

anmtairr

### District A-15 Governors Newsletter December 2024





With the snow blanketing our surroundings, it's impossible not to feel the magic of the season. This is the time of year when friends and family come together to share in the joy and warmth of the holidays. It's also a season of giving—a spirit that resonates deeply with us as Lions, as giving is something we embrace all year long through our service projects and fundraising efforts.

As I've traveled around the District, I've been inspired by the incredible activities and initiatives taking place. This festive period offers a wonderful opportunity to connect with our communities, showcase the impact of our efforts, and even invite others to join us in spreading joy and making a difference.

The work we do is more vital now than ever. The appreciation we receive from those whose lives are touched by our efforts is a testament to the sacrifices we make—often stepping away from our own families and friends—to serve others. Your acts of kindness, not just during the holidays but throughout the year, truly embody the Lions' spirit of service.

I am immensely proud of the Lions of A15. I have no doubt that you will continue to "MAKE YOUR MARK," achieving success in your service projects and fundraising endeavors. As our communities witness the profound impact of the Lions,

membership will naturally grow, drawing in those inspired to be part of this meaningful journey.

Thank you for all that you do, and may this festive season bring you and your loved ones joy, warmth, and countless blessings

Pink BW

### **CABINET 2024-2025**



Bill Robinson District Governor



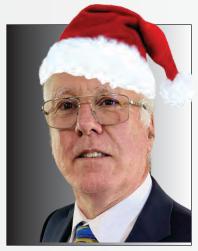
Garry Ransom
Past District Governor

District Governor Bill Robinson(PDG Tracey) 297 Greenwood Dr. Stratford, ON N57 7N7 C:226-228-3022 dg@a15lions.org

Past District Governor Garry Ransom (PDG Nancy) 224 Tatlock Ct Waterloo, ON N2L 5Y6 h:519-746-5407 c:519-835-3170 pdg@a15lions.org



Linda Vinette 1st Vice District Governor



Rick Mallon 2nd Vice District Governor

1st Vice District Governor Linda Vinette(Lion Denis) 20 Skeen Street Belwood, ON, N0B 1J0 h:226-343-0261 c:226-971-9805 vdg1@a15lions.org





Dianna Hewitt Cabinet Secretary



Cabinet Treasurer Brian Spivey

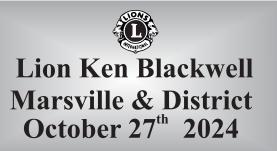
Cabinet Secretary Dianna Hewitt 95-5 Marksam Rd. Guelph ON N1H 6Y9 519-710-0857 cs@a15lions.org

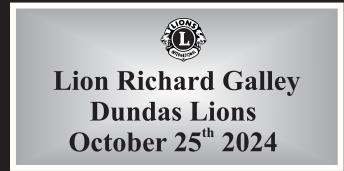
Cabinet Treasurer Brian Spivey(Deanne) 80 King St, PO Box 631 Burford ON, N0E 1A0 h: (519) 449-1485 c: (519) 757-5240 ct@a15Lions.org

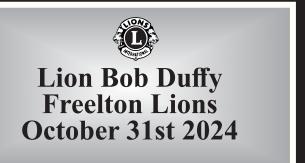
# PASSINGS "THEY SERVED"

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











### PAST COUNCIL CHAIR STEWART PATTERSON SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> 1959 - NOVEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup> 2024



I've sipped my last pint but don't let that stop you. On Tuesday, November 26th 2024 I was sad to leave behind my loving wife of 32 years, Nancy, and my children Dylan (Josée) and Darby. Born in 1959, I arrived in Jarvis from Bangor, Northern Ireland after my parents passed. I was 14 years old and came to live with my sister and brother-in-law - Prue and Elmar Steiner leaving my big brother Henry (Linda) in Belfast, Northern Ireland. I was lucky to have my brothers-in-law Wayne (Gayle), Peter (Sherry) and Allan (Julie) Welsh along with many very awesome nieces and nephews in my life. The Jarvis Lions were my other Family and I look

