



District A-15 *Governors Newsletter* *Spring Edition 2025*



I am honored to share at the February 21st Caucus meeting in Markham, I was elected as the Council Chair of MD "A" for the 2025-2026 Lions year. I look forward to serving in this role and continuing to support the incredible work of our Lions across the district.

It's exciting to see our membership on the rise—this growth is a testament to the impact we are making in our communities. However, while welcoming new members, we must also focus on retaining and supporting our current members. I encourage every club to conduct a wellness check—some members may be feeling unappreciated, unheard, or uninvolved. Retaining our dedicated Lions is just as important as recruiting new ones.

With club officer elections around the corner, I urge clubs to embrace leadership turnover. Fresh leadership is key to club growth and provides great opportunities for developing future leaders. Strong leadership ensures that we continue to serve effectively and inspire others to do the same.

Lions remain one of the best-kept secrets, and we must work to change that! Currently, only 54% of clubs are reporting service activities. Let's share our impact and showcase the incredible difference we are making in our communities.

If you haven't already, I encourage you to register for our District Convention in Stratford from April 4-6. We have a fantastic weekend planned, filled with opportunities to network, learn, and be inspired. Voting will take place on Sunday, followed by the Memorial Service.

Thank you for your dedication to service. Keep up the great work, Make Your Mark, and continue to show the world what it means to be a Lion!

Yours in Service,
Bill Robinson
District Governor

Lion Bill

CABINET 2024-2025



Bill Robinson
District Governor



Garry Ransom
Past District Governor

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Past District Governor
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1st Vice
District Governor



Rick Mallon
2nd Vice
District Governor

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Cabinet Secretary



Cabinet Treasurer
Brian Spivey

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PAST COUNCIL CHAIR BRADD ANDERSON 1943 - 2025



PASSING OF P.C.C. LION BRADD ANDERSON

It is with a heavy heart we prepare this item, Bradd was the consummate Lion and we don't know of a member with as much enthusiasm for Lions as was his. He was a well respected Past MDA Council Chair and we don't know if there is a stronger advocate for Leos in the world of Lionism. Bradd was a huge fan of Lions International Peace Posters, he had several of them posted in his home. His involvement with MDA conventions was second to none. His home club, the St. Davids Lions was fortunate to have him as a member as evidenced by his involvement with their annual carnival and numerous other club projects.

Rest in Peace our friend, you will be missed forever!

**Lion Bob Pearson
Editor**

PASSINGS

“THEY SERVED”



Lion Ray Edworthy
December 9th 2024
Lynden Lions



Lion Norm Walters
December 27th 2024
Fergus Lions



Lion Warren Wicks
Hillsburg Lions
January 4th 2025



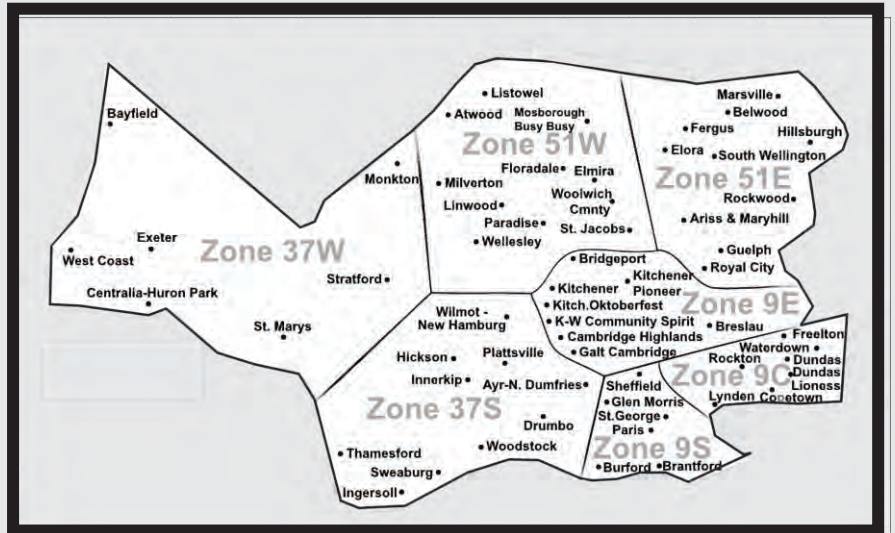
Lion Ray Keddie
Thamesford Lions
January 12th 2025

obituaries available, click images.....

