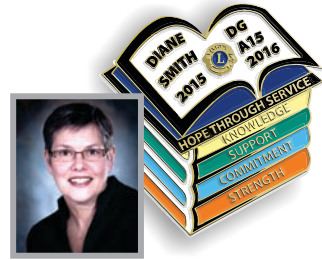




Lions Clubs International

# District A-15

News Bulletin



Lion Bob Pearson, Editor  
bulletin@a15lions.org

NOVEMBER 2015

## Leader's Notes

**D**o you consider yourself a hero? The most likely answer you will give is –no. We think of public heroes such as sports figures, inventors or men and women fighting for a noble cause. We also think of private heroes –those who have impacted us personally –a parent or favorite teacher or mentor. The truth is, by your Lions work, each and every one of you is a hero! By helping those in need you bring much to their lives. There are so many new and exciting ways to carry out your heroism. Here are two examples:

**Centennial Challenge** *Launched at the International Convention in Toronto in July of 2014, International has announced a 4 year global initiative to serve 100 million people to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lions in 2017 in the areas of:*

<b>YOUTH</b>	25 Million Goal	*18 Million To Date
<b>VISION</b>	25 Million Goal	*8 Million to Date
<b>HUNGER</b>	25 Million Goal	*9 Million To Date
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>	25 Million Goal	*14 Million To Date

\* as of September 15th

**Literacy Programs:** *My challenge to the clubs of the District for this Lions year is to focus on two service projects involving literacy. You may join up with a literacy project already in place or be creative within your own club. Members of one club in the District are now paying their "fines" in books!*

*Please be sure your club secretary is logging all of the activity hours on MyLCI.*

**Thank you for being a Hero!**

**Literacy is bridge from misery to hope.**  
*Kofi Annan Secretary General of the United Nations 1997-2006*

## District A15 Officers

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**-Be Proud-  
- Serve With Pride-**  
Finding New Lions:  
They may simply need to  
be asked to join

*Roar Like A Lion!*

Dignity.  
Harmony.  
Humanity.



## St. George Lions & Citizens of St. George and Area



At this time of year autumn leaves blanket the streets and lawns in St. George, Ont., but rather than Halloween pumpkins and cobwebs, the houses were decked out in Christmas lights and inflatable snowmen. Santa's even been here, two months early.



The unseasonable holiday cheer is all for one of the small town's youngest residents. Evan Leversage, 7, who is dying. His mother, Nicole Wellwood, was recently given the worst news imaginable: his tumour, diagnosed five years ago, has grown and spread. Doctors told her Evan likely won't make it to Christmas. She turned to her family, asking them to help her celebrate the holidays early, so Evan could have one last Christmas.

The whole story has been told in media coverage across Canada and the St. George Lions jumped on board to do whatever they could for Evan. Lion Chief Wayne Branchaud received a request for the Lions and residents of St. George to get involved. It goes without saying the club was unanimous and they set the wheels in motion to do what they could. The club's float was decorated for a Christmas parade to be held Oct. 24th.

People flocked to St. George from far and wide and we were proud to be able to participate in this event. The St. George Lions were joined by a Lion, dressed in a lion costume, who came all the way from Woodville in the Peterborough area to support Evan and his family.

Many of the floats stopped in front of Evan's home where he sat in his "snowy" yard with his family enjoying the Grinch, superheroes, marching bands, tow trucks, police dogs and motorcycles and numerous other floats. The highlight was the last one with Santa and his sleigh. Evan and his family joined Santa and Mrs. Claus and finished the rest of the parade route with Evan "flying high" with Santa.

The love and support for Evan and his family was felt throughout the crowd, and there weren't many dry eyes, if any, that evening. A family member commented for Evan it truly was Christmas!



