



# LIONS DISTRICT A-5 NEWSLETTER

## LION BRIAN CLOSS, GOVERNOR



Editor & Publisher Lion Liam Brennan May 2014 Volume 6 Number 6 <u>http://www.e-district.org/sites/a5</u>

# **Governor Lion Brian's Year in Pictures**









## **GOVERNORS MESSAGE**

When I joined Lions 13 years ago ... the last thing on my mind was being your District Governor, yet my year is coming to an end.

I truly, want to thank all of you for allowing me to be your District Governor, this year. It was not a job, but rather a privilege for me. Where else would one get to travel Northern Ontario on what I called "My Great Northern Adventure" and meet people like all of you. Where else would you get to visit Arnstein, or Cochrane or Larder Lake; or get to revisit the goose in Wawa or get to go to St. Joseph's Island or even Hudson.

I want to thank all the clubs that generously donated to my District Governor Project, the CNIB Eye Van. So far this year, we have raised over \$7,000. Donations are not only financial but are also in kind. The Lions in the communities that host the eye van, give the most precious gift, the gift of time. The Lions book the appointments, drive patients to the appointments, and help out the nurses at the van. Many of the Lions Clubs, help feed the staff, and in many of the visits invite them to their club meetings and also help pay for their lodging. As Lions, we also help with any minor repairs needed on the van. I have met up with the staff at eye van a few times now, and they are so grateful for everything the Lions do for them. This is one project that the district as a whole is involved in; after all, we are the Knights of the Blind.

I want to thank my club, the Minnow Lake Lions, for their support over these past 3 years. Their support financially, support on club visitations and their support at conventions has really helped to make my journey a lot easier.

I also have to thank the two co-chairs for my Convention, Lion Leanne Furchner from the Minnow Lake Lions Club and Lion Jackie Labelle from the Valley East Lions Club. They have both given me a convention that I was truly proud of.

Thank you both very much.

I also have to thank Lion Liam Brennan, who worked on my District Governor Newsletter. His hard work and imagination really paid off, as he was awarded 1st Place in the District Governor newsletter category at the MDA convention.

To my Cabinet Secretary, Lion Jackie and to my Cabinet Treasurer, Lion Peter, Thank you both. Your knowledge and guidance really helped me in my role as District Governor. None of this would have been possible without the support of Lion Ann. Her continued support and encouragement really helped to keep me going.

I thought that next year, I would just be able to sit back and be Immediate Past District Governor. I have agreed to take on the role of Club President again. I have also agreed to be the Cabinet Treasurer and I am the new MDA Chairperson for Diabetes.

In the next few weeks, I will be attending the 70th Charter Night of the Sunridge Lions Club and the 50th Charter Night of the Capreol Lions Club. I hope to meet some of you there. In July, I will be attending our International Convention in Toronto and also doing some volunteer work there.

I will continue to work to improve our district and make us all proud to be a Lion. DG Lion Brian





Dear District Governor Lion Brian,

Congratulations on earning your Dream Achiever Awards Gold Pin and first star in Period 3! You will be receiving your one-of-a-kind pin and star in the mail shortly.

In addition to earning your Gold Pin and star, you will receive four Silver Pins and four stars to present to your team. You're also being recognized on the Dream Achievers website (http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/member-center/dream-achiever) so Lions around the world will know you've achieved.

The Dream Achiever Awards are designed to motivate you to achieve high membership goals and provide special recognition. You have earned your recognition by excelling in the program's four key membership goals in the months of January, February, and March:

Expand your district by chartering new clubs

Invite new members to join

Retain existing members

Grow your overall district membership



Thank you for your hard work and dedication. Now keep your momentum going by earning your second star in Period 4!

Kind regards,

Barry J. Palmer

Your International President

Lions Clubs International & LCIF | 300 W. 22nd St. | Oak Brook, IL |60523 | USA







## **District A-5 Memorial Forest**

The purpose of our Memorial Forest Program is to provide an opportunity to commemorate the life of a loved one, in a special way by planting a tree.

#### A Living Memorial

A tree symbolizes strength, shelter and durability. By planting a tree it is a symbol of hope, a sign of a new beginning and a living tribute. It will be a source of comfort and meaning to those who have suffered a loss. As one life ends, a new one begins.

