

LION



M.D. "A" Edition November/December 2013

www.lionsclubs.org

We Serve



Manotick Lions get their Friendship Arch

See details inside front cover

Courtice Lions Club

Georgina Major receiving a Melvin Jones Award from District A3 Governor **Albert Munneke** at the Courtice Lions 15th Charter Anniversary.



Sharbot Lake and District Lions

Lion Ed Warren was recently presented with the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides Fellowship Award by District A3 Governor **Albert Munneke**. Lion Ed was recognized for his years of service, both in the community and with the Sharbot Lake and District Lions Club.

Submitted by Lion Linda Zwier



Parry Sound Lions Club

Parry Sound Lions Club recently welcomed seven new members.



New Dog Guide Program!

Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides is launching a sixth Dog Guide program, Diabetic Alert Dog Guides. These Dog Guides are trained for people who have type 1 diabetes with hypoglycemic unawareness. Through scent, they are able to detect a drop in their handler's blood sugar and alert them so they can eat something. They are also trained to activate an alert system and seek help in an emergency. To learn more about Diabetic Alert Dog Guides and the other Dog Guide programs, or to make a donation, please visit <http://dogguides.com/programs.html>

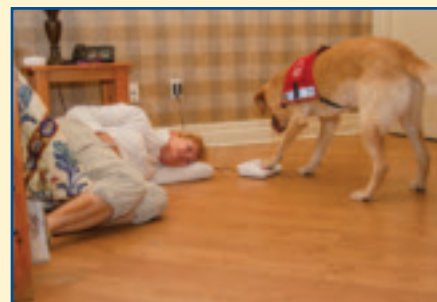
Diabetic Alert Dog Guides can be identified by their red harness.



Many people with this specific kind of diabetes experience lows while sleeping, which can be very dangerous. Diabetic Alert Dog Guides are trained to alert whenever a low occurs



A Diabetic Alert Dog Guide fetching a kit for their handler. Kits typically include a testing device



Diabetic Alert Dog Guides are trained to activate an alert button that notifies an emergency contact if their handler loses consciousness

Stittsville District Lions Club

At the induction ceremony for three new members of the Stittsville District Lions Club at the Lions Hall in Stittsville on Wednesday, April 24 are from left Region Chair 30 **Lion Paul Riddell** who was the MC for the induction ceremony; President **Lion Beth Lewis**, a new member sponsor; new **Lion Helen Culbert**, new **Lion Brenda Miller**, **Lion Don Redtman**, a new member sponsor; new **Lion Ramsay Ferguson** and **Lion Bob Lewis**, a new member sponsor.



from the front cover..

The **Manotick Lions** in Manotick, Ontario are pleased to inform everyone that after many phone calls and years of trying to get our Friendship Arch in Manotick it finally happened. Lion members are, back row, **Lion Chris Napior**, **Lion Mike Schulz** and **Don Messing**. Bottom row, Councillor from Osgoode Ward Doug Thompson, our past District Governor **John Chilvers**, President **Kris Schulz**, of course our wonderful Lion, Councillor from Rideau Ward **Scott Moffat**, Vice President **Lion Nadine Larabie** and **Lion John Scobie**.

We are very proud, since now we are recognized as having a Lion Club here in Manotick, location is great for everyone to see.



THOMPSON PRINTING
115 Scott Ave., Paris, Ontario N3L 3K4

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LIONS PLEASE CHECK YOUR CAMERA SETTINGS! When taking photos for The Lion please ensure your camera's resolution is set as high as possible. Check your instruction manual if unsure. Many cameras default to a low resolution Web setting which is insufficient for printing! Thank You!



One of Lions' Knights helping around the globe. See pg 16.

THE Lion



We Serve

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

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

Management Committee Lion Magazine
John Stewart PDG
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Agreement Number is:
41805020*



POSTMASTERS

If unclaimed, email us at:

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Barry J. Palmer
Lions Clubs International
President

Small Loans Produce Big Results

This year I am urging Lions to Follow Your Dream. That may seem corny to some. But for millions and millions of people who live in poverty it's another story. **They dream of a better life.** They dream of a stable income, an education for their children and health care

for their family. In India, for example, nearly 70 percent of its 1.3 billion people live on less than \$2 a day. *Many of us spend twice or three times that on a single cup of coffee.*

Lions in India have found a way for people to reach their dreams. They provide small loans so people can

start a business. **It works.** It's worked in India for Lions (see page 8), and it can work elsewhere. With these microloans people are able to lift themselves up by their bootstraps and earn a decent income.

The absolute beauty of microfinancing is that people help themselves. It's not a costly giveaway program. Neither is it tossing money at people and letting them sink or swim. In India, training is provided. In some programs small self-help groups offer support and advice as well as ensuring compliance. **These mechanisms have led to incredible success stories and remarkable outcomes for microfinance programs.**

I especially admire microfinancing because the principles behind it remind me of the service of Lions. We don't toss money at people. By giving them sight we empower them. We often engage with people, meeting and interacting with them instead of writing a

check and dropping it in the mail. **Microfinancing recognizes the basic dignity of people and the universal ambition to better oneself and provide for one's family.**

We're all in the same boat; with microfinancing we are reaching out to our neighbors with an oar and friendly advice on how and where to row. And we're hoisting a sail in the boat to enable them to reach their destination. Where are we headed? **Follow Your Dream!**

Barry J. Palmer
Your Lions Clubs International President

We're the Bright Knights of Light

Our reputation precedes us. Neighbors, friends and relatives of Lions bring their old eyeglasses to us when paying a social call. A magazine writing about a stylish eyewear company in New York that donates eyeglasses headlined the article with "One Part Boutique, One Part Lions Clubs." **Google "Lions Clubs and sight" and you get 15,700,000 results.** "LensCrafters and sight" yields a relatively paltry 146,000 results. And think of the advertising budget of a huge company like that!

We are Knights of the Blind and proud of it. We've taken on that mission since 1925 when Helen Keller spoke at our 9th International Convention in Cedar Point, Ohio, and eloquently asked us to be the Knights of the Blind. True, clubs complete all kinds of service projects, and some clubs don't focus on sight. That's perfectly fine. But our history and identity are

rooted in helping the blind and preserving vision. *It's a glorious, beautiful, magnificent mission, and every Lion can rightly take pride in what we do.*

In this special issue we take a look – pun intended – at the various ways Lions preserve and restore sight. In these few pages we can only gaze at the tip of the iceberg. But we know so much more is unseen. **We know that many clubs—probably yours—toil quietly as unsung heroes in the battle against blindness.** I tip my Lions hat to you for all you do.

We often don't receive thanks for what we do. That's OK. We know in our hearts the impact of our service. But occasionally someone brightens our day with an acknowledgement. It happened to Sue Nixon of the Commerce Lions Club in Texas weeks after a vision screening at a school. Wearing her new glasses, a young girl happened to enter Nixon's workplace

with her parent. *"That's the lady from the Lions club!" she shouted.* Then she joyously hugged Lion Sue.

I can't reach out and hug each of you for your service. In this issue we gratefully acknowledge what you do. It's a holiday gift for you. Anne and I send our very best wishes in this holiday season to you and hope next year is full of laughter, love and, of course, more glorious service to improve vision.

Barry J. Palmer
Your Lions Clubs International President

LCIF

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NOVEMBER, 2013 GOVERNORS' COUNCIL MEETING

LCIF

2014 LCI Convention – The Convention will be held in Toronto, July 4th to 8th, 2014. The Committee requires approximately 700 volunteers to assist with items such as parade marshalling, airport greeter, hotel greeter, host committee office, interpreter and sergeant-at-arms. Convention information and registration forms are available at www.lionsconvention2014.ca Raffle tickets will be available shortly for the Toronto Maple Leafs Getaway Weekend Draw featuring the hockey game between the Detroit Red Wings and Toronto Maple Leafs.

2014 MDA Convention – The Multiple District 'A' Convention is being held in conjunction with the District A12 Convention, May 2nd to 4th, 2014 at Deerhurst Resort in Huntsville. Events include the Stew O'Brien Golf Tournament, free entertainment of

Friday evening, Opportunity for Youth breakfast on Saturday, Awards Luncheon with LCI Vice President as the guest speaker, information & training sessions, Saturday evening Banquet and the Lions Memorial Service on Sunday.

Global Leadership Team – It was confirmed that the 1st VDG/DGE Training Session is scheduled for February 1st & 2nd, 2014. This session replaces the one day reduction in the DGE training program held at the International Convention.

Global Membership Team – During the September 7th & 8th sessions, all GMT Chairs present agreed to participate by submitting quarterly reports beginning in October, 2013. Reviews of these reports show four of the ten districts are solidly proactive assuring that ramp up efforts have been initiated.

Opportunities for Youth – The Multiple District 'A' Effective Speaking Final will be hosted by the St. Thomas Lions Club. The Contest shall be held at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel in London, Ontario on May 30th & 31st, 2014. Youth Exchange participants will arrive on June 28th with a departure date of July 26th. Requests have been forwarded to all Districts requesting \$135.00 for each of the Peace Poster and Peace Essay Contests. A very positive response has been received from CNIB and the Committee is again looking into the possibility of holding a Youth Camp Exchange at Lake Joseph for International visually impaired campers.

Lions Foundation of Canada – The Opening Doors Campaign is going well, boosted by the A15 LCIF Standard Grant of approximately \$78,000. to support



Lions Partner to Protect Millions against Measles

by Christopher Bunch

There's strength in numbers. And progress, too.

At the 96th International Convention in July in Hamburg, Germany, Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) and the GAVI Alliance announced a partnership designed to protect tens of millions of children in the world's poorest countries against measles and rubella.

"As Lions, we are excited to continue our work in the fight against measles and rubella," says LCIF Chairperson **Wayne Madden**. "Through our partnership with GAVI, we will focus on supporting routine immunization and strengthening health systems to benefit children in developing countries."

Lions will also raise \$30 million and deploy its network of volunteers to improve access to vaccines through the GAVI Alliance, a public-private partnership whose mission is to save children's lives and protect people's health by increasing access to immunization in the world's poorest countries. The funds will be matched by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, bringing the total to \$60 million.

"We are grateful for the continued and generous commitment of Lions Clubs International and its members to improving the health of the world's poorest children," says Bill Gates Sr., co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Since 1968, LCIF has awarded more than \$800 million in grants to support humanitarian projects including measles-vaccination initiatives. Although Lions are extraordinary fundraisers, their true value is measured in something far more valuable than dollars: members.

"Having 1.35 million members around the globe is incredibly powerful because most of the work that GAVI does occurs on the ground in developing countries," says David Ferreira, managing director for innovative finance at the GAVI Alliance. "We need help to mobilize mothers and fathers to get kids to immunizations and to spread the word about just how important immunization is. To have this partner that is so present and so committed is extraordinarily valuable."

Local Lions Clubs and GAVI will work with ministries of health in developing countries to ensure children are vaccinated against measles and rubella. Lions will also play a key role in social-mobilization efforts by working with local leaders, coordinating community-level publicity and serving as volunteers at vaccination centers. Additionally, they will work as community advocates by promoting vaccinations at the policy level.

Lions have recently participated in GAVI-supported vaccination campaigns in Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal and Bangladesh, as well as campaigns in Malawi, Madagascar and Botswana. The contributions of Lions are playing an important role in combating these deadly and debilitating diseases.

Measles is a highly infectious disease that kills an estimated 432 people every day, mostly in developing countries, and leaves many young children vulnerable to serious health issues such as pneumonia and blindness. But measles can be prevented with a safe, inexpensive vaccine that costs around \$1 per dose. GAVI provides both the measles and rubella vaccines in a single shot.

By 2020, more than 700 million children in 49 countries are expected to be immunized against measles and rubella through GAVI-supported campaigns. International partners such as LCIF, the Measles and Rubella Initiative, WHO, UNICEF, the Red Cross and countless others have all played a critical role in this global fight, but success will ultimately be achieved at the local level.

"We really need people at the community level to get the job done," says Matt Hanson, program officer in vaccine delivery at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. "In the end, measles is a disease that happens at the community level."

And that's where you'll find Lions—Lions donating, Lions mobilizing their communities and Lions fighting for a safer, healthier and brighter future for children who need us most.

For information or to donate, go to www.lcif.org/measles.