## Joint Zone Meeting in Copetown

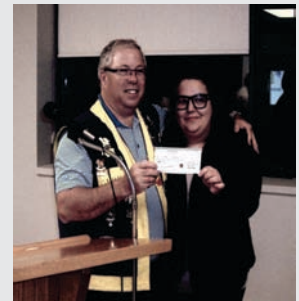
Copetown Lions and Region/Zone Chair Kevin Banfield and Aline Chan, 9E Zone Chair hosted a joint zone meeting at the Copetown Lions Community Centre On Tuesday October 20th. Copetown's hospitality was graciously received. The key note speaker for the night was Robert Knuckle. Bob is a best-selling Canadian



author, actor and playwright. He is a member of the Playwrights Guild of Canada. Bob was an educator for thirty-five years before he started writing full-time in 1992. He is an ACTRA award-winning author of nine books and two booklets. Most of his books are about true crime and /or tales of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. He has also written for the stage, television, radio, and cinema. Seven of his stage plays have been produced at major venues in Canada, USA, and in Europe, including the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Bob talked to us about one of his stories , Jackie Gleason. The message was how do you deal with people in your life who are hard to get along with, and how it is hard to tear apart your work of love, to make it better. He really gave us something to think about.



Also on hand was PDG Lion OJ Wilura to talk about club success. It was good to hear members acknowledging the effect should our Canadian membership where to fall below a certain point. Our representation with a Canadian International Director could be in jeopardy. PDG Lion Dan Ayim talked about the new Centennial Celebration Membership/Club program. Lion Rick Bell and Nicole Holder were on hand to receive a cheque from St. George Lions for a new bunk bed for the Diabetes camp.



It was a great evening with sixty-three Lions in attendance, including twenty from Copetown who were all treated to a great night for Lionism along with a great meal.



**Be Proud - Serve With Pride**

Finding New Lions: They may simply need to be asked to join

*Roar Like A Lion!*







**THAMESFORD & INGERSOLL LIONS  
DIABETES AWARENESS FAIR**



The idea for the Fair came about through interest by the Thamesford Lions in a project previously carried out by the Ingersoll Club. A project in which Ingersoll had, in association with the Pharmasave Drug Store, Remedy's Rx, and the Canadian Diabetes Association, set up a weekend awareness program to provide testing and information on diabetes.

Following discussion between the two clubs, it was realized that if such a project, were to be attempted again it would have to take place in a larger venue. Ultimately it was decided make it a joint project for both clubs and to approach the owner of the Independent Grocers Store in Ingersoll, Mr. Rob Tremblett, who readily agreed to support the project.

Our contact at Canadian Diabetes suggested, that along with posters, a pamphlet/bagstuffer could be used to hand out.. An estimated 18,000 customers pass through the store in the course of a week. Local pharmacies attached the pamphlets to their prescription bags. Churches included them in their weekly bulletins. Local stores and businesses displayed them on their notice-boards. A total of 3700 pamphlets were distributed and 120 posters displayed.

On Saturday Sept 26<sup>th</sup>, a BBQ was held. The food and equipment was supplied by the store. The fair was very successful, if even only one individual was helped in their battle with diabetes then every minute was worthwhile. It should also be noted the two clubs worked together to make it happen, and they should be proud of the joint effort.

The following are the statistics for the event:

Donations to Canadian Diabetes, from Rob Tremblett, Independent Grocers \$1500  
BBQ supplies and food, donated by Independent Grocers approx..... \$250  
BBQ food sales, donation to Canadian Diabetes Association .....\$674.20  
**Total Donations .....\$2424.20**

Numbers of Lion hours on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> .....56  
Number of "in-store" Lion hours, handing out pamphlets on 20<sup>th</sup> + 21<sup>st</sup> .....32  
Number of pamphlets distributed .....3700  
Number of posters displayed .....120  
Number of clients tested and interviewed.....between 30 - 40

Submitted by Lion Kevin Mitchell, Ingersoll Lions

## MDA INTERNATIONAL CAMP FOR THE BLIND CNIB LAKE JOSEPH CENTRE



To All Lions of MDA: Our strong partnership with CNIB and Lake Joe gives us an opportunity to invite International Youth with vision loss to experience Canada and the hospitality of the Lions family. Why is this important? Having sent some of our youth to the fully funded programs overseas, it is time we provide a similar experience in Ontario. We're excited we can take

advantage of our strong partnership with Lake Joe and, as Knights of the Blind, offer this program.

Our program for 2015 attracted two visually impaired youths. A young Italian boy attended two weeks of camp and a young lady from Ireland returned for one week of camp, followed by two weeks working at the camp. The cost of the 2015 program was \$2000.00. It was the hope of the committee that each District, especially those not currently active in Youth Exchange, would make a donation during the month of November, by actively canvassing their clubs.