back fondly on the 37 years that I spent with such a great group of friends who supported a journey that took Nancy and I to many places within our district and throughout Ontario as Governor, and around the world as MDA Council Chair. After 30 years at Stelco with a strong advocacy for my Union brothers, I have since been retired for 15 years and enjoyed spending my time at the cottage, boating, skiing, playing cards, listening to Van the Man, and living it up with my family. Serving as the Ward 1 Councillor for Haldimand Council and advocating for our residents these last 6 years has given me a great sense of pride. I leave behind many friends that I will miss and have had the pleasure of toasting countless beverages with. Not sure how I accomplished all of this while being the grumpy sarcastic brute that I was. Come join my family at the Jarvis Community Centre in celebrating a final toast on Wednesday, December 4th with greetings by my family at 3 pm, a few words at 4 pm and the remainder of the time cheers-ing to a life well lived and enjoyed. Slàinte & Go Bruins! The "Stu Man"

### "OTIS"



It is with an over whelming sense of sadness and loss we inform you of the passing of Otis on November 23, after a brief battle with abdominal cancer. He was born in July of 2012 and graduated in April of 2014 from the Lions Foundation of Canada training facility as a canine vision dog guide partnered with Lion Larry Wainwright, Fergus. He was an amazing, caring and loving dog and a friend to all he met. Otis is no longer in our presence but will always be in our memories and forever and forever in our hearts.

Farewell and Goodbye Our Friend. Love Hilda and Larry Wainwright a.k.a, Dad and Mom

### We Need Your Help To Make a Difference

The Difference Campaign is our most significant campaign in the organization's history. With 1 in 4 Canadians living with a disability today, we can



do so much more! It is not just a building but an investment in potential. Together, we can continue to make a difference in the future of Canadians in need of a Dog Guide. Be a part of the next phase of LFCDG's history by participating in The Difference campaign today.

# MDA ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTO CONTEST



We have beautiful natural features in Central-Southwestern Ontario.

There are two contests, take a picture of one (or both!) in one of these areas:

### **Natural Environment:**

Plants - Animal Life - Landscapes (Urban or Natural) - Plant Life - Weather Phenomenon. \$100.00 dollars to win, \$50.00 for runner-up.

### **Lions in Environmental Service:**

Members performing or highlighting service activities related to the environment. One paragraph may be included that explains the service. Same prize structure mention\e above.

Deadline is March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025 to be presented at the A15 Convention in April for voting. Submit it photos digitally to me at the email shown below or submit printed photo (8" x 10", or 20.3cm x 25.4cm) through regular mail to the Environmental Photo Contest to Freelton Lions Club, 390 Freelton Road, Freelton, ON, L0R 1K0, or contact me to establish an in-person drop-off location.

Questions, comments, concerns feel free to ask!

Lion Allanah Kelly, Environmental Chairperson, District A15 environment@a15lions.org

The purpose of conservation: "The Greatest Good to the Greatest Number of People"





### MD "A" Lions/Leos Environmental Photo Contest

#### Attention: All District Environment Chairs

The MD 'A' Lions and Leos Environmental Photo Contest provides a way for Lions and Leos to portray, through an original photo, their pride and commitment to improving, protecting and preserving the environment. Every District that is in good standing can submit ONE photograph in each category. The photograph should depict the local environment of the MDA community that Lions or Leo Club serves.

**Entry Guidelines:** The competition invites photos depicting these two categories - 1. Our Natural Environment and 2. Lions in Environmental Service.

- 1. Our Natural Environment Plants, Animal Life, Landscape (Urban or Natural), Plant Life or Weather Phenomenon. (no people) (winner: the Lion photographer of the picture)
- 2. Lions in Environment Service People are allowed in these photos highlighting our service work with the environment. May include one paragraph explaining the service. (winner: the club undertaking the environmental service work)

#### First and Second Place Winners will be chosen from each category

Prizes consist of 1st place - \$100 and 2nd place - \$50 in each category

The photos must measure 8" x 10" (20.3 x 25.4cm), an original, unaltered black and white or colour printed photo. You can send a digital version of your photo to the email address below and state which category the image should be in and who is the photographer and Club but a hard copy version must be sent in as well to the address below by May 9, 2025 for voting at the 2025 MDA Convention hosted by Ripley and District Lions Club in Port Elgin, ON

The contest begins at club level and winning photographs will advance to the district and then to the Multiple District Competition.