Lions in Kenya stand ready to comfort a child receiving a measles vaccination

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NOVEMBER, 2013 GOVERNORS' COUNCIL MEETING cont'd

the expansion of client rooms. The Diabetic Alert Program is well underway with Dog Guides well into training for scheduled graduation on November 14th. Another new program available for use is the 'Dog Bowl' launched by the Garden City Lions (A2). A full kit is available for those interested in this 'bowl in the dark' with special glasses replicating several visual impairments.

Lions Quest – Raffle tickets for the Mercedes Car Draw have been distributed to the Lions Clubs throughout the Districts. The Kitchener Lions Club recently presented Canada's Polka King, Walter Ostanek, with a Lions Quest Fellowship.

Sight Conservation – The Governors' Council approved the annual CNIB Appeal Letter to be sent to all Lions Clubs throughout Multiple District 'A'.

Promotion Committee – The York Lions Steel Band has been confirmed as the Multiple District 'A' band

for the LCI Convention Parade in Toronto.

Treasury – The 2012-2013 Auditor's Report was received by Council. The report indicated that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Multiple District 'A' Lions Clubs.

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

FOR THE RECORD

As of June 30 2013, Lions Clubs International had 1,347,403 members in 46,238 clubs in 208 countries and geographic areas.

St. Marys Lions Club



St. Marys Lions Club raised over \$2,000.00 from 9am to noon May 25, 2013

**Top: Lions Gerry Haliburton and Toll Bridge Chair Larry McClelland
Left: PID Lion Pres Bruce**

Knight Lights

Lions shine in people's lives, giving them not only sight but also a renewed spirit.

A Gift that Kept Giving

Lions gave 43-year-old office manager **Greg Steinmetz** of California a double dose of life-changing confidence. After he lost most of his sight from retinitis pigmentosa, Lions provided him with a guide dog in 2004. "There's the independence and confidence you get from going from a white cane to a guide dog. You feel empowered," he says. Then he joined the **Camarillo/Somis Pleasant Valley Lions Club**. He shucks corn for the club's fall festival, hands out tickets for parking at a county fair, and, in a productive presidency last year, helped raised money for two guide dog puppies, establish a Leo club and begin a project to recycle technological aids for the visually impaired. "One of the dark sides of vision loss is people might be shut-ins. They're afraid to leave their comfort zone. I got involved with the community, and that was a real confidence builder," he says. "You never know by helping one person how many lives you affect."



The Road Rises Up to Meet Her

For the past four years **Wauwatosa Lions** in Wisconsin have brought the gift of music to one very happy blind woman from Anchorage, Alaska. Lions pick up Susan Gillett from the airport, drive her to a hotel and then spend the day with her escorting her from stage to stage at the popular Irish Fest in Milwaukee. A medical transcriptionist at a hospital, Gillett is a huge fan of Irish music. Lions had been her lifelong benefactor, providing a book reader and making possible eye surgery. Desperate to attend the festival in Milwaukee, she emailed Wauwatosa Lions out of the blue, and they came through. Each year



Gillett gratefully sends the club a Christmas card. The trips have been "a liberating experience," Gillett, who now calls herself "Cruisin' Susan," told Lions in an email. "I was scared to death. But it went just fine. I know now I can travel anywhere by myself."

Lions Look Out for Her

Born without eyes, Marissa Hirschman, 18, studies psychology and Spanish at Central College in Pella, Iowa. She doesn't quite remember when the **Fort Madison Lions** began helping her—they've just always been a part of her life. They gave her a Braille 'n Speak machine in elementary school, an accessible laptop in high school and then a college scholarship. The Lions' unwavering moral support had a big impact. "Knowing I could count on the Lions made me feel confident," says Hirschman, who is poised and spirited. While maintaining a 3.8 GPA in high school, she managed the cross country team and volunteered as a Big Sister. She adds, "As I've met students who didn't have the support system I've had, I've really realized how lucky and grateful I am that the Lions have always been there for me."



A New Connection to the World

Blind since birth, 34-year-old Tammy Labshere lives with hearing impairment, chronic kidney disease and PTSD. The foster parents who raised her passed away. But Labshere is perpetually upbeat. At Riverbrook Residence, a home for women with developmental disabilities in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, she brightens up each day with her bubbly personality and beautiful piano playing. Lately, she has had even more reason to smile. Labshere had been using a 50-year-old Braille until **District 33 Y Lions** gave her a new digital Perkins SMART Braille through their Emergency Sight and Hearing Foundation. She got



down on her knees and hugged it. "I love it!" exclaims Labshere. "I use it to write letters, and it would be fun to learn French." Labshere's world is opening up in other ways too: a teacher at a school for blind children invited her to teach students how to use the Braille—her very first job.

Reborn to Be Wild

Gene Wild's favorite thing to do is hop on the motorcycle he lovingly restored, a 1983 Honda Saber, and ride for hours up the California coast on fabled Highway 1. It's great—the clean air, the purple mountains, the glimmering ocean, the Lions. Yep, Lions made it possible. "They're awesome," says 40-year-old Wild, who works at a processing plant for oranges and grapefruits. "I wouldn't even be working without them." About 15 years ago, when he had little money, the **Porterville Breakfast Lions** made arrangements to fix his cataracts. Though he was young, he was nearly blind. **Lion Steve Graybehl**, his former high school teacher, set the wheels in motion. Now Wild and his wife, a fellow rider, are living at full throttle.



Courage Comes in All Sizes

Maddie Wesolowski is a spunky 7-year-old with long, beautiful, bouncy red hair and a big personality. Born with glaucoma and cataracts, she's had so many surgeries already that her mother Theresa says, "I lost count at 35." **Lemont Lions** in Illinois buy her the new prescription lenses she needs every few months as she grows. Thankfully, says her mother, they also buy



Maddie harder-to-break sports glasses so she can wrestle around and play with her older brother. She loves to dance, too, but her favorite possession is the iPad Lions gave her. She rarely puts it down. "It's done wonders for her. Her learning has grown by leaps and bounds," says her mom. Maddie may be small but her smiles and cheerfulness in the face of hardship have earned her the first Lemont Lions Courage Award.

A Lion Tells Her Story

Cathy Dolles, 40, says she was humiliated when she had to depend on others after she lost vision in her right eye while living in Columbia, Missouri. "For eight years, people had to help me move around rooms and objects. They had to help me dress, and they helped me eat," she recounted to The Standard newspaper. She received a corneal transplant 15 years ago and only learned months later that **Columbia Lions** had paid for it. "To repay the Lions, I traveled around and spoke with groups about my story and how the Lions gave me the gift of sight," she said. Now a **Washington Terrace Lion** in Utah, she's still a road warrior out promoting sight awareness by speaking about how Lions stepped in to give her back her sight.



Love Blossoms at Camp

Thirty-five years ago a Lion at Camp Dogwood for the blind and visually impaired in North Carolina casually mentioned to Nathaniel Hawkins that he might want to take the open seat next to a fellow camper. Nathaniel and Blondine Hawkins have been a couple ever since. "He asked me my name. I asked him his name. We had supper," says Blondine, 66, who married Nathaniel, now 78, in 1986. Each knows the challenges of vision loss. Blondine had failing

eyesight when she met Nathaniel and years ago lost her vision completely from glaucoma. Nathaniel's sight improved in recent years after cataract surgery. Both have attended Camp Dogwood since the early 1970s. "You meet a lot of people. You do a lot of activities—bowling, boating, movies," says Blondine. One of their favorite camp pastimes, as when they first met, is sitting side by side in rocker chairs on a porch.

Photo courtesy of Wesley Beeson/The Sanford Herald



LCIF

LCIF Grants Change Lives

by Allie Stryker

LCIF

This school year students in New York might have a new favorite class as part of their curriculum, something that stands out a little more than the regular reading, writing and arithmetic: learning life skills.

A program of Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), Lions Quest focuses on social and emotional skill building, anti-bullying, substance abuse, dropout prevention and service learning. The program is designed to create a positive school climate and unite the home, school and community.

"Teachers who implement the program discover that strong bonds and positive relationships develop in their classrooms, while students develop important skills such as working collaboratively, making informed decisions, solving problems, and achieving their goals," explains Joan Fretz, co-founder of the Long Island Social Emotional Literacy Forum. "Students then choose to contribute positively and that maximizes instructional time."

Lions in District 20-S in New York were given a \$100,000 Lions Quest grant from LCIF for program implementation in area schools. Lions will conduct 21 workshops to train 660 teachers, benefiting approximately 60,000 students across 13 school districts.

This grant was awarded as part of the August 2013 Lions Quest Advisory Committee (LAC) and SightFirst Advisory Committee (SAC) grant review process. The LAC awarded just over US\$1.4 million for 26 Lions Quest grant projects. This is the largest

grant amount ever awarded at one time for Lions Quest, LCIF's social and emotional learning program for schoolchildren.

While the program implementation in New York is a good example of a Lions Quest grant, Lions Quest is not only available in the United States—teachers have been trained in more than 80 countries.

Following a successful pilot program workshop in 2007, Lions in Zambia received a grant of \$23,997 to implement Lions Quest for the first time. Combined with local matching funds, this grant allows Lions to conduct two workshops, training 60 teachers to implement Lions Quest in low-income schools. This will benefit approximately 900 students.

In other countries and communities around the world, from Mexico to Lebanon to Japan and more, Lions Quest is helping more than 12 million children



Thanks to an LCIF grant, these children in Zambia will learn social and emotional skills through Lions Quest

to become well-rounded citizens.

In the realm of sight, the SAC awarded more than \$7.4 million for 32 SightFirst grants. As part of these grants, Lions from Maryland, Delaware and Washington D.C. were awarded \$567,647 to establish a Lions-led low vision rehabilitation network with Johns Hopkins University. Low vision occurs when vision is significantly reduced and cannot be corrected or improved with glasses, contacts or surgery. Through this grant, low vision training and education will be provided to local ophthalmologists, optometrists, therapists and Lions, giving more than 11,700 people with low vision access to services locally.

In Belize, Lions are providing assistance to people with diabetic retinopathy. This disease results from poor diabetes management and can lead to vision loss. A SightFirst grant of \$130,699 will help Lions expand the existing diabetic retinopathy screening and treatment services at the National Eye Clinic and its five satellite facilities. Implemented in partnership with the Belize Council for the Visually Impaired and the Ministry of Health of Belize, the project will provide training in diabetic retinopathy screening and diagnosis, upgraded equipment and more. An estimated 10,663 people will be screened for diabetic retinopathy and 1,650 people will be treated for the disease over the course of three years.

Through these grants and more, Lions and LCIF are making a difference.

Major Changes Thanks to Microloans

by Jay Copp

One day a field worker from a group that helps the blind in India visited the home of Dinesh Kumar, 36, who is blind. The worker explained to Kumar's mother about support and job training. Her son, who most days sat idly because of his disability and lack of education, could actually work and lead a decent life. The mother listened for a short time, angrily rebuked the worker and stomped off.

Kumar's mother was realistic. None of her six children, except for one, even went to school. Their father toiled long hours as a laborer and earned little. The region offered no schools or programs for the blind. Kumar, blind since 16, had little self-confidence. Loving but hardened by experience, his family was convinced he was incapable of doing anything meaningful or productive.

The field worker was not bothered by the mother's harsh reaction. He was accustomed to such resistance in a society often lacking resources to help the disabled. So he met with a relative of Kumar's mother whom she held in high regard. The worker explained to the relative how other blind people had received basic mobility and daily living skills and started their own small businesses with microloans, small, interest-free loans. The relative convinced Kumar's mother to give it a try.

After 14 weeks of training, Kumar, once morose and listless, began making his way around the village by himself with a white cane. "His siblings were awestruck," reported the field worker. When he began to raise poultry, sold eggs and boosted the family's income, his mother literally believed a miracle had occurred. "She thought some special providential intervention had taken place," said the worker.

Kumar is one of 500 people who will receive

mobility and vocational training and one of 250 to receive microloans thanks to Lions of India and a SightFirst grant. Lions are partnering with the All India Confederation of the Blind (AICB) to help those with vision impairments in the Kaushambi District, where 60 percent of the 1.6 million residents make less than 53 cents a day. The US\$106,724 grant will support not only the training and microloans but also 50,000 eye screenings, 1,000 cataract surgeries, assistive devices for the blind, Braille books and counseling/mentoring for blind children's parents, who often need guidance on educational opportunities and other pathways to independence possibly available to their children.

