

Lions Clubs International District A-15

News Bulletin Spring 2019



Governor's Message

Happy spring - bring on the good weather!

I enjoy seeing so many clubs busy with their spring activities and seeing the posts on social media. We had a successful convention in Woodstock. I am thankful for the efforts put forth by the Plattsville and Woodstock Lions Clubs, and for the stewardship of co-chairs RCE Gabrielle Paff and LCIF Chair Peter Oswald. We were pleased to have as our guests PID Garnet E. Davis, our current LCIF board member, and his wife Mary Ellen with us. I am sure everyone who heard Garnet speak will say they took something new away about LCIF.

From all reports, it is obvious the Walk For Dog Guides in A15 were successful. Congratulations to the clubs involved, a shout out to the KW Leos working with the clubs of 9E.

While our clubs were busy I was at the MD 'A' convention in St Catharines. It's hard to believe year ago that I was at the front of the room as the 'A15' DG "elect". It was an honour to accompany First VDG Lion Tracey Robinson to the front in our change -over ceremony.

continued next page.....

District Officers

District Governor Kevin Banfield(Jennifer) 930 Atlantic Blvd. Waterloo, ON, N2K4L5 c:(519)501-3014 dg@a15lions.org

1st Vice District Governor Tracey Robinson (Lion Bill) 297 Greenwood Drive Stratford, ON N5A 7V4 h:519-532-8397 c:519-272-6201 vdg1@a15lions.org

2nd Vice District Governor George Corrin (Lion Barbara) 49 Alexander Drive Aylmer, ON N5H 3G4 © 905-749-2686 vdg2@a15lions.org

District Secretary Rick Banks(Diane) 3 Cobalt St., Milverton, ON, N0K1M0 h:(519)595-4133 w:(519)595-6502 cs@a15lions.org

Past District Governor Charlene Dwyer(Lion Russ) 25 Belcourt Cr., Guelph, ON N1H 7A6 h:(519)780-1112 w:(519)824-9050 c:(519)831-0582 ipdg@a15lions.org



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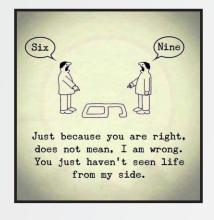
As a special twist I introduced DGE Tracey and Lion Bill in my new role as the 2019-2020 MD 'A' Council Chair. It has been 10 years since we have had a Chair from 'A15', I am proud to have been elected and look forward to traveling to Milan, Italy for the International Convention with Tracey and Bill along with the rest of the DGE's from MD 'A'. I wish Tracey and the team of Zone, Region, and Committee chairs all the best for another successful year.

This will be a special year for all Lions, we hope to elect our next International VP, Dr. Patti Hill. The last time we had an International officer was in 1987/88, Judge Brian Stevenson. It time again for a Canadian to be head of our great organization!

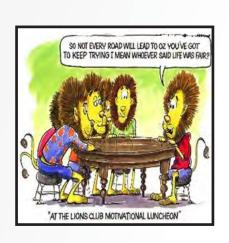
We will also celebrate Lions 100 years in Canada. There has been much talk about how to celebrate this milestone, plans are well underway to have an event in Windsor in early fall..

Thank you for your trust as your District Governor. I would also like to thank all the clubs that welcomed me and my little travel partner - my son Rory. He had so much fun traveling with me and I was happy to share this great experience. I really enjoyed our chats on the way home from visiting my Lions family and getting the perspective from

a 5-year-old!







MESSAGE FROM THE D.G.E.

Hello Lions, Lioness and Leos.

We are coming up to the start of another Lions year soon. I'm sure our clubs will be busy doing service activities over the summer. Keep up the great work!!



We will be having a new bulletin editor this year in our district, Erhard Kruger, from the Lions Club of Kitchener. Please ensure you get all your pictures with information to him, so that we can share what your club is doing across the district. We should have a full and informative bulletin come the next issue!!

Our theme for next year is "TEAM": Together Everyone Achieves More. Let's all work together for more service in our community's. We have many exciting things happening next year, one of the main events is the 100th anniversary of. Lions in Canada,

Just a heads up, our Cabinet meeting location has changed. The Wellesley and District club is hosting on Aug. 18,2019. It will be at the community centre in Wellesley, the new location address will be on the District website.