A15 REGION 25 MEETING, HOSTED BY COPETOWN LIONS

It was a great Region 25 meeting in Copetown on Tuesday March 4th with approximately fifty Lions in attendance. After a rousing “O Canada” and a roll call, things moved along in a timely fashion. The meal was great, the Copetown Chef served up a delicious Ham & Scalloped Potatoes feast.

Copetown President, Colleen Martin welcomed everyone and turned the floor over to the Region spokesperson, VDG 2, Ray Mallon from the Dundas Lions. The head table was comprised of Lions Ray, PDG Garry Ransom, DG Bill Robinson, Lion Colleen and Lion Debbie Nelligan, Copetown Secretary and A15 Peace Poster Chair.



Missing from the dignitaries was Lion Peter Oswald, Copetown Lions member and Region 9 Chair, Peter is vacationing in Florida, it was noted Lions Peter is the new Administrator for the Lions of Canada Fund for LCIF, he has assumed the position to replace Lion Stan Durward who is suffering with medical issues.

First up was DG Bill, who spoke about leadership and the Lions portal. Next was Lion Garry who spoke about the methodology in creating new clubs. Last but not least was Lion Rick who gave his thoughts on leadership succession in clubs and the district.

We then heard condensed campaign presentations from Zone Chair Lion Neal Stephenson, from the Waterdown Lions, Lion Ray, followed by VDG1 Lindsay Vinette.

An unknown Lion at this point thanked the Copetown Lion Chief Colleen and the Club for hosting the event.

Next up was Lion Willie Arnold from the Copetown Lions who is their official 50/50 coordinator, Willie totaled up the sales and a pot of \$272.00 was split with the Copetown club and Copetown member Lion Ken Biehler, who is the A15 Marketing Chair. Talk about keeping it in the family!

Photo Ops Region 25



INNERKIP, WOODSTOCK AND PLATTSVILLE LIONS



The Lions of Plattsville, Wood stock and Innerkip participated in Woodstock's annual Coldest Night of the Year event by fundraising and walking to raise money and awareness of those experiencing hurt, hunger and homelessness in our county. This is a National Walk that on the same night in over 250 locations in Canada and the USA, all locations raised over 15 million dollars, each location raising money for their own local charity. Over 30 Lions clubs (including 2 in the USA) joined their local walks and helped fund-raise.

With Hunger being one the Lions core pillars, Innerkip Lions President David Mair led the way across the entire country, easily out-raising all other clubs with an amazing total amount of \$12,186.00 by soliciting donations from other nearby clubs (including Hickson Lions), plus local residents and small businesses. A list of the top Lions Clubs below.

The Woodstock Coldest Night (CNOY) walk raised a total over \$146,000 for the local charity Operation Sharing, who operate and staff many services including emergency shelters in Woodstock and Tillsonburg, the only emergency shelters in Oxford County.

The Innerkip Lions would like to challenge all Lions clubs in the zone, district, and Country to find one of the 200 Coldest Night of the Year walks in their area next year and get involved. It is a great way to be visible in the community, collaborate with other clubs and raise needed funds. It's also a great way to develop new members by networking with other volunteer and charitable community members.

Any questions or info requests can be directed to Lion Scott McKague, Innerkip & District Lions Club: smckague5@gmail.com

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Attending were Woodstock Police Chief Rod Wilkinson Scott McKague (Event Director), Woodstock Deputy Chief Nick Novacich, Woodstock Mayor Jerry Acchione, Sylvia Kiers (Top Fund Raiser), Woodstock Police Inspector Jamie Taylor, David Mair (Innerkip Lions Club Second Highest Fund Raiser) and Tim Dukes (Operation Sharing Executive Director)

#	Team Name	Captain	Members	Location	Raised
1	Innerkip Lions	David Mair	8	Woodstock	12,186.00
2	St. Stephen-Milltown Lionettes	Kimberly Perrot	16	St. Stephen	6,645.00
3	Oro District Lions Club	Gord Dixon	6	Orillia	5,140.00
4	Lions Club of Merritton	Keith Brown	5	St. Catharines	4,165.00
5	Woolwich Community Lions	Wendy Taylor	4	Elmira	3,675.00
6	New Maryland Lions	Fonda French	21	Fredericton	3,525.00
7	Sooke Harbourside Lions	Nancy Reinders	11	Sooke	3,260.00
8	Sam and her Red Hot Chili Steppers	Sam Tomlinson	4	Fort Erie	2,840.00
9	Lions Club Of Woodstock	Travis Toes	2	Woodstock	2,585.00
10	Blyth Lions Club	Ken Stewart	8	Wingham	2,340.00
11	Orillia Lions Club	Brenda Smale	2	Orillia	2,025.00
12	Toronto Doctors Lions Club	Dr. Michael Casin	5	Toronto Hillcrest	2,000.00

KITCHENER PIONEER LIONS



Helping the Community

The KW Pioneer Club made two substantial donations to two deserving organizations in Waterloo: The Salvation Army and The Food Bank of Waterloo Region. The photos speak for themselves.