Because communications are poor or unreliable, teams of field workers and optometrists are going door to door providing eye care and identifying those in need. AICB has a solid track record in microfinance. Nearly 85 percent of the 1,266 people given microloans through AICB continue to run their microenterprises, and most are repaying their loans.

The independent-living training and microloans have turned people's lives around. Bitterness and helplessness have dissolved, and self-reliance and self-esteem have mushroomed. Among those helped by Lions are Mohammed Mobin, blind since birth. He hired a small boy to take him begging so he could support his ailing wife. He initially told the field worker not to waste "his sermons" on him. After the field worker persistently lobbied him, a relative agreed to provide food and money so Mobin could take part in the training sessions. He now runs a small shop. "He says with some pride that begging would be disgraceful for him now," the field worker reported.

Phoolkumari Pasi, a mother of five, sunk into a depression when she lost her sight at 30. A female field

worker consoled and encouraged her as she cried and unburdened herself. An eye specialist treated her. She can now see two feet in front of her, and she raises pigs.

Phoolmati Pasi lost her sight from a disease at the age of six. Her family sharply told the field worker that "a blind woman cannot do anything ... Mind your own business." But the worker made headway with her younger brother. Pasi now runs a small shop and gets along better with her family. "Every day she looks forward to opening her shop," the field worker reported. "She feels that life has smiled on her again."



Thanks to life skills training and a microloan, Dinesh Kumar raises poultry after two decades of sitting around



Phoolkumari Pasi left her sadness behind her once she began raising pigs

MULTIPLE DISTRICT 'A' LIONS CLUBS – "Management Position" TREASURER

Multiple District 'A' Lions Clubs requires a qualified individual to fill the position of TREASURER, effective July 1, 2014.

The Multiple District 'A' Treasurer shall manage the M.D. 'A' financial functions as detailed in the Multiple District 'A' Policy & Procedures Manual under the direction and supervision of the Governors' Council.

KEY SKILLS:

- Possess proven accounting skills, including financial planning, budget preparation, reconciliation of control accounts & preparation of financial statements
- Possess a thorough knowledge of Simply Accounting Software
- Have a thorough knowledge of the financial

implications throughout the MD 'A' Policy & Procedures Manual

- Have a good understanding of the Lions Constitution & By-Laws, and a thorough knowledge of those areas covering the application of the Rules of Audit
- Possess previous Management/Administrative skills
- Be a member in good standing with a Lions Club located in Multiple District 'A' and have a good general knowledge of Lionism
- Possess excellent communication, problem solving & organizational skills
- Attention to detail and able to meet deadlines

This is a part time, home based position with varying weekly time commitments throughout the

year. It is a five year appointment with an annual honorarium. As Treasurer you will sit on the R&LRP Committee, Lion Magazine Committee, Administration Committee & the Promotion Committee. A detailed job description is currently in the Multiple District 'A' Policy & Procedures Manual which can be downloaded off the MD 'A' Website – www.mdalions.org

Interested applicants are invited to submit a detailed resume no later than Friday, January 24, 2014, to MD 'A' Administration Committee, c/o PCC Todd Wilson, Chairperson, 4 Raising Mill Gate, Elmira, Ontario, N3B 3K8 or email to lion.todd.wilson@sympatico.ca

While all applicants are thanked for their interest, only those to be interviewed will be contacted.

Unbounded Spirit

A gift of two wheelchairs ignites a renewed zest for life.

by Anne Ford

It took only a few harrowing moments for the engine of Allen Champagne's helicopter to sputter and stall as it flew over the Gulf of Mexico 12 years ago. It took only a few horrifying moments more for him to plunge with it into the unforgiving water below. But after he woke up in the hospital and learned that he'd be permanently confined to a wheelchair, time seemed to pause forever.

"Everything just seemed to have stopped in my life," says Champagne, 39, a former high school athlete who lives in Thibodaux, Louisiana, and speaks with a smooth drawl. "I remember saying that if this was going to be life for me, I would rather not be here. As I ventured out of the hospital, I felt really different than everybody else—so weird being in this chair, and so helpless. Life didn't seem to have much of a purpose."

That began to change about a year after the accident, when he learned about a local wheelchair basketball team. Popularized as a means of rehabilitating injured soldiers after World War II, wheelchair basketball uses specially designed chairs that allow players to move quickly and deftly around the court, dribbling, passing, and shooting just like standing players would.

In wheelchair basketball, hoops are at the same height as they are in the regular, stand-up version, and the rules are only slightly modified. (Pushing one's chair more than twice in a row while dribbling the ball, for example, counts as traveling.)

Like many people who'd never seen a wheelchair basketball game, Champagne showed up to his first practice not expecting a terribly competitive experience. He was quickly blown away by the players' strength, speed and aggression. "It was definitely more intense than I could have ever thought it would be," he laughs now.

Just as amazing as the athleticism on display was the obvious camaraderie among the players. "It was the first time I had ever seen so many people in wheelchairs," Champagne says. "It was like a big support group." After that point, he says, "Life became a lot more normal, a lot more functional."



The Golden Eagles bond over basketball and shared hardships

Unfortunately, wheelchair basketball is an expensive sport. The special wheelchairs it requires are pricey—and then there are the travel costs. "Most states have only one, maybe two teams in them," Champagne points out. "So being able to compete takes a lot of traveling. Most of the time, when we have a competition, it's in a tournament, where you play four or five games over a weekend. That's why financing is one of the hardest things about keeping a team going."

Fortunately, funding from the Lions of Mississippi and others has made it possible to add one more wheelchair basketball team to the nation's roster: the TLC Southern Miss Golden Eagles of Long Beach, Mississippi.

The Golden Eagles are sponsored by the University of Southern Mississippi's Technology Learning Center, a community-based, university-directed nonprofit that works to enhance the lives of people with disabilities. The team quickly became a competitive powerhouse in the world of wheelchair basketball after it began in 2011.

More importantly, the Golden Eagles, for which Champagne is both player and assistant coach, offers its players the same chance he received: to remain in top physical shape while making social and emotional connections that have the potential to change their lives forever.

It all began with a catastrophic storm. In 2005, Hurricane Katrina decimated the central Gulf Coast, killing nearly 2,000 people and resulting in more than \$100 billion of damage. Among its victims was the Technology Learning Center (TLC), which was totally destroyed during the storm and its aftermath.

Nancy Ann Sherman, who is both a **Biloxi Lions Club** member and a TLC visual impairment consultant, quickly went to her club and asked for help. The result: a Lions Clubs International Foundation grant of nearly \$100,000, administered by the Lions of Mississippi. The grant helped TLC replace vital equipment including two wheelchairs suitable for basketball.

"That's how we started the program—all from those two chairs," says Ashley-Nicole Ross Flowers, the coach of the Golden Eagles. An energetic 26-year-old, Flowers has been known to pick up a player and hoist him into the team van herself when the wheelchair lift isn't working. Flowers works as an assistive technology and certified recreational therapist at TLC. The wheelchairs allowed her and other staff members to encourage TLC clients to try out the sport.

By 2011, local interest in wheelchair basketball had risen so high that Flowers obtained a grant from the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services to

fund an entire team's worth of wheelchairs, jerseys, and other equipment. That's when the Golden Eagles were officially born.

Among the players to join was Blake Loftin, 24, who attends college in Mobile, Alabama. Loftin lost the use of his legs in a boating accident at age 13. The accident did not dim his competitive spirit. He relishes the sport's cut-throat competitiveness. The sport has become part of his identity, and he's training hard for the 2016 Summer Paralympics.

"Most people think that it's a feel-good thing, that we're just rolling around," Loftin says. "It blows their minds when they see top-notch players going at each other, moving at 15, 20 miles an hour and scoring 80, 90 points a game."

Thanks to that kind of intensity, the Golden Eagles won the Division III National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA) Gulf Coast Conference Championship in 2012—just one year after the team was founded. Not only that, but "that was actually the first time that the whole team had come together to play," Loftin says. "I believe we beat our opponents pretty handily by about 20 points."

The team went on to win the Capitol City Classic tournament last year in Jackson, Mississippi. It quickly became one of the top 24 teams of the NWBA's Division III and then won second place in the 2013



Wheelchair basketball gave Blake Loftin (releasing the ball) another shot at happiness



Loftin lost the use of his legs in a boating accident

Gulf Coast Conference Championship in Biloxi. Last April, they played in their first national competition, the NWBA Division III National Tournament, and came home with the fifth-place trophy.

Yet Flowers enthusiastically attests that the team benefits players in ways that have nothing to do with a scoreboard. "I have one player who had almost committed suicide," she says. "His therapist told him about our program, and he went from being suicidal to being someone who wants to play, wants to live, wants to be competitive again. He got his life back together. He felt like he could be somebody. His whole life just changed right in front of me."

How is such powerful change possible? For one thing, playing wheelchair basketball requires that players stay in top-notch physical condition. "To see a person shoot a three-pointer from a chair—the whole stadium goes berserk because it takes so much upper body strength," Flowers says. "Try sitting in a chair sometime and shooting. It's very intense."

Champagne agrees. "You push more in one game of wheelchair basketball than you push in a week of regular day-to-day life," he says. "And it's a whole different way of pushing. You're pushing harder and faster, and there's more contact." When a player devotes that much time and effort to maintaining physical health, mental health is bound to follow.

Then, too, being around other people who experience the same mobility limitations helps foster a sense of community and connection. "It gets them to see that they're not the only people going through this," says Flowers. "It helps them feel as if they're in their element."

And then there's the many practical tips for life in a wheelchair that the players inevitably end up sharing with one another. "If you haven't been injured long and haven't figured out a whole lot of things yet, it helps to have this group of people who have been through it and can pass on advice on how to do things better," Champagne says. "A lot of times [at practices] you'll see people off to the side, talking about different things. They help you realize that there's still a way to do things. You just have to figure it out."

Loftin, for instance, was taught by previous wheelchair basketball teammates how to go up and down an escalator (by using his upper-body strength to support both himself and his chair), how to get his chair to fit to his body so that he could get through narrow doorways and how to sit at a desk without having his chair accidentally roll away from it.

"I've learned so much besides basketball from guys that have been in chairs longer than me," he says. He tries now to do the same for others. "It stinks that bad things happens to people, but if I hear of an athletic person getting hurt, I immediately go into recruiting



Ashley-Nicole Ross Flowers coaches the Golden Eagles

mode. You get them on the team, and you get to teach them little things about how to move your wheelchair. It helps them; it helps me. It's making a good situation out of something that's less than ideal."

Champagne does his share of recruiting and mentoring, too. "You definitely see that person, who, given time, almost blossoms into someone different," he says. "A lot of times, when you first meet them, they're almost like a clam—just real quiet and not sure of themselves. As they get more comfortable as a player, as a person, you can see their attitude change. You can see who they were before they were injured come out. It's not *all* due to basketball. But I do believe that basketball makes a big difference."

LCIF

Shelter from the Storms

by Hélène Franchineau

Typhoon Morakot devastated Taiwan. Aided by LCIF, Multiple District 300 Taiwan Lions have given vulnerable villagers a safe haven for the next typhoon or earthquake.

Nestled in Nantou County in the heart of the island of Taiwan, Tongfu Junior High School is reached by taking a zigzagging, shoestring-like road. The nearest town is two hours away. Ninety-percent of its students are Taiwanese aborigines, whose homes are scattered among the nearby mountain slopes. The school looks out on a spectacular vista of palm trees leading to an opulent tropical forest. In the summer the school disappears into the mists that creep from the steep mountainsides.

Tongfu Junior High School could be considered an idyllic location, were it not for the dangers brought about every summer by the typhoon season.

The doomsday that people feared arrived in August 2009. For four days the Morakot typhoon pounded Taiwan. Rainfall in one day alone equaled the annual amount. The nation suffered its worst flooding since 1959. Nearly 700 people died – the worst typhoon in the nation's recorded history. Flags throughout the nation flew at half-staff for three days.

In a protected location, Tongfu Junior High School avoided the landslides and mudslides. But the families, who have lived on the mountainsides long before the Han Chinese immigrated here in the 17th century, were at the mercy of unleashed nature.

"Every year we would get flooding during typhoon season," says Xie Zaikun, the chief of Shenmu, the village closest to the school. "Then Morakot happened. The rivers submerged everything. It was as if the mountains moved."

