



Lions and the Environment

Quarterly News Bulletin
September 2017



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

- Margaret Mead

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time is today.

- Chinese Proverb

17%

According to Stats Canada, 17% of Canadian households reported being engaged in unpaid activities aimed at conservation or protection of the environment or wildlife in 2015.

Lions and the Environment

Greetings Lions!

Welcome to our 2017-18 Lions year!

I am excited to be your Environmental Chair this year. When DG Bill Zwier approached me to consider the position I was happy to accept as the environment is an issue I am passionate about.

I was fortunate to spend every summer growing up at a cottage near Kingston. The only girl in a family of boys I spent my time in the surrounding forest and the swamp and it is there I developed my love of nature.

As I grew older and became aware of what was happening

to the planet, my concern grew and my interest in helping wherever I could increased.

With this newsletter I hope to bring you news from Lions International as well as Lions Clubs in our District and around the world. I will include things your club could do to help the environment as well as what individuals can do on their own.

As I started my research for the newsletter I was amazed to learn what Lions around the world do for the environment! From planting sustainable community gardens to helping to build safe drinking water systems to removing litter from a beach or road

Environmental Photo Contest

Winners of the 2016-17 Environmental Photo contest can be viewed on the LCI website www.lionsclubs.org. Click on the magnifying glass at the top right and enter the words Environmental Photo contest in the search bar. There you

can also purchase a 2018 wall calendar with 12 outstanding environmental photo entries for just \$4.95 U.S.

I have been informed that Lions International is evaluating the environmental photo



way to developing an awareness campaign around environmental issues to planting trees—these are just a small example. There is nothing too small or too large.

Thank you all for your part in saving our planet. **Together** we can make a difference.

Kathy Marchen
Environmental Chair
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contest for 2017-18. The International Board of Directors is considering new contest proposals and will share more information with Lions in November.

Stay tuned!

Centennial Service Challenge



The Environment is one of the 5 Lions Centennial Service Challenge areas. To date, **54,616,384** people have been served by **25,016** Lions clubs who have reported that they are protecting the environment.

The funds generated pay for food and milk for soup kitchens and nursing homes.

Recycling With a Twist

Peru – Lions here recycle glass bottles – not an unusual activity. But what sets apart this club is that it turns the bottles into drinking glasses with the Lions logo. Members of the **San Borja Papa Juan XXII Lions Club** also refurbish and

affix a Lions logo to vases, lamps and other decorative items. The objects are donated to the needy to spruce up their homes. The items are donated to the club from treasurer Cesar Luis Sevillano Palacios, who owns a sanitation company.

Palacios' expertise comes in handy for the clubs' main project: recycling. The club recycles paper, cardboard and plastic, and the funds generated pay for food and milk for soup kitchens and nursing homes.

Cleanup Preserves Lake's Luster



Lake Inawashiro

Japan – Junior high students from Aizu-Wakamatsu with rakes and pitchforks descended on the beach of Lake Inawashiro, located in the Fukushima Prefecture. The fourth-largest lake in Japan, it's admired for its clean water. "Heaven's Mirror," as its affectionately known, often shows the glimmering reflection of majestically snow-capped Mt. Bandai. Yet

the lake has been degraded by eutrophication-excessive plant and algae growth caused by industrial pollutants. The more than 100 students recruited by the **Inawashiro Lions Club** filled crate after crate with algae. "We never could have done a volunteer project on this scale with only the students," a teacher told Japanese LION. "We could not have provided

the tools and equipment needed. This is a huge victory not only for the lake but for their future as well." The club had a prior connection with the junior high school through its sponsorship of the Peace Poster Contest. "We learned a lot about volunteerism today," a student told the Lions at the lake.

Suggested Environmental Education Projects

Lions Green Teams' environmental education projects can inform the public about the importance of preserving and protecting the environment.

Organize a community-wide recycling event.

Volunteer at a recycling center.

Lead a community-wide clean-up project.

Clean a freshwater pond or river. Stock it with fish.

Demonstrate how to plant

trees.

Encourage schools to include environmental education in their curriculum.

Sponsor an environment contest. Provide an environmentally-friendly prize.

Sponsor a Lions Green Team Club at a local school.

Sponsor school-based environment projects such as the collection of used athletic shoes, notebook paper, or books.

Host a Lions Green Team seminar for the public. Submit press releases about the environment to the local media.

Volunteer to help local groups or municipalities implement environment projects.

Sponsor a hybrid car exhibit/demonstration. Raise funds for an environment project.



You cannot protect the environment unless you empower people, you inform them and you help them understand that these resources are their own, that they must protect them.

- Professor Wangari Maathai

Community Clean-up

A Lions community clean up is a great way to improve the environment and work alongside Lions, Leos and members of the community on a "hands-on" high-visibility service project.

