



Lions Clubs International District A-15

News Bulletin
Spring 2019



Governor's Message

Lions All:

It has been a Great Year for the Lions of A15, I thank each of you for contributing to our success. It has been a very busy year with the Tech Town seminars, our New Member/Re dedication services among many other events and programs within the district and MD-A. Clubs are now in the process of selecting their Executive Officers for the new Lions year and as you will see the Executive and I would ask that each member think about how they can serve their club and also the district and beyond.

Congratulations to all the Lions of A-15!

If you have not heard, I have taken the next step in my journey in Lionism and I am very honored to have been elect as the 2019-20 MD-A Council Chair. It will be a very busy time, I am looking forward to it.

We are just building our team who will serve alongside, support, mentor, and train each of our committee chairs within each of the districts of MD-A in the ensuing year. I am really looking forward to the new challenges this role will bring and the new friends I will meet across Ontario.

Keep Up the Great Work Lions!

Kevin

District Officers

District Governor
Kevin Banfield(Jennifer)
930 Atlantic Blvd.
Waterloo, ON, N2K4L5
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dg@a15lions.org

1st Vice District Governor
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District Secretary
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Milverton, ON, N0K1M0
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We Serve

A-15 CONVENTION PHOTO OPS

**Co-Chairs
Lion Gabrielle Paff
&
Lion Peter Oswald**



**"A GREAT JOB BY
TWO GREAT LIONS"**



IN



OUT

**WALK
SOFTLY!**

**ONWARD &
UPWARD!**



**The Real "Woodstockers"
are from Wellsley.**



LCI Certificates Of Appreciation

**Presented by: DG Kevin Banfiled
PID Art Woods, PID Garnet Davis**



Lion Gabriel Paff



Lion Erhard Kruger



Leo Duru Uluk



IPDG Charlene Dwyer



Lion Freda Walker

RANDOM PHOTOS



District A-15 Convention Memorial & Rededication Service

**Sunday April 7th 2019
Woodstock, Ontario**

Region 9

Zone 9 East

Lion Neil Byrne - Galt-Cambridge Lions
PDG Lion Mike Hilling - Kitchener Lions
Lioness Rita Hiscock - Kitchener Lioness
PZC Lion Don "Boss" Hogg - Kitchener Lions
Lion Jean Lydia Poortvliet - Kitchener Lions
PDG Lion Catherine Tyler - Cambridge Highlands Lions

Zone 9 South

Lioness Madeline Dillabough - Paris Lioness
Lion Larry Ford - Rockton Lions
Lion James William Heiden - Brantford North Lions
Lion Gwen Renwick - Brantford Lions
Lion David Ritchie - St. George Lions

Region 37

Zone 37 South

Lion Robert H Sims - Thamesford Lions

Zone 37 West

Lion Lorne Henry - Exeter Lions
Lioness Mary Lou Becker - Exeter Lioness
Lion Walter Bud Langley - Bayfield Lions
Lioness Shirley Lenore Mousseau - Exeter Lioness
Lioness Jeannette Wales - Exeter Lioness
Lion David Peter Yaeger - West Coast Lions

Recent Passings

Lion Doug Kennedy - Kitchener Lions
Lion Lorne Haugh - Exeter Lions

Region 51

Zone 51 East

Lioness Marion Anderson - Rockwood and District Lioness
Lion Christopher Ashbourn - Elora Lions
Lion Albert Blom - Belwood and District Lions
Lion John Mumby Brookfield - Guelph Royal City Lions
Lioness Jean M Gray - Rockwood and District Lioness
Lion Ernst K "Ernie" Kaethler - Ariss & Maryhill Lions
Lioness Leona Kingsbury - Rockwood and District Lioness
Lioness Jean Martin - Rockwood & District Lioness
Lion Grant E McRae - Rockwood and District Lions
Lion Pearl Bridget Misersky - Guelph Royal City Lions
Lion Frank Haywood Randall - Fergus Lions
Lioness Virena Swanston - Rockwood and District Lioness

Zone 51 West

Lion Arthur Jacob Brubacher - Milverton Lions
Lion Jason Crowe - Elmira Lions
Lioness Betty Elliot - Atwood Lioness
Lion Susan Jean Reid - Wellesley and District Lions
Lion George Ritter - St. Jacobs Lions



THEY SERVED



Essay

"KINDNESS MATTERS"

What an incredible journey, Mikayla Ansley submitted an essay through the Blyth Lions and the A15 Essay Contest where it turned out to be the eventual winner. Her composition was then victorious at the MD-A level, from there it was submitted to Lions International and the not totally unexpected occurred, her masterpiece was declared the International winner, judges probably did not have a hard decision as one could imagine when you read the story.