To learn more about the **Environmental Photo** Contest please contact:

PDG Jennifer Batte

MDA Environment Chair Email: lionjenniferbatte@gmail.com

#### **Mailing Address:**

Jennifer Batte (Frank Jacobi) Box 656 Walkerton, ON N0G 2V0





### **BUYING A RECORD**



Last week, I went with my 16-year-old grandson to buy a record of his favorite artist. I couldn't believe record stores are still a thing! But he told me the sound quality is better, and he really liked the LP jacket design. I had to admit, it was a pretty cool design, then I saw the price—\$60! My jaw dropped. But then I thought about it. My first LP probably cost the same in today's dollars.

When we got home, he couldn't wait to play the record. As the music filled the room, I tried to follow along, but I have to admit, I just didn't get it. It was all noise to me. I was thinking of the many comments my father made about the music I listened to when I was 16. Though we disagreed on many topics and ideas he is still a very thoughtful and kind person even if he does

text while joining in on the conversation around the table. How do they do that?

This got me thinking: how do we add younger members to our Lions Club? Maybe the answer isn't to bring them into the traditional club, but to create something new—a new club or a branch club where they can contribute in their own way. The role of the traditional club would be to offer support.

Why start new clubs? Simply put, it's the best way to grow membership. In North America, districts that have seen growth do so by adding new clubs. What does a new club look like? While our traditional club is made up of people who enjoy socializing and serving their community, new clubs can take many forms. Some are family-focused, where even the kids pitch in. Others are specialty clubs, centered around a specific cause. Some meet virtually, while others gather only for service projects. Despite the variety, they all share one thing in common—they're making a difference.

So maybe it's time to get creative. The next new club we design could be anything we imagine. Who knows, maybe one day you'll walk into a meeting, and they'll be feeding the homeless while listening to music through their earbuds and texting on their phones—somehow doing it all at once. How do they do that?!

Lion Garry Ransom GET Coordinator District A15



### LIONS SERVE BREAKFAST TO THE LESS FORTUNATE







#### By Chris Whelan

Last Saturday morning, members of the Paris Lions Club, extended their generosity to the local community by organizing a heartwarming event at Victoria Park in Brantford. Armed with leftover pancakes and sausages from the recent Maple Syrup Festival, the Lions Club embarked on a mission to feed over 100 individuals who are less fortunate.

The Paris Lions Club, renowned for its commitment to community service, demonstrated once again their dedication to making a positive impact on the lives of others. With a strong belief in the power of compassion and community support, the club members rallied together to ensure that no one went hungry.

The event kicked off early in the morning, as Lions Club volunteers set up tables and cooking stations at Victoria Park. The mouthwatering aroma of freshly cooked pancakes and sizzling sausages wafted through the air, attracting the attention of park visitors and passersby. Excitement and anticipation filled the atmosphere as the Lions Club members prepared to serve a warm and delicious breakfast to those in need.

As the clock struck 8:00 a.m., the doors of compassion opened wide. The Lions Club volunteers, wearing their distinctive dark blue aprons with yellow Lions Club insignia, greeted each person with a smile and a plate filled with pancakes and sausages. For many, it was not just a

meal but a reminder that their community cared for them.

The Paris Lions Club has been actively involved in community service for over 90 years, organizing various events and initiatives to uplift the less fortunate. From fundraising for medical equipment to supporting local schools and charities, the club's dedication has made a lasting impact on the lives of countless individuals.

The Paris Lions Club's breakfast event at Victoria Park not only provided a warm meal but also served as a reminder of the strength and unity within the community. As volunteers and recipients shared laughter and conversations, barriers were broken down, fostering a sense of solidarity, and understanding.

With their generosity and selflessness, the Paris Lions Club continues to inspire others to make a positive impact in their communities. Their dedication to serving the less fortunate sets an example for individuals and organizations alike, reminding us all that a small act of kindness can create ripples of change.