Participants can wear Lions logo apparel to publicize that Lions are at work. A Lions logo sign at the clean-up site

can reinforce the message.

Community clean up projects can include:

Removing debris from a roadway, waterway, nature trail, park, school, forest or train station.

Clearing debris away after

a heavy rain or flood.

Raking autumn leaves.

Removing graffiti from public buildings, bridges, or fences.

Landscaping a public area.

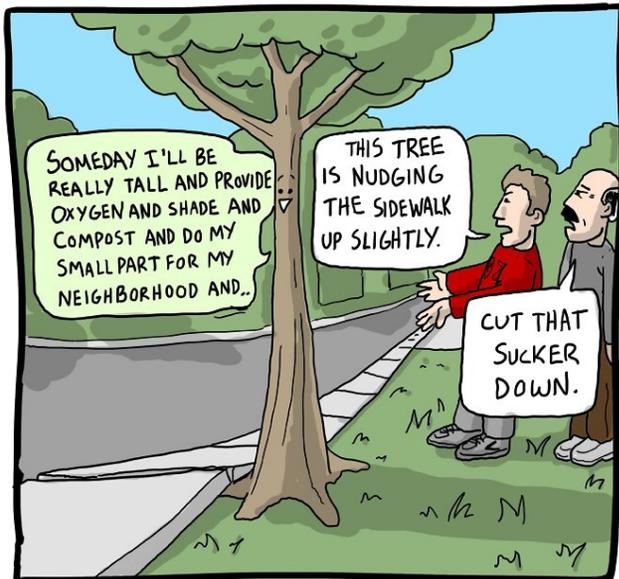
Recycled Trashy Fashion Show

Florida—Pictured at the right is Else Groe, the 2017 first place winner in the Recycled Trashy Fashion Show of the **Ocala On Top of the World Lions Club**

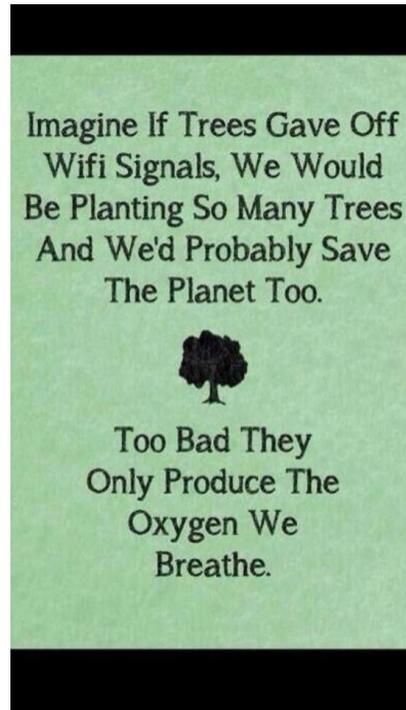
in Florida. Held annually, this year's fashion show was a huge success. The dresses had to be made of 75% recycled materials and not exceed a cost of \$40.00

per outfit. Tickets were sold to the event and the winner received a \$1,000 cheque.





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Is this the Worlds Toughest Plastic Bag Ban?

Kenyan's producing, selling, or even using plastic bags will risk imprisonment of up to four years or fines of \$40,000 due to a new law aimed at reducing pollution. It's estimated that people use 24 million bags a month in the country. The east

African nation joins more than 40 other countries that have banned, partly banned or taxed single use plastic bags, including China, France, Rwanda and Italy.



Small Steps Create Change

Grow some veggies. Buy local produce. Borrow instead of buy. Speak up for nature and wildlife. Make more meals from scratch. Buy quality. Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. Say no to single-use plastic. Don't let the media tell you what to buy. Want less. Don't chuck it. fix it.

Our children deserve a healthy planet

Mother Nature
Connecting Kids with Nature
mothernature.com

Green Cleaning

There are many ways to improve our overall health and wellbeing without sacrificing cleanliness. There are many green alternatives when cleaning.

Instead of buying conventional cleaners, make our own, non-toxic eco-friendly cleaners. For example, mixing baking

soda and warm water can be used as an all-purpose cleaner on everything from countertops, grease spills and laundry.

When drying your clothes, use a clothesline. If that's not possible, use dryer balls instead of throw away sheets. Or as an even

better alternative, buy a clothes rack. They are inexpensive and you'll save tons on energy and you won't shrink your favourite jeans!

Here's a fun fact: boiling vinegar in the microwave is a good way to get rid of that terrible burned popcorn smell.



Touchstone Story #13—Recycle the Earth

Lions can be found on the front lines of local recycling projects all around the world, reclaiming everything from scrap metal and old newspapers to medical devices and used cell phones.