Clubs need to step forward and indicate support, a meeting will be held in December to determine if the program can continue with Multiple District support. Each club's donation is important and a passionate Lion in each club is needed to ensure feedback on the the program.

For clubs presently involved in Youth Exchange, it is felt it is an easy sell as evidenced by the tremendous payback of involving youth in International Exchange. For those districts and clubs who do not have an active Youth Exchange program, here is an opportunity to become involved.

It is felt \$200.00 from clubs not currently involved in Youth Exchange and \$100.00 from those presently involved, would allow us to fund this program. The funds are for the week at camp, cost of flights will be borne by the clients themselves.

It would be wonderful if MDA could establish this as a Centennial Project and by July 2017 announce an established program that would allow individuals living with sight loss from outside of Canada to experience CNIB Lake Joseph Centre, explore Canadian culture and learn about Lions. It will highlight the Lions partnerships with the CNIB & Lake Joe and to demonstrate why they are "Knights of the Blind"

Please make cheques payable to MDA Lions with sidebar note indicating Youth Exchange Camp for the Blind. Mail to PDG Dave Hewitt , 18-4182 Muskoka Rd. 169 Port Carling, Ontario, P0B1J0. For further info contact Lion Hank Van Moorsel, MDA Youth Exchange Chair, [hvanm@eastlink.ca](mailto:hvanm@eastlink.ca)

## NEW HAMBURG LIONS & LIONESS CLUBS

**83 Years  
of  
Combined  
Service**



L to R ; Lioness Erma Godber, Lion Tom Mathews, Lioness Carol Lachance,  
Lioness President A-15 Janet Dawson-Brock,  
Lioness Joan Bilinsky, Lion John Neilson and Lion Grant Jonas.

The New Hamburg Lions and Lioness hosted a 'thank you to the community for their support' skate, Sunday, Oct. 18, at the Wilmot Rec Complex. This year, the New Hamburg Lioness are celebrating 35 years and the Lions are celebrating 48 years of service to our community.

The free skating earlier this month was a gesture of thanks for the community's ongoing support, and also a congratulations for all who help in making New Hamburg a great place to live, said the local service clubs. "The community is just so supportive of organizations like ours," Joan Bilinsky of the Lioness Club told the Independent. The two clubs have been part of the local fabric for decades with the motto "We Serve."

The Lions' past projects include building the original New Hamburg pool, and building the Phyllis Riehl Home for Aldaview Services, which works with people who have developmental disabilities. More recently, the Lions supported the Wilmot Recreation Complex and Aquatic Centre with a \$75,000 pledge and then added another \$60,000 for the Wilmot Splash Pad.

The Lioness Club runs the Tree of Light program for New Hamburg each Christmas. They also run blood clinics, host a spring fashion show, and hold an annual party for Aldaview residents.



Lions of District A15:

This note is one of the hardest items I have had to write in my career as a reporter and writer. When I joined as a Lion, I was told the organization is very much like a family, recently those words came floating back out of my sub-consciousness to give true meaning to them.

I was overwhelmed by the response A15 Lions shared with me following my recent kidney transplant. Your words, thoughts and prayers were appreciated and uplifting. The number of Lions who contacted me by email and by get well card are so numerous that it was felt the best way to thank everyone is to publish my feelings in the district newsletter.

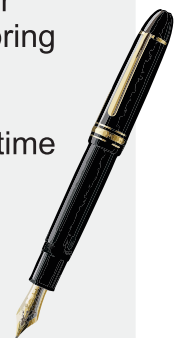
After eight years on the transplant list, my dream of returning to a “normal” life has come true. I can now do things that I could not when I was on dialysis; things like eat a normal meal without worrying about what dietary controls I had to invoke; like what NOT to eat; or, how much fluid I could consume. More importantly, I can now (well, shortly after I heal) come and go as I please without worrying about being tethered to a dialysis machine.

The irony is this wonderful change in lifestyle came shortly after I accepted the district role of Gift of Life Co-ordinator. I have become an example that the gift of life program works, and I can now speak with authority about kidney disease, dialysis and transplantation.

