

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 4

District A-5 Governor's Newsletter



Lion Harold Huhtanen Governor



Editor and Publisher
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District A-5 WEB Site; <http://www.e-district.org/sites/a5>

Lion Harold's Opening Remarks



By the time you read this, the first quarter of my Lions Year will be over.

It has been an exciting first quarter, starting with the 97th annual Lions International Convention in Toronto.

It was here that I received my final training and officially inducted as your District Governor.

Our first Cabinet meeting held in late August was in Schumacher. The Schumacher Lions Club who did a super job looking after us hosted it. Thanks to Lion Shawn Connors and the rest of his crew for the wonderful meals and the use of their Den.

The MDA Council meeting and GLT/GMT training took place at the beginning of September. The District A5 was well represented.

My next stop was in San Juan, Puerto Rico in September at the USA/Canada Leadership Forum. A terrific learning experience with the many seminars to choose from made this the perfect opportunity to hone ones skills and get fresh ideas.

I have started my visitations, as have the 1st and 2nd VDG and look forward to our visits.

The District A5 board is ready to face the challenges that may come our way, or help celebrate your achievements. Keep in touch with us.

Changes are inevitable; we must embrace change at the District, Club, and personal level. More and more emphasis is being put on District, and Club Officers in the way they are reporting to International and Districts. The availability of information from Lions International and how to communicate in a timely fashion are a part of the change.

Technology is upon us. If your club is reporting by snail mail or hand written reports, lets work together and find a solution that your reporting can be reported to LCI in a timely manner.

In closing, best wishes for a successful year and working toward our common goal, "We Serve"

Harold Huhtanen
District Governor A5
2014-2015



Lion Harold's Toronto Convention Memories



LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION – TORONTO



The Lions Clubs International Convention was held in Toronto this year and by all accounts it was one of the best yet, according to the convention goers.

Over 17,000 Lions converged on Toronto from all around the world to take part in this 4-day event.

To the Governor elects, there was an additional 4 days of presentations, training, and seminars. From the Opening Ceremonies, Plenary sessions and the 4-hour Parade, what a way to enjoy being a Lion.

The entertainment with the likes of Neil Sedaka, Olivia Newton John, David Foster were but a few of the many entertainers that were present at the convention. It was certainly a first class affair with all the bells and whistles.

The organizing of such an event was monumental, and thanks to the 700 volunteers from Multiple District A, who volunteered their time. A big THANK YOU for a job well done. Here are but a few pictures from the convention;



Lion Harold And the USA Canada Forum



Approximately 1700 delegates attended the USA/Canada Leadership Forum, which was held in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

From District A5, four brave soles, PDG Lions Brian Closs, Ann Violette, Frank Arnold, and yours truly, attended this 3-day event.

Old friendships were renewed; seminars attended, motivational speakers listened to were but a few of the activities. Of course no Forum would be complete if you did not take in the culture of the island.

Puerto Ricans are very hospitable and helpful. For the most part, most Puerto Ricans we met spoke English. The weather cooperated although it did rain a couple of times, but only for a few minutes.

Our stay at the Sheraton Hotel by the new and beautiful Convention Centre, proved to be beneficial, as we didn't need shuttle busses.

Forums are the best way to meet new Lions and to my surprise I was able to talk to everyone including the

International President and Directors.

The casual atmosphere makes everyone at ease. Titles are left at the door - we are all Lions at this forum.

Our next USA/Canada Forum will be held in Grand Rapids Michigan on September 17th to 19th, 2015.

Our District Chair for next years Forum is Lion Frank Arnold. He will gladly provide you with an application, or you can register on-line at: www.lionsforum.org.

Grand Rapids will be the closest Forum to our great district that we have seen in a while. It is approximately 4 hours from Sault Ste. Marie, 8 hours from Sudbury, and 10 hours from North Bay.

Lets get together and make a concerted effort to attend the 2015 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum, Maybe via a chartered bus trip - that should be fun!