As the sun rose higher in the sky, the Paris Lions Club's breakfast event came to a close, leaving behind a trail of smiles and full bellies. While the physical nourishment may fade, the impact of their compassion will resonate within the hearts of the less fortunate for years to come.

## **KW Community Spirit Lions Holiday Gift Bags for Seniors**



Lion Shirley Ruller and Jo Wilson, Waterloo Region Seniors Services Program

Jo Wilson, Coordinator of the Homemaking Services Program, Seniors Services, Region of Waterloo, was a guest at the K-W Community Spirit Lions Club on November 18, 2024. She described the various programs offered to Seniors.

There are homemaking, respite, and wellness programs offered. Clients are referred through Ontario Health at Home.

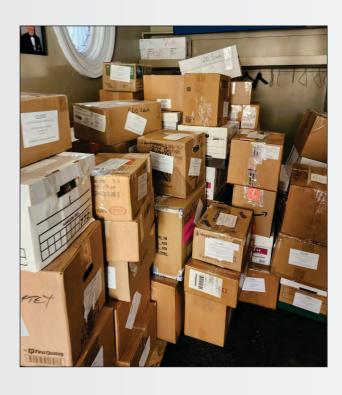
The waiting list is long, it can take up to 3 years to access services. Crisis cleans happen faster they need to wait for regular ongoing housekeeping support.

Project co-ordinator Lion Shirley presented Jo with 30 holiday cheer gift bags assembled by our Club, for distribution.



Guelph Royal City Lions held their annual eyeglass packing event. In total we packed over 18,000 new and used eyeglasses and lenses, e collected throughout Guelph and District A15. We were joined by our District Governor Bill Robinson as well as PDGs Tracey Robinson, Nancy, and Garry Ransom, our Region Chair Kevin March and Lion Diane from Rockwood Lions, and Club President Lion Cathy

from Listowel Lions Branch Club. We welcomed volunteer friends of Lions Bob, Nyla, Patricia, Adam, Diane and Gary along with members of our club Kyle, Sylvia, Dawn and our Club President Lion Carl. We are always amazed at how many we collect. We are able to keep them out of landfill sites and can ship them off to CLERC to be sent on to people in third world countries.









### **SMALL GROUP-BIG SUCCESS!**

With no one available to cater, VDG Linda and PDG Denis Vinette volunteered to prepare a meal the attendees at the Zone 51 West Zone Meeting on November 21, 2024. It was decided the net of the \$20 / person and the costs incurred to make the meal would be donated to a Lions Canadian charity.

With only 3 clubs and 27 members in attendance, food costs had to be kept low but still provide a great meal for the members as well as raising as much for the Lions cause. Proud to say, no one went away hungry!

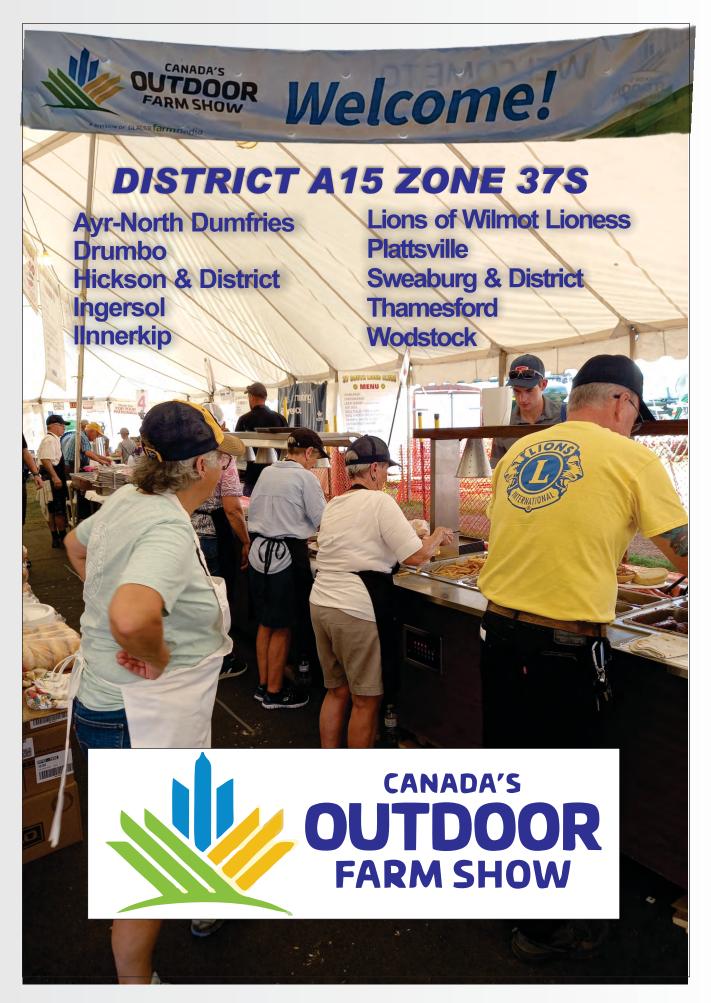
At the end of the meeting, Lion Denis announced that the net raised was \$580.00 and that he would be donating that to Lions Quest Canada. In addition to that, an "anonymous" donation was made of \$80.00 to bring the total to \$660.00.