I hope you have a fabulous summer, I look forward to working with you in the coming year. Thank you for your continuous support.

Let's have fun!!
DGE Tracey Robinson



CONSERVATION DINNER CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

The 30th Conservation Dinner was a chance to continue to build a legacy for the future while looking back with pride on the success of the past three decades. Shown at the front stage at the April 11th, 2019 charity auction in Exeter are (left to right): Dave Frayne, Chair, Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation; Dinner Committee Co-Chairs Jim Beckett and Larry Taylor; Charles Corbett, Chair of the first Conservation Dinner in 1990; Craig Glavin, First Vice-President of the Exeter Lions Club; and Doug Cook, Vice Chair of Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority.

The April 11th event raised an estimated \$58,000 for projects in local communities and that brings the 30-year total to more than \$1.2 million in net proceeds towards projects, in local communities, such as accessible trails; parks; conservation areas; nature education; student bursaries; recreation including a family-friendly fishing derby; job experiences for youth; events; and more.



CONSERVATION DINNER 50-50 DRAW



Bob Hoffman, of Dashwood, was the winner of the first Conservation Dinner 50-50 Raffle Draw hosted by the Exeter Lions Club. His name was drawn at the Conservation

Dinner fundraising

auction held on April 11, 2019. The winner received \$4,435.00 and matching proceeds will go to community projects supported by the Conservation Dinner. The Exeter Lions Club and the Conservation Dinner Committee thank all those who purchased tickets.

Shown in photo, from left to right, are Lions Bruce Hodge; Kevin Mitchell; Larry Wein; 50-50 winner Bob Hoffman; and Conservation Dinner Co-Chairs, and Lions Club members, Jim Beckett and Larry Taylor.

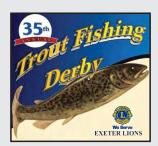
MARSVILLE LIONS



The Marsville Lions recently made an installment to their pledge for the Lions for Groves Initiative. A cheque for \$3000.00 ws presented to Lori Arsenault of the Groves Hospital Foundation for the Diabetes Centre under construction at the new location near Fergus. Shown in the photo from L to R are Lions Dan Fraser, Elly Hoogendoorn, Neil Hoogendoorn, Lori Arsenault, Ken Blackwell, Steve Ried and Brian Reed.

LFC GONE FISHING!





Lions Foundation of Canada Committee Chair PRC Deb Cserhalmi & Dog Guide Foster Families with Pups made an appearance at Exeter Lions Trout Derby

District A-15 Request for Assistance

The following began with Lion Kevin Frost, a member of the Orleans Lions, he is a Deaf/Blind Speed Skater. A few years ago he was on a mission in Mexico to assist deaf children in getting hearing aids. Lias Ornelas was a young

lad that benefitted from Lion Kevin's efforts in getting him the devices at a young age. As Lias got a little older they fitted him with a cochlear implant that was very beneficial.

As luck would have it Lias experienced

had a bad fall and suffered head trauma head that changed everything with his hearing. The doctors have informed his family that he needed a new processor for the cochlear device. Ths will greatly improve Lias' situation, the down side is the cost. It is upwards of \$30,000.00 Canadian. A call has gone out to all Lions to support this request. District A4 has started the ball rolling with a \$1,500.00 donation.

For more information you can contact Lion Paul Anstett A15 Hearing Assistance Chair at: hear@a15lions.org Paul has support documentation that he will gladly share. An email has gone out to all the clubs in A15, perhaps this item will serve as a reminder.

On the following page reprinted from the April 2016 issue of the headquarters edtion of the LION, you can find out more about Lion Kevin, he is an amazing man.

Alternatively go to: lionmagazine.org and locate the April 2016 issue and go to page #14. There is also a link on that page that is sure to tug at your heart strings dealing with people young and old that hear for the first time.

One of Us

Kevin Frost

Orleans Lion, Ontario, Canada

An elite speed skater, Kevin Frost, 48, races at speeds up to 32 miles per hour despite being almost completely blind and deaf. He credits his astounding success to having a positive attitude, training hard and helping others.