Memorial Forest

By PDG Lion Myra Kierana

Every Lion In district A-5 should know about
this project

It is Lion Harold's' Special Project this year
SO READ ON



In July, July 19th to be exact, PDG Lion Myra formed a work party to do some maintenance to the **Lions District A-5 Memorial Forest**, located in Iron Bridge

A lot of work was done and now the Memorial Forest is at its best. Lion Myra reported that the work crew had a great time doing the chores. However she said, and this is a quote, "Next year when a clean up crew is needed she won't ask slackers like PDG Andy, as he spent most of the day on a swing in the children's playground adjacent to and part of the Forest.

In the pictures: Lions Harry and Zie from Australia who were very impressed with the project. Lion Myra said she entertained them the next day. They were guests of Lion Vic & Bev Roach from Englehart. Lion Vic met Lion Harry at the International Convention in Australia Last year.

Also in attendance were Lions Carol & Jim Russell, John Atkins, Andy Pedersen, PDDG Lion Ron & Donna Anderson, & PDG Andy McRae.

Lion Myra also reported that PDG Andy, who cheated a lot at golf during the fund raising Golf Tournament, won this year Memorial Forest Golf Tournament Cup. Lion Myra went on to say that she was part of that foursome!!

... Hmmm that makes me wonder ... Governor Lion Harold can you weigh in on this!

Of special note Lion Myra wanted to recognize Lion Gerry Huizing, who built the new the display board, which he made for the Memorial Forest.



About the Memorial Forest



District A5 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.

It is 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 500 Meters 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. Once you buy a tree the name of the deceased will be affixed near the tree and the family will receive a memorial card stating that a tree has been planted in memory of their loved one.

Every year a Dedication Service is conducted at the Memorial Forest, which will be open for all to attend.

This program is not restricted to Lions members. 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. However you can make a request for local native trees.



Always By Our Side ... Mitchell's Story'



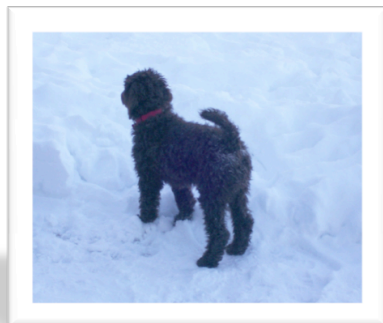
Lion Susan Kerr is a proud member of the St Joseph Island Lions Club. She is also an internationally renowned author of short stories and poems, with many awards and accolades

for her work.

She recently wrote the book '**Always By Our Side ... Mitchell's Story'**.

Mitchell is a guide dog from the **Lions Foundation of Canada, Guide Dog Program**, that Lion Sue and her husband Robert had the privilege to foster for the first year of his life. Susan is a life long animal rights supporter and dog lover (cats too) and she wanted to relate her experience about how she prepared Mitchell to become part of the elite working dog world and to tell the readers of the life lessons he taught her during their brief time together.

In the book she tells the heart-warming story of the tiny pooch they received at 14 weeks old, and journals his time with them as they teach each other about life. She describes him as a chocolate brown standard poodle and she goes on to say with a sparkle in her eyes, "that he was extremely smart! So smart he could write letters!"



The book chronicles Mitchell's time on St Josephs Island and, Sue promises all the proceeds from the sale of the book go to the Guide Dog program.

Lion Sue and Lion Robert are available for guest speaking engagements at your club or function. Unfortunately they can't bring Mitchell because he is working in Saskatchewan. But they do bring with them Keisha, aged 7, a standard



poodle. Sue says Keisha came from Lions Foundation after being disqualified from her training due to (as Sue Describes) D.A.D.D. (Doggy Attention Deficit Disorder-LOL!). Keisha is their life's partner now and she accompanies them to all fundraising-speaking engagements on behalf of **Lions Foundation Dog Guides** and of course, Mitchell behalf too.

