



# District A-15 Governors Newsletter

## May 2024

### *You've Been Branded*



When departing Costa Rica, one cannot miss the captivating sight of an oversized sign adorning the airport's end wall, proclaiming, "You've Been Branded: Fly away, Tell the tale, Be the legend." This bold message reflects the nation's commitment to leveraging its brand to enhance its tourism industry, a vital component of Costa Rica's gross domestic product. The aim is clear: to inspire visitors to share their experiences of Costa Rica with friends and family back home, extolling the virtues of its friendly people, lush rainforests, pristine beaches, the inviting Pacific Ocean, diverse wildlife, and abundant plant life.



Can we instill the same level of excitement and engagement in individuals who volunteer with our Lions Club? Absolutely.

Volunteering is driven by three primary motivations:

**Making a Difference:** Volunteers seek opportunities to contribute to projects that have a tangible impact on their communities or even on a global scale.

**Building Connections:** Volunteering provides a platform for individuals to forge new friendships with like-minded individuals, irrespective of age, united by shared interests and passions.

**Personal Development:** Volunteers also consider what they can gain personally from their involvement. This may include acquiring new social or technical skills that can enrich their lives and careers.

When we're bringing in new volunteers, it's important to match them up with projects they're passionate about. We want their time with us to be meaningful, so we should give them tasks that not only help the community but also let them learn new skills. And it's not just about the work – pairing them up with folks who share their interests helps them settle in and feel like part of the club.

We should also encourage volunteers to take the lead on projects they're really into. Whether it's kicking off something new or starting up a branch club with some support from us, let's give them the chance to step up and run with it. By giving everyone a chance to get involved and grow, we can create the same buzz and excitement that Costa Rica's tourism campaign does.

Let's turn volunteering with our club into a real adventure, where everyone gets to make a mark, make friends, and grow together. Together, we can get others pumped to join us in making the world a better place, one project at a time.

Create the excitement. Let them fly away, tell the tale and be the legend.

*Lion Garry*

# CABINET 2023-2024



**Garry Ransom**  
**District Governor**



**Tony Davidson**  
**Past District Governor**

**District Governor**  
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**Bill Robinson**  
**1st Vice**  
**District Governor**



**Linda Vinette**  
**2nd Vice**  
**District Governor**

**1st Vice District Governor**  
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**Denis Vinette**  
**Cabinet Secretary**



**Cabinet Treasurer**  
**Brian Spivey**

**Cabinet Secretary**  
**Denis Vinette (Lion Linda)**  
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# PASSINGS

## “THEY SERVED”



**Lion Roy Yorke**  
**Rockwood Lions**  
**November 20<sup>th</sup> 2023**

obituary not available.....



**Lion Joe Wilder**  
**Rockwood Lions**  
**February 28<sup>th</sup> 2024**



**Lion Marie Kobylinski**  
**Dundas Lions**  
**March 29<sup>th</sup> 2024**



**Lion Don Thompson**  
**Lynden Lions**  
**August 16<sup>th</sup> 2023**



**Lion Bob Rann**  
**Galt Cambridge Lions**  
**April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024**

most obituaries available, click the individual images.....

# One Last Walk For Guide Dogs For Fergus Family.....

**FERGUS** – Larry Wainwright never thought he'd get a guide dog despite becoming legally blind in the 1970s.

Eventually in 2014 however, he got standard poodle Otis to assist him as a vision dog. Together Otis, Larry and his wife Hilda have raised over \$84,000 in pledges for the Maryhill Walk for Dog Guides which supports the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. "Not too bad for a couple of 80-plus-year-olds and an aging dog missing teeth," Larry said. Larry and Hilda at 85 and 86 years old and Otis a senior dog at 12. They decided this year will be their last time organizing the Maryhill fundraiser walk. "They did one last year in Maryhill and I was having enough difficulty then ... "I'm starting to realize that I'm old, old and mouldy I guess," Larry joked in an interview at his Fergus home.