Lions from ***Multiple District 300 Taiwan*** made donations. Lions worldwide contributed funds to LCIF, which issued multiple emergency grants and then a major catastrophe grant to Lions in Multiple District 300. Lions there decided the best course of action was to offer a plan of escape when typhoons inevitably struck again. Lions built four shelters to serve as evacuation points for the local population when a typhoon hit. The multipurpose buildings, costing US\$4 million, also serve as activity centers for

everyday life. The shelters are much-needed venues for medical services, vocational training and classroom instruction.

Tongfu Junior High School was chosen to receive one of the multi-functional shelters. The oval-shaped athletic field in front of the school and the location between two mountains, Ho-so and Dong-pu, made the school an ideal choice for a helicopter landing.

Taiwan is located on a major seismic fault, and the one-story building is robust enough to withstand earthquakes. The roof is made of a special fireproof material. It has its own electricity supply, and two water towers can provide enough water for 200 people for an entire week.

Wen Liyuan, the project manager and past 300-C3



The shelter at Tongfu Junior High School (background) is just beyond the school's baseball field
Photos by Hélène Franchineau



The shelter at the junior high is strong enough to withstand an earthquake

LCIF

district governor, drove three times a week several hours from his office in Taichung city to the school to inspect the construction. “We chose to build the shelter next to the school because the location is safe. Also for years, the children here did not really have a place to play sports. We wanted to remedy that,” he says.

Children practice badminton or volleyball inside the shelter. On the spacious stage bands play or people sing karaoke—a passion for most Asian people.



A choir of students sings Taiwanese aboriginal songs

“There is a handicapped access,” says Shen Mingren, the school principal. “We provide to school children but also nearby villagers a big building where they can gather for weddings, funerals and festivals.”

To show how important it was to anchor the building into the community, its exterior façade is adorned with black and red drawings, typical of the high-mountain Bunun minority that lives in the area.



Baseball is popular among Tongfu students

“Before this was built, we would sleep in our cars during the typhoons,” says Xie, the village chief. “So we are especially happy to have a place like this. We are very grateful to the Lions.”

The school children can vividly recall what happened during the two days Morakot devastated the area. “I was terrified. We were completely isolated,” said Chen Jiajun, 15. “If the roads are blocked, at least now we can stay at school inside the building and play.” Before, the students were stuck in their dormitory building.

About three hours away from the school is Ali Mountain. One of the most famous scenic sites of Taiwan also bears the brunt of many typhoons and other natural calamities every year. The torrential flow of water during Morakot destroyed two dozen bridges in Ali Mountain County. Seven families lost their

homes completely, and 300 were affected one way or another.



Workers pick high mountain tea leaves on Ali Mountain, one of Taiwan's most famous landmarks

“When there is a typhoon, I usually sleep on the sofa in my office to help coordinate the rescue effort,” says Chen Mingli, the Ali Mountain county mayor. “After Morakot, I slept there for two months.”

Due to the gradually improving relations between China and Taiwan, groups of Chinese tourists are in greater number coming to see Ali Mountain. On the sides of the steep road leading to its summit, workers pick up fresh leaves of Oolong tea. A type of Arabica coffee that is increasingly popular for coffee connoisseurs also grows on the mountain, which helps spur the economy of the 12 villages here, home to the Tsou minority. Now halfway to the Ali Mountain summit, on a flat terrain, stands the newly built emergency and relief shelter.

Chen Kunmao, the past 300 D-1 district governor (where Ali Mountain is located), says it was important to locate the 1,000 square-meter shelter close to the danger zone. “The location is convenient because it is close to the potential disaster area. The land is flat so it is safe. Helicopters can land here and we have easy access to government offices,” he says.

“Before, the only place the population could be evacuated to was an army shelter, but it was some one hour and thirty minutes away,” he adds.

Inside the building, which can accommodate 240 people, rows of mattresses populate the ground and first floors. “We are still waiting for bunk beds,” says Tom Jun, head of Social Services for Ali Mountain County. On the first floor are a karaoke machine and a flat screen TV.

The Taiwanese government completed a study that found that about 300 families in the county were the most at risk during a typhoon or an earthquake. When a disaster strikes, these designated houses receive a notice to evacuate. “Some will take care of themselves, some will move to their relatives and we take care of the rest,” says Tom Jun. “About 200 people cannot find shelter. We are here to help them.”

“We have coffee, tea and mattresses where people

can sleep. There is no time limit for the people to stay. Our first concern is safety,” he says.

Similar to the Tongfu Junior High School, the shelter building in Ali Mountain is also widely used throughout the year. “During normal times, people like coming here,” says Tom. “All the furniture is foldable so we can quickly remove it to hold meetings, for example.”

The shelter provides peace of mind. People know they have a place to flee to when a disaster strikes. “We are very thankful to have this building,” says Shi Zhiying, a 24-year-old handyman at the shelter.

Taiwan typically experiences five big typhoons annually, and last year the shelters were used several times. Says Past International Director **Pei-Jen Chen**, instrumental to the four projects, “This is an example of a great project because we truly can save lives.”



Tom Jun, head of social services for Ali Mountain County, tests the facilities at the 1,000-square-meter shelter built by Lions



The shelter at Ali Mountain can accommodate 240 people. After the Morakot typhoon, Lions also built shelters/activity centers/classrooms in Nantou, Kaohsiung and Taitung counties



Proudly standing outside the Ali shelter are (from left) Chang Chujen, past council chairperson for MD 300 Taiwan; Past International Director Pei-Jen Chen; and Past District Governor Chen Kunmao, shelter project manager

Lions on Location

Club Ups the Ante at Anniversary

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

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

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

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



Musicians help launch the golden anniversary of the Tongeren Lions Club

French Lions Award National Writing Prize

What brought French Lions together with power brokers, celebrated writers and book lovers in the ornate Napoleon room at the luxurious Luxembourg Palace? It was the 2012 Lions National Literature Prize. French Lions honored first-time novelist Chantal Foret for "Qui-vive," her moving chronicle of two brothers grappling with their feelings toward their ailing elderly parents.

Staunch supporters of the arts, French Lions "use their abilities to help others and develop many initiatives in the areas of academia, education and culture," said **Dominique Mallet**, chairperson of the Lions' Humanitarian Committee. The literary prize "is proof of our dedication to the cultural sphere and allows us to share

our conception of humanism by promoting culture at the regional level throughout France," she added.

The Luxembourg Palace is where the French Senate meets, and Senator **Alain Gournac** praised his fellow Lions at the literary event. "You are participating in a reading campaign. You are providing assistance to the book publishing industry, and, not least importantly, you are helping an author," he said. "This is not a humanitarian action; it is a humanistic one (in the Renaissance sense). I can only rejoice in the fact that I belong to a club which provides service to humankind in both its earthly and spiritual dimensions."



French Senator Alain Gournac speaks at the Lions' literary awards event at Luxembourg Palace. Looking on is Council Chairperson Francois Bertrand

Tribe Helped Without Washing Its Hands of Its Past

For centuries the isolated Karen tribe in the dense forests of Northern Thailand practiced a slash-and-burn cultivation to grow crops like hill rice. In recent years some of the tribesmen also grew poppy to produce opium. With its own language and customs, the ruggedly independent mountain tribe sustained itself and its singular culture.

Today the tribe is caught in between the modern world and its traditional ways. The Thai government has been eradicating poppy production and has encouraged the Karen tribe and other indigenous peoples to grow tea and coffee. Yet the forests, the source of the tribes' food, clothing and medicine, are withering, and the government often pushes the tribes onto lower land and presses for their assimilation into mainstream society.

The tribal peoples gained the rights of other citizens but lost their ways of life. Entrenched poverty took root. The difficulties of the mountain peoples have led Japanese Lions to undertake several initiatives in Northern Thailand including a clean water project near Chiang Rai City. New in Pakura Village are a well, a hefty water tank on a nine-meter tower and a renovated school with functional toilets, sinks and, finally, a roof and walls without gaping holes.

"The walls were all shoddy. There were bird droppings on the floor. Some children had pink eye and diarrhea because of the dirty water," says Japanese **Lion Yoichi Hayakawa**, who toured the site with other members of the **Tokai Lions Club**.

The Tokai Lions teamed up with **Chiang Rai Lions** and LCIF on the \$20,000 water project for the members of

the Karen tribe in the village. Both the reservoir water and the river water, polluted with pesticides, were making villagers ill.

The Lions tried to help without unduly changing the culture of villagers. "We always tried to be careful not to rearrange villagers' lives by carelessly bringing foreign materials and people into the village," says Japanese **Lion Atsuro Takeuchi**.



Schoolchildren use the new sinks at their school in Pakura Village

Norwegian Lions Kick ...

It's not been the butt of jokes that Lions in Norway are behind an anti-drug campaign. To persuade youths to not use drugs, Lions for nearly 40 years have commissioned films, held drug-free concerts, sponsored youth camps and funded drug-tracking dogs for police and custom officials. A more recent gambit is getting a woman's handball team in Fredrikstad to feature the Lions' anti-drug logo on its shorts. Two prominent professional soccer teams also display the tulip logo.

Lions have used the logo since the early 1980s, and it's now a well-known symbol in Norway. A sturdy red tulip faces up, signifying the result of good choices in lifestyle, and a drooping gray tulip symbolizes the effects of drug abuse.

The tulip logo is appropriate for another reason: Lions have sold tulips since 1982 as a major fundraiser. In 2012 alone the sale raised more than US\$2 million. Some of the funds go to Lions Quest, which has a strong anti-drug component.



The goal of the tulip logo campaign is to discourage youths from using drugs

Traditional Treat Becomes a Lions' Tradition

Grittibänz, or bread men, are traditional pastries made by German bakeries in Switzerland for St. Nicholas Day (Dec. 6) and then throughout Advent. The

Tössal Lions Club gives the bakeries a run for their money with its own popular version of Grittibänz.

Since 2004, the club has sold 35,000 Grittibänz. Members use a lightly sweetened brioche dough to satisfy the holiday cravings of German Swiss.

Lions and their children make and sell the pastry at a local Christmas market. The sales fund the club's charity. "An equally valuable result was the countless hours club members spent with their friends and family members—not to mention the countless bright eyes of the children who form their own Grittibänz and take them fresh from the oven," according to the Switzerland LION.



Lions and family members make two of the 35,000 Grittibänz they've made since 2004

Lions – LCIF – Camp Huronda – A Great Partnership.

Lions have long been supporters of Camp Huronda, a camp for children with type 1 Diabetes. The last few years have seen more involvement of all the Lions districts across MDA. With this in mind it was thought that we could go for an LCIF Grant to build a Lions Learning Centre. In 2012 all the clubs in MDA received a letter requesting funds for this project. The mailman was kept busy with cheques flowing in. Soon we had enough to apply for the grant and after much work we received word that we had received the grant. While working on the grant we kept receiving donations and in total the Lions of MDA donated just over \$100,000. With the grant, that is over \$175,000 to be put towards this construction. Such cooperation has restored my faith in the Lions of Ontario. Keep up the good work. *Lion Al Beamer PDG, Diabetes Chair MDA*



Lion Al Beamer Diabetes Chair presenting a \$75,000 cheque to Kerry Bruder of the Canadian Diabetes Association. Also present Past Council Chair Lion Bradd Anderson who was instrumental in getting the grant and will be checking to see that the terms are followed.

Palmerston Lions Club

The Palmerston Lions Club recently finished up work for the summer in Palmerston Lions Heritage Park. The park, which has been a project of the club for the past seven years, has quickly become a popular spot in Palmerston for walkers, bikers, runners, and those just wanting to take a stroll down memory lane.

Over the past seven years, the Palmerston Lions, with assistance of many people including the Town of Minto, Wellington County's Green Legacy program, Farm Credit Canada, not to mention the numerous local donors, have taken what was once barren railroad land and turned it into something beautiful.

With over 20,000 (yes, that number is correct!) volunteer hours in the park over the past seven years, the Palmerston Lions have shown once again that they are there to serve!

On September 29, **Lion Dave Wilson** (who has acted as foreman during the building of the park) installed some commemorative bricks at each end of the nearly 1.5 kilometres of the hand laid interlocking brick walking path that the Lions laid. These bricks



recognize the over 20,000 volunteer hours worked in the park, and the over 250,000 bricks that were laid since construction began in 2007.