To book a speaking engagement contact Lion Robert and Susan Kerr on her WEB site www.susankerrlovesdogs.com And you can order your personal autographed copy of the book at the same time! (WOW is she ever going to be mad that I put the '*personal autograph*' part in there! But let me tell you, definitely have them come and talk to your Club, they are both very entertaining and passionate about their work as Lions, as a fostering guide dog home, and as a couple ... well worth the price of the book to have them as your next guest speakers.



How to Keep Members Happy and Coming Back



There's nothing like the satisfaction of serving others. It's why new members become Lions, and why experienced members remain Lions. Whether seasoned or new, membership satisfaction is the key to keeping all members happy.



Alone we can do so little ...
Together we can do so much.

Helen Keller, speaking to the Lions.



How Big a Donations Is **BIG?**



Pictured above are Cheryl Pavoni, Executive Director, Sault Area Hospital Foundation, and proud Lions member presenting a plaque to Sault Ste Marie Lion President Carol Russell.

In recognition of the Club's \$12,000 pledged donation? Lion Cheryl said, "The Club worked very hard over the last three years to raise this money and completed their obligation this year. This generous donation allowed the hospital to purchase a video conferencing system for the Ophthalmology Department at Sault Area Hospital and this equipment will enable them to serve the surrounding communities."

Lion Cheryl went on to say, "The Sault Ste. Marie Lions Club has been very generous over the years and has given over **\$220,000** to the Hospital for various pieces of equipment hospital-wide and the **Lions Emblem** stands proud in many departments as recognition of those contributions."

She emphasized, "During the New Hospital Campaign, the Sault Lions Club partnering with the surrounding area Lions Clubs and Lions International made it possible for the Hospital to purchase an Argon Laser to benefit the patients of Sault Ste. Marie and the outlying area by contributing an amazing donation of **\$100,000!**"

Now that is a **BIG** donation



Donations

Minnow Lake Lions

Donated \$1000.00 to Crohns & Colitis Sudbury Chapter

Left to right, Armand Jean, C & C Co-Chairs Stephanie Gallagher, Angela Draper & Mason Laforest and Marg Jean.

Submitted by Leanne Furchner

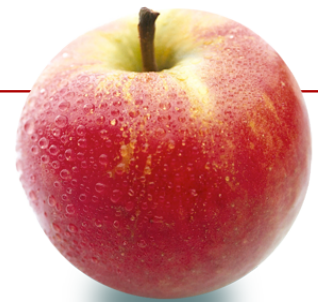


Minnow Lake Lions

Donated \$1000.00 to Canadian Cancer Society.

Fundraising Coordinator Jen Kwiatkowski accepts the cheque from Cancer Survivors Walter Karen and Al Chenier

Submitted by Leanne Furchner



Family Fun Day In Minnow Lake



On June 21st, The Minnow Lake Lions Club organized a Family Fun Day for the children of Minnow Lake. There were fun games for all ages and healthy food was served.

Submitted by Leanne Furchner



The Newest Melvin Jones Fellow

Lion Brian now has a new accolade to add to his growing list. – He is now a Melvin Jones Fellow

On June 19th, 2014, Our Past District Governor Lion Brian Closs was the proud recipient of the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award

Submitted by Leanne Furchner

Congratulations Old Buddy!



The Melvin Jones Fellowship (MJF) recognizes donations of US \$1,000. It is the backbone of LCIF, providing 75 percent of the foundation's revenue. As recognition of humanitarian work, an MJF is an honor presented to those who donate US \$1,000 to LCIF or to people for whom a donation was made by others, contributions can be made by individuals, (including non-Lions), clubs, or districts.

Donations may be in one sum, or in installments of a minimum of US \$100 over a five-year period. Melvin Jones Fellows receive an attractive lapel pin, a plaque, and a congratulatory letter.

For Melvin Jones Fellowship contributions or inquiries contact LCIF Donor Services Department at 630-203-3836 or [e-mail](#) us.

To apply for a fellowship, complete the [MJF Application form](#).

Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowships

The Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship (PMJF) program is a way for donors to extend their commitment to LCIF. There are 54 recognition levels beyond the initial US \$1,000 MJF contribution with a unique pin for each giving level.

After contributing US \$100,000, donors become [Humanitarian Partners](#).

MJF Facts

- The Fellowship was established in 1973 and the Progressive program began in 1986 in response to Lions' request for a way to extend their commitment to LCIF.
 - Donations through MJFs provide 75 percent of the Foundation's annual revenue.
 - There are 54 levels in the PMJF program.
 - As of the end of March 2014, there are 361,160 MJF recipients and 68,518 PMJF recipients worldwide.
 - All MJFs are invited to the annual luncheon held at the convention (ticket purchase required). The MJF luncheon began in 1984 and has been held at each convention since then.
 - The names of MJFs are displayed on a computer in the LCIF Room at the International Headquarters.
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ST. JOSEPH ISLAND LIONS CLUB HAS GROWN!!

By Lion Susan Kerr

It was quite a night! It was a spectacular night, in fact. On Wednesday June 4, the St Joseph Island Lions Club met for their usual dinner meeting.... except there were three unusual things about the evening. One, it was the last one of this Lions year...so no more meetings until the fall. Second, we had a bevy of out-of-town Lions join us.... five from Sault Ste. Marie, one from Elliot Lake, two from Sudbury. And, best of all, (no offence to our visitors) we inducted seven, yes seven, new members!

As we all know, service clubs all over North America, are suffering from the same problem.... increased difficulty attracting new people to become members and join in our volunteer efforts. People seem so busy these days; families take up a lot of time, working and commuting do too, and all the clubs are competing for the same warm bodies willing to take up the fight against whatever scourge challenges them. Lots of good causes...lots of 'fight the good fight'! - All worthwhile and admirable. So, when a club like ours can have seven people join in one night.... with an eighth having joined the previous month – it is cause for much celebration. Naturally.... all credit must go to our Membership Chair, Lion Dan McCarty, who is DYNOMITE!

So, a great Lions welcome to Lion Ryan Maki (who joined us a month ago), Lions Donna Bond, Steve Richardson, David Browley, Carol Haukaas, Carmel Kennedy, John Kennedy, and last, but not least, Ruth McCarty, who finally gave in to Lion Dan's persistence! We had several guests join in support that night also...and who knows, perhaps they will

consider joining us too!

As we always do at this time of year, we said goodbye to our last year's slate of officers and installed a fresh new bunch...well, some are fresh...we always like to have a good line-up of our tried and true Lions on board each year too.



Outgoing President Jack Priest handed over his gavel without a murmur of protest to incoming Lion President, Robert Kerr (he's been there,

done that before), who will have the support of 1st V.P. Lion Gerry Rahn, and 2nd V.P. Lion Connie Rahn and 3rd V.P. Lion Jim Robinson. We have a super new Secretary, Lion Debra Gowlett, who has already proved to be

indispensable on so many levels! Lion Bruce Campbell continues on in the Treasurer's role, thank goodness! Our esteemed Tail Twister (he who levies spare coin from members to pay for administration costs for the club by devious and trickster means) remains our one and only Lion Ted

Ask 1



Lumley.

So...other than an informal celebratory BBQ to be held one fine day in July, we will meet for business and dinner meetings again in September. With seven new smiling faces to help us carry on with our summer activities to continue raising money, and, in keeping with our International motto "WE SERVE", we will continue to financially support our charities, both local and elsewhere, and be available always for requests for help from local individuals in need.

Coniston Lions Club Inducts 7 new Members

By, Lion Brenda Mclay-Lalonde

The Lions Club of Coniston has thrown down the gauntlet! Lion Brenda, Their Publicity Reporter has said, "St Joes might have inducted 8 new Lions but they did it over two months. We have tied for the number of new Lions members in one swoop! Seven at once! And we have," she said, "7 new members first!" We did it Before St Joe's!" "Take that, St Joe's!" She exclaimed. District Governor Lion Harold confirmed this is so! "If St Joes, or any other Lions Club in the district wants to come to Coniston we will show them how it is done!" She Challenged!



