

Lions Club Web Sites

A Lions Club web site can be a very useful tool to help advertise to the Community, but only if it is up-to-date, tasteful and informative. A bad web site does much more harm than no web site at all.

The most important thing to do is to ensure the Lions Club retains control over content, not an individual Lion, or worse, a non-Lion. Have a committee do the work, not an individual.

Where can a Lions Club get space for a web site?

- LionWAP - lionwap.org
 - Free
 - For Lions only
 - Easy template
 - Limited space, flexibility
- Commercial web site providers
 - "Free" web hosting
 - watch out for excessive advertising and lack of content control
 - Some commercial providers will give away a limited service site (limited space, limited facilities, limited bandwidth per month)
 - "Value" web hosts
 - \$2 - \$10 per month
 - Can be very complete facilities, almost unlimited space and bandwidth
 - District A-15 and MD"A" use these
 - Generally no help available, you are on your own
 - "Full service" commercial web hosting
 - Often \$200 - \$300 per year
 - Will often have a help-desk to provide assistance
 - But they won't do the site for you unless you pay more
 - Not good value for money
 - Use the "value" hosting providers
- Personal web space
 - last choice! Controlled by an individual
 - May disappear - Geocities / Yahoo is gone Oct 26

What do you need to create a web site?

- Equipment and software
 - A computer!
 - Internet access (do not need high speed)
 - Editing or site creation software, an FTP program
 - Some hosting providers will supply this software, and most is free
- A committee to design the site and do the work
 - Don't make the mistake of leaving it to one Lion, or non-Lion
 - Share the work and share the access (username / password)
- Outside help
 - Often local high schools or colleges will take on the task of designing a non-profit site as a learning project, at no cost
 - Make sure they provide easy access to site updates and turn it over to you when they are done

Lions Club Web Sites - cont'd

Technical steps

- Choose and purchase a domain
 - e.g. "mdalions.org", "a15lions.org", "paradiselions.ca"
 - cost is \$35 per year or less
 - May be done through web site host
- Find a site to host the domain and point it there
- Design the site
 - You could do this first
- Maintain the site
 - It is very important to keep the site up-to-date and current
 - There is nothing worse than a "stale" web site, or site that never changes from year to year

I am available (as are several others in the District who have already done this) to help. However, I will give advice and will not actually do the work itself.

Lion Ted Rypma
District Technical Resource

lions@rypma.ca
519-725-0070