The Memorial Forest Program not only pays significant tribute to the memory of loved ones, but also assures a better environment for years to come.

The Program in District A-5 was started in 2008 and great interest has been expressed. We planted our first tree on June 7th, 2008 in memory of Lion Mary Roach of the Charlton-

Englehart Lions Club who passed away during her year as Region Chair for Region 15. Where will Trees be planted?

The District A-5 Memorial Forest is located on Chiblow Lake Road in Iron Bridge, Ontario and is approximately 1 2 a kilometers north of Hwy. 17. The Forest is easily accessible by all forms of transportation.

You Should Know....

The planting of a tree can be arranged through any Lions member in District A-5.

• It is planned that an annual Dedication Service will be conducted outdoors at the Memorial Forest which will be open for all to attend.

The name of the deceased will be affixed near the tree.

• The family of the deceased will receive a memorial card stating that a tree has been planted in memory of their loved one.

- This program is not restricted to Lions, everyone is invited to participate.
- More than one tree can be planted in memory of an individual.

• The species and location of the trees are determined solely by the District A-5 Memorial Forest Committee who will choose native trees to the area.

### **District A-5 Memorial Forest Annual Dedication Service**

Sunday July 27 At the Irion Bridge Lions Hall on Clarissa Street in Iron Bridge Dedication Service will start at 4 PM Dinner will follow. It is \$only 15;00 per person

RSVP: Lion Myra Kiernan PDG 456 Red Pine Drive Sault Ste Marie ON P6A 5K6 Call her at 705 779-2947 or email her at <u>arymnelliks@gmail.com</u>

### District A-5 Memorial Forest 2 Person Scramble At the Huron Pines Golf Club Blind River

Entry Fee is \$80:00 per person that includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, prizes and dinner in Irion Bridge after the dedication Service.

**RSVP:** Lion Myra Kiernan PDG 456 Red Pine Drive Sault Ste Marie ON P6A 5K6 Call her at 705 779-2947 or email her at <u>arymnelliks@gmail.com</u>

Closing Date is July 15, 2014 or when the roster is full. All proceeds go to the Memorial Forest. Singles are welcome – we will put you on a team. We encourage you to bring friends and family and perspective members.







# Guide Dogs

In the picture are two of my favorite Lions, Lion Robert Kerr and the love of his life Lion Susan Kerr. I have known Robert for over ten years and my partner; Carol worked with and has known Sue for much longer. Susan wrote a book about fostering a Guide Dog named Mitchell and wrote it from Mitchell's perspective! Absolutely wonderful reading! You *must* invite Sue and Robert to speak at your next dinner meeting! They are just delightful and very entertaining as a couple ... and I hear they work cheap!

Too hear the story of Mitchell is as heart warming as it gets. Robert and Sue sell their book at the speaking engagement and all the proceeds, 100 % goes to the Guide Dog program. I have a copy of their wonderful book, so should you!

Order it on line today! This is not a request it is a directive!





The Minnow Lake Lions Club donated \$500.00 to Maison Vale Hospice in Barry Brett's name, proud recipient of the Bob Ogilvy Honorary Award

Left to right: MVH Executive Director Leo Therrien. Past President Lion Leanne Furchner, PDG Lion Barry Brett

Submitted by Leanne Furchner

## WHO HAS SEEN THE BELL?

Last week this reporter got a mysterious phone call from an anonymous source – lets call him *"Joe Island"* – Whom insisted that I publish this ultimatum!

*'Joe Island'* told an unbelievable tale that if it was not so true, you would have to laugh! He said he had *crashed* the A-5 Convention, "I was not registered, nor was I a guest!" He said. He then went on to give me sordid details of the covert operation that would make any good Lion Roar! "Details," he said that were worked out long in advance. "It was not the first time I 'Crashed' he said. Using the word 'crashed' as if it was an everyday occurrence to him. "I have

to 'Crash'" he went on, "Because pensions don't go as far as they used to! But, you have to believe me it is not my fault that the Ceremonial Gong went missing! "My plan was only to crash the party grab a lunch or two and a doggie bag to g and get out before anyone noticed my forged name tag!!!!

