

## **When Lions Take Up the Charge!**

### **LIONS PROVIDE HELP, DONATIONS IN FLOOD RAVAGED BC & WA (Lions International Foundation to provide disaster emergency grants)**

Lions have been pitching in to help in the wake of the flooding that devastated the Fraser Valley and southern BC Interior, and Sumas & Everson in WA State.

Lions Club members in Hope, Agassiz, Abbotsford and Chilliwack were quick on the ground to respond with food, clothing and other supplies for motorists stranded by highway washouts and those forced from their homes.

Now, cash donations are pouring in from Lions clubs throughout Canada and Northwest Washington. "A week ago, it was after nine on Tuesday night and I started getting phone calls from people in Atlantic Canada asking if there's anything we can do to help," said Allan Hunt, International Director for Lions Multiple District 19 and a member of the Mt. Cheam Lions Club in Chilliwack. "All across the country . . . Lions are stepping up. It makes you feel really good."

With the flooding of the Sumas Prairie in Abbotsford and the flooding across the border in Sumas and Everson, it created a bit of an issue for District 19H, which covers 46 clubs in an area from Skagit & Island Counties to Richmond, up the Fraser Valley to Hope and north to Lillooet, BC. The District wanted to apply to the Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) for disaster emergency grants, but districts are restricted to only one active grant at a time. Hunt contacted foundation officials and told them that given District H's reach and the extensive impact of the flooding, he'd like to propose grants be approved for both sides of the border. "Nobody said no, so that's a great sign."

Recently, 19H District Governor Ken Ball, who lives in Mount Vernon, WA., filled out the paperwork for two \$10,000 US grants and the money is expected early next week. It's actually the third time in five months Ball has applied for a grant, first doing so on his first day as Governor July 1 when the village of Lytton was wiped out by fire.

"Our purpose is to help where we can," said Ball. "Our clubs are out there fundraising in their communities all the time and really it's all over the world. LCIF is the charitable arm of Lions International and we want to give back to our communities. They respond when we appeal to them and we want to respond when they need help."

#### **Clubs wishing to make donations are encouraged to do so:**

PCC Surinder Gahir is chairing the work in the Abbotsford area. Money can be sent to Abbotsford Lions Club, PO Box 206, Abbotsford, BC V2T 6Z5.

or

ZC Galen Laird is chairing the work in Whatcom County. Money can be sent to Lynden Lions Flood Relief, 1619 Kok Rd, Lynden, WA 98264.