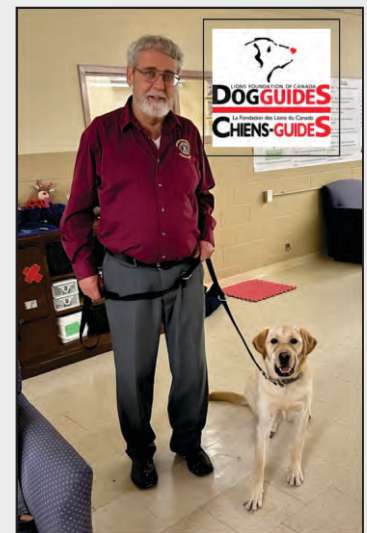
The Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides launched in 1983 and offers seven different training programs: vision, hearing, autism assistance, seizure response, service, facility support and diabetes alert. "They've graduated well over 3,500 dogs in this time and I believe there's around 1,400 of us right across Canada that are being serviced by a dog guide," Larry said. Despite thinking he'd never get a guide dog, Larry said he's built a terrific bond with Otis who helped him be a little more independent. "He's not able to do as much right now as he did at the beginning," Hilda pointed out, noting Larry is not as mobile as he used to be. He's been using a walker since he had a bad fall about a year ago which required surgery. This was a major factor that led to the decision to make this their last official walk but they still see the importance of fundraising. Training one dog costs \$35,000, Larry said and there is no government support for the program but there is no cost to the client.



**Dogs like Otis have helped a lot of people, Larry said, pointing out examples of a guide dog helping the parents of an eight-year-old child with autism who wandered or alerting the parents of a diabetic child to a medical emergency. “It makes you realize what it’s all about,” Larry said.**

**No date or location has been set for the Maryhill walk but walks take place across the country usually in May. Although Larry, Otis and Hilda will no longer be walking or fundraising specifically for this, they are currently working on a way for people to support guide dogs through the three of them.**

**This photo was taken Saturday, May 4, 2024 at the LFC Meet and Greet of graduating Dog Guides. In the photo is Past Region Chair 51, Lion Jim Davis with seizure response dog, “Davis” named after Lion Jim. After the graduation of Otis and Lion Larry the Ariss and Maryhill Lions Club pledged to raise, at that time \$50,000 to sponsor 6 service dogs. It was decided the 4th, 5th and 6th dogs would be named after the first 3 presidents of the club. Charter President Lion Brian Kurtz, Charter member and Past Region Chair 51 Lion Jim Davis, Past President Lion Neil Perry. Our first dog, a hearing ear dog guide is named “Ariss”. Our second dog a canine vision dog guide is named “Gore”. Our third dog is “Nick” a diabetes awareness dog guide, our fourth dog “Kurtz” a special needs, our 5th dog is “Davis” seizure response and our 6th dog will be “Perry” an Autism dog.**



continues.....



# MDA Environment Report



Submitted by PDG Jennifer Batte February 2024

Did you know that MDA is reporting highest number of Environment Service Project to date, across Canada? According to MyLion, to date, the clubs have reported the following:

	MDA		Canada
	<u>Current</u>	<u>Total to date</u>	<u>Total to date</u>
<i>Total People Served</i>	177,543	134,185	288,578
<i>Total Service Project</i>	434	300	762
<i>Total of Volunteer Hours</i>	12,939	7,814	28,585

## Feature Story **A WIN/WIN**

Have you heard a NEW fellowship is available that I would call a WIN/WIN? Not the real name but a great way to promote the Environment and Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides and an opportunity to recognized a fellow Lions.

*What is the fellowship?*

*It Is The  Drum Roll Please*



## **"LION ART WOODS GOLDEN TREE FELLOWSHIP"**

This fellowship recognizes the commitment, dedication and 50 years of service of PID Art Woods. With Lion Art's passion for the environment and LFCDG's Memorial Forest, funds from this fellowship will be directed to a dedicated garden space at the new training school. Recipients receive a unique personalized plaque. Fellowships are \$350.

A win for the environment – dedicated garden space at the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guide.

A win for the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guide – Funds to help create a world class training school.

A win for Lions Club – an opportunity to recognize a fellow Lions for their volunteering of service.