On November 16<sup>th</sup> the Lions of Copetown held their annual turkey roll, one of their best yearly events, if not the best one yet. Lots of member support and volunteer help from the Copetown baseball crew and grandsons of deceased Lion Don Rostron, he would have been

very proud. From the proceeds of the event and the club's financial resources a donation of \$10,000.00 was made to the construction of Keaton's House, a childrens hospice to be constructed in Dundas. Shown in the photo are Lions Dave Biehler on the left and Ken Biehler on the right, accepting the cheque is Doug Mattina, a senior director with the hospice network.





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### **CANADA'S OUTDOOR FARM SHOW.**



more time.

For 10 years clubs in Zone 37S work together to manage and run a food tent and bar at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show in Woodstock. This event is too big for one club to do. It runs for three days bringing together thousands of people from the agricultural sector. The are about 200 exhibits of modern farming equipment.

The Zone has a large tent serving breakfast and lunch or a drink from the bar. In addition, we have a number of "off-site" events where we provide services to the exhibitors. The main tent is 80' by 110', divided in half, one section for food preparation and serving and the other section where customers sit and eat. There are 113 tables and 375 five chairs. In the food prep area there are 14 fryers, three grills and a large BBQ. There are 4 serving stations during the noon rush.

Planning starts in April and continues leading up to the event which is managed by a committee composed of members from each club. There are several sub committees which include, food, bar, set up and maintenance, treasury, and human resources fo. These meetings plus the prep work done by various committee heads last year totaled 330 hours of effort but the committee heads typically put in a lot

Set up and tear down last year took 310 hours. During this year the crew logged3,433 hours. The hours of operation start at 6 a.m. and grow through the day maxing out at approximately 100 Lions working on site over the noon hour. Members and volunteers are onsite as late as 9pm or in one case this year until close to midnight. Profit is split between the clubs by prorating the number of hours each club has put into the event, thiis year profit it was close to \$83,000.

While this is a significant fund raiser for all clubs one of the benefits is we have what might be the most cohesive and integrated zone in the country. There is a lot of work to accomplish working together on such an event builds camaraderie between clubs in theindividual clubs but in this case it's the entire Zone.

We get great support from local businesses and in particular we want to recognize Dowler Karn, a Division of McDougall Energy, they provide us with pro bono propane and service personnel.









Congratulations to Misha from Thamesford Public School for winning the 2024 Peace Poster Contest. This year's theme was "Peace without Limits". Misha's poster was sponsored by the Thamesford Lions. Her quote about Peace: "To find world peace you must find peace within yourself." Shown is Misha receiving her award from DG Bill Robinson and Lion Brian Voigt of the Thamesford club.

#### **The Contest:**

- •Inspires Young People to Showcase Their Talent.
  - Creates memories that will last a lifetime.
- Imagine more than 600,000 children sharing their visions of peace.

Thanks to clubs that participated. If you have questions regarding the contest contact A15 Peace Poster Co-ordinator Lion Debbie Nelligan at: <a href="mailto:peacepost@a15lions.org">peacepost@a15lions.org</a> or 905 870-7709.