Kevin Frost is a three-time World Blind Champion in short track speed skating and ranks 13th in the world against able-bodied skaters. Lions have sponsored Frost in many competitions.

Compound Loss

I've worn hearing aids since I was 11 years old. When my night vision got bad when I was 27, I found out that I have Usher syndrome type 2, which causes hearing loss first and vision loss later. I currently have 9 percent of my hearing and 2.5 percent of my vision.

Hitting Rock Bottom

I had been a workaholic and was married with three kids. I lost my job and my driver's license. My marriage ended. I had refereed over 20,000 hockey games, and my dream was to be an NHL linesman. I had to give that up.

Finding Hope

I had to put my energy into something. The Canadian National Institute for the Blind gave me the tools to get back into society. I received my first miracle guide dog, Nemo. Then I tried skating.

Therapeutic Sport

When I'm speed skating, it feels like I'm driving again and I have my sight back. It's pure freedom.

Tenacity and Strategy

It's hard work. I've had a lot of falls. People ask how I do it. I count strides, learn the oval [rink], communicate with my coach Created the nonprofit Visually Impaired Speed Skating Association to help the sport become a Paralympics event

Has conducted hearing aid missions to Mexico for 15 years

Has given more than 300 motivational talks around the world

through a wireless receiver on my hearing aid. I can't hear the starting gun so I feel for it. An orange flag is waved at the end for me.

More than Medals

I've won medals and set world records, but that's not why I do it. I'm working toward creating a movement for visually impaired skaters. It also enables me to help people—the young boy in Mexico who was transformed after helping him receive a hearing aid. The girl who overcame her embarrassment of using a white cane after I took her around town with our canes. And the girl who overcame her fear of dogs, thanks to Nemo.

Secret to Success

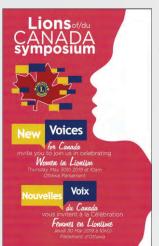
My childhood was tough. I was bullied and teased. When I speak to schools, I talk about turning a negative into a positive and succeeding no matter what. It's about karma: the more you give, the more that comes back to you.

Learn more about Frost at deafblindspeedskater.com.

Watch a video about Frost produced by Accessible Media, Inc.

Do you know a Lion who you think has a great story or deserves a bit of recognition? Email us a brief description of the Lion and the reason you're making the nomination to lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org. Please include "One of Us" in the subject line.

Women in Lionism



On May 30th nearly 90 Lions from across Canada gathered to celebrate Women in Lionism with a New Voices Symposium held in Ottawa. Our Canadian membership has seen growth success and this is due in large measure because of an increase in female membership. Currently our percentage of female membership has reached 32.4%.

At the Symposium we had the pleasure of hearing from a number of keynote speakers including Madame Sophie Gregoire Trudeau, the Honorable Myriam

Monsef and IInternational Vice President Brian Sheehan and Lion Lori Sheehan. We heard their enriching life stories as well as information on leadership and gender parity from International Director Tom Gordon and Lion Paul Baker. Lion Dr. Gail Tanner detailed for us a vision service project and the continued need for eyeglass collection.

The day concluded with a reception attended by several members of Parliament all of whom acknowledged the much needed service Lions provide.

Thanks to Lions Nicole Heon Lepage, Gail Haight, Val Clarke and Debbie Dawson, our Canadian leaders in the New Voices initiative.

"Women are a good thing for Lionism and Lionism is a good thing for women."

Attendees from A15
PID Art Woods, PDG Diane Smith, Family and
Women's Specialist (MDA), DG1-Elect George
Corrin, Kyle Boutilier, Leo/Lion Board Liaison





BRIDGEPORT, ST. JACOBS & KITCHENER COMMUNITY SPRIT LIONS

Waterloo 2019 Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides a Success

On May 25, 2019, the Bridgeport, St. Jacobs, and Kitchener Waterloo Community Spirit Lions held a successful Walk for Dog Guides at Waterloo Park. In spite of the rain, 42 walkers turned out for the event.





