't you glad these moustaches didn't catch on?) We have since added a white western style hat with a red band.

*For the good of Lionism,
 Ray Charbonneau
 MD "A" Historian*



We Serve

Sources
 International Lions Magazine
 District A11 by Russell Grafton
 The Darling Family, Burks Falls Lions Club
 1979 Montreal Convention, PID Gilles
 Melancon MD "U"

Agreement Number is:
 41805020*



In this picture of the Canadian Breakfast at the Waldorf Astoria in 1950, many Lions are wearing this type of vest. International President Walter Fisher from St. Catharines in District A2 was the guest of honour.