WOW!!!!

She went on to say, "If any Lions Club in District A-5 thinks they can out do us, bring it on ... "

Lion Brenda, also reported that this Past March the Coniston Lions Club Celebrated their 50 the Anniversary.



In the front row: Pat Casey (past president), Bea Winter (new member), Phil Gniazdowski (charter member and past district governor), Adam Marcotte (new member), Andy Bidal (membership chair)

Back row: Colette Conlon, (new member), Gisele Lalonde, (new member), Kathy Cormier, (new member), Anne Conlon, (new member), Carole Conlon, (new member)

Lions Quest Contest



Lions Quest Canada

The Centre for Positive Youth Development

2014-15 Promotional Contest

Trip for 2 to Bali

Your \$10 donation to Lions Quest Canada gets you one entry into the contest

For a donation of \$250, your club will receive:

- 25 tickets on the draw for the trip to Bali
- Recognition as a Champion Club with a banner patch
- 1 Card that can be presented as appreciation to a Guest Speaker acknowledging donation has been made to Lions Quest Canada

For a donation of \$500, your club will receive:

- 50 tickets on the draw for the trip to Bali
- Recognition as a Champion Club with a banner patch
- 2 Cards that can be presented as appreciation to Guest Speakers

For a donation of \$1,000, your club will receive:

- 100 tickets on the draw for the trip to Bali
- Recognition as a Champion Club with a banner patch
- 5 Cards that can be presented as appreciation to Guest Speakers
- Two Lions Quest Fellowships for worthy recipients

Grand Mirage Resort

www.grandmirage.com

This package includes:

- 12 nights hotel accommodation at the Grand Mirage Resort with daily buffet breakfast for 2
- Return airfare on economy (V) class from Vancouver to Bali
- Airport & Hotel transfers with baggage handling of 2 pieces of normal size baggage
- 5 sightseeing tours on the day of your choice
- Hotel tax & service charges
- Service of English speaking representative
- Trip is from Vancouver, B.C. All travel must be completed by February 1, 2016
- Reservation is subject to space available and requires 90 days advance booking.
- Tax & airport fees, travel document are the responsibility of the winner
- Add-on from other Canadian gateways available on request

Prize is not redeemable for cash

***Generously donated by 7 Lions Clubs
In District 19H and
PDG Peter Cheng, 19***



About Lions Quest Canada

By Lion Jack Oatway

LQ Promotions Chair for A-5

sharon.jacko@yahoo.ca

Our mission is to provide leadership, training, and resources to develop healthy capable young people of strong character.

Historically, we worked exclusively in schools with our world-renowned Skills for Growing, Skills for Adolescence, and Skills for Action programs. More recently, as it becomes increasingly more difficult to reach into schools, we have expanded our work extensively into communities – with training, or a train-the-trainer approach that helps build community capacity. We also provide consulting services to many youth serving organizations like Ontario Association of Children’s Aid Societies, Tim Horton Children’s Foundation, Alberta Health Services, RCMP, and many similar groups.

Please take note of our tag line – **“The Canadian Centre for Positive Youth Development”** – this is important for us to use to help explain our work outside of the world of Lionism. Many Lions aren’t aware of everything that Lions Quest Canada is involved with across the country – so we use this extra tag line to help explain that we can help support children and youth in their community within schools and the broader community.

We are excited about the future of Lions Quest Canada. Together we are making a difference in over 10,000 schools and communities across the country – but without you, it just wouldn’t be possible. As International President Joe Preston states, it’s time to “Strengthen the Pride”.