Thank you to the K-W Leos Club for their assistance with the Registration (below-L). Contests were held, and prizes were won, followed by lunch compliments of the St. Jacobs Lions. (below-R Lions Bruce Schweitzer and Mike Leacy sampling some of Lion Juergen Lamers cooking).





Tag Days were held previous to the main event, at Pet Valu on the Boardwalk, and at the Scotia Bank in St. Jacobs. Several Lions Foundation Canada puppy/foster parent teams, including some Mosborough Busy Busy Lions and a few grandkids helped out, to attract the passersby.





The Waterloo Walk raised over \$29,000. Our thanks to all our sponsors, donors, and helpers to make this annual event a success once again.

- PDG Nancy Ransom

GUELPH LIONS

Guelph Lions Club Sponsor U of Guelph New Technology BlindSquare Program

Question: What Do a White Cane and an iPhone Have In Common?

Shane who is in his mid 40's became blind in 2005. He has limited sight but uses a cane to navigate. He also had an old android phone for



communication and information. Shane decided to go to university where he is in his 3rd year taking physiology hoping to obtain a job in human resources. But how do you use a white cane to tell you the bus schedule, know where you are when you have lost your directions or find a class room at the University of Guelph. Thanks to an iphone purchased by the Guelph Lions Club and a custom-made GPS app for blind travelers called Blindsquare, he can now do all those things. For the first time in history, using this app, navigating with a white cane has

become safer and more efficient. This revolutionary application enables blind persons to navigate city streets, find an elevator in a large hotel, the door to a specific classroom or check out a restaurant's menu while sitting comfortably at home before deciding where to dine out. Opportunities for education, employment and community participation have been made easier and at times even possible thanks to applications such as Blindsquare.

The iPhone and apps such as Blindsquare rank among the great gamechangers in the lives of blind persons, since the invention of Braille and sound recordings; and allow unprecedented access to information through digital technology. The Guelph Lions Club is excited to be part of this new and expanding opportunity for blind persons.

Answer: Old technology and new technology but both used for navigation by a blind person. submitted by Guelph Lions Club

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EXETER LIONESS



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Laurie Dykstra is the incoming President of the Lioness of Exeter, amazing enough this is her 5th go-around in that position. She became a member in October of 1981, a year after the club was chartered on October 18th, 1980. There were eight members who all joined at the same time. Shown in the photo are Lionesses Bev McGregor, Shirley Mousseau, Norma Parsons, Sandi Bergmann, Elaine Pinder, Evelyn Walkom, Shari Burton and Laurie Dykstra.

EXETER LIONS PREPARE A MEAL FOR RONALD McDONALD HOUSE IN LONDON



L-R: Lions Larry Wein, Bruce Hodge, Rob Reid, Jime Beckett, Bill McGregor & Jon Gaiser

ROCKTON-LYNDEN-ST. GEORGE LIONS



The Rockton Lions held their 14th Annual ALL YOU CAN EAT Fish dinner on June 1st. As always it was a huge success. Approximately 1000 tickets were sold and we had the able assistance of close to 100 volunteers. Not only was there great fish, fries, salads and ice cream, there, we also had an amazing Silent Auction which is heavily supported by local businesses, individuals and Lions Members. Another highlight of the night is the Children's' Corner where the little ones are entertained with crafts and activities. A significant amount of the profit will be used to support the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides program. Over the years we have sponsored nine minor sports and directed funds to support local projects and charitable organizations. Special thanks to Lynden Lions who helped with the bar and St. George Lions who looked after the bar.

ST. GEORGE LIONS



Paris to Ancaster Bike Race

The Paris to Ancaster Bike Race took place on April 28th. This was the 26th year of the race. At our last meeting in May, race organizers John Thorpe and Dave Harrison were our guests. John is one of three original organizers. These three university friends created the race in the style of France's Paris to Roubaix race which takes place every spring over rough cobblestone roads. The key to the success of the Paris to Ancaster Race is due to the cooperation of all involved including the landowners and farmers who allow access to sections of the old railway that runs through their property. The race offers a number of different routes which allows for everyone from families to elite athletes to compete. The ride supports vital healthcare research at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton.

Over the past 15 years or more our club has provided volunteers to direct riders along the route. In honour of the 25th year of the race John and Dave presented the club with a cheque for \$2500 as a thank you for our club's support.