Plans are already underway for work next year in the park, which include building a washroom onto the pavilion.

submitted by Lion Mike Wilson

LIONS/CNE Peewee Baseball Tournament

We had a very successful 16th annual LIONS/CNE Peewee Baseball Tournament this year.

Thanks to the clubs in District A-711 making donations to the tournament of \$7,100 and the fact that our snack bar at the game brought in \$4,900 so we were able to make a donation to the CNE of \$12,000.00.

We had a lot of hard working Lions involved in this project, especially my co-chair **Yves Dourin, Emily Dourin, Sally McMann, Ann Stevens, Ed Bosker, Stan Bryan, Ray Charbonnaeu, Ed Stoddart** and all the Lions and spouses who came down to the snack bar to do a shift or more.

During August, just before we opened there was a plumbing catastrophe and the Lions booth was flooded with sewage. The Health Department had to condemn our booth and contents (2 BBQs, fridge, freezer, etc.). After the bulldozer was done, it looked as if we'd be working out of an open tent. An emergency email went out and our **Milton Lions Club** voted to let us use their

food trailer. Yeah Milton. The booth was great. We were saved. Thank you Milton Lions.

The CNE did reimburse us for the replacement fridge, freezer, two barbeques, microwave oven and other small appliances that were replaced.

Again the CNE were very appreciative of the Lions efforts and they gave us great publicity as we are the main sponsor of the tournament. We had Lions signs up everywhere, and our logo was in the program that was handed out to the over 1.6 million visitors.

The Lions were also the winner this year of the friendly baseball game between the CNE personnel and the Lions.

It is not too early to start thinking about the 2014 Lion/CNE Peewee Baseball Tournament.

I would like to ask your club to consider now, to donate money towards this worthwhile endeavour. Also please consider donating your time to work the

snack bar. It is really a fun project.

This is a high profile project of which the Lions from District A-711 can be proud of.

submitted by Lion Wayne Hoey, Peewee Chair



Yves Dourin, Emily Dourin, Judy and Wayne in the mobile trailer

Home Sweet Homes for Haitians

The shacks crumbled during the massive earthquake of 2010. Crudely constructed from wood, mud or irregular concrete blocks, the homes in Blanchard, a small community on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince, were no match for the ferocity of the earth's upheavals.

The irony was that Cite Soleil, which adjoins Blanchard and is commonly described as one of the world's worst slums, took a softer blow. The quake destroyed no sewers or stores in the impossibly crowded slum because there were none to destroy, and the piles of rotten garbage strewn about remained undisturbed. But in quieter semi-rural Blanchard, where residents stoically eked out a living farming small plots, home after home was left shattered.

The homes had been spare and modest—dirt floors, often without windows, frequently covered partly in taro leaves to keep the rain out. But they were homes where families ate together, slept and lived out their days as family.

Four years later, dozens of families at last reside in modest but new, comfortable and clean homes. Among them are Mimose Joseph and eight relatives including four grandchildren. Her husband died eight years ago. Her son, a factory worker, kept the family from starving. Her family now lives in a two-room, four-window, concrete-block home sturdy enough to withstand an earthquake. Joseph even had a say in her home's exact location, its floor plan and the color of its brightly painted walls.



Mimose Joseph stands in front of her new home as her grandchildren and daughter-in-law enjoy the cool shade of the porch

Amazed at her good fortune, Joseph stands regally on her front porch and reflects on her former home. "There is no comparison. Every day I pray to the Lord to say thank you for helping me put my family here," she says.

Where there is help, there is hope for her community. "It has always been poor, but with support it is changing. I hope they will find ways forward for the children and develop our area," she adds.

Lions of Norway recently finished building 50 homes in Blanchard. Each home cost just US\$7,500. Lions employed local laborers to stimulate the economy. Other nonprofits in Haiti sometimes neglected to adequately consult with residents on their

needs, built shoddy shelters with little durability or watched in dismay as projects failed to be completed. Norwegian Lions took precautions. They worked closely with Haitian Lions and with Ferdinal Joseph, a respected longtime resident of Blanchard.



Construction workers use string to measure even layers of block, ensuring homes are straight and strong

Joseph was a pivotal figure. He identified those with the most need, helped families with required paperwork and documentation and responded to their concerns and smoothed disputes that arose among contractors, workers and families. He also kept things moving forward on the construction sites. Today, whenever he strolls through the community, residents flock to him to shake hands or update him on their lives. "This is the first time such a project came to our area," he says. "Everyone is happy. It's a good project."



Haitians build homes funded by Norwegian Lions

An improvement over what they had, the Lions' homes account for ventilation, privacy and waste management. "We just asked that people be given a little dignity," says **Pierre-Richard Duchemin**, the project leader for Haitian Lions.

Many Haitians who lost homes in the earthquake still live in "t-shelters," temporary shelters built from plywood. These are likely to become permanent as NGOs pull up stakes and apply resources to more recent disasters.

Compared to the period after the earthquake, daily life in Blanchard is remarkably more upbeat. Cows and goats graze contentedly. Children on bicycles raise clouds of dust. Edriemps, Joseph's brother, is

high up in a coconut tree, releasing the fruit with a sweep of his machete.



Bernadette Octavius and her grandson stand at the gate of their new home

"There are many problems in Port-au-Prince," concedes Mimose Joseph. "But there is only hope for the future. The fear is behind us now."

Down the road Bernadette Octavius, a fiery 52-year-old with a deep, easy laugh, has just returned from the fields where she raises goats, chickens, cows and pigs. She ambles by a small hut, partially destroyed, that now contains feed. That was her home before the earthquake. Nearby is the tent she subsequently shared after the disaster with her husband and three grandchildren. Fevers raged within her when the tent was home. The illness is gone now that she lives in a Lions' home. "It's very beautiful," she says of her home. "Every day I'm busy raising animals and working in the gardens. I love it."



Octavius' former home, damaged by the earthquake, is now used for storage



Octavius lived with her family in this tent in her garden after the earthquake.

Photos by Swaan Parker

These Are A Few of Our Favorite Things

by Jay Copp

Lions are spirited. What's in our hearts drives our service. It can't be touched, measured or seen. Yet objects can help us reach our objectives. We create, market and sell tokens of who we are and what we do so we can further our mission. Beauty is said to be in the eye of the beholder. But how can objects lovingly crafted and serving a higher purpose be anything but beautiful?

Each year since 1990 **Fairmount Lions** in Indiana remember their most famous son with a collectable pin. The club makes 1,000 pins of James Dean, who grew up on a farm near Fairmount. The 1949 graduate of Fairmount High School was "a brilliant senior guard," according to the yearbook. The "anniversary" on the pin refers to the year of his death. Pin proceeds fund a scholarship for a high school senior. Dean will live on in another way thanks to the club. Lions recently removed the stage from the old Fairmount High School, where Dean first acted, and will rebuild it in a new park pavilion.



Camden Lions in Maine commemorated the 50th anniversary of their annual Christmas star on Mt. Battie in 2011 with a poster. The 19- by 27-inch poster sold for \$5.95. The star, placed on an old tower honoring World War I veterans, glows majestically from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. from Thanksgiving to New Year's Eve. A rounded, rocky knob, the 800-foot Mt. Battie forms a scenic backdrop to the town and harbor. Lions must ascend the mountain each day to refill a generator with gas.

Eight youths died in car accidents in a short span in Manheim, Pennsylvania; five of them played on the popular high school football team. So **Manheim Lions** sold prints of the school's football field and used the funds to offer a voluntary hands-on defensive driving course. The prints sold for \$75. About 300 teenagers have taken the BRAKES course (Be Responsible And Keep Everyone Safe).



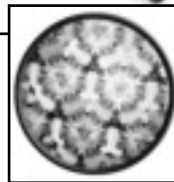
A 90-minute drive from Dublin, Roscrea once sat on the ancient highway of Ireland known as the "Slighe Dala" (Parliament Way). The small

picturesque town is dotted with old monasteries, churches and castles.



Roscrea Lions took advantage of the beauty that surrounds them by selling Christmas cards featuring historic sites. **Lion Brian Redmond** took the photos. A packet of eight cards sold for eight euros (about US\$11).

Bowie Lions in Maryland wanted a "wow factor" as part of their 50th charter night. So Kaleidoscopes to You in Iowa came up with a Lions kaleidoscope for members. Speakers at club meetings also now leave with it as a keepsake. Makes you see Lions in a whole new way.



Gig Harbor, Washington, ends up on magazine lists of "best small towns" or in newspaper stories on weekend getaways. Located near the towering Tacoma Narrows Bridge, the town of 7,000 on Puget Sound has boutiques, fine dining, and most of all, a picture-perfect waterfront. **Gig Harbor Lions** leverage the attractiveness of their town by producing a calendar with gallery-quality photographs. Lions believed their 2012 calendar was especially well-done, so they printed 5,000 calendars instead of the usual 500. The club had no trouble selling them.



A columnist from the Oakland Tribune in California praised the new planters in the attractive Montclair neighborhood: "Not since the days when shopkeepers swept their sidewalks have I seen this kind of community pride." **Oakland Montclair Lions** recruited Gina Dominguez of Snapshot Mosaics to create intricate mosaics that include a Lions Club logo for planters scattered throughout the hillside, tree-covered neighborhood.

Maybe you're in the mood for something routine like a casserole or taco dip. Or maybe you're game for something more exotic like a moose and squirrel meatball. The cookbook of the **Mad River Lions** in Ohio has something for every palate: 430 recipes for appetizers, soups, salads, main courses and desserts submitted by club members, other Lions and residents. The cookbook committee included **Russ** and **Alesha Stringfellow**, who designed the cover.



If Lions are part of their fabric of our communities, shouldn't we embrace the iconic places and events within our communities? Yes, say the **Middlebury Lions** in Connecticut. For nearly a decade they've created and sold Christmas ornaments with themes that resonate with residents. Scenes depicted include sledding on the Town Green, skating on a local pond, the annual tree lighting, a local school and the encampment during the Revolutionary War of French General Rochambeau, hurrying to join General Washington to defeat Cornwallis at Yorktown. Last year's ornament celebrated Johnny's Dairy Bar, a hot dog stand that opened in 1952. Lions and other Middleburians worked the counter or downed sodas, devoured the 25-cent, foot-long hot dogs, traded stories, jokes and furtive looks of longing and otherwise acted like the teenagers they once were.

For 75 years high school football stars in and near Erie have battled in the Save-An-Eye Game. Held by the **Erie Lions**, the game has raised more than \$3 million for eye care for needy children through The Sight Center of Northwest Pennsylvania. Last summer a colorful Save-an-Eye history book was published, and NFL Films sent a crew to work on a feature about retired fullback Brian Milne, who played in the all-star game.

We are Knights of the Blind. At least that's how we are known in English-speaking nations. In France, we call ourselves the Chevaliers des Aveugles. In Latin America, we are Paladines de los Ciegos. Chinese Lions understand themselves as 盲者之武士. Knights ride under a multitude of flags, speak many languages and practice different customs. But in whatever nation or culture, Lions ferociously battle blindness and kindly help those with vision impairments, often thanks to SightFirst.

California, United States

People with good vision learned how people with vision impairments safely navigate through life at a White Cane Safety Day held by the **Tustin Host Lions Club**. People admired guide dogs, wore goggles that simulate vision problems and heard from the White Cane Marching Society members on marching in formation. "Anything you can do to educate the public about white canes, the better off we are. People need to watch out for people with the white cane," says **Lion Walt Sullent**, who formed the marching society that has taken part in the Rose Parade. **Amy Levinson** (photo) helped a young child walk with low vision simulator goggles. "I had sunglasses on so people couldn't see my tears. It's just so impressive what we do for people," Levinson says.



Photo by Sam Gangwer/The Orange County Register

North Carolina, United States

For five years the 14-member **Lincolnton Lions** have traveled to schools to do eye screenings for young children. "It's unbelievably rewarding," says Past President **Charles Stevens** (photo), a retired Methodist minister. "When you go back, the kids say, 'I got my glasses because you came.' Or teachers say the kids are doing so much better [because they have glasses]." The children read eye charts set up in the school, and those with potential vision problems take more sophisticated tests inside the mobile screening unit of the North Carolina Lions. Operational since 2012, the 60-foot trailer does hearing screenings as well. Lions in North Carolina used a van for screenings from 1999 to 2012. The two mobile facilities have enabled Lions to screen more than 200,000 people.



