

## History of Chemong Lions Club

PDG Gordon Taylor

It has been an interesting week as I was also the one who tried to put together the history of the club through scrap book pictures, photos and newspaper articles and as I did so, I began feeling even more proud of the accomplishments of our club. It is an interesting history to say the least and if I make any mistakes in this little summary please feel free to ask other more experienced members of the club for an explanation.

The club was sponsored in 1974 by the Peterborough Lions, with guidance from the sitting Governor of the day, now Past District Governor Dr. Doug Galt.

How many clubs can attest to owning a dance hall? The Pines was well known in these parts and I learned was also the setting for the Governor's Ball for the District A3 11<sup>th</sup> Convention in 1983 for then Governor Ron Moir, with the incoming Governor that year being Lion Russ Mitchell.

The club has done a lot of great things over the years.

With the obtaining of green space and the purchase of more green space near the Pines, by the township, the club actually paid for a township staff member to examine the potential for a park on that green space and with the sale of the Pines began to invest time and funds to grow the Lions Park which is now named The Paul J. English Lions Park. What began as baseball diamonds grew to soccer fields and a Frisbee park with a pavilion and accessible walking trails and parking.

Over the years the club has sponsored baseball and hockey teams, raised funds and invested in the Peterborough Civic Hospital and the Peterborough Regional Health Centre which replaced it; we have assisted in the purchase of fire trucks for the local fire department, hospital beds and medical assists for Community Care, a Zamboni, and invested \$175,000 in this beautiful library in 2008. More recently the Club put an additional \$100,000 into the Ennismore Community Centre and \$95,000 into the Frisbee Park. When I started to read about all the money that has been raised and donated to the community over the years, I figure there is probably over a million dollars raised by this club.

Today we are in the planning stages for our summer Cruise Night Car Shows and will as usual choose a number of needy charities and groups to benefit from the income. We have a couple of new Lions that tried something new last month and held a tea and luncheon to raise \$400 for the new Pediatric Cancer Clinic. Every Christmas the club packs and delivers food hampers to those in need in the community, we donate to camps for Kids with Cancer and those affected by Diabetes. We are strong supporters of both the Dog guide program and Leader Dogs and we do our annual Vision Screening in four schools.

We have taken on the running of the annual Remembrance Day Parade and service in Bridgenorth each November.

And the club has sponsored a summer swimming program at Jones Beach for years.

We have a history of attending conventions at the District, Multiple District and International level and there is ample evidence that fun was had by all, if you catch my drift.

In keeping with that Lions fun the club also twinned with the Bridgnorth Lions in Shropshire, England and a number of the members travelled to England to visit them.

Next Lions year, the club will have the first District Governor to come from its ranks, even though there have been and are Past District Governors as members of the club and plans are being made for more visits and service projects.

It is a great history and we owe much to those that chartered our club, most of whom have passed on.

I believe this was delivered by PDG Lion Gord Taylor at their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I asked for a copy which he kindly sent to me. Editor's Note dg