IT GETS EVEN BETTER: Blyth Ontario Student is World's Best

The Blyth Lions Club is extremely honoured to announce that Mikayla Ansley of Blyth is the Grand Champion of the Lions Clubs International Peace Essay Contest. Lions Clubs International introduced the Peace Essay competition to give visually-impaired students aged 11-13 an opportunity to express their feelings of peace. Mikayla's Peace Essay, entitled **"Kindness Matters"** details her battle with bilateral retinoblastoma, a rare form of ocular cancer that resulted in the loss of her left eye and most of her vision in her right, and how the kindness of others helped her and her family through difficult times.



Her composition was judged the top essay at the District A9 and Multiple District 'A' competitions prior to advancing to the International level, Mikayla was in competition with winning essays from multiple districts covering 200 countries worldwide and her essay was judged to be the best. A formal presentation took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New

York city where Mikayla read her story much to the delight of all those in attendance including our International President Gudrun Yngvadottir. In recognition of her efforts Mikayla received many accolades along with the first prize of \$5000.00.



A subsequent celebration took place in Blyth subsequent to Mikayla's unforgettable trip to New York the Blyth Lions held a special day in her honour to further commemorate her accomplishments, the turnout as expected was very good with 175 guests on hand and several presentations were made. The event took place Sunday April 14th at the Blyth Memorial Hall, those in attendance were asked to make a food bank donation and the response was excellent.

continued next page.....

Mikayla Ansley Day in Blyth



Blyth Lions Club
invites you to come and celebrate
Worldwide Peace Essay Champion

Mikayla Ansley

Blyth Memorial Hall
Sunday, April 14
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Presentation at 3:45 p.m.

Bring a food bank item
to show
"Kindness Matters"



BLYTH



**Bernie Bailey & North Huron
Council Presentation**



**DG Elaine Chalmers, and
A9 Peace Poster
& Essay Chair Bruce Blears
congratulating Mikayla**



**Blyth Lions Club President Barney Stewart,
Lions Lisa Bromley, Meg Lyoness & Shawn Loughlin
making a presentation to Mikayla**



**Lion Janet Dawson Brock
MD A Peace Poster & Essay Chair
offers congratulations**



**Ben Lobb, Huron-Bruce MP
& Lisa Thompson, Huron-Bruce MPP
making a presentation to Mikayla**



Essay

"KINDNESS MATTERS"



Kindness is a simple but powerful thing. It can be as small as a smile or a wave, or as big as sponsoring a child. Even if you don't realize that you are doing it, that can still make someone's day. Kindness matters more than you think.

My name is Mikayla and I have been legally blind since the age of two. I had a rare cancer called bilateral retinoblastoma, which is a cancer that affects both of the eyes. Because of that cancer I had to lose my left eye and lost most of my vision in my right eye. It was this tragedy that taught me the lifeline of kindness. How to be thankful for what I have instead of

wanting more. During my cancer journey, my parents had to quit their jobs and be at the hospital with me all the time. I'm so thankful to all the people that held our hands through it all, by donating toys, blankets and money so that this family could stay on our feet. It is because of that experience I am on a mission to change the world with kindness. By helping others through there dark times like they help me through my cancer. In the past, I have written a letter to the minister of Australia in hopes I would change his decision of not allowing the refugees in to his country. Taking their sanitation, food and water away from the refugee camps so that they would leave his country is intolerable. Hopefully my letter was the smallest bit of a difference, people like that need to change. Also organized a fundraiser at my school, to buy teddy bears for the orphan and abandoned children in Haiti. Because I believe every child deserves something to hold on to and love.

I know that the world needs more of that kindness, to live in peace and friendship, without war or abuse. For everyone to believe they are truly safe and happy. Sometimes life can be tough and you might feel like the whole world is against you, believe me as a stubborn legally blind girl it has happened more than once. If you just keep being kind to one another, it can make yours and everyone's world brighter. If the whole world was filled with smiles and laughter, everything would be great. One day everyone will believe in their hearts, that kindness really truly matters.