Mexicali, Mexico

Lions received a standing ovation from Mexicans waiting for vision exams when the Lions arrived for a day of screening. "Wow. You know you're doing good when that happens," says Past Council Chair **John Hart** of Tucson, Arizona. Eleven Lions from Arizona and California, as well as Mexicali Lions, screened 794 patients, made 76 eyeglasses at their on-site optical lab and distributed 675 recycled eyeglasses over two days. Nearly 70 people needed follow-up such as cataract surgery, glaucoma treatment or repair of a retinal detachment. Local Lions handle the follow-up care. Led by **Dr. Brian Van Dusen** of the California Lions Friends in Sight, the missions began several years ago. Pictured is **Karen Pryce** of the **Phoenix Metro Lions Club**.



Durania, Colombia

Like countless other small clubs, the 16-member **Durania Lions Club** brings the gift of sight to large numbers. Here a Lion screens impoverished children.



Kaoma District, Zambia

Astonishingly—and horrifyingly—nearly one in three children in this district has trachoma, a dreadful blinding disease rarely found in developed nations. Lions Aid Norway has succeeded in distributing Zithromax, a medication that wards off the disease, to 84 percent of the population. A routine eye exam showed that Chipango, 12, (left) and Kamana, 8, had trachoma, and they received Zithromax. A long line of schoolchildren line up to receive the medication.



Sava Region, Madagascar

The Lions SightFirst Madagascar Eye Clinic provides a wide range of services including vision

screenings, eyeglass distribution and cataract surgeries. Without the clinic, hundreds of thousands of people would have no hope to detect or correct vision problems.



Barcelona, Spain

Lions in Spain collect eyeglasses from bins at pharmacies and opticians and send them to their recycling center in San Vicente de Raspey. "It generally sends shipments to Africa and countries without financial means or where there has been war or conflict," says **José M. Pérez Soler**, zone chairperson. **María Rosa Conte** (photo) of the **Barcelona Layetano Host Lions Club** prepares to ship thousands of eyeglasses.



Lille, France

The French government pays for medication to treat macular degeneration, and Lions in France regularly screen for the age-related eye disease. Lions in Lille, a city of 225,000 near the Belgium border, test a middle-aged woman for the disease.



Hamburg, Germany

Where Lions gather, sight service happens. A Special Olympics athlete peers at his new free glasses after a vision screening at the 96th International Convention.



Växjö, Sweden

Alarmed by the pollution of its lake, the city of 60,000 turned heads in 1996 by eliminating the use of fossil fuels by 2030. Lions in Växjö are eliminating

poor vision. **Växjö Dacke Lions** has been collecting eyeglasses for eight years. This year the 27-member club collected, cleaned and sorted 1,500 eyeglasses for its partner Vision for All. The eyeglass recipients live in South America, Africa and Asia.



Photo courtesy of Per-Erik Sandebäck, Smålandsposten

Faisalabad, Pakistan

A familiar scene takes place worldwide: people in need line up for Lions’ free eye screenings and eyeglasses. It’s no different in Faisalabad, Pakistan’s third largest city. On this day the **Faisalabad Star New Century Lions** provided eye screenings to more than 2,000 children and provided eyeglasses for 600.



Pollachi, India

Bollywood loves the temperate climate and colorful markets of Pollachi, a small city of 95,000. More than 1,500 movies have been filmed here. But the engaging scenery masks the huge gaps in eye healthcare, a problem endemic to the impoverished nation. Nearly one in five of the world’s 39 million blind people live in India, which also counts 63 million people with vision impairment. The 406-member **Pollachi Liberty Lions Club** regularly does vision screenings. “We Lions know that eyesight is more important than any other thing in the world. So we give it preference as ‘sight first’ in our service,” says **P. Prabu**, club secretary. Here the club does eye exams at the Sri Ramu College of Arts and Sciences.



Rupandehi District, Nepal

When rural people can’t get to an eye clinic, Lions in Nepal take an eye clinic to them. It’s not a fancy vision van, but an eye chart affixed to a post is sometimes the first step



for Nepalese Lions in determining and correcting a vision impairment.

China

Cataract, easily fixed in minutes in a country such as the United States, remains a scourge in developing nations. Cataract is responsible for approximately half of China’s blind – 2.5 million people. The good news is that Lions and LCIF have made great strides in reducing blindness in China. The SightFirst China Action program has made possible 5.1 million cataract surgeries as well as establishing surgical eye units in 104 rural counties that previously had none and creating secondary eye care units at hospitals in 200 underdeveloped regions.



Multiple District 300 Taiwan

Another typical day in Lionism: Lions in Multiple District 300 Taiwan help schoolchildren eventually see the blackboard (well, probably their iPads), do well in school and grow up to take their place in society—by checking their vision and then providing eyeglasses, if needed.



Malaysia

LCIF is partnering with the World Health Organization to establish or strengthen pediatric Lions eye care centers around the globe. These centers will deliver preventative, therapeutic and rehabilitative eye care services for 121 million children, including this young boy.



Manila, Philippines

Children remain at great risk of blindness. On average, a child goes blind every minute. The awful totals: 1,440 a day, 43,200 a month and 518,400 a year. If you’ve been fortunate to reach the age of 50,

nearly 26 million children have lost their sight during your lifetime. Lions in the Philippines pay special attention to children and provide early screenings to prevent blindness.



Australia

Lions Recycle for Sight Australia marshals volunteers of all ages to collect old eyeglasses to be redistributed to those in need.



Seoul, Korea

All 41 members of the **Seoul Dongnam Lions Club** are optometrists. So it’s easy to understand the kinds of service the club does. Here a club member screens a boy’s vision at a reformatory school, an underserved population.



Tokyo, Japan

Eyeglass recycling has been growing among Japanese Lions; **Tokyo Sangenjaya Lions** (photo) diligently pack eyeglasses for recycling. The club partnered with ZOFF, a nationwide eyeglass retailer, to ship 7,200 eyeglasses to Australia. “Most eyeglasses are in very good shape,” a businessman told the Japanese LION. “Seeing Lions work in packaging these eyeglasses, I realize how much we consume and throw away that is still in usable or even perfect condition. These eyeglasses will change someone’s life somewhere in the world.”



How does that old song go? "Fifteen days on the road and I'm going to make it home tonight!" It certainly must have been how Past International Director **Bruce Murray** and Past Council Chair **Tim Cronin** must have felt after their latest adventure in support of Lions Quest Canada.

Before the 1989 Lions Quest Mercedes even left the area it made a guest appearance at the Lions District A15 Cabinet Meeting at Five Oaks near Paris, Ontario.



A15 Cabinet with the Mercedes

On September 26th, 2013 – Day One – the two Lions were on their way from Elmira and St. Mary's to take the 1989 Lions Quest Mercedes to visit with Lions across the country with stops in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba during their trip to Red Deer, Alberta to attend the Do Your Part! Red Deer 2013 National Conference on Positive Youth Development.

The next few days were filled with a few detours courtesy of Bruce's trusty GPS 'Gerty', a couple of long days of driving through the United States, a remote border crossing, learning how to read the Mercedes' gas gauge, and stays at some motels that were colourful to say the least. The pair was able to arrive in Calgary on Monday September 30th – Day Five – for a meeting with Past International Director **Jack Isaman** who is also on the Board of Directors of Lions Quest Canada.



Lion Bruce arriving safe and sound

On Wednesday October 2nd - Day Seven – Lion Bruce and Lion Tim attended the **Calgary Northeast Eyeopener Lions Club** the home club of Past International President **Brian Stevenson** and PID **Jack**. This club is a great mix of older and young Lions. The travelling Lions were also honoured to meet **Lion Bill Hunchak** who was Lion Jack's teacher and also one of the first Canadians to be trained in Lions Quest Programs over thirty years ago. **Lion Fred Moore** was also in attendance at the meeting and he has a long history of supporting Lions Quest in Alberta.

For the next few days the Mercedes was on display at the Do Your Part! National Conference on Positive Youth Development hosted by Lions Quest Canada in Red Deer where representatives from the RCMP, Alberta Health Services – Mental Health and Addiction, community agencies, youth programs and other youth-serving groups gathered to learn more about what's new with Lions Quest and Positive Youth Development in Canada.

Lion Bruce took a brief trip to Surrey, British Columbia to take part in the Lions Multiple District 19 Fall Conference. Again he shared the message about the positive direction that Lions Quest Canada is headed and took the opportunity to thank the **Abbotsford Lions Club** for donating the 1989 Mercedes as a promotional draw prize in support of the organization.

Sunday October 6th – Day Eleven – Another successful conference had wrapped up and Bruce had returned from British Columbia and the duo set off for Regina and a meeting with Council Chair of MD5 **Rick Pockett**.

Monday October 7th – Day Twelve - A Lions meeting was planned for that evening at the Lions meeting room at the CNIB building where five Lions Clubs were represented including our host Past International Director **Lion Marvin Chambers**, CC **Rick Pockett**, a number of Past District Governors, as well as 2nd VDG **Eunice Cameron** and Lions Quest Chair **Wayne McGregor**.

The reception was warm and lively and the insightful discussion included a response to a letter from the Minister of Education about Lions Quest Programs and interest in hosting a Community Workshop to rally together the community together. The Lions left enthused about Lions Quest Canada.

Tuesday October 8th - Day 12 - Began early and included a meeting with Lions in Saskatoon. Thirty Lions showed up representing three clubs and the Lions enjoyed learning about what is new with Lions Quest Canada. The senior Lions from the clubs knew a lot about Lions Quest and contributed their knowledge to the discussion. District Governor **Tom Armstrong** was impressed and there is a real passion to reintroduce Lions Quest Programs to their schools. All



Lion Tom Armstrong inspecting the Mercedes

the Lions were proud of their past accomplishments with Lions Quest and are looking forward to a renewed future.

Wednesday October 9th – Day 13 – in Brandon, Manitoba included an appearance of the Lions Quest Canada Mercedes during a Lions Club hot dog sale in the Home Depot parking lot. Past International Director **Lion Ben Ward** was their host and Lion Bruce and Lion Tim found that the **Brandon Lions** were proud of the Lions Quest Program but felt that they had lost touch so showing up with the Mercedes was really important to this Club. All the donations to the promotional draw for the Mercedes were received in the last half hour of the hot dog sale including a \$500 personal donation.

The next two days were filled with travelling back to Ontario in time to display the Mercedes at the Oktoberfest celebrations in Kitchener-Waterloo. On Monday October 14th – technically Day 18 - a presentation of a Lions Quest Fellowship was made to Oktoberfest icon Walter Ostanek by the **Lions Club of Kitchener**. Walter had tears in his eyes as he received his honour and we are happy to add this distinguished Canadian to our list of recipients.

Interesting facts:

- They drove 9034 Km
- At first fill up it took 10 minutes to figure out how to unlock the fuel cap.
- It took 2 days to figure out how to brighten the dash lights.
- It took 3 days to figure out that you could lock and unlock all the doors using the trunk lock
- It took 12 days to realize that there was a sun visor over the mirror.
- It took 16 days to figure out how to get the radio speakers to the front speakers.

For more information about the Lions Quest Fellowship, Lions Quest Programs, Community Workshops or Promotional Draw tickets for the 1989 Lions Quest Canada Mercedes please contact Kay Nelles at 800-265-2680 ext 102 or kay@lionsquest.ca

MULTIPLE DISTRICT "A"/A12 CONVENTION 2014

MUSKOKA ROCKS

DEERHURST RESORT HUNTSVILLE

MAY 2 - MAY 4, 2014



HOSTED BY THE LIONS CLUBS OF DISTRICT A12

A District _____ Club _____

Lion Lioness Leo Partner in Service Highest Office _____ Past Present

Name _____ Name to appear on badge (if different) _____

Mailing Address _____
STREET # or PO BOX CITY PROV P.C.

Phone _____ Email _____

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Hotel registration is being handled by *Deerhurst Resort* and you are responsible for booking your room directly with them. Please refer to the **ACCOMMODATIONS** information flyer - choose your room then call **Deerhurst** and make your reservation. **Deadline for hotel reservations is APRIL 1, 2014.** Book early and avoid disappointment!