More information can be found on the LFCDG website under Get Involved tab, Lions Clubs tab – Lions Resource or contacting me at [lionjenniferbatte@gmail.com](mailto:lionjenniferbatte@gmail.com) or Nancy Chiasson MDA LFCDG Chair at [treasurer@mblc.org](mailto:treasurer@mblc.org).

*Now that's a WIN/WIN*

- Challenge for all Districts of MDA – EARTH DAY is on April 22, 2024. Plan, promote, or continue an environment project as we work together taking care of the amazing planet called:

**"EARTH".**

Don't forget about the Environment Photo Contest is happening this year! Information has been sent out to all the District Environment Chairs, check out MDA Environment Facebook Page.

Yours in Lionism

*Lion Jennifer*



I am writing to comment on a recent article by Lion Jennifer Batte, MDA Environmental Chair and LFC CEO Bev Crandall. It brought out many suggestions on how we as Lions can continue to support our environment whether a butterfly garden, tree planting, road side cleanup etc. which does not require huge lots of money but **“For Sure”** benefits our communities.

The Art Woods Environmental Fellowship is another great way to honour or recognize someone in your community or club while assisting to fund the gardens and landscaping at our new facility which is why it was put forth and approved by LFC board of directors. What a way to recognize individuals in and outside of Lions but also to honour Past International Director, Lion Art Woods with over 50 years of service with the Elmira Lions Club.

Lion Art spent many hours getting approval and permits for the Memorial Forest on donated land in Breslau. It is a beautiful place to visit to pay respect to fellow Lions and Lioness. The success is very evident there is between 3500 and 4000 memorial trees planted. In the past year Lion Art was named the founder of Lions of Canada Memorial Forest, Breslau, Ontario.

There are so many good things that could be included here but those of us that have had the pleasure of really knowing Lion Art know how much he does especially for MDA, A15 and the Elmira Lions Club.

I am proud to have participated with Lion Art and other Lions in some of the environmental programs throughout the district and call him not only a fellow Lion but also a friend.

Thank you to the wonderful article by Jennifer and Beverly and hopefully the presentations of the Lion Art Woods Golden Tree will encourage to present this unique fellowship.

Yours in Lions Service  
PDG Lion Larry Wainwright, Ariss and Maryhill Lions





*My mom, dad, brother, grandparents and lots of friends and I are really looking forward to supporting this great fundraiser at New Orleans Pizza again this year.*

*Thank you owner Jim and your great staff for holding this Pizza Night event in support of my great grandpa Lion Larry and Otis' 10th Lions Foundation of Canada Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides*

Working together to support  
Lions Foundation of Canada Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides

**Tuesday, May 21, 2024**  
**4 to 10 PM**



**CALL: 519 787 1300 New Orleans Pizza**

600 Scotland St., Fergus (crn Belsyde & Scotland)

Place your order, pickup only

**Use CODE " Dog Guides"**

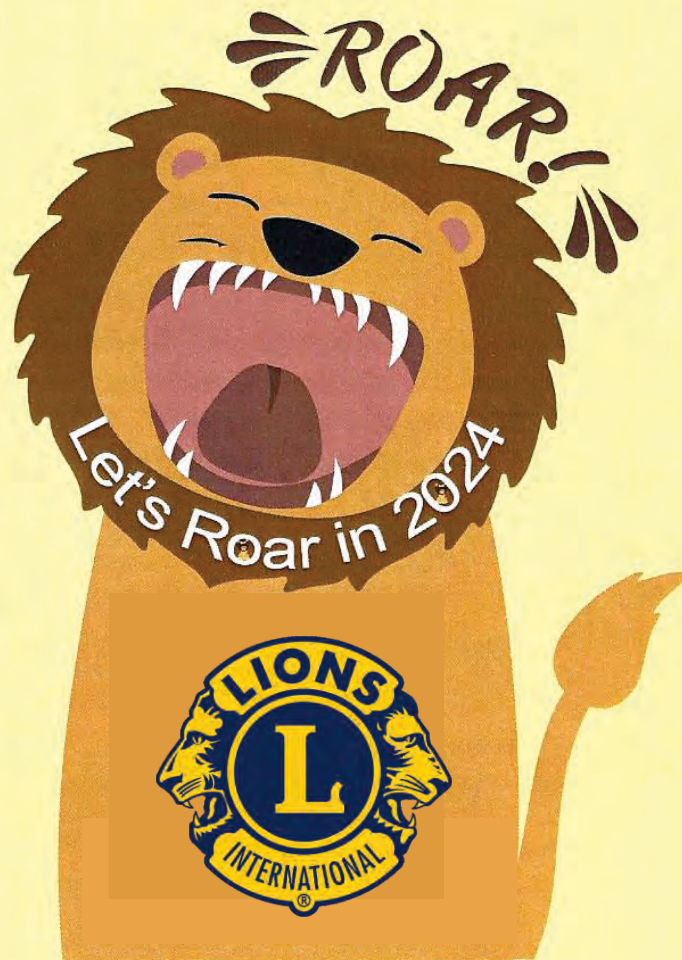
50% of the value of your order before taxes will be donated to  
Lion Larry and Otis', Ariss/ Maryhill, Elora and Belwood Lions  
Clubs Fundraiser

