

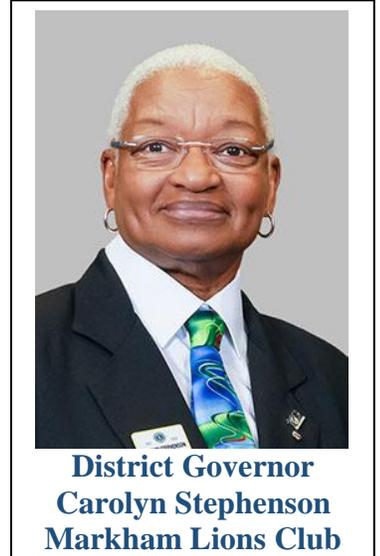
# District A-16 Governor's Newsletter

March 2023

## *A message from District Governor Carolyn Stephenson*

A few months ago, we were celebrating Christmas and now here we are suggesting that Spring is in the air. Although we are still shoveling the snow, we can see signs that Spring really is in the air. The evenings are longer and brighter, we are turning back the clock (March 12<sup>th</sup>) and we are thinking about convention. Permit me to get back to our convention in a minute.

All our club visits are just about complete. This year I involved the First and Second Vice District Governors in doing some club visits; first to give them an opportunity to get to know some clubs and their members and secondly to give them a feel as to what these visits are like. On the plus side, the members also got the opportunity to meet them and know who they are especially as they consider assuming leadership roles. Having said that, approximately 95% of all club visits have been completed. We will have achieved 100% by the end of April. I have also been very happy to see (on Facebook) and hear of the many service projects that have been undertaken. Thank you for all your hard work and contributions to service. I have had the pleasure of inducting many members as I visit clubs which can only increase the health of our organization.



Thank you for the donations you have made to our Governor's Project "Building Diabetes Awareness" – which at this point is at approximately \$12,000 and does not include donations that have been remitted directly to Camp Huronda.

Plans for our district convention to be held at the Waterfront Holiday Inn in Peterborough from April 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, is well underway. I can't wait to see most, if not all of you there. Our international guest speaker is Past International Director, **Jeffery R. Gans** of Collingswood, New Jersey, USA. This convention is gearing up to be amazing, fun, and entertaining. The Planning Team has been busy arranging various dynamic speakers and entertainers and so I would encourage you if you have not yet registered to attend that you do so at your earliest convenience.

This convention will also give you an opportunity to elect your 2023-2024 district officers. Clubs are eligible to vote (delegates) if members and clubs are in good standing and all outstanding dues have been paid. Similarly, clubs are looking to elect their club officers for the

new lions' year. Please continue to encourage members to step up into leadership roles. Look around for candidates with identifiable skills and use the tips shared with you at the Succession Planning workshop and at the last round of Leadership Joint Zone Meetings, to fill these roles as there is some hesitancy on the part of members due to time, work/family balance and energy to commit but necessary for the health and vitality of the organization. There are still vacancies existing in the district and in the regions that need to be filled. We need your help in filling these roles.

I know you have heard me mention on many occasions, the need to empower our LCIF to do what they do best on our behalf by donating, especially as the need is so great right now. Just look at what is happening in Ukraine, Syria, and Turkey. It is also worth considering that to qualify for the *Club Excellence Award* you must have donated to LCIF. By contributing now, you will have satisfied the opportunity to fulfill both requirements. **THANK YOU** for your thoughtfulness in giving.

So...a great **BIG** shout out to all of you for the support you have shown your district leadership team. Thank you for continuing to find ways to meet and address the humanitarian needs of your communities.

Past International President *Douglas Alexander* said, "Service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living in this world". Our current International President *Brian Sheehan* challenges us to think outside the box – to be creative and you will see "*Together we can do amazing things*".

Thank you.

*DG Carolyn Stephenson*



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# Keaton Hamilton Peace Essay 2022-2023 Grand Prize winner



Keaton, a 12-year-old grade 6 student from Stonehaven Elementary School was sponsored by the Newmarket Lions Club of District A-16. He has won the grand prize in the 2022-2023 Lions International Peace Essay Contest with the theme “Lead with Compassion.”



Keaton shared his essay on Lions Day at the United Nations in New York on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023 to a standing ovation.

It was my honour to accompany Keaton and his mother Sonia to New York City and to share this once in a lifetime experience with them.