PLEASE NOTE:

- **Everyone, including guests and exhibitors** must be registered in order to attend any convention functions, including meals.
- All cancellations must be in writing by mail or e-mail and acknowledged. Cancellations received after **March 1, 2014** will be subject to a \$10 handling fee.
- **NO REFUNDS AFTER April 1, 2014**

FUNCTION TICKETS	COST PER PERSON	"A""B"	TOTAL
Saturday Luncheon	\$ 45	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$
Saturday Night Banquet & Entertainment	\$ 70	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$
<i>If you purchase both tickets, the cost is \$105</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____
Total Amount for Function Tickets Required			\$ _____

Tickets must be ordered by April 1, 2014 and are available only while quantities last. Don't delay!

NO FUNCTION TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE CONVENTION

AMOUNT DUE

Full Registration fee for A	\$25.00= \$
Sunday only A	\$10.00= \$
Full Registration fee for B	\$25.00= \$
Sunday only B	\$10.00= \$
Exhibitor/Pin trader	\$25.00= \$
Registration fee for Leo	\$10.00= \$
Function tickets (as above)	\$
Convention pin <u> </u> x	\$5.00 = \$
Pin trader table <u> </u> x	\$25.00= \$
Commercial exhibitor table <u> </u> x	\$25.00= \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ _____

Pay by cheque: payable to **"MDA/A12 2014 Convention"**

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Serving Day and Knight

Creative, kind and tireless, Lions thwart blindness in endless ways.

The World at the Fingertips

It weighs a third of an ounce and measures less than three inches long and an inch wide. But it powerfully opens the world to the visually impaired. "It lets you read your email, shop online, surf the Internet. At the library you can check out a digital book and store it," says **Amy Adams**, who developed the USB device that uses a speech synthesizer to communicate what is on the screen. Software that works similarly exists. But Adams, a member of the **Floyd Lions Club** in Virginia, says her device has the distinct advantages of being portable and affordable. Adams, who has provided computer tutoring for the visually impaired, runs digitaltalkingbooksusa.com. She has given away several dozen of the device to the visually impaired, sold a few to Lions clubs for \$99 and has approached libraries about it.



A Dream Fulfilled, and Then Some

When blind social worker Marjorie McCune had a dream, she knew where to turn for help. McCune told the Lions of western North Carolina about the deplorable living conditions of blind people. The Lions of District 31 A sprang into action and built the Marjorie McCune Memorial Center in 1979; they still own and operate the 64-resident assisted and independent living facility in beautiful Black Mountain. "When you walk in, you feel welcomed. The center is warm, bright and full of life," says Administrator Frances Coates. Residents walk in the sensory garden, listen to audio books, celebrate weddings and toss water balloons on "crazy hat day" (photo). The Lions are also there planting flowers, bringing holiday gifts and even cutting a rug at parties. "How many living facilities can say that their board members dance with their residents? Everything special and 'extra' comes from the Lions. They really care," says Coates.



Bringing Technology Within Reach

When **Ron Reph** discovered that a visually impaired widow in his Minnesota town had to choose between buying groceries or paying the \$55 monthly rental fee for her desktop video magnifier device, he was

concerned. When he discovered that these machines — which enlarge small print and photos for those with limited vision—could cost as much as \$3,000, he was shocked. Then he got to work. Convinced he could use his mechanical engineering background to build an affordable version, he brought the idea to his **Nisswa Lions Club**, which quickly green-lit the project. The Nisswa Lions sight machine costs just \$350. The savings come from Reph assembling the lens system and other Lions building its cabinetry, then wiring the device to a TV. "Retail units are more versatile and look better, but ours performs," Reph says. Fifteen people are benefiting from the sight device. Reph is happily busy building the next one.



Blind Make Bold Moves

"This is awesome!" exclaimed 16-year-old Liz Hahn as she whizzed by her mom, Kathy Shimek-Hahn. Visually impaired since birth, Liz was trying out single blade ice skates for the first time thanks to the Southeastern Wisconsin Lions Blind Outdoor Leisure Development (BOLD). Sponsored by Districts 27 A1 and 27 A2 for close to four decades, BOLD volunteers provide free activities for 220 participants that build skills and confidence, ranging from horseback riding to museum outings. "We would never get to do these things on our own. BOLD enables Liz to try new things and be independent. Most importantly, she gets to socialize with the group," says Shimek-Hahn. Coming up next on the activity calendar are bowling, a holiday party and a day of downhill skiing. Liz can't wait, and her mom will be there cheering her on. Shimek-Hahn stresses, "It's a lifeline. A whole new world has opened up."



Photo by Kristyna Wentz-Graff/Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Fun in the Sun

Howling monkeys and roaring lions are two reasons why the new jungle-themed Lions Water Adventure Park in Kinston, North Carolina, is a cool place to visit on a hot day. But what distinguishes it from other water parks is that it was built to accommodate those with

vision impairments. Design input came from visually impaired employees of Lions Industries for the Blind (LIB) in Kinston, which financially supported its construction. Tactile and auditory prompts are everywhere. A giant fiberglass lion named Swimba announces special safety features. A slide carries swimmers through a massive lion's mouth that emits a jungle-worthy roar just before they're about to hit the water. Chattering monkeys screech more water warnings. Paw prints embedded into the concrete guide the blind, and the concession stand has Braille menus. "It's a wonderful, safe place for me and my family," says Oscar, a blind LIB employee. "We can all be together and have a good time."



Zeke, the Amazing Dog Guide

Karen Laite is diabetic, and Zeke, her 4-year-old Golden Retriever/Lab dog guide, jumps up and exuberantly licks her face when her blood sugar is dangerously high—even when she sleeps. He backs off only when he sees her take her insulin. Amazingly, Zeke was not even trained to scent changes in a diabetic. Matched with Laite by the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides in Oakville, Ontario, Zeke has changed her life. When she first became blind, "I was devastated, always sitting in a chair," Laite told *The Packet*. "I can go where and when I please."



Photo by Kevin Curley

Planting the Seed of Literacy

If he could catapult right off the cover, The Cat in the Hat would surely tip his famously high hat to Debra Bonde for making beloved childhood books like his own available to visually impaired and blind young readers. Through the non-profit Seedlings she established in 1984 in Livonia, Michigan, more than 370,000 books have been transcribed into Braille for young readers. That equals 17 million Braille pages

created by Bonde, a small staff and volunteers. Lions have been among her biggest supporters. She says, "This has made it possible for us to provide free and low-cost Braille books to children like Adrianna and Evan [pictured with Bonde]." One Lions' donation helped Seedlings purchase an expensive dot matrix printer to make "Print & Braille" books so blind and sighted family members can read together. **Livonia Lions** teamed up recently for a Seedlings Bowlathon. "We



raised \$2,350. Every \$10 raised means another Braille book is manufactured," says **Matt Collins**, president.

Service by and for the Blind

The popular fish fry of the **Seal Beach Host Lions** in California raises funds for the blind, and this past summer several visually impaired Leos worked the fundraiser with other Leos. They took tickets, served drinks and grilled hot dogs. "They fit right in seamlessly. You have to see it. They use their other senses to overcome their handicap," says **Scott Newton**, the club's vice president and adviser to the Braille Leo Club, also affiliated with the Braille Institute, which offers services for the visually impaired. The Braille Leos made an impression on the other Leos there. "It's



Beamsville Lions Food Drive

This was the 24th consecutive year that the Lions of Beamsville coordinated its annual Food Drive. This Lions community outreach activity was assisted by partner "Community Care of West Niagara" and the support of schools, individual business, factories, grocery stores and 200+ volunteers. This year over 25,000 pounds of food was collected, sorted and boxed.

Lions Committee Chair **Peter Willetts** explained to Cogeco TV News that "We [Lions] chose Community Care as the best organization to distribute the food to the people that need it." Lion Peter also stressed that if it was not for volunteers and support from service clubs (like the Lions), communities like ours (Beamsville) "would have a heck of a time doing this...it is all volunteer time."

The one day event collects about one quarter of the yearly community needs. *photos from Cogeco TV*



Tiverton and District Lions Club

Sometimes you find Lions where you never expect to. Last November my father-in-law Jack Hardy passed away in Niagara-on-the-Lake of cancer. While helping my mother-in-law sort through all the belongings we came across some medals.

Back in 1936 **St. Catharines Lions Club** presented these medals to my father-in-law for Jr. School Rugby. It is obvious they meant a lot to him as they were kept along with his military medals over these many years.

They are now a part of my collection and I will treasure them as a reminder of why it's important to support Lions Youth programs.

Well done St. Catharines Lions Club! Lion Hank Van Moorsel-1st Vice Governor A9.

Submitted by Lion Hank van Moorsel



Blyth Lions Club

John and **Mary Lou Stewart** from the Blyth Lions Club and **Al Bosman** from the **Londesboro and District Lions Club** recently visited the Grade One Class at Hullett Central Public School. The Lions members showed the students a video on the Lions Dog Guide Program and presented them with a Canada Pride Certificate and Canadian Flag.



Westport Lions

Pictured L-R are Westport Lions President **John Rempel**, Perth Lions President **Bill Dixon** and **Jim McGlade** with some of the boxes of pennies collected by the Westport Lions Club for the Pennies for Puppies campaign. Total amount collected by Westport Lions was \$1507.21. A big thanks to all who donated. The **Perth Lions Club** will be going to the Guide Dogs school in Oakville Ont to give the \$20,000 collected from this campaign. A big thanks to all who participated with their donations.



Blyth Lions Club

The Blyth Lions Club recently presented Braxton McKee (centre) with a Life Membership Certificate in Lions Foundation of Canada. Rather than accepting gifts for his twelfth birthday, Braxton asked his friends to bring a donation for Lions Dog Guide Program. One Hundred dollars was collected and forwarded to the Dog Guide School in Oakville. Making the presentation is Past District Governor **John Stewart** (left) and Lion **Gord Jenkins** (right), Braxton's grandfather and a long-time member of the Club.





97th Annual Lions Clubs International Convention
Friday, July 4 – Tuesday, July 8, 2014 • Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Convention Registration and Hotel Reservation Form

Deadlines

- **May 1, 2014:** Deadline for advance registration and hotel reservation. Registrations after this date will be processed in Toronto.
- **May 1, 2014:** Deadline to receive a refund for a registration cancellation. • **May 16, 2014:** Deadline to receive a refund for a hotel room cancellation.

REGISTRANT INFORMATION Please type or print name as it appears on passport/photo ID.

First Name _____ Family (Last) Name _____ Badge/Call Name _____
 Address _____ City _____ State/Province _____
 Postal Code _____ Country _____
 Daytime Phone _____ E-mail _____

Lion: Club No. _____ **Membership No.** _____ District _____ Title _____ Lion Lioness
 COMPANION: First Name _____ Family (Last) Name _____ Badge/Call Name _____
 Lion: Club No. _____ **Membership No.** _____ District _____ Title _____ Lion Lioness Guest

CHILD: First Name _____ Family (Last) Name _____ Age _____ Alpha Leo
 CHILD: First Name _____ Family (Last) Name _____ Age _____ Alpha Leo

- This is my/our first LCI convention. Not my first convention, I've attended _____
 Letter of invitation (If a visa is required for your country of origin) [Club number must be provided above to verify membership]
 The plenary sessions are presented in English with simultaneous translation Will you require a headset? No Yes

PACKAGE A: Includes convention registration for each registrant listed above plus one (1) hotel room serviced by shuttle buses during convention.

Before January 10, 2014: Reservation in delegation hotel
 After January 10, 2014: I prefer my delegation hotel
 Prefer hotel based on: room rate of _____ location near convention center
 Arrival date _____ Departure date _____ Number of Guests in Room: _____ Number of Beds Needed 1 2
 Special Requirements: Non-smoking Wheelchair Accessible Other _____

* The Hotel deposit is US\$225 for a standard room and US\$350 for a suite. The hotel deposit is not the rate but reserves the room. Your deposit will be credited to your hotel bill at checkout.

PACKAGE B: NO ROOM REQUIRED (Registration only for each person listed above.)

OPTIONAL TICKETED EVENTS (We plan to attend the following event(s): (Must be registered to attend)

EVENT	DATE/TIME	FEE	QUANTITY	AMOUNT DUE
Leo Lion Summit	July 4/ 10:00-16:00	US\$60	_____	\$ _____
Membership Key Award Ice Cream Social (Key holders only)	July 6/ 15:00-17:00	US \$25	_____	\$ _____
Melvin Jones Fellow Luncheon	July 7/ 13:30-15:00	US \$60	_____	\$ _____
District Governor/Past District Governor Banquet	July 7/ 20:00-22:00	US \$100	_____	\$ _____

PAYMENT: Full payment is required with this form. • US currency only. Checks and money orders must be drawn on US banks.