### **ROCKTON LIONS**

On Nov. 26, Rockton Lions President John Riddell presented a cheque for \$2000.00 to Russ Rowlands, director of the Mark Preece House in Hamilton. Preece House is a caring place to call home for families of patients being treated in Hamilton area hospitals.



The club has supported the house since 2015 with financial donations. In addition we are involved in their "Thyme For Dinner" program, serving dinner on the first Wednesday of every month for those staying at the house. We recognize the need for providing a safe, clean and affordable place for people from out of town to stay when they have family or friends receiving treatment in one of our area hospitals.

Our involvement with the Mark Preece House truly supports the Lions mission statement of "We are serving a world in need, one act of kindness at a time"





Their club received enough blankets from Blankets Canada to meet our needs for the blanket portion of our annual Blanket and Sock Drive so we only held a Sock Drive this year at the Stratford Mall.



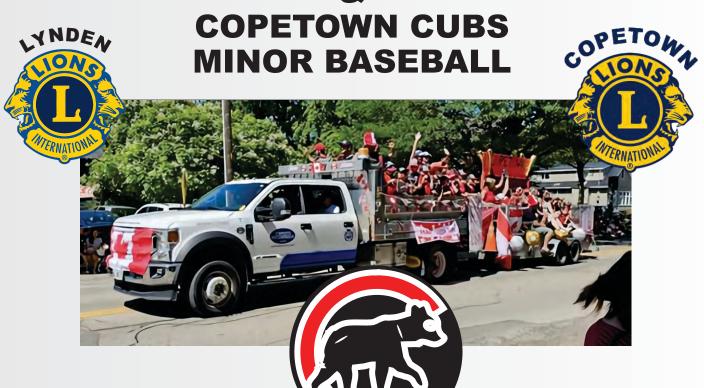






Cole Mart is supporting the Club's Sock Drive. For each package of socks purchased, they will a package. Socks can also be purchased at L&L Diehl garage in Sebringville and at Dave's Diner.

# COPETOWN-LYNDEN LIONS &





The Lynden Lions hosted their annual Canada Day Parade, Copetown Lions sponsor the Copetown Cubs Minor baseball, they were part of this years event and we hear their float won first prize!

### Peace Poster(P.P.) Competition in Woolwich Schools:

WCLC launched the P.P. contest in September, providing information packages to local schools. The theme for this year was "Peace Without Limits". Poster chair, Freda Walker PZC received 18 entries and remarked on the spectacular drawings as well as their interpretation of



Peace. Winners were chosen by the Peace Poster Contest Committee and club executive.

Winniers were presented with their certificate and prize in their classrooms, which added to the excitement and celebration. PZC Freda reported it was a heartwarming moment to see the students congratulate the winners. The interest was high and

students asked about next year's contest. Congratulations to the winners: 1st: Daniela V. (St. Teresa School), 2nd: Conner M. (John Mahood School), 3rd: Ethan M. (John Mahood School).

Each school received a picture of the winning artwork and framed artwork.. WCLC will be cheering Daniela's winning entry as her entry advances through the district, MDA and international levels of competition.



Woolwich Non Food Drive: WCLC along with other service groups in Woolwich Township participated in the Woolwich Christmas Goodwill Food Fund Drive. A variety of service groups, local scout troops, and a Robotics team from the local high

school set up donation tables across the township to collect monetar and online donations. Armed with blankets, mittens, hot beverages and chocolate, WCLC members manned a donation table outside our Home Hardware store in Elmira to accept donations. WCLC beat our record from last year raising a total of \$5,951.05 for our club. We thank Project Chair, PDG Diane Smith and volunteers for their support and we are proud to live in a community that supports families and residents within the township who are experiencing food insecurity.

### **WOOLWICH COMMUNITY LIONS**



Remembrance Day: WCLC laid a wreath at the Elmira Legion Remembrance Day service Sunday November 10 to honour the service, the courage and the sacrifice of Canada's veterans. The ceremony included a Remembrance Day parade and service at the Elmira Cenotaph.