He then told me the story of how it got into his possession. I was heading for the buffet when this young fellow approached me, must have been in his sixties! The young fellow pointed mysteriously to the Ceremonial gong and he asked me if I wouldn't mind guarding it since it was unprotected!" " Did you know that no one is watching it, it is unguarded." And do you also know that if you were to guarded it, it would be a relief for the Governor." Joe Island reported that he took the Gong and put it in his overnight bag figuring that it would be safe there. And then went back to the buffet.

#### Now here is the twist!

Joe Island said he was in his eighties his memory is not the best. He said, "When I got home from the Crash, I was dismayed about having this bell in my overnight! I showed it to my wife and she said, "Don't be a fool! She is much more of a pragmatist than I," he said. She told me to hold it for ransom 'Offer it back to the owners," she said! So here is the ultimatum I got form 'Joe Island'

# Five members of District A-5 cabinet, or their delegates, must attend the St Joseph's Island June meeting to install four new members, into their club! At which point the bell will be returned.' No questions asked!

I heard that the gong was being treated well with all the Brasso it needed to stay shiny! But I would sure hate to think what would happen to it if the district didn't send delegates to install the new members!

Check us out at our WEB Site

#### http://www.e-district.org/sites/a5

Copy and paste this address in your web browser And remember to 'like us' on our Face Book page



#### **DECEASED LIONS 2013-2014**

#### **REGION 14**

Lion Gord Harold Lion Gerald Tapper Lion Art Bradbury Lion Paul Zahorec Lion Jim Rayner Lion Rick Belton Lion Carmiletta Burtt

**REGION 15** PDG Lion Mike Ryan Lion Verdun Pacey

**REGION 17** Lion Earl Graham Lion Yvon Foisey

**REGION 20** Lion Bill Mitchell

**REGION 31** Lion Larry Shanahan Lion Glen W. Connell

#### **REGION 47**

Lion Doreen Watt Lion Marion Kivinen Lion Andre Roy Lion Carl Johnston Lion Christine Mongeon Lion Dennis Deschaine Lion Charles Belcher

On earth they served Their communities well, Now their work is done. At rest they lay Their work complete, We've come to say good-bye. No Lion leaves our den Without a final Lion's roar,

So first we stand... ...In silence be ... To honour them once more

Our den has lost another friend In service may they forever be. We worked and laughed so very hard My friend ... ...We can say no more. Lions Club of Sudbury Lions Club of Sudbury Walden Lions Club Espanola Lions Club Gore Bay Lions Club Central Manitoulin Lions Club Providence Bay/Spring Bay Lions Club

Charlton-Englehart Lions Club Temagami Lions Club

North Bay Lions Club Bonfield & District Lions Club

**Cochrane Lions Club** 

Blind River Lions Club Bruce Mine Lions Club

Minnow Lake Lions Club Minnow Lake Lions Club Minnow Lake Lions Club Minnow Lake Lions Club Coniston Lions Club Warren & District Lions Club Onaping Falls Lions Club

> Now we shout from beneath our vests Our final tributes be ... We bid them fond And sweet adieu As all the Lions Roar Gods speed to them ... Our trusted friends ... Our wishes be so true Upon their ears a final time We send a Lions Roar

We will meet again In another life A life of our beliefs We will sit and talk and serve once more As Lions always do ... Gods Speed My Friends



### What an Accomplishment - 53 Great Years of Service



Lion Gerry Huizing recently celebrated 53 years of service to his community this past winter. Lion Gerry was introduced to Lionism by his sponsor and friend, Lion John Milne - that was in November 1961 in Wawa Ontario. In April 1963 when his job had him move to the Sault he transferred his membership to the Lions Club there, and has worked tireless for the good of the community ever since. Never shy to volunteer he has he has taken our motto *"We Serve"* to new heights! He has served on the White Elephant Sale Committee, the Rose Day Committee, the Bingo Committee, The CTV Telethon, and many other committees over the years. Lion Gerry has been active on the Board

of Directors of the Sault Club almost continuously since 1965; He was a two time President first in 1977-78 and again in 1988-89.

He has been a director of the Sault Ste. Marie Lions Housing Board from 1986 to 1989 and again from 1991 to 1999

He was one of the founding members of the Lions Pointe Des Chenes Campground and has served on the committee continuously since its inception in 1985, chairing it several times.