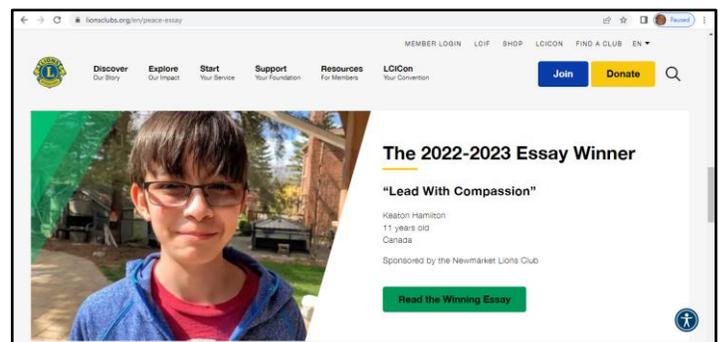
*We are very proud of you Keaton!*

Keaton’s essay is posted on the LCI website.

Click the link here to read it:

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/peace-essay>

**Lion Sylvia Brock**  
**District Youth Program Committee Chair**



# From our District Hunger Chair

*A-16 Clubs are actively supporting this Global Cause*



I recently received many reports from Clubs across A-16 doing a lot of good deeds support the Global Cause of Fighting Hunger. Here are the displays of a sample of actions from Stouffville Lions, Bobcaygeon Lions, Newmarket Lions, King City Lions, and Markham Elite Lions.

*How many Clubs and Lions members do you recognize doing Hunger Service in their communities?*





*With thanks from Lioness Lion Pat Aitken  
District Hunger Chairperson*



# From Special Olympic Chair Lion David Burnett



*An invitation to A16 Lions to the Ontario Blind Golf  
tournament on May 27, 2023*

Ontario Blind Golf (OBG) would like to bring more awareness of the game of Blind Golf to the Lions Clubs in District A16. People suffering with vision loss are still able to play the game of Golf with the assistance of a sight coach which enables them to enjoy this sport regardless of the level of vision which they may have.

On Saturday, May 27, 2023 the OBG is inviting members of the A16 Lions Clubs to join them on one of their regular scheduled golf tournament days: specifically at Oliver's Nest Golf Course. This is within striking distance or at least a good "drive" from most of the A16 Clubs. OBG wishes to have Lions participate with blind golfers and later, enjoy a BBQ dinner with them.

Located in the heartland of Ontario, Oliver's Nest was designed by acclaimed Canadian golf course Architect, Graham Cooke. It is a stunning location to hold our first event with the District A16 Lions Clubs to support blind golf. Elm, Cedar, Oak and Basswood trees line this beautiful property, challenging golfers but rewarding them with the majesty of nature.

You can contact me for more information.

***Lion David Burnett***  
***OBG – Board of Directors***  
***District Special Olympic Chairperson***



# District Cabinet Meeting on February 4, 2023

*IPDG Barry MacDonald and his Governor team received recognition*

At the District Cabinet Meeting held on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Cannington, IPDG Barry and his Governor team of 2021-2022 was recognized by Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) for the outstanding contributions that A-16 made towards LCIF during 2021-2022. On hand at the presentation



was PCC Debbie Dawson, District LCIF Coordinator presenting the medal to IPDG Barry.

We also celebrated inclusiveness at the meeting with all attending.





## 47<sup>th</sup> District A-16 Convention

*Have you registered yet?*

Lions, Lioness Lions, & Guests: Have you registered for our 47th Annual District Convention in Peterborough yet? Time is moving quickly.... the cut off date for rooms is March 21st .....no registration or meal refunds after April 7th. We're enjoying the Peterborough Waterfront Holiday Inn at 150 George Street North once more.

Our International Guest is Past International Director Jeffrey Gans from New Jersey, and we will have an opportunity to share some valuable time with him over the weekend.

If you are joining us early on **Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>** you will be able to participate in the annual Flag Raising in the South Parking Lot at 1:45 p.m., followed by Registration opening at 2:00 p.m. in the Hotel Lobby, and the Cabinet Meeting in the Garden Court at 2:30 p.m. An alternate plan is to attend the Partners Social; watch for the location posted in the Lobby. If you have your invitation to the Cabinet Dinner at 5:00 p.m., it will be in the Garden Court. At 7:00 p.m. in the Regency Ballroom, join us for our Warm-Up Party, followed by a social time in the Hospitality Suites.

**Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>** gets an early start with our Lions Breakfast in the Regency Ballroom at 8:00 a.m., followed by Registration opening again, along with vendor booths. Watch for details about lunch at noon and then our Opening Ceremonies at 1:00 p.m., followed by the Region Rally. Various activities lead up to the Governor's Banquet at 6:00 p.m. followed by socializing in the Hospitality Suites.

**Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>** is an even earlier start if you are attending the Melvin Jones Breakfast in the Gallery at 7:00 a.m. Voting follows at 8:00 a.m. and then the Business Session at 9:00 a.m., including the Memorial Service at 11:05 a.m. Following Lunch at noon, the Business Session resumes.

This sounds to me like a great time: good food, good friends, and good service! Hope to see you there!

You can find the Convention Registration Form on our A-16 website at:

<https://lionsa16family.org/>

*Submitted by: Lion Eleanor Colwell, Newsletter editor*



## MDA Regional Lions Leadership Institute

*A-16 has four Lions graduates*

Lions who wish to pursue leadership roles within their Lions community will benefit from the **Regional Lions Leadership Institute (RLLI)**, where they will learn about club operations, opportunities and resources available to clubs, and gain both valuable leadership skills and a deeper understanding of how to better serve clubs.

Multiple District “A” (MDA) recently offered a RLLI online via Zoom over two Saturdays on February 25<sup>th</sup> and March 4<sup>th</sup> for 30 Lions from the 10 Districts across Ontario.

A-16 has four Lions graduating from the RLLI. Congratulations to Lions Lynda Darling (Bobcaygeon), Dan Kuijpers (Port Perry), Charles Herriot (Markham), and Scott Young (Markham).

PDG JC Lagrange was one of the faculty members of the RLLI; and PCC Tim Cheung was the coordinator of the Institute.

***Submitted by: Lion Tim Cheung  
MDA RLLI 2023 coordinator***





## Lion Dr. Patti Hill for International President 2023-2024

*Become a volunteer to help Lion Patti at the Boston convention*

The Lions of Canada are rapidly approaching an historic event.

On July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in Boston, Massachusetts Lion Dr. Patti Hill will become the President of Lions Clubs International. This will be the culmination of a campaign that had its beginning nearly five years ago. The success of this campaign reflects our outstanding candidate and the strong support of our Canadian and world Lions.



July 2023 will mark the beginning of another chapter in Dr. Patti's leadership journey. We are looking for volunteers to help us with Dr. Patti's campaign in Boston, Massachusetts.

We need you for several reasons. Here is a list of duties so far and the list of duties will change and vary as the convention gets closer:

- Brochure distribution at the convention
- Translation duties at the convention
- Runners' odd jobs at the convention
- Public awareness in your district
- Social Media/Brochure distribution in your district

Please click [here](http://pattisbostonvolunteers.ca/) to go to our website at <http://pattisbostonvolunteers.ca/> and register to help.

We know the Lions of the world will be inspired by her strong leadership and untiring commitment to serve.

We Serve,

### ***Dr. Patti Hill Volunteer Committee***

***James Johnston   Tim Cheung   Claude Chiasson   Betty Ann Robson***  
***Pauline Cooper   Debbie Dawson   Marie Hajny***

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***Editor's note: Our 2VDG John Relph was the first Lion registered to help via the website!***

# *An Interview with RC Martin Jones*

*Member of Oshawa Airport Lions Club*

Lion Martin Jones is serving as Region Chairperson of Region 33. We talked to him about his journey as Lion and his experiences with other Lions Clubs and Districts as he has moved across the country.



**Editor:** *You have been a very dedicated and extremely busy Lion as you have travelled across our country following your career. Knowing that Lions Clubs follow the 'Your Club, Your Way' approach, you have experienced many different approaches to service as you participated in the Dundas Lions Club, Ft. McMurray Lions Club, Lacombe Lions Club, Whitby Lions Club, and Oshawa Airport Lions Club. Having experienced how each Club has functioned in its own way, how has this prepared you for further leadership roles in District A-16?*

**Lion Martin:** I have experienced clubs of different sizes and different focuses for service projects. Being President of a club with minimal membership like Fort McMurray has taught me how important membership size is to be able to accomplish any service goal, and the stress to fill all the leadership roles. The opposite is true of a large club as you have to negotiate with the membership to determine and prioritize which service goals to undertake. I have found there is usually enough interest in large clubs to fill all leadership roles. My journey toward running for 2VDG this has prepared me, by improving my negotiating skills in the large clubs and learning to juggle many tasks in small clubs by wearing many hats.