Upcoming Events

Aug 21-22 Positive Youth Development Training of Trainers Kingston, ON

Sept 24 Lions Quest Skills for Growing/Skills for Adolescence Sheshatshui, NL

Sept 26 Lions Quest Skills for Growing/Skills for Adolescence Natuashish, NL

Oct 3 Do Your Part National Gathering Orillia, ON

Oct 15-16 Positive Youth Development Training of Trainers Oakville, ON

Oct 20-21 Positive Youth Development Training of Trainers Grande Prairie, AB

Oct 20-21 Positive Youth Development Training of Trainers Taber, AB

Oct 23-24 Positive Youth Development Training of Trainers Sylvan Lake, AB

TBA Do Your Part Community Workshop Sioux Lookout, ON

TBA Lions Quest Skills for Growing/Skills for Adolescence Niagara Falls, ON

TBA Lions Quest Skills for Growing/Skills for Adolescence 4 locations in Alberta

TBA Lions Quest Skills for Growing/Skills for Adolescence Milton, ON

TBA Lions Quest Skills for Growing/Skills for Adolescence Abbotsford, BC

TBA Lions Quest Leadership Session for Lions Regina, SK

For more information

If you need more information about Lions Quest Canada, upcoming events and the promotional contest please contact Kay Nelles at:

Lions Quest Canada

427 Elgin Street North
Cambridge, ON N1R 8G4
800-265-2680 ext 102
kay@lionsquest.ca
www.lionsquest.ca



Computer Gender...

Lion Harold and I were having a few Brännvin drinks (you will have to look that up) with PDG Lion Brian and his partner Lion



Ann the other day. We were talking about the Canadian Navy retiring their ships when Lion Catherine came to sit with us. Lion Harold offered her a Brännvin, but she refused saying she would have a glass of white wine instead. She said the last time she had a couple of those, her head hurt for days and she moved in with, Gerry. She said, she would never do that again!

Lion Ann quizzed, “You mean, you will never drink Brännvin again, not, you won’t move in with Gerry, right? Lion Catherine paused, thought about it, and said, “Yeah of course that is what I was thinking!”

Let me get back to my story.

Catherine, then said to Harold, that her computer was giving her grief, it was slow and it its memory was going. She said she was thinking of retiring the ‘old fellow,’ and getting a new one. That’s when Harold, out of the blue, said “You know when the navy retired the four ships they referred to them as the *Grand Olde Ladies*, and if ships are addressed in the feminine, and I sometimes call my car ‘she,’ especially when it gives me grief, then, what gender is my computer? If we are going to embrace technology as I say in my opening remarks, I should know if our computers are feminine or masculine.”

Well Lion Ann, who until then was quite, turned to him and said, “Lion Harold, you know that the computers should be referred to in the masculine gender, just like Catherine said, because in order to get their attention, you have to turn them on. Also they have a lot of data, but are still clueless and they are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they are the problem. And with mine as soon as I committed to it, I realize that, if you had waited a little longer I could have had a better model.



That’s when Lion Brian with a surprised look on his face interjected, “On the other hand Computers should be referred to in the feminine gender because, no one but the Creator understands their internal logic. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else. And as I think about it even your smallest mistakes are stored in long-term memory for later retrieval. And when I final got mine I find myself spending half my paycheck on accessories for it!

Lion Harold looked at me and asked, “Are they still talking about their computers?”



What Another Great District Newsletter

Don't you just love the Fall theme?

Absolutely Let's get this out to all members in your Lions Club!

E-mail it to the members or print off a copy and handed to them. They will thank you for it.

Do you want your Club's activity published in the "District Newsletter"?

Of course you do!

Who wouldn't!

So here is how to get in the newsletter ... but you have got to promise to keep it quietwe wouldn't want everyone to know about this Gold Mine!

Send your article to
Lion Liam Brennan at
lembrennan@hotmail.com
Pictures in a J-peg format



and remember to include everyone's name in the pictures.

****Important ****

Put in the 'Subject' line
For District Newsletter

The editorial Staff at the **District A-5 Governors Newsletter** are looking for articles ...we want you to tell us why you are proud to be a Lion in you own words ... so go write something ...