Call 519 787 1300 \*Order for pickup, \*Use code " Dog Guides"



**District A-15 Convention  
April 5-7 2024**

# **LIONS INTERNATIONAL**



**District Governor  
Lion Garry Ransom  
2023-2024**



Click banner to view.....

## ALLAN J. HUNT PAST INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR



Allan Hunt, from Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada was elected to serve as international director of Lions Clubs International at the association's 102nd International Convention, held in Milan, Italy, July 5 through July 9, 2019. Due to the COVID Pandemic, all Board Members in this era served three years.

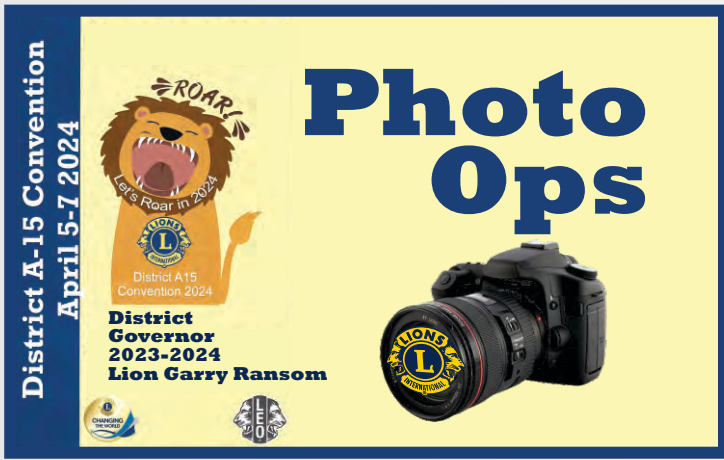
Past Director Hunt is retired after 34 years working with NAV CANADA. He was part of the team that saw NAV CANADA through a transition from government entity to not-for-profit corporation in 1996. During his career he was a manager at various levels of the Canadian air navigation system, at one point managing two air traffic control towers—one of them being the tallest in the world. A member of the Chilliwack Mount Cheam Lions Club since 1988, he first became a Lion in 1979 as part of the Sandspit Lions Club. He has held many offices within the association including multiple district council chairperson, GLT constitutional area leader, LCIF Constitutional Area Co-Chairperson and every club level office with the exception of Tail Twister. Past Director Hunt has also presented and moderated at several USA/Canada Lions Leadership forums and International Conventions.

In recognition of his service, Past Director Hunt has received several International President's Awards, International President's Leadership Awards and the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest honor the association bestows upon its members. Past Director Hunt is also a Life Membership of Lions International.

Always one to prioritize fellowship and community service, Past Director Hunt has held offices in several community organizations including president and chairperson of the board for his local YMCA as well as president and board chairperson of the Chilliwack & District Seniors Resources Society.

Past Director Hunt currently serves Lions as the Global Action Team Coordinator for CA2 Canada as well as Co-Chairperson for LCIF in CA2, Chairperson of Lions Day on Parliament Hill and chairperson of the March 2024 Board Meeting in Vancouver.

Past Director Hunt is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and his wife, Sonja Hunt, is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow as well. Their daughter, Kristen, and son-in-law, Chad, are Lions and both Melvin Jones fellows They are proud parents to the Hunt's granddaughter, Ella.