**Editor:** *As an Associate Dean at Durham College, Whitby Campus, you may have recognized areas where our Lions could provide support and encouragement for the students. Can you comment on this?*

**Lion Martin:** I am currently working with Durham College and IPDG Barry to see if there is an interest in starting an alumni Lions Club at the college, since there are over 100,000 alumni. This way we can support the college, student bursaries and scholarships and most importantly, the student food bank. The Durham College food bank would welcome any food donations from any Lions Clubs in the District.

**Editor:** At our recent Joint Zone Meetings across our District, our Lions were introduced to LCI's S.W.O.T. Analysis, and had an opportunity to share their thoughts with Lions from other Clubs. How might our Clubs be encouraged to see the value in this Analysis and adopt it?

**Lion Martin:** While working at Dofasco, SWOT was a very important part of our yearly department planning process. In my experience when SWOT is completed correctly it is an excellent planning tool to move the department forward, therefore I see no reason why SWOT would not be successful in any Lions club and I would be willing to bring my years of experience to help any club through the SWOT process.

**Editor:** For the last few years we have seen more Clubs reporting their service on MyLion. How would you suggest encouraging all Clubs to report monthly?

**Lion Martin:** Using MYLION is very easy! As well as being easy it is also very important to identify and record all events, whether it be service, meetings or fundraising. I would encourage clubs to have a recording secretary whose job it is to enter on MyLion each month, taking some of the work off the club secretary. Any club member can enter event information on MyLion.

**Editor:** Until the onset of Covid, our District encouraged our members to make Club visits; in fact, there was a Visitation Trophy presented each year at the annual District A16 Convention. Do you view this as valuable, and, if so, how might this be encouraged once again?

**Lion Martin:** I do see this Trophy as a very valuable asset for encouraging clubs to do visits. Over my time in Lions, I have visited many clubs and since becoming Zone Chair and Region Chair I have appreciated my chance to visit other clubs in district A16 and I am always learning something new. Visitations are an excellent opportunity to share ideas and possibly work together on common service or fundraising projects. Combing efforts allows clubs to build connections with other Lions outside of their own club and who knows what that may lead to.



**Editor:** Thank you Lion Martin for participating in this interview.

# Ajax Lions Club

## Events, Donations and Club News



### Ajax Lions Club Events

Ajax Lions Senior's Christmas Event on Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 was very well received with over 200 attendees. Full support of the club members and volunteers made it a successful and very enjoyable evening.

Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides (LFCDG) Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides is scheduled for September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Monthly Progressive Euchre events at our clubhouse have also been well received. The Euchre events allowed us to provide a donation to Hurricane Fiona Relief and beat a challenge raised by Lion Tina Cawthorne. We will continue to use the profits from this event, whenever possible to support causes that cannot be covered by our Charitable Bingo funds.

Our eye-glass collection is going very well – so far 4,800 pairs of glasses have been collected from Ajax, Pickering and we will continue to collect from the locations previously covered by the Whitby Lions.



### Fundraising/Donations:

We continue to benefit from our participation as Charity volunteers in the Charitable Bingo at the Delta Bingo and Gaming in Pickering. This partnership allows the Ajax Lions to help and donate to many charities, such as the Salvation Army, Homebound Wellness (senior's centre), Christian Faith Outreach Centre (shelter, food bank, hygiene hub), Boys and Girls Club of Durham, St. Paul's on the Hill food bank, Herizon House (women's shelter), Hearth Place (children cancer support) and many more. We made donations to Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides Program in memory of passed Ajax Lions members - Lion Len Crocker and Lion Lin Nowitski.



## News:

- Whitby Lions – Lion William Luchford, Lion Andy Elliott, and Lion Giles De Hetre joined the Ajax Lions club once the Whitby Club dissolved and were welcomed with much enthusiasm.

- Significant Member Years of Service Anniversary dates:

Lion Bill Pinder – 45 years in March 2023

Lion Georgia Gabriel (former Ajax Lioness) - 30 years in November 2023

Lion Giles De Hetre – (former Whitby Lion) – 40 years in December 2023

Lion Debbie Winger – (former Ajax Lioness) – 18 years in November 2023

Lion William Luchford – (former Whitby Lion) – 15 Years in March 2023

Lion Andy Elliott – (former Whitby Lion) - 21 years in November 2023

- The Ajax Lions is building a new e-clubhouse website – almost done.