Dave Harrison, Lion Chief Lyle, John Thorpe and 1st VP Lion Barry Ames.





Thirteen Lions helped with the race this year. Pins marking the 25th Anniversary were distributed at the meeting along with t-shirts for the volunteers.

Off the gravel road and onto a section of rail trail. Rough terrain and mud makes the race a challenge.

THAMESFORD



The Thamesford Lions donated \$10,000 to the Alexandra Hospital Foundation. Lions Bob, Jack, Jim, Don and Tony with foundation and hospital staff Joanne Ackert, Al Lockhart, Dr Jill Matseo, George Way and Sur Harrison.

NEW HAMBURG LIONESS & LIONS Community Awareness



Lioness Joan Bilinsky from the New Hamburg Lioness Club with the Lioness and Lion poster boards which are displayed during community events, a great way of showcasing our clubs and the good work we do.

COPETOWN LIONS



At a recent meeting Lion Chief Dan Bingham was honoured with a Judge Brian Stephenson award in recognition of his long time service and contribution to the club. Dan is moving to the Haliburton area. Perhaps a club in that area will gain a new member. VDE Harvey Woods made the presentation.



At the MD A convention Lion Bob Pearson was honoured with a Helen Keller Fellowship for his service as editor with the Lion Magazine. The publication was recently switched to a full colour process and Lion Bob has been involved with the development to a digital version, while working with LCI to maintain the print process. Making the presentation is Council Chair Tim Cheung and International Director Tom Gordon.

ST. MARYS LIONS



"Not Your Average Induction Ceremony"

PDG Lion Karen McNeight, President of the St. Marys Lions Club, conducted an induction ceremony in May for our two newest members in an unique location, the CN Tower, the ceremony occured both at the bottom and top of the tower. Inducted were Lion Gwendolen Boyle, and Lion Jonah Mitchell, Assisting Karen is District Governor Kevin Banfield of the Lions Club of Kitchener. Several Karen's family members, including husband, Lion Bill McNeight was present for the ceremony. Following the induction ceremony, Lion Karen, Lion Gwendolen and Lion Jonah completed the EDGE WALK on the CN Tower where they were asked the final question, "Are you ready to join the St. Marys Lions Club and serve your community", and of course the answer was "YES"!

Links

At the bottom! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G09I0rtKaNw

Acrophobiacs! https://clc.sharefile.com/share/view/sa3bf466f5f64b32b

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Living on the Edge(cont).....

A great opportunity to raise funds for the Lions Foundation of Canada, it was an exciting (and terrifying) experience. There are still funds to be transferred to

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

LFC, but we are confident we got a good start toward a Diabetic Alert Dog Guide. The time frame for donations has been extended to July 1st. To date the amounts is at \$2860.00!!!!

Lion Raymond Taylor was kind enough to travel to Toronto and video most of the induction at the bottom of the CN Tower, and DG Kevin Banfield and his son Rory joined us too.

The Edgewalk package included a video from the event, and we were lucky enough, for not only a clear and beautiful day,! So Payton, our walk leader and guide allowed time to ask Gwendolen and John if they were ready to join the St. Marys Lions Club and she took a picture for us. I don't think Gwendolen and Jonah will not forget their induction experience, I know I won't!!



PDG KAREN



MD-A AWARDS NEW HAMBURG LIONESS

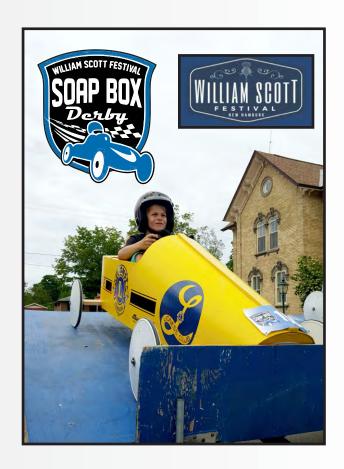


Congratulations to Lioness Carol Massel and New Hamburg Massel's Marine who received a Helen Keller Fellowship Award, presented in recognition of their generous support of time, talent and dedication for the New Hamburg Club and the community. Carol has been a member for 39 years and brings energy, enthusiasm and a kind heart to the club. Shown (L to R) are MDA A15 District President Lioness Janet Dawson-Brock, New Hamburg Lioness Club President Karren Faulkner and Helen Keller Fellowship winner Lioness Carol Massel for Massel's Marine. Carol also won the MD-A Bulletin Award for her creative work with the "Water Wheel" the official publication for the New Hambug Lioness.