I look to my Lion family to continue to work with me through my recovery and to embrace the goals of the gift of life program. I hope to be active in the program shortly, once the tenderness, swelling and healing of my incision is complete. I know that I can count on my brother and sister Lions in A15 to help me through the transformation my healing will bring about.

Once again, thank you all for your thoughts and prayers during this time of healing.

Lion Bob Rutter  
Guelph Royal City Lions  
District A15 Gift of Life Co-ordinator





## Brantford Lions

On Wednesday, August 26, 2015 the Lions Club of Brantford hosted a barbecue for the residents of Brierwood Gardens Retirement Home in Brantford, Ontario. The barbecue was in honor of Lion Gwen Renwick, a member of our club and a resident of the Gardens. The residents enjoyed the food and fun and the enthusiasm of the Lions.

### “They Served”

From left to right, back to front they are: Lion Gwen Renwick, volunteer Nancy Clark, Lion Chief Chris Kruter, Membership Chair Moe Clark, and volunteer Ellie Hardcastle.



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## ST. GEORGE LIONS SPLASH PAD PROJECT

Our work to spearhead a fundraising campaign for a community Splash Pad began officially in June when we hosted a community event at Sunny Hill Park. Our newest Picnic Pavilion was dedicated and the Splash Pad project introduced. Since then the community has been engaged in this effort. From lemonade stands to book sales, the children and adults of St. George have begun to raise funds. Most recently, an “All You Can Eat Wing Night” was held by St. George Firefighters on Sept. 26th. These dedicated volunteers raised \$5,115.15. The presentation of the cheque took place in front of the St. George Foodland Store. Trevor McLean, the store owner, and D.A.C. Checker Produce were sponsors of the event, helping to contribute to its success.







### CTC Dollars for Dorset

Lions Camp Dorset has a continuing need for Canadian Tire currency to repair and replace equipment used by dialysis patients

Contact Lion Bob Rutter, [rrutter@hotmail.com](mailto:rrutter@hotmail.com)

Dorset also collecting aluminium pop can tabs, contact Lion Bob



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# SHOPPERS DRUG MART



Do you have a Shoppers Drug Mart Optimum card?  
If so, you can now donate your points to Lions Camp Dorset.  
Go to the website [www.shoppersdrugmart.ca](http://www.shoppersdrugmart.ca)  
login to your Optimum account and click on donations and choose  
charity – Lions Camp Dorset Corporation.

The funds will be used to buy supplies for the camp.

## Cambridge Highlands Lions Club



# Annual Bazaar

Join us Saturday  
November 14, 2015  
10 am to 2 pm

Chili Lunch  
Available



At St James Anglican Church  
Hall ,520 Ellis Rd,  
Cambridge  
beside the Hespeler Arena.



Lions Proceeds for

Alzheimer Society

WATERLOO WELLINGTON



# STRATFORD LIONS CLUB

INVITES YOU TO JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR



**Thursday November 19, 2015**

**Queens Inn Stratford**

**6 pm Social ~ 7 pm Dinner**

**Tickets: \$25 per person**

Entertainment by Sherry Sanderson



RSVP to [Stratford@a15lions.org](mailto:Stratford@a15lions.org) or Trudy Carter 519-949-2175

By Monday November 9, 2015

Seating limited to 60 guests - no shows will be invoiced



## A15 BULLETIN CONTEST

### Lions:

A reminder about the ongoing bulletin contest for the district. The rules and an entry form can be found on the district web site:

[www.a15lions.org/pages/uploads/Directory/A15BulletinContest2013.pdf](http://www.a15lions.org/pages/uploads/Directory/A15BulletinContest2013.pdf)

The submission deadline is Feb 28th but entries can be submitted on an ongoing basis as you produce them.

### District A-15 Bulletin Deadlines

District A-15 News Bulletins will be published each month of the 2015-2016 year ending in June.

Submissions should be made prior to the 15th of the month preceding publication. The Bulletin will be published on or about the 1st of the next month. Send to: [bulletin@a15lions.org](mailto:bulletin@a15lions.org).

Submissions CAN be made in PDF, Word and Word Perfect formats for text, for best results JPG photos work best, but other formats will also do.