*Submitted by: Lion Sara Crocker*

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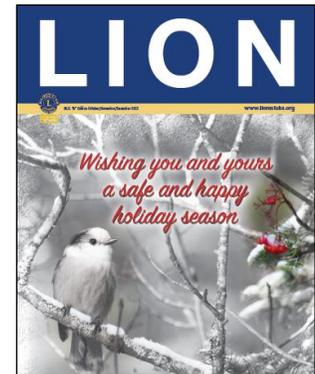
## *The LION Magazine*

The latest issue of The LION Magazine is a digital version available now on the MDA Lions website.

You can click [here](#) to go to the MDA Lions website to view or download a copy of the magazine.

Or you can go directly to:

<http://mdalions.org/pages/Events/TheLionMag>



# The Udora-Leaskdale Lions Club in 2023



The club began the year with Club President Byron Taylor presenting PDG Lloyd Clifton with a Helen Keller Fellowship Award.

In February Michele Varela, Executive Director, talked to us about the new Uxbridge Hospital being built and we donated \$10,000.00 to the Uxbridge Hospital Foundation .We also donated \$1,000.00 to each of the Uxbridge Loaves and Fishes Food Bank and Georgina Community Food Pantry. At the end of February came the return of our Spaghetti Dinners. We were not sure how many people would be attending, but it turned out to be our largest dinner, both in number of diners and funds raised.



In March PDG Janet Marissen and King, her guide dog trainee gave us a informative talk about the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides and the new home they are building. We presented her with a donation of \$5,000.00 for their “*The Difference*” Capital campaign. The club raised the funds for all of these donations by volunteering at Bingo World in Newmarket.



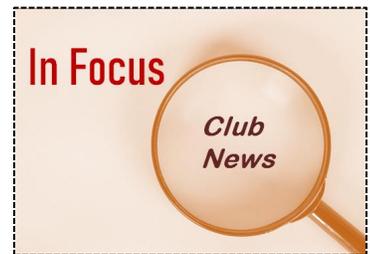
In April, we will celebrate Earth Day with a Road Cleanup and Tree Distribution and in May hold our 37<sup>th</sup> annual Canoe River Run and our 2nd Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides.



*Submitted by: Lion David Minns*

# Three Clubs Working Together on Health Equipment Loan Program (HELP)

## Blackstock, Greenbank and Port Perry Lions Clubs joined hands to HELP



The Blackstock, Greenbank and Port Perry Lions clubs have been very busy getting the HELP humanitarian initiative up and running. This Program is officially called the “Scugog Lions HELP”, which involves loaning out, free of charge, wheelchairs, walkers, bath chairs and more. This Program was managed, until recently, by the Oddfellows of Port Perry. Because of changes to their organization, the Oddfellows transferred ‘HELP’ to Port Perry Lions Club.



To effectively manage a program the size of HELP, Blackstock and Greenbank Lions Clubs agreed to work jointly with Port Perry Lions (all part of Scugog). Lion John Ashmore (Blackstock) is chairing this committee for this Lions year. With assistance from ZC Larry Doble, they have moved locations, and have a few new community partners, including Community Care Durham and a number of Occupational Therapists.



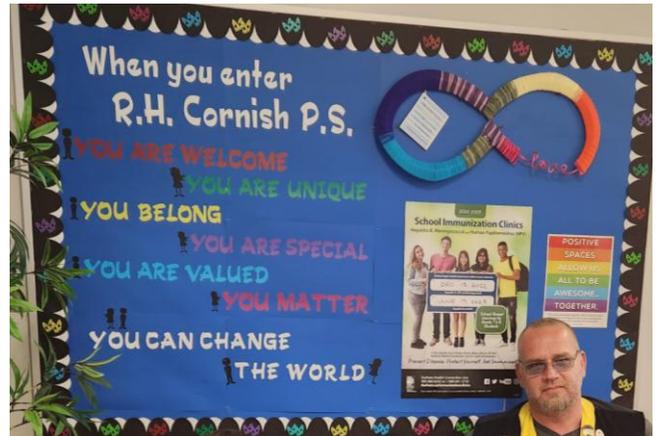
The HELP Committee

From Left to right in the picture – Back Row: Lions Ken Eaton & Dave Gallant (Blackstock), Don Beacock & Bruce Dempsey (Greenbank), John Ashmore (Blackstock), Larry Doble (Greenbank), Rob Mairs (Blackstock), Andy Cox (Port Perry).  
Front row: Art Thompson (Port Perry), Lynne Gallant (Blackstock), Karen Thompson & Lisa Emmerson (Port Perry) and Rachel Gillis (Greenbank)  
Absent: Lion Dan Kuijpers (Port Perry) and John Olivero (Greenbank)

## Pop Tabs for Pups *Spreading from Ajax to Port Perry*



Port Perry Lions are getting calls from many in the area that have been busy collecting pop tabs, but this one was unique - We got a call in February from RH Cornish Public School, where a senior kindergartner that had moved from Ajax had challenged her new school in Port Perry to collect pop tabs for pups like her old school did for the Ajax Lions. We picked up over 50lbs of pop tabs. A BIG shout-out to Ajax Lions!! Your promotion of this program is spreading far and wide!