New Hamburg Lioness & Lions

Congratulations to Desmond Faulkner on winning the Soap Box Derby at the William Scott Festival in New Hamburg, riding the Lioness and Lions bright yellow soapbox, Desmond is the grandson of Lioness President Karren Faulkner and Lioness Kathy Lantz, Honorary Pit Crew Members.

The festival is annual event, William Scott was the founder of the town of New Hamburg.



MELVIN JONES Founder of Lions International



- •Lions Clubs International began as the dream of Chicago insurance executive Melvin Jones. He believed that local business clubs should expand their horizons from purely professional concerns to the betterment of their communities and the world at large
- •Dr. W. P. Woods, of Evansville, Indiana, USA was elected as the first president. Guiding force and founder Jones was named acting secretary, thus beginning his relationship with Lions that ended only with his death at the age of 82 in 1961
- •Just three years after its formation, the organization became international when the first club in Windsor, Ontario, Canada was established in 1920. Clubs were later organized in Mexico, China and Cuba. By 1927, membership stood at 60,000 in 1,183 clubs.

CAMBRIDGE HIGHLANDS



Lion Victor Chaux received a Lions Quest Ambassador Appreciation Certificate for his work with Lions Quest.



Club President Lion Marg de Boer was presented a District Centennial A15 Club Excellence Medal from PDG Charlene Dwyer for the club's accomplishments.



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

ST. MARYS LIONS A Busy Weekend!



The St. Marys Lions Club completed the Perth County Adopt-a-Road program on Sunday, May 26 as they picked up garbage along Perth County Road 123 all the way to highway #7. They collected 6 very full and heavy bags of garbage including several containers full of oil and anti-freeze. thanks to all those that participated and for helping to keep our roadways and ditches clean and green!



The Club held their Annual *TOLL BRIDGE* event on May 25th on the Victoria Bridge and received over \$3,000 in donations which are benchmarked for the refurbishment of the St. Marys Fire Hall. We would like to thank everyone for their donations and your continued support.

PASSINGS

"They Served"

Dale Ritchie - St. George Lions John Brookfield - Royal City Lions Jim Heiden - Brantford North Lions Howard Sims - Thamesford Lions Art Brubacher - Milverton Lions Walter "Bud" Langley - Bayfield Grant McRae - Rockwood Lions Ernie Kaethler - Aris & Maryhill Lions Pearl Misersky - Royal City Lions Albert Blom - Belwood Lions PDG Cathy Tyler-Bock - Cambridge Highlands George Ritter - St. Jacobs Lions Jason Crowe - Elmira Lions Frank Randall - Fergus Lions PDG Mike Hilling - Lions Club of Kitchener Gwen Renwick - Brantford Lions Jean Lydia Poortvliet - Kitchener Lions Don 'Boss' Hogg - Kitchener Lions Larry Ford - Rockton Lions Lions David Peter Yaeger - Grand Bend Lions Susan Jean Reid - Wellesley Lions John Mumby Brookfield - Guelph Royal City Albert Blom - Belwood & District Lions Christopher Ashbourn - Elora Lions Lorne Haugh - Exeter Lions Doug Kennedy - Lions Club of Kitchener Robert 'Bob' Mott - Ingersoll Lions





Jeannette Wales - Exeter Lioness Jean Marie Gray - Rockwood Lioness Virena Swanston - Rockwood Lioness Marion Anderson - Rockwood Lioness Leona Kingsbury - Rockwood Lioness

Ross Otto - Lions Club of Waterloo

Rita Hiscock - Kitchener Lioness Shirley Lenore Mousseau - Exeter Lioness Mary Lou Becker - Exeter Lioness Jean Martin - Rockwood Lioness Betty Elliot - Atwood Lioness