For years, WCLC has supported OneRoof Youth Services who are dedicated to educating the public on youth homelessness and related

issues. They do this by providing meals, food hampers, clothing and hygiene items and drop- in programs located onsite. This relies heavily on community donations and much needed wish list items for youth. WCLC members voted to continue with our annual donation of wish list items of hygiene products, program supplies, and gift



cards. Our campaign ended November 29, after which donated items *Care for Homeless Youth Campaign:* will be delivered to OneRoof.



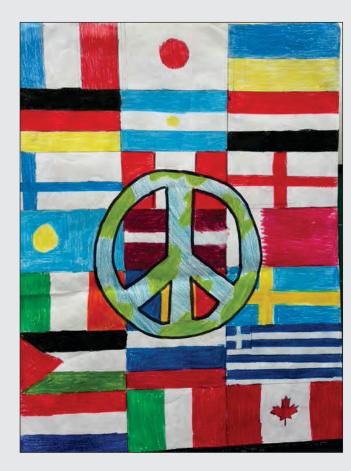


Recently the Dundas Lions presented the winners with their awards in the Peace Poster contest. Shown in the photo are Lions Jospeh Costigan on the left and Wayne Hay on the right. In between are the winners, Liam Black - Sir William Osler School, Jose Sutton - St Augustine, Natalie Burs Dundas Central, Lexi Gatschner - Dundas Central and Leila Oles- St Bernadette.













#### THANK YOU!

Thank you to the 42 clubs who donated to Lions Quest Canada in September, October & November. Your support truly makes a difference for children & youth.

The November 2024 Donation/Activity report can be found at this <u>link</u>. You can also find the new Awards & Fellowship application form on that page.



Blairmore (AB)
Bridgeport (ON)
Calgary Eastport (AB)
Calgary Heritage (AB)
Calgary Woodcreek (AB)
Claresholm (AB)
Cymbria (PE)
Dartmouth (NS)
Dundas (ON)
East Peterborough (ON)
Eastern Passage Cow Bay (NS)
Elora (ON)

Ferndale Lions' Head & Dist (ON)

Fort Erie (ON)
Fort Point (NL)
Fowlers Corners & District (ON)
Glen Morris & District (ON)
Glencoe (ON)
Historic Battleford (SK)
Kanata Hazeldean (ON)
K-W Community Spirit (ON)
Ladysmith (BC)
Langton (ON)
Moncton (NB)
Nanaimo (BC)
Norris Point (NL)
Petrolia (ON)

Port McNicoll (ON)
Port Williams & District (NS)
Prescott & District (ON)
Prince Edward County (ON)
Rockton (ON)
Rosthern (SK)
Royal City (ON)
South Wellington (ON)
Stamford (ON)
Stephenville (NL)
Thornbury-Beaver Valley (ON)
Victoria Chinatown Lioness (BC)
Waterdown & District (ON)
West Lethbridge (AB)



Ferris (ON)

During the Canada Post strike please ensure that your donations still reach Lions Quest Canada by using one of the following methods:

- e-transfer to accounting@lionsquest.ca (answer = Lions)
- donate online through this <u>link</u>
- deposit directly into our account at TD Bank contact us for account details

### **Upcoming Workshop Dates**

Our next Social Emotional Learning workshop will be held on January 29 from 4-6 pm EST. We are also working with a number of groups for additional workshops for schools & communities early in the new year. Please spread the word about our online training!

Check our website for all upcoming dates & locations!



### **WOOLWICH COMMUNITY LIONS**



### **New Member Induction:**

November 25, 2024, WCLC welcomed new member, Lion Nancy MacSporran. The induction ceremony was conducted by PDG Diane Smith with members in attendance. Supported by her sponsor, Lion Val King, our newest member received an enthusiastic welcome and congratulations as she begins her service journey.











# JOIN US IN CELEBRATING 100 Years of Service

ARMY NAVY & AIR FORCE HALL SATURDAY MAY 3, 2025

151 LORNE AVE. E
STRATFORD, ON
SOCIAL 5 PM/DINNER 6 PM
TICKETS \$60 PP
stratford@a15lions.org or any Stratford Lions
Member



# 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,

THE GRAVEYARD OF PAST DEADLINES



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.

February, April and June