The recycling effort Lions are best known for is the Recycle for Sight Program, which collects millions of used eyeglasses yearly for distribution in developing countries, where eye care is unaffordable or inaccessible for many people.

Simple and effective, the pioneering program that started in the 1930s remains a high-profile and frequently praised symbol of Lion practicality and service to others. “Unwanted or outdated eyeglasses, tucked away in drawers or closets, can make a tremendous difference in the life of someone in need,” Abigail Van Buren told readers of her syndicated “Dear Abby” column in 1996. The Lion eyeglass initiative is a “wonderful program,” she added.

Building on the success of that initiative, Lions in the early 2000s launched the Hearing Aid Recycling Program, which similarly collects and refurbishes donated hearing aids for distribution to those who lack funds to buy them.

Over time, however, Lions have taken up more conventional recycling chores, often led by Lions Green Teams. Around the globe, Lions Green Teams regularly gather and recycle huge quantities of scrap metal, paper, and other reusable projects. Each April, Lions dedicate a month of service to protecting the planet as part of the Global Service Action Campaign. The campaign’s recycling efforts help save energy, reduce the amount of trash sent to landfills and conserve dwindling natural resources.

In Turkey, the Bursa Koza Lions Club collects plastic bottles for recycling “in order to prevent pollution of the environment and nature,” said club member Nuket Tuzlacioglu.

Recycling has another attraction for some clubs: Besides their environmental benefit, recycling programs often generate revenue that Lions can use to fund other good works.

In Arizona, the Prescott Noon Lions Club has collected and shipped nearly 53 million pounds of recyclable newsprint and other paper. By collecting newspapers and magazines in bins all around town, the club has raised more than US\$200,000 to support local charities.

“If the paper is recycled, that means we don’t cut down as many trees,” explained Prescott Noon Lion Bill Parker.

In India, the Aldona Lions Club launched a garbage reduction program in local schools. Officials noted the plan was “converting waste to wealth,” as the schools benefited from funds raised by the sale of recyclable materials. In Penn Yan, a village in upstate New York, local Lions asked neighbors in the Finger Lake region to “help us help others by donating your scrap metal so we can recycle it and turn it into cash.”

Recycling work can be difficult, but the benefits to the community and the earth make the effort worthwhile.

Pictured at right—the Boracay Malay Amity Lions Club in the Philippines organized an environmental awareness campaign to make separating trash from recyclables fun.





We would love to share your club's environmental efforts with others. Send a description of your event with a picture or two, or tell us what your club plans to do this year and I will include it in the next edition of the Lions Environmental Bulletin scheduled to be published in December.

Email to Lion Kathy at: kathrynanne51@yahoo.ca

Save the Date—Start Planning Early!

Earth Hour – March 24, 2018 (<https://www.earthhour.org/>)

LCI Worldwide Week of Service to Protect Our Planet – April 17 – 23, 2018 (<https://www.lionsclubs.org/>)

Earth Day – April 22, 2018 (<https://www.earthday.org/about/>)

World Environment Day – June 5, 2018 (<http://worldenvironmentday.global/>)



Growing Number of Butterflies in Minnesota



Scandia Marine Lions Janie O'Connor and Marilyn Opp were in line for dinner at their club meeting in Stillwater, Minnesota when an idea began to sprout. Opp had read in a previous LION magazine about the decline in the number of monarch butterflies because of habitat loss and the need to plant more milkweed to support them. O'Connor, a naturalist whose lifelong interest in monarch butterflies led to her being known as the club's "butterfly lady," had read it as well. They agreed that the Lions could help. The women planted a few test seeds in pots, and O'Connor, who first raised caterpillars and butterflies as a childhood 4H project, watered



and watched as milkweed grew in her living room window. Soon the two had planted their service project idea in other Lions' heads. Lion Don Peterson offered his greenhouse, hundreds of pots were donated, and O'Connor washed the pots in her bathtub. Lions and friends helped plant 418 pots of milkweed from O'Connor's collection of about 1,600 seeds. Eighty-nine percent of the seeds germinated. But their work wasn't done. When the greenhouse got too warm, the women moved the plants to Lion Dan Lee's fenced garden plot, nestling them between his garden vegetables. "We were lucky. It rained," recalls Opp. Not long after, they loaded

more than 350 thriving plants onto Lee's hay wagon and drove slowly-8 mph-into town to share their plants with fellow Lions. Leftovers were given away at a farmer's market. From start to finish the project took about eight weeks, O'Connor says. "But when you have a passion, you don't call it work." "You just need a couple of like-minded people, first to be excited about it and then to champion each other so you keep going" adds Opp. O'Connor wears a T-shirt that says, "If you plant it, they will come." She's talking about milkweed and monarchs. But apparently the same can be said of the **Scandia Marine Lions**