**VDG1 BILL ROBINSON**  
 receiving **Presidential Medal**  
 From **PID Alan Hunt**



**LION MICHELLE KURTZ**  
**Certificate of Appreciation**



**LIONS DOUG SMITH, DENIS VINETTE,**  
**ANITA ERTEL, LINDA VINNET, DAWN RAYNARD**  
**Ailments: Depression And Dejection**  
**Suggested Treatment, Become A Lion!**



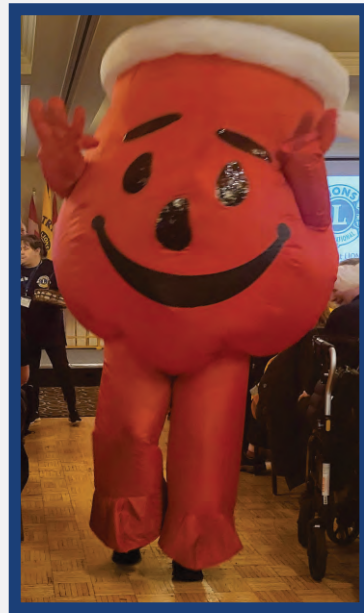
**LION KEN BIEHLER**  
**Certificate of Appreciation**

District A-15 Convention  
April 5-7 2024

**More...  
Photo  
Ops**

Let's Roar in 2024  
District A15  
Convention 2024

**District  
Governor  
2023-2024  
Lion Garry Ransom**



**“The  
Kool  
Aid  
Guy  
Is  
Always  
Around!”**



**Monty Greig  
“Entertainer  
Extraordinaire”**

**“The Power of WE!”**



**Lion Doug Has Them All Laughing!**

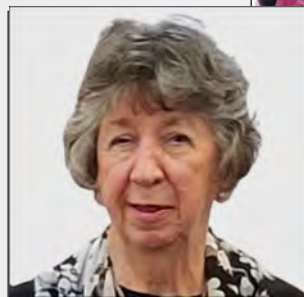
# DISTRICT A15

## ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTO CONTEST



**Natural Environment Winner  
submitted by Lion Carol Massel  
Wilmot Lions-Lioness**

**Lions In Environmental Service  
submitted by  
Lion Nancy Ransom  
K-W Community  
Spirit Lions**



# THAMESFORD LIONS



**On April 1st the Thamesford Lions celebrated a night of service and commitment, made special with the attendance of representatives of the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. Lion Jack Broadfoot had the privilege of presenting them with a cheque for \$20,000.00.**

**The donation represents 800 hours of hard work by members at the Canada Outdoor Farm Show in Woodstock. In the picture from left to right are Deb Cserhalmi, LFC Lion Chief Sheldon Wade, Treasurer PRC Jim Keron, PRC Jack Broadfoot and LFC Chair Cheryl Bauman also in the photo is Danielle Rosenbloom from LFC with two dog guides in training.**

# THAMESFORD LIONS



**On the same night as described on the previous page the club was to receive Past Council Chair Debbie Dawson, who is running for International Director who brought along seven of her campaign crew, including our old friends VDG1 Bill Robinson and PDG Tracey Robinson and PCC Todd Wilson.**

**But the excitement didn't stop there, four new members were welcomed into the pride and were inducted by PCC Debbie. new Lions and there sponsors can be seen in photo.**

**The spirit of generosity continued to overflow as Johnstone Property Maintenance donated \$950 to our club, contributing a portion of their earnings in our village. Their commitment to giving back to the community is truly commendable.**

**The meeting was a testament to the power of community, generosity, and dedication. Together, we are making a difference, one roar at a time! Thank you to everyone who made this evening special.**



# WOOLWICH COMMUNITY LIONS

## Pansy Campaign

We are thrilled to announce our campaign was a great success. Thanks to our loyal FaceBook followers, friends of Lions, our local newspaper and hardworking members, we realized a profit of \$1,500. All proceeds from the sales have been donated to Community Care Concepts, a non profit organization that serves seniors and special needs clients, assisting them to remain as independent as possible. It is primarily volunteer run and serves residents of Woolwich, Wellesley and Wilmot Townships.