Mikayla Ansley

A15 Autism Dog Guide Project



It was with great pride and pleasure to attend the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides graduation for the Autism Assistance program. The funds from the District A15 Autism Assistance Dog Guide project by Immediate Past District Governor Lion Char Dwyer was applied to the graduation of a beautiful Lab named Taz who graduated and went home to Kitchener to be with "his boy" and their family, we had the extreme pleasure to meet Mom Marilyn. This was a joint project with the Woolwich Community Lions Club from A15 as well. There wasn't a dry eye in the room when we heard from the parents of the recipients of these amazing Canines and the difference it will make in their child's life. Thank you to all the Lions, Lioness and LEO Clubs and everyone who donated toward the A15 AAD project, you have truly given an amazing gift. Well done A15!

From L-R DG Lion Kevin Banfield, Lion Cub Rory, Woolwich Community Lions Club members PDG Diane Smith and Lion Sandy Ladd, Taz's new Mom Marilyn and IPDG Lion Charlen Dwyer.

CAMBRIDGE HIGHLANDS LIONS



HANDBAGS FOR THE HOMELESS

Cambridge Lions collected and distributed gently-used purses filled with personal care items for women living on the streets or in homeless shelters. This effort restores a bit of dignity that makes a difference. The recipients open the purse and see the personal care items, along with a personally signed note, they are reminded there are people in the world who care and they are not forgotten.



BLANKETS FOR PRE-NATAL BABIES

(L-R) Lion Marg de Boer and past member Pat Bryan are shown with Rosemary Lywood, (Manager Women's & Children's Program) accepting 20 knitted baby blankets for prenatal babies at Cambridge Memorial Hospital on March 6th. The blankets are given to mothers who may have never received a welcoming blanket to take their baby home in. Pat and faithful friends donate their time knitting these wonderful items.

LYNDEN LIONS



Lynden recently celebrated their 62nd anniversary on March 7th . No coincidence that their celebration was held on the same date as their charter, which was *March 7, 1957*. Shown in the group photo are a pride of proud Lions and in the second photo are Lions Wray Smith, Jack Brooks, Lion Chief and Ray Edworthy. Wray and Ray are both charter members, that's 134 years of service., definitely something to roar about.

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

There is a list of young people taking part in the A15 youth exchange program this summer. The committee is looking for host families. If you any other family, would consider hosting, please contact Youth Camp & Exchange Lion Allison Henkell 491 Fairway Rd., Woodstock, ON N4T 0E7 w:519-539-2081 X 7969 c:226-228-0874 f:519-788-5000. Host families do NOT have to be Lions. Perhaps friends or relatives might enjoy having someone from another part of the world share their Canadian experience. More than one family can act as hosts, splitting the duties of hosting. Youth arrive the end of June and stay a month, 10 days of that time are spent at camp.



ST. GEORGE LIONS



St. George Lions Supports Hunger Relief – One of LCI's Five Pillars

In January representatives from the St. George Lions Club travelled to The Ontario Christian Gleaners, a volunteer organization in Cambridge, to present a cheque for \$500. This will help support their program of feeding millions of people around the world using local left over fruits and vegetables. The Gleaners take donated vegetables approx. 5,000 lbs per day, dice them with a dicing machine and dry them in a special oven creating 25,000-30,000 servings of soup each day. The mix is packed in serving bags. They also take donated fruit, dice and dry it and provide it in bags as snacks. These bags of soup mix and snacks are given to relief organizations and missions teams who have the infrastructure for distribution in over 40 countries around the world.

More information about the Gleaners is at www.ontariogleaners.org

Pictured L - R Gleaners Manager Elaine Merkus, Lions Cheryl Hewitson, Lyle Fair and Karen Martin.



Mosborough Busy Busy Lions

Our cyber club is dedicated raising funds and awareness for the Lions Foundation of Canada. Most members are Dog Guide foster parents as well. Even though we hold our meetings online, that doesn't mean we are 'invisible' in our communities! Here's what we've been up to since January. A few of us attended the orientation evening in St. Agatha (with our puppy friends); have visited schools, from nursery to university, to speak about the Dog Guides programs, visited Lions clubs, attended other clubs' events, co hosted a trivia night, and produced over 300 'welcome' kits for every future Dog Guide puppy born this year.



And we are just starting our 'busy busy' season! With the Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides coming up the club is involved with reviving the Milton Walk as well as promoting walks in our area. We are also involved in hosting the Ride for Dog Guides on June 22. The ride starts in Oakville and ends in Breslau.

Check out our Facebook page or www.mbbblc.org to see where we'll be next.

