

## January 2014 Environmental News Letter

Hello fellow Lions as we enter the New Year I have compiled some articles that pertain to our clubs efforts to work in our communities for the environment.

Our International President Barry Palmer is encouraging us to continue with our tree planting efforts worldwide.

### Make Tree Planting and the Environment Your Responsibility

As a part of the 2013-14 Presidential Theme "Follow Your Dream," International President Barry Palmer is encouraging all Lions to focus on the three R's: Responsibility, Reach and Recognition. Take responsibility for your environment by planting trees in your area. Tree planting projects are a great way to get the entire community involved in service that makes a real impact. Visit the [Tree Planting Projects page](#) for more resources, and see our [Flickr set](#) for the 2011-12 Tree Planting Campaign, during which Lions reported planting over 15 million trees. Please report any trees that your club or members planted to our District Governor.

In our own district the Bow Island Lions Club has been recycling for the community for the past number of years and just this past year opened a new recycling facility. Below is an article from the Bow Island Commentator.

By Jamie Rieger For the past 60 years, the Bow Island Lions Club has been dedicated to serving the people of the community and raising funds to help with a wide range of projects. From playground equipment and local sports teams to equipment at that Bow Island Health Centre, other health facilities, and recently, for service dog for a boy who suffers from seizures. On Saturday, the club celebrated not only its 60th anniversary, but also the opening of its new recycling facility. In October, 2011, the Bow Island Lions club members began discussing what to do with their building; whether to do necessary repair work or replace it altogether. "At that point, I was in my first year as president and I asked the club to give me a couple months to see how economical a new, environmentally-friendly building would be," said Bouw. Bouw soon learned that grant funding was available for energy efficient facilities, so he began applying for grants and along with donations from contractors, local businesses, and individuals, soon was able to raise the capital needed for a new recycling facility. "All the donations and a big dose of good luck made it all happen," he said. That dose of good luck came in the form of a generous unnamed inheritance fund that came from a spouse of a past member. The new recycling centre is now able to handle a lot more product than just paper, cardboard, and specific plastics. With a recently installed plastic chipper and tin crusher, they can now accept all plastic containers, tin cans, and other recyclable that get shipped to Calgary or Edmonton for further processing. Past International president, Judge Brian Stevenson, was in attendance for the grand opening and said, "This facility is a representation of all the efforts the Lions Club members have put into the community and have for the past 60 years." Club members were honoured for their years of service to the club, including Dave Robertson, who has been involved with the Lions Club for the past 60 years and was made a charter member of the organization. Besides Stevenson, other dignitaries to attend the event were Bow Island mayor, Gordon Reynolds, MLA Drew Barnes, and district governor, Monte Weisser. "To me, the Lions Club are the epitome of volunteerism," said Reynolds. "Our community is made better, made stronger because of them. The hours they have put in at the recycling facility has been an absolute asset. "The banquet also saw other members receive pins and plaques for their years of service to the club. –

Also in the Lions Quarterly there are a number of articles each month on the environment.

Watch [LQ](#) to learn how Lions restored their environment.



## HIGHLIGHTS

[President's Service Blog](#)

Read about International President Barry Palmer's service activities around the world.

[Digital LION Magazine](#)

The LION Magazine (Headquarters Edition) is available online with added content, videos and links.

## CONTESTS

[2013-14 Peace Poster Contest](#)

Purchase a kit for next year's theme, "Our World, Our Future."

## EVENTS

Starting this month Lions International is doing their Environmental Photo contest again.

## **Environmental Photo Contest**

The 2013-14 Environmental Photo Contest (EPC) is a wonderful opportunity for Lions from around the world to showcase the beauty of their natural environment. All multiple districts are encouraged to submit one photograph for the international contest that will be held during the 2014 International Convention in Toronto. Many of the EPC photos are featured in the annual LCI wall calendar. To learn more about the contest and to purchase the 2014 calendar, please visit the [Environmental Photo Contest webpage](#).

Again I encourage all clubs to get involved in their communities with the environment. In Alberta you can obtain more information from [www.alberta recycling.ca](http://www.alberta recycling.ca) regarding recycling of paint, tires, electronics as well as newspapers and containers. In Montana for more information about recycling go to [www.deq.mt.gov](http://www.deq.mt.gov) › [Recycle](#).

*Lion Rob*