Lion Gerry exemplifies what it means to be a Lion. His accolades read like a Lions Award Encyclopedia! He has been a Melvin Jones Fellow Since 1994

He is a Lions Foundation of Canada Life Member Since 1988 Lions Clubs International Foundation Honour Roll Member since 1990 District A5 Convention Chairman 1993 – 1994 under PDG Bill Copeman Jr. He received the Province of Ontario Volunteer Service Award in 2008. He became a CNIB Knight of the Blind in 2003 He was the Clubs Lion of the Year in 2008 He has a Helen Keller Fellowship Award - 2010 And he received one of first Lions Quest Fellowship Award in 2011, as it was a new award to raise money for The Canadian Centre for Positive Youth Development And to add to all of his Lions achievements he has 53 years of perfect attendance!

When I asked Lion Gerry what was his best memory of being a Lion was, he said, "The Fellowship from the Club! The year most of us drove to the International Convention in

Minneapolis.[1992] That was great fun and I enjoyed the fellowship on that trip!"

And when I asked him what he thought the biggest change to the Lions Club was over the years? He paused in reflection and then said, "Women in the Club. And that is a good change!" (Lion Gerry's daughter, Lion Cyndi, is a Lion in the Sault Club.)

Very top picture Lion Gerry receiving his 50 year Patch from Lion President Rick Bottom Lions Place in Sault Ste arie.





In the picture are Sudbury Suomi Lions (left to right)- Inge Pellerin, Reijo Viitala, Anneli Lamacraft, Carol Viitala, Lasse Skogberg, Maija Ceming, Sonja Kahkonen, Diana Haaranen, Maija Israelsson, and Polly Rutenberg

## Sudbury Suomi Lions Club Scores The Very First International Hat Trick

By Lion Reijo Viitala

In the arena of international championship trophy production, time is measured in decades. A championship trophy will last generations! Just look at Lord Stanley's cup! Over the years, Finnish-Canadians can be very proud because they have donated three championship trophies to the Finnish Ice Hockey Association, or if you relate it to goals in hockey "a hat trick" of trophies, if you will!

The first trophy or goal in the hat trick was scored sixty-four years ago back in 1950, when the Finnish-Canadians of Sudbury, headed by the Sampo Athletic Club National Society produced the Canada Bowl, Finland's Stanley Cup. And is in the Finland's Hockey Hall of Fame, and you thought only Canada had a hockey Hall of Fame!

The second trophy or goal was scored in 2011 when Chris Shapardanov, Canada's Ambassador to Finland, fundraised to produce the Aurora Borealis Cup for the Finnish Women's Championship Team. That cup is still being used today, and is the most sought after championship cup for women's hockey in Finland.

The third trophy or goal of the hat trick of trophies came last year, when the Sudbury Suomi Lions Club fundraised to produce the "Legacy Bowl", the championship trophy of Finland's Juniors -Under 20 year old players, or the equivalent of Canada's Memorial Cup players. (See the picture

below) This is a gorgeous cup and will be used for decades to come for Finland's Juniors Championship teams and it will always be remembered with The Sudbury Suomi Lions Emblem on it. What a terrific cross-cultural, cross-continents, cross-ocean, exchange!

The Honorary Chair of The Suomi Lions fundraiser was former NHL player Jari Kurri and they were able to convince Mikael Grandlund of the Minnesota Wild to ad his name to the board of directors and help publicize the venture.

The first winner of the Legacy Bowl in April 2013 was HPK of Hameenlinna. Congratulations to them

The Sudbury Suomi Lions are proud to have embarked on an international venture in support of world youth. The Legacy Bowl and all three trophies can be seen on display in the Finnish Ice Hockey Association's Hockey Hall of Fame and Hockey Museum in Tampere, Finland. Thank you to all our participants and donors.







Seventy-five years ago in November 2013, the Little Current Lions Club was officially chartered and began seven and a half decades of service to the community by deciding to take on the responsibility for setting up and decorating a large Christmas tree in downtown Little Current.

## Little Current Celebrates 75 years with a big Party Reprinted with permission from the

Manitoulin Equistar





This decision to organize a community Christmas tree, seemingly a small activity by 2013 standards, was nonetheless the very first act of service by Manitoulin Island's very first service club. The club had a seventy-fifth anniversary party on November 30 and while the event was more fun than anything else, with congratulations on reaching this landmark delivered from other clubs, MP Carol Hughes, Mayor Al MacNevin and many others, the club was modest about its accomplishments since that Christmas tree project all those years ago. Guest speaker for the evening was A5 District Governor Lion Brian Closs.