Salvation Army from Left to Right - CTV Tyler Kelaher, Captain Cory Fifield, Captain Kelly Fifield, Lion James Steele, Lion Jess Bailey

The Food Bank of Waterloo Region - Kim Wilhelm and Lion Jess Bailey

Lions Club of Merrittton

Coldest Night of Year Walk 2025

In support of Start Me Up Niagara



Lions Keith Brown, Terry Barclay, Jeff White and Kim Lucciola present cheque for \$2000, representing our clubs match for funds raised by members for the walk on February 22, 2025.

Six members participated in this year's CNOY walk. Lions Keith, Terry, Jeff and Kim completed the 5km walk in downtown St. Catharines. Lions Natasha and Denise participated in the walk on a route of their choice. Our Merrittton Lions Team raised \$2160 in sponsorships and the club matched the first \$2000 raised, bringing our total donation to \$4160. This total put our club in top 5 fundraisers for this year's walk. This is in addition to the \$2000, we donated as an event sponsor.

This year's walk raised a total of \$157,097 for Start me Up Niagara, which represents 89% of their \$175,000 goal. Donations are open until March 31, 2025, so hopefully they will come closer to their goal.

Start Me Up Niagara works with individuals facing significant life challenges such as comprised mental health, addictions, poverty, homelessness and unemployment. They provide opportunities to improve health, increase community integration and support employment.



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



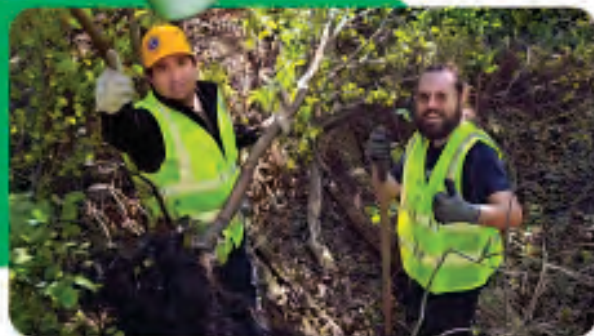
Lions Clubs International
Multiple District A



BUCKTHORN PULL PILOT PROJECT

BUCKTHORN BANISHED!

The Freelton Lions Club debuted their new environmental stewardship project on the beautiful Saturday morning of October 19th, removing invasive European buckthorn from a site along the Two Rivers in Eramosa River Park.



Inspired!

The Freelton Lions were assisted by members of the Guelph Lions Club, who enjoyed themselves so much that they said they would hold a buckthorn pull of their own in the future!

The Freelton Lions worked with the City of Guelph to equip volunteers with the tools and knowledge required to identify and eliminate European buckthorn.

Thanks to the efforts of our Lions (as well as our lovely volunteers), an overflowing truckload of European Buckthorn was removed from the area, which will contribute to the restoration of this beautiful, naturalized riverside.





MDA Environment

Presents

An Opportunity for your Lions Club

to be awarded with an

ART WOODS GOLDEN TREE FELLOWSHIP



Open to all Lions Clubs in the MDA District, in good standing at the close of the contest.

Guideline Criteria:

- Ongoing or stand-alone ENVIRONMENT service project
- Recorded in the Lion Portal
- The information should feature the story of how this project helps the environment and pictures to bring it to life.
- To be eligible, your club must not have previously won the fellowship

Submit information to MDA Environment Chair PDG Jennifer Batte at lionjenniferbatte@gmail.com or mail to Jennifer Batte, Box 656 Walkerton, Ontario N0G 2V0. Along with your contact information, club name and district.

Deadline: March 31, 2025 both digital or paper submission acceptable.

Presentation: at the 2025 MDA Convention

Clubs can purchase award to recognized an individual for thier contribution to the environment or service in Lions. It can be purchased through the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guide for a cost of \$350.00. <https://www.dogguides.com> under the tabs - lions-clubs-members; lions-club-ways-to-

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 and a lapel pin.

Lion PDG Jennifer Batte
MDA Environment Chair

The Stratford Lions Club

100th CHARTER
Anniversary



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,
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