- Only Visa, MasterCard, American Express & Discover cards accepted. • Contact LCI for wire transfer instructions.

REGISTRATION FEES

	Adult	Child (17 and under)
Early (before 10 January, 2014)	US\$110	US\$10
Regular (11 January through 31 March, 2014)	US\$150	US\$10
Late (1 April, 2014 – onsite)	US\$170	US\$10

Package A:

Registrations: US\$ _____
 Ticketed Events: US\$ _____
 Hotel Deposit: US\$ 225.00

OR

Package B:

Registrations: US\$ _____
 Ticketed Events: US\$ _____

Total Due: US\$ _____

Total Due: US\$ _____

- Check Bank transfer/deposit (copy must be attached to this form) Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Your name as it appears on the card _____ Credit card **must** be in the name of the registrant.

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____ Security code (3 digits) _____

Signature _____

Mail form and payment to: Lions Clubs International Attn: Convention Division • 300 West 22nd Street • Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842 USA

Credit Card and Bank Transfer Payments can be faxed to: (1-630) 571-1689 (If you fax, please do not mail original)

Questions? Email us: registration@lionsclubs.org

• Allow 4 weeks for processing and mail delivery of your confirmation.

Please note: Lions Clubs International will be documenting the international convention for promotional purposes. Your participation may be filmed or photographed at this event. Your registration is your consent for use of these images by Lions Clubs International.

CRHF2014.EN 9/13



December 5th is INTERNATIONAL LEO DAY!

Celebrate this annual occasion by organizing a joint service activity with your local Leo club. When Lions invite Leos to serve, they energize their club and nurture the next generation of service leaders.

No Leo club in your area? Consider sponsoring a new Alpha Leo club. International Leo Day is the perfect opportunity to engage local youth. Get started today!



Visit www.lionsclubs.org/leoclubs for more information.
Lions Clubs International | leo@lionsclubs.org



MDA Directory Information

Council of Governors' Meeting Dates

- Council Meeting: February 28/March 1, 2014
- Council Meeting Convention: May 2-4, 2014

District Conventions

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

IMPORTANT DATES



MDA Convention

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

International Conventions

97th	Toronto, Canada	July 4 - 8, 2014
98th	Honolulu, Hawaii	June 26 - 30, 2015
99th	Fukuoka, Japan	June 24 - 28, 2016
100th	Chicago, Illinois, USA	June 30 - July 4, 2017
101st	Las Vegas Nevada, USA	June 29-July 3, 2018

USA - Canada Forums

Sept. 19 - 21, 2013	Overland Park, Kansas
Sept. 18 - 21, 2014	Puerto Rico
Sept. 17 - 19, 2015	Grand Rapids, Michigan



London Central Fight for Sight Fundraiser Raises Money for Ivey Eye Institute

At a recent London Central Lions "Fight for Sight" fundraiser over 250 guests enjoyed a yellow perch dinner and bid on over 200 auction items raising over \$23,000 in support of St. Joe's Ivey Eye Institute. This

event completed the Club's \$38,000 commitment to purchase Corneal Transplant Surgical equipment for the Ivey. A previous \$50,000 commitment to the Ivey was completed in 2011.



Over 250 guests enjoy yellow perch dinner



Guest performer tribute artist, Eric Lambier entertains crowd with Billy Joel & Elton John songs



\$26,250 cheque presented by Lion Stu Rayner, event chair, to Michelle Mahood, St. Joseph's Health Care; Dr. Cindy Hutnik & Dr. Bill Hodge, Ivey Eye Institute; Peter Mastorakos & Brenda Lewis, Board of Directors, St. Joseph's Health Care Foundation and Central Club president, Lion Jim Lystar



Lions Sandy Leadlay, Jim Balicsak & Rick Letton relax after filling 200 balloons



Lion Joanne Lystar does final check on Silent Auction tables



So many auctions items to choose from



Balloons everywhere, who has the one for the big prize?

Lions Clubs Unite to help Teen

Jeremy Masse is a 14-year old teen who has suffered progressive loss of his eyesight since birth.

This determined youth sees only shadows in his left eye and has 5% vision in his right eye. As a result, he sees what a person with good vision would see if Vaseline were smeared on the eyes. At the age of two, an operation corrected his droopy eyelids by lifting them into a permanently open position! Jeremy keeps his eyes lubricated to prevent them from drying out and becoming painful and he takes care to wear ball caps to protect him from bright sunlight. Additionally, Jeremy suffers from frequent migraines that have become more intense as he grows older.

Despite extensive testing and visits to a multitude of specialists, the cause of the degeneration of Jeremy's eyesight remains unsolved and without a diagnosis, assistance through CNIB and other agencies is unavailable to Jeremy.

The **Morrisburg and District Lions Club** became aware of Jeremy's situation and successfully formed a Zone project. The proceeds from this initiative funded a stay in Toronto while Jeremy and his Mother sought answers from highly skilled specialists at Sick Children's Hospital. There the prognosis was confirmed that, without intervention, Jeremy would be blind by the time he reached his 25th birthday. However, a clear diagnosis could not be made without additional testing. This has been scheduled and completed in preparation for an August follow-up at

Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto with more Specialists. If the prognosis cannot be unraveled at that time, Jeremy will be referred to Vancouver.

In the interim and at the April 2013 District 4A Convention in Ottawa, Jeremy met with **Kevin Frost**, a Lion from the **Orleans Lions Club**. This inspirational Olympian quickly developed a bond with Jeremy and has been mentoring and supporting him in a manner sighted people in his life cannot!

In addition, Kevin brought Jeremy's situation to his Lions Club and the Orleans Lions Club unanimously and spontaneously supplied the funding for a new Apple computer with the software Jeremy requires to accommodate his limited vision. Kevin accompanied Jeremy, his family and **Bob Bechard**, President of the Morrisburg and District Lions Club to the Apple store to ensure the laptop computer had all the software Jeremy would require. In thanking the Orleans Lions Club at their May 6th meeting, Jeremy told them, "this is a dream come true for me and means I can stay abreast of my schoolwork and the progress of my classmates". Furthermore, he is now confident when he enters high school this fall, he will have no difficulty keeping up with his assignments and will excel at his studies.

Jeremy is a determined young man: he loves to cook and has no difficulty saying his sense of smell and taste make him a better cook than his Mom! He loves sports and engages when his eyesight allows him

to do that safely and assists his team when he cannot play.

His thick glasses and obvious eyesight issues have resulted in significant school room and playground bullying but his teachers describe him as an eager, motivated and independent student.

Jeremy and his younger brother, **Tyson** are active and leading members of the **Morrisburg and District Leos Club**. Jeremy has been elected President and Tyson will serve his second term as Club Secretary for the 2013-2014 Leos year.



Jeremy Masse proudly displays his new Apple computer with the software required to accommodate his failing eyesight. Present to personally thank the 30+ members of the Orleans Lions Club for their generous gift, Jeremy enjoyed the banter from the Senators fans present!

Pictured left to right are: Jeremy's Mom, Melanie, Lion Kevin Frost, Jeremy, President Lion Gerry Carisse, Orleans Lions Club and Past President Lion Keith Robinson, Morrisburg Lions Club who also serves as Advisor of the Morrisburg & District Leos Club

Chemung Lake Lions

Chemung Lake Lions came in first place in Dragon Boat Race, Peterborough, with winning time of 1 minute, 47.6 seconds. Drummer **Lion John Morris** lead making history as first blind person to compete. The Lions are getting geared up for next year's race.

Submitted by Lion Wilma Bush



Killaloe Lions president **Jim Homer** (l) with organizer **Darwin Brohart** and announcer **Ambrose Mullin** awarded prizes at the 2013 Lions Canada Day soap box derby to (l-r) Bugatti Brohart (silver), Trent Campbell (gold) and Austin Jahoor (bronze). As usual, most of the entrants rode in racers supplied by the Lions, which were obtained to ensure that anyone who wanted to race got an opportunity.

Killaloe Lions Club



HOW TO GET INTO THE LION Contact your District Reporter

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

District Reporters

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

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

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

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

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

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

Circulation Manager, LION Magazine
300 W 22nd Street

Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842

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

**Attach Your Address Label or
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(include all code numbers)

New address will be (Please Print):

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Province: _____ PC: _____

Club #: _____ Member #: _____

Date of Change: _____

**WE AT THE LION CANNOT CHANGE YOUR
ADDRESS, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR CLUB
SECRETARY TO HAVE YOUR ADDRESS
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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.



LIONS CLUB INSURANCE PRODUCTS

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- ✓ Abuse Coverage
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- ✓ Bouncey Castles
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- ✓ Hole In One
- ✓ Parade Floats

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Providing Insurance Protection to Lions Clubs since 1991



Toronto Maple Leafs Getaway Weekend

a Fundraiser for Lions Clubs International
Convention 2014 Host Committee



Toronto Maple Leafs vs Detroit Red Wings Saturday, March 29, 2014

Winner receives the use of 10 seats in the Molson's box at Air Canada Centre and Dinner in the Hot Stove Lounge prior to the game. Plus: One night accommodation (five rooms with double occupancy) at The Royal York Hotel.

All proceeds for the 2014 Lions Clubs International Convention Host Committee

\$10.⁰⁰ per ticket or 3 for \$20.⁰⁰
Draw to be held on March 1, 2014



For additional tickets, contact
Stan Durward - 705.357.2115
Box 38, Sunderland ON L0H 1H0
Tickets to be sold only to Lions Club Members
Prize is subject to change without notice

Plattsville Lions Member Shelley Returns to Guatemala for Mission Trip for 3rd year

Plattsville and District Lions Secretary Shelley Dick is returning to Guatemala May 1-10 2014 for a medical mission. She has been on 2 trips previous to Guatemala performing daily medical clinics and building homes for those in need. The trip is sponsored through Possibilities International which is a not-for-profit organization. In the past years Shelley has built homes for families in remote villages, performed medical clinics and food distribution. The Plattsville club has supported Shelley as she must raise \$2000 to purchase the supplies, medicine and tools while on the trip. The club has sent glasses, t-shirts from previous Lions events, toiletries and school supplies to give to those in need. This year's trip she is taking her daughter Haylee. Other teammates on this upcoming mission are from Ayr

and Kitchener Waterloo.

You can support Lion Shelley through secure online donations at www.iamlru.com and choose to sponsor a trip participant and Guatemala May 1-10 trip under the name Shelley Dick.



Shelley Dick and her son Mason Dick with children and people from Guatemala

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Shelley at Schlegel Villages, via email to shelley.dick@schlegelvillages.com

Burford Lions Complete 6-Year, \$300,000 Community Project

In 2008, Burford Lions initiated an ambitious, 3-stage project to: 1) construct a paved walking/bicycle trail of .9 miles from the village of Burford to Whitemans Creek; 2) construct a 2 mile pedestrian trail through Lions Art Cadman Park, paving the section adjacent to Whitemans Creek; and 3) erect a pedestrian bridge across Whitemans Creek to safely join the 2 trails.

Stages 1 and 2 were completed in 2009 and 2010. In September, 2013, the bridge was placed in position and pedestrians began filing across.

The Burford Lions raised nearly \$300,000 to complete the entire project know as "Lions Way." This could not have been accomplished without generous support. Local Municipal Government, various government agencies, local and provincial

organizations, local businesses, and hundreds of citizens donated money, voluntary services and expertise to achieve this endeavour.

Local Grade 3 students have volunteered for the

planting of daffodil and tulip bulbs along the trails. Trees and benches have been placed along the walkways to increase the pleasure of strolling in nature.

"Cooperation builds success"



Going in



Complete and usable. Installed on Saturday September 21, 2013 during 5 hours of rain

Arthur Lions

The Arthur Lions Club with support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Township of Wellington North, opened a new trail system in their community dedicated in memory of **Lion Bill Elliott**. Work was completed over the summer lead by **Lions Ian Turner**

(chairperson), **David Stack** and **Jack Benham** from the Arthur Lions. Approximately 125 people attended and walked the new trail at the official opening depicted in the photo.

Submitted by Laird More