A few things leaked out, like how the club has been very involved in each of the community's three successive hockey rinks over the years, including taking on the ownership of the original, privately owned indoor rink, just to keep it operating in the years following the Second World War. There was also a reference to assistance the Little Current site of the Manitoulin Health Centre has received over the years, including cheques for \$50,000 and for \$30,000 for capital projects. A former club member who could date his membership from the early 1950s reminisced about the dream of a community park at Low Island, set in motion by the Lions who initially acquired the property in the late 1960s. A current Lions Club member noted how this dream has been realized in partnership with the municipality and the park now includes a double soccer field for youth play, two baseball diamonds, Sisson skateboard park, a swimming beach and docks, a picnic area, beach volleyball courts, public washrooms and two years ago, the Little Current Lions Club and the Northeast Town cooperated to build a permanent pavilion to service events at the ball park. Quite a list of accomplishments have stemmed from that dream of a community park nearly 50 years ago.





These are just a few examples of the club's public accomplishments over years, but the smaller acts of generosity, the support for sports clubs, school activities, the Sea Cadet program currently and, previously, support for Cubs, Scouts, Guides and Brownies.

And so Little Current is rightly celebrating its service club.

But it is not unique on Manitoulin for there are Lions Clubs in Mindemoya (Central Manitoulin Lions), Manitowaning (Southeast Manitoulin Lions), Gore Bay/Western Manitoulin Lions and also the Spring Bay/Providence Bay Lions.

Each of these Lions Clubs, and the Gore Bay Rotary Club, has provided and continues to provide the same kind of services to its own community.

As a recent example, the Spring Bay/Providence Bay Lions Club took a lead role in the massive redevelopment of the children's playground on the Providence Bay beach, creating an economic opportunity in the process by making the famous white sands of Providence Bay's long beach an even more desirable place for family visits.

There is often, if not always, an aspect of economic development associated with service clubs for their fundraising endeavors are almost always associated with major community events, which, in

their own right, create direct economic activity.

Locally the examples are all around us: the Little Current Lions Club's Haweater Weekend in the summer and Winterfest in the winter, the Central Manitoulin Lions Club's Homecoming Weekend every Canada Day Weekend in Mindemova, the Southeast Manitoulin Lions Club's Summer fest Weekend in July, the Gore Bay/Western Manitoulin Lions Club's Summerfest Weekend, also in July, and then the club's joint event with local Lions branch and Rotary Club two weeks later: Harbour Days. In Providence Bay, the Spring Bay/Providence Bay's annual corn roast has quickly become that town's annual family activity.

There is a pattern here because in each case, in all of these communities, the



service club's major fundraising activity has become that community's annual 'Big Weekend' and focus for community fun.

Service clubs, like the one that turned 75 in November and all of the others, are win-win for their host communities. They raise money and then give it away to enhance and improve **their** communities and also create major community festivals in the process of fundraising. Congratulations to the Little Current Lions Club, and also to all of the other Manitoulin Island service clubs. It's clear that every community fortunate enough to have a service club (or more than one, as is the case in Gore Bay) is very fortunate.



## The A-5 Convention in Pictures And what a great convention it was



PDG Lion Andy with International director for Canada Lion Yves Leveille. Don't they look like twins!

















During the A-5 Convention Governor Lion Brian had the pleasure of presenting the following International Certificates

Lion Jackie Labelle - Valley East Lions Club Lion Liam Brennan - Sault Ste Marie Lions Club Lion Ann Violette - Minnow Lake Lions Club Lion Ken Gustafson - Capreol Lions Club Judge Brian Stevenson award Lion Peter Oshell - Powassan Lions Club International President's Leadership Award Lion Gerry Bertrand - Lions Club of Sudbury Congratulations to the recipients!











Hey, I don't care what Lion Andy said ... you can't wear a yellow shirt and sit at the head table!

Lion Brian you want another one? ou can't wear a ow shirt and sit e head table!



Yeah I know it is not like Lion Brian's playing, but they ain't paying me to be good!

Ohhhh Lion Brian where is your hand?