Our first Dog Walk promotion was held April 6, at Stone Road Mall in Guelph. People were informed about local area walks. We also had dog bandanas for a donation of \$5. And we had our Pet First Aid kits for sale. The event was a great success!

Future Dog Guide Vader poses in front of our club banner. He and a few of his friends (both human and canine) finished packing over 300 welcome bags. The bags were designed and compiled by the club and will be given as a thank you gift to those fostering a puppy this year. The bag includes such items as a blanket, chew toy, poop bags and a magnet with emergency phone numbers among other things.



JUST A LITTLE HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF GLEN MORRIS *

What we have here is, a young club in a very old village. Some members of this club have been in the village for many years, and have seen a lot of changes take place; and other members are quite new to the village. How did it get its name and when?



In 1823 the first pioneers came to this area, from Scotland and New York State. In 1831 a bridge was built across the Grand River. It was called the Dawson Bridge. It was a short time later it became a Post Office village. It was called Middleton. Now this postmaster's name was Morris, and this village then changed its name to Glen Morris, because of the postmaster's name and that it was located on the large glen; so you see how it became and is still that.

In 1831 the first sawmill was erected to supply materials for building of this village of approximately 100 people. Now at this time however, this person John Darwin passed away in 1834 from the dreaded disease, cholera. Later a Mr. J. D. Smith in 1908 purchased and re-opened the sawmill. This village never looked back even with several bad breaks.

The Glen, as it is sometimes known, is located seven miles from Paris, Ayr, Galt, and St. George, and has been called the Hub. As the village continued to grow, this was when the Grand River Railway was built in 1904. In 1954 it was renamed the Lake Erie & Northern Railway, which was electric. This rail line extended from Kitchener, Galt, Paris, Brantford, and down to Port Dover on Lake Erie. So you see, this is why we, this Club, did choose the freight engine of this railway for our Charter Pin. I did say the Village did have setbacks; some of these were fires, diseases, and flooding every spring. They have many old buildings still in use here at The Glen. The first school is a home, the Library is one of the first, the present church, manse and cemetery are part of the past years. It is a quaint, quiet village, and we as a Lions Club hope to bring both sides of the river together for fellowship, as a committee to work together, as good Lions do.

We have a good project in mind at present, and this is to update the panel and wiring of the Community building; so when they are having a Pancake Breakfast, they will be able to feed the flock faster, instead of putting in new fuses. Also, our first vice President has a musical mind, and he has planned several performances to raise money for the club to complete this project. I know I have heard of other things they want to get at, such as an auction, a Christmas party for the village children, and a Turkey Roll. So you can see we are going to be busy, and a busy club is a contented club.

By the way, these village people have to leave the village every day for employment, as there is one garage and one store for supplies and repairs. They both seem very busy. So when coming to The Glen, stop at the general store for coffee and donuts (fresh) at only \$1.25 a bargain. Be sure to pick up a roll of Lions Mints in the store as we need the money. “

* Written by PRC Tom Flack, Guiding Lion, for the Charter Night Celebration of the Glen Morris & District Lions Club, October 28, 1994

from an original article, submitted by Lion Nancy Ransom, A15 Historian.

West Coast Lions

The West Coast Lions would like to invite all Lions to visit Grand Bend this summer and join them for a great concert on the beach. The Lions Club is organizing five concerts on Wednesday evenings during July and August. Billed as the “Wednesday’s Familiar Favourites Sunset Concert Series”, the five events make use of the stage on Grand Bend’s beach, at the end of the Main Street strip.



The concerts serve several purposes – they are a great outing for Grand Bend’s many senior residents and cottagers. Plus they serve as an economic development tool, attracting campers and tourists to Grand Bend mid-week. Grand Bend is always packed on summer weekends, so restaurants, bars and pubs like to encourage visitors mid-week.

The Lions promote the concerts as “Pay What You Can”, seeking donations as they go through the audience with colourful beach buckets. The Lions bring their popcorn cart to the concerts, selling fresh popped corn, with profits going to community service or the Lions Foundation of Canada.

Concerts are from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., and guests need to bring their own lawn chairs. This is the third year for the series and the second year under the Lions Club’s direction. Crowds have ranged from 800 to 1500. Grants to help defray the concert expenses have been received from Grand Bend Community Foundation, Lambton Creative County Fund, the Municipality of Lambton Shores and Cordelio Power Vibrancy Fund, as well as the Royal Canadian Legion Veterans Memorial Branch 498. Several community-minded businesses are sponsors.

