



“Where There's A Need There Is A Lion”

Report on Milan by PIP Judge Brian Stevenson

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"History happened in Milan on Tuesday, July 9th, when our own **Dr. Patti Hill** was elected to the position of International Third Vice President of Lions Clubs International. Patti is only the fifth Canadian to hold the position and will proceed to the International Presidency on July 5, 2022 at the 105th International Convention in New Delhi, India.

In Milan Patti received overwhelming support from the approximately 20,000 Lions and their families from around the world. The Milan Convention saw a "sea of red" shirts with the emblem "Yes Patti" in the International Parade of Nations held on Saturday, July 6th, and they continued to be the dominant dress throughout the balance of the Convention.

When Patti was nominated at the first Plenary Session by Past International President Dr. Wing-Kun Tam of Hong Kong, the Milan MiCo Convention Centre erupted with a huge demonstration - a demonstration that lasted for at least ten minutes, with delegates from all over the world waving Patti posters and chanting "Patti-Patti-Patti".

The demonstration would probably have continued for many more minutes but for the time limit imposed by the Convention rules. And when the voting results electing Patti were announced on Tuesday morning, the Centre was again filled with a deafening outburst of approval from delegates from all over the world. It was a moment of unbridled joy for Patti and Greg (and their daughter Jessica), for the several hundred Canadian Lions present, and for the vast majority of representatives of the more than 210 nations and geographic areas of our International Association. As many of the Executive Officers and members of the International Board of Directors were heard to say: "Its a great day for Patti and Greg, a great day for Canada, and, just as important, a great day for the Association".

Another great and happy event was held on Sunday evening on the Convention when hundreds of Lions from all over the world came to our Canadian Reception to show their support for Patti.

It was also an opportunity for our Canadian Lions Family to thank **Tom and Gillian Gordon** for their outstanding two years representing Canada on the International Board, and to Welcome **Past Council Chairperson Allan and Sonja Hunt** from Chilliwack, British Columbia, who will represent us for the next two years.

Great credit must be given to Patti's Campaign Committee, Chaired by Past International Director Marvin Chambers from Saskatchewan (and his wife Lynne), and the following Campaign leaders, all of whom worked countless hours organizing the huge Canadian and International volunteer force, with a special mention to our great friends Past International Director Dave Hajny, his wife Lion Marie, and Past Council Chairperson Ben Apeland, all from Montana, and our Committee members Past International Directors Bill Webber from MDC, Carl Young from MD "A", Yves Leveille from MD "U", our MD "C" Secretary Betty Ann Robson, our new MD Council Chairperson Pauline Cooper, and Past District Governor Christine Lank.

Needless to say. many, many others made huge contributions leading up to and in Milan, and especially our brothers and sisters from across our great nation. It will be great to see our Canadian Flag flying frequently in front of our International Headquarters in Oak Brook, Illinois, USA for the next five years!"

Brian