# 2013 2014 Club Awards

#### MEMBERSHIP + VISITATION AWARDS ROLLY ALBERT MEMBERSHIP AWARD

Elliott Lake Lions Club with a net increase of 6 members Honorable mention to 2 other clubs in that category Coniston Lions Club and North Bay Lions Club each a with net increase of 4 members!

PC Cleo Roy - PEACE POSTER AWARD Sault Ste Marie Lions Club **SLEAVER VISITATION AWARD - REGION 14** Whitefish Lions Club **MIKE RYAN VISITATION AWARD - REGION 15** Temagami Lions Club **HOWARD DOBBS AWARD - REGION 17** Trout Creek Lions Club **COPEMAN VISITATION AWARD - REGION 17** Bonfield Lions Club **GIL GILMORE VISITATION AWARD - REGION 31** St. Joseph Island Lions Club PHIL GNIAZDOSKI - REGION 47 Minnow Lake lions Club DON RAYMOND TRAVELLING CLUB AWARD Bonfield Lions Club EARL BOX VISITATION AWARD Bonfield Lions Club

Congratulations to all the Winners















PDG Lion Dennis and Gwen Young with our International Director for Canada Lion Yves and Lion Dominque Leveille from Montreal International Director for Canada Lion Yves and Lion Dominque Leveille 1st VDG Lion Harold, ID Lion Yves, DG Lion Brian, 2nd VDG Lion Gerry



You can tell by the pictures that this was a great convention and the Chairs did a wonderful job.

Congratulations to my good friend and best secretary Lion Jackie and my best Newsletter contributor Lion Leanne for their excellent work.

## Lion Brian's Last Trip To COSTCO

Yesterday I was in the COSTCO checkout line with my friend Lion Jackie; you know, the District Secretary who is now the Regional Chair in Region 47! We were discussing her great platform for election when we met up with Lion Brain. He was buying a large bag of Purina Dog Chow for his loyal pet, Lion! Yeah eh, go figure he would name his dog 'Lion the Wonder Dog', apparently 'Lion' weighs 191 lbs! Not far off a real Lion! Anyway we were standing in line yakking to each other about the wonderful convention when another woman came up behind Lion Jackie. Seeing Lion Brian with a big bag of dog food, she yelled up at him, "Hey young man do your have a dog?"

"What did she think I had an elephant?" He quizzed Lion Jackie silently!



I guess, because his term as District Governor is coming to and end and he will be retiring from that position soon he has more

time on his hands as a lot of retired people do, to think of great responses to dumb questions! So, I guess on impulse he looked straight back at the woman and said, "No Mam!" He said, to her. "No, I don't have a dog, I was starting the Purina Diet again."

He added, "I probably shouldn't, because I ended up in the hospital last time I did this diet, but hell all totaled I lost 50 pounds before I awakened in an intensive care ward with tubes coming out of most of my orifices, and IVs in both arms!"

Watching the lady intensely he could see she was very interested, and he went on to say, that it was essentially a 'Perfect Diet' and then explained how it works.

Lion Brian said to the lady, "Listen honey, here is how it works, you load your pockets with Purina Nuggets, yeah you fill them right up, and honey I can see you have a lovely coat with big pockets, so this will work wonderfully for you!"

He went on, "And you simply eat one or two every time you feel hungry. The food is nutritionally complete so it works well! It will help you loose 30 or so pounds! Not that you need to mind you!" he said reassuringly!"

Lion Jackie looked at me and it was all we could do from laughing! Lion Brian went on, "I was going to try it again!

Well the lady looked at Lion Jackie and me. Horrified, she asked Lion Brian, "Did you, sir, end up in intensive care, because the dog food poisoned you!

"No, no. "Lion Brian responded, "I stopped to Pee on a Fire Hydrant and a car hit me!"

Well I thought Lion Jackie would pee herself she was laughing so hard!

Later I heard that Costco wouldn't let Lion Brian shop there anymore!

Better watch what you ask a retired Governor! They have all the time in the World to think of crazy things to say.

Best wishes my friend! Loved working with you - Keep smiling!



# THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF THE GOVERNORS DISTRICT A-5 NEWSLETTER HAVE TWO WORDS FOR YOU ...



And remember to get this newsletter out to the all the members in your club.

Talk to you soon Lion Liam Brennan <u>lembrennan@hotmail.com</u>