This year’s line-up includes:

Wednesday, July 3 – Crooner Michael Vanhevel and the Jimmy Stahl Big Band, with vocalist Theresa Wallis. Enjoy our own Sinatra sound-alike.

Wednesday, July 17 – Opry Gold, with the ever-popular Leisa Way and the Wayward Wind Band. Grand Ole Opry classics & today's rockin' country hits!

Wednesday, July 31 – The McCartney Years with Yuri Pool. The Beatles and The Wings, with “The world’s no.1 Paul McCartney tribute experience.”

Wednesday, August 14 – Cliff Erickson brings back memories of the 50s, 60s & 70s with his own brand of humour and his signature 12-string guitar.

Wednesday, August 28 – Grand Bend's own Monday@Mikes. Celebrate with a Big Beach Party. All familiar favourites!

COPETOWN LIONS



The Copetown Lions held their annual Ham Roll on March 16th this year and part of the festivities was a donation to the building fund for Margaret's Place Hospice which will be a ten bed facility and will be part of the St. Joseph's Villa complex in Dundas. the Ham Roll is a long time event for the Lions along with many of their other fund-raising activities. Shown in the photo is a representative from Margaret's Place and Lions Mat Boschman, Doreen Wilson and Dave Biehler.





**To promote awareness of Diabetes,
& raise monies toward a Diabetic Alert Dog Guide,
The St. Marys Lions Club asks that you**

**Please support:
PDG Karen McNeight,
& our Two Newest Members,
do the Edgewalk on the CN Tower
May 11th, 2019 at 11:30 a.m.!**

(holder of the Guinness World Record for "the highest external walk on a building")

**Our Two Newest Members will also be inducted
into the St. Marys Lions Club while on the Edge!**

<https://dogguides.com/donate.html>

Click on "Make an Online Single Donation"
Be sure to designate "Karen-Edgewalk" in the Comment section

West Coast Lions

**Presents the 2nd Annual
(Past International Director)**

BRUCE MURRAY MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



June 21, 2019

White Squirrel Golf Club

72538 Bluewater,

Highway #21

(Just 12 kms north of Grand Bend)



Scramble Format

Shotgun Start @ 11 am

Teams: 4-Person Men's; 4 Person Ladies

4 Person Mixed (2 men, 2 ladies)

Includes: 18 Holes with cart, Dinner, Putting
Contest, Prizes, Silent Auction, Fun!

Golf & Dinner \$75

Dinner Only (Guest) \$30

White Squirrel GC Member Golf & Dinner \$40

For more information, please call:

Mary @ 519-238-6760 or Wendy @ 519-694-8977



INGERSOLL LIONS

ANNUAL SWAP MEET, CAR SHOW & VENDORS MARKET

JUNE 8, 2019 8 AM to 3 PM

Free Spectator Admission

**INDOOR & OUTDOOR VENDORS WITH EVERYTHING FOR THE FAMILY & THE
AUTOMOTIVE ENTHUSIAST PLUS A SILENT AUCTION(In the arena)**

****This year legally test your ride's power & prove how "bad" your ride really is!**

PRIZE FOR THE MOST EXCITING DYNO. (Additional Fee applies for Dyno) which is
supplied by **ADVANCED REVOLUTIONS**

LOCATED AT THE **INGERSOLL ARENA**, 97 MUTUAL St. S. (Hwy 2 west from
from Woodstock, south on 31st line to centre of town. From Hwy 401 Toronto West to Exit 218
Harris St.(Hwy19) to Ingersoll.

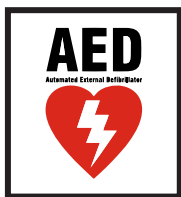
CAR SHOW ENTRIES - \$5 includes Meal Ticket only.

INDOOR VENDORS - \$25 per table (tables supplied for indoor vendors only)
Meal Ticket & Door Prize Draw Ticket included.

OUTDOOR VENDORS - \$20 PER 10ft x 20ft space, Meal Ticket & Door Prize
Draw ticket

****SET UP BETWEEN 7AM & 8AM****

All proceeds go toward the purchase of Heart Defibrillators. Come enjoy the day.
It's for a Great Cause, **IT MIGHT JUST BE YOUR LIFE3 THAT'S SAVED!**
Any monetary donations grateful y accepted.



AWARDS: BEST IN SHOW, PEOPLE'S CHOICE & LIONS CHOICE.

For More Information contact Lion Lisa Visser

Em_li_l@hotmail.com

519 535 7808