An Induction Ceremony was held March 25, 2024. PID Art Woods did the honours welcoming Lions Shelly Deyell and Amanda Battler on their journey of service. Supported by their sponsor, Lion Wendy Taylor, they were met with a standing ovation and an enthusiastic Lions Roar.





## WOOLWICH COMMUNITY LIONS



**BEFORE**



**DURING**



**AFTER**

At a recent meeting WCLC welcomed Inga Rinne, Chair of Trees for Woolwich Committee Woolwich "latest project taking place in Woolwich Township. the organization is a volunteer based group established in 2011 to increase the canopy 30%. They have planted 75,000 trees, Their goal is to plant 22,000 trees. She provided ideas as to how we can support the organization. WCLC is planning activities to establish term partnerships such as park guardians and volunteer planting, a most informative presentation.

# ST. MARYS LIONS

Recently St. Marys Lions Club prepared and served a community church dinner at St. Marys United Church for a group of residents from St. Marys. It was a delight to see so many people present to enjoy the dinner. Thank you to all the residents who attended and enjoyed the dinner. Special thanks to Shirley Porter, Kitchen Coordinator at St. Marys United Church for her experience and guidance. Thank you to all the Lions members who were able to assist. Everyone had a wonderful evening.(Photos courtesy, Lion Raymond Taylor)



# **K-W Community Spirit Lions Earth Day Road Cleanup Service**



**(L-R Lions Bill Blyleven, Prerna Patel, Nancy Ransom, Shirley Ruller, Janice Fleming, Janet Dawson Brock)**

**On Saturday morning, April 20th, the K-W Community Spirit Lions braved a chilly windy morning and collected 17 bags of garbage as our spring road cleanup service. Thanks to Lions Bill Blyleven, PDG OJ Willura and DG Garry Ransom who came out to help.**

# KW Community Spirit Lions



**Janice Fleming (r), president of the KW Community Spirit Lions Club presented Emily Brown from the Food Bank of Waterloo Region with a cheque for \$2000. 00**

**Emily Brown is from the Food Bank of Waterloo Region was the guest speaker on April 15 at the K-W Community Spirit Lions dinner meeting.**

**The members were told there are 58,000 people in Waterloo who are food insecure - one in ten households including 20,000 children.**

**They act as a food distribution center and food is delivered to those in need through community partners. Last year 4.5 million pounds of food came from farmers, food manufacturers and the public. Trucks deliver the food to partner agencies. on what they are good at, collecting food and their partners focus on the services they provide to the unhoused, the hungry, and those in need.**

**There is a special campaign called Full Bellies Happy Hearts who focus on children. The goal is to provide a variety of nutritious options to meet all dietary needs.**

**The pandemic created an higher need for their services and the need has continued to grow over their 40 year history.**

# ROCKWOOD LIONS



Charter Member Walter Swanston celebrated his 90th birthday January 5th the club was chartered March 3rd 1972. 48 years as a Lion.

**Congrats  
Lion Walt!**

A promotional graphic for the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum. The background is a yellow-tinted image of a horse race track. Silhouettes of horses and jockeys are shown in various stages of a race. The text "WE'RE IN THE FINAL TURN" is written in large, bold, red letters. Below it, "REGISTER NOW!" is written in bold, red letters. Further down, "Forum registration increases June 1" is written in green. At the bottom left, "SIGN UP NOW AT WWW.LIONSFORUM.ORG" is written in black. At the bottom right, "Louisville 2024" and "SEPTEMBER 5-7, 2024" are written in red. A stylized horse silhouette with a USA/Canada flag design is also present, with the text "Setting the Pace" written in red above it and "USA/Canada LIONS LEADERSHIP FORUM" written in small black letters below it.



# District A-15 *Governors Newsletter Publishing Schedule*

The plan is to have the Newsletter be distributed the second week of the following months, subject to adjustment where required:

October, December,  
February, April and June

It would be good if we could get your submissions on the first day of the scheduled month, however experience shows this might not be practical in some cases.

## THE GRAVEYARD OF PAST DEADLINES