*Submitted by: Lion Karen Thompson*

*Global Membership & Fellowship Committee ask you to:  
SAVE THE DATE:*



*Save the date for Camp Kirk cleanup, potluck and games, Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023.*



# Angus Glen Lions Club

## *Welcoming New Members and Celebrating Membership Chevron Awards*

We are so happy to welcome our three new members joining us since the beginning of 2023. At the club meeting on March 9, District Governor Carolyn Stephenson was with us for the new member induction to formally welcome Lions Mimi Fung and Landa Lee to our Club, while Lion Iris Poon was out of the country. Lion Patty is the sponsor of the new members.



At the meeting, DG Carolyn presented Lion Chevron Awards to Lions Charles Djeu, Anthony Cheung, Patty Ko, and Tim Cheung for their completing 15 years as Lions; and to Lion Kelvin Yeung for being 10 years as Lion.

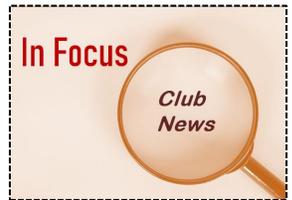
Congratulations to all!



***Submitted by:  
Lion Patty Ko  
Membership Director***

## Greenbank Lions Club

### *Greenbank Inducts Three New Members*



At the club meeting of January 18<sup>th</sup>, the Greenbank Lions Club welcomed three new members to the fellowship of their club. The candlelight induction was led by Guiding Lion Dale St John.

The new members included Emmy Itheme sponsored by President Larry Doble, Ed Bain and Gerry Mitchell both sponsored by Lion Percy Shaw.



Pictured from left to right are Lion Percy Shaw, new Lion Gerry Mitchell, new Lion Ed Bain, Lion Dale St. John PCC, new Lion Emmy Itheme and old Lion Larry Doble ZC.

*Submitted by: Lion Dale St. John*

## Sunderland Lions Club

### *Peace Poster Winners*



Presentations were made recently to the 2022-23 students from Sunderland Public School whose posters placed in the top three out of 60 submissions.

From left to right are 3rd place winner Quade Pomery, 2nd place winner Harlow Martin and 1st place winner Stephanie Martin. On hand for the presentations were Contest Chair Dale St. John and President Tony Laundrie.



Many thanks to the staff and all students from the school for their support of the Peace Poster Contest.

*Submitted by: Lion Dale St. John*

# Cannington Lioness Lions Club

## *Busy and Rewarding*



The Cannington Lioness Lions Club has been very busy so far this year. We had Our Annual Fall Decoration Sale on September 24, 2022. We sold fall mums, pumpkins, corn stalks, gourds and fresh veggies again this year. We added some fresh apples, bails of straw and some homemade preserves. We received excellent support from our community. Good to be back out doing fundraisers and having some fun.

We sold raffle tickets for a few weeks before our Fall Sale. All the profits of the raffle went to the Brock Community Christmas Wish Program. We were able to give them a cheque for \$843. We participated in the Cannington Santa Claus Parade on Saturday Nov 27th. We entered a float and two of our members carried the Lioness Lion Banner in front of our float. Our members worked very hard on this float and we won 1st prize for theme. We pasted out candy canes to the children along the parade route.

The same day we sold Fresh Christmas Planters (made by one of our talented member) on the Main Street before and after the parade. It was a successful fundraiser and we got lots of exposure in the community, with lots of fun, fresh air and social contact in the community. Some members went on December 15th to Bon Air Nursing Home to play and sing Christmas carols. We served the residents some homemade Christmas treats that our members made. Some residents were able to sing along and there was lots of smiles while eating some Christmas cookies and fruit cake.

We have been preparing and serving the meals for the Sunderland Lions Club every 6 weeks since September. A great opportunity for our club to raise some funds. We have been able to make some donations to the Cannington Food Bank, Camp Huronda, The Red Cross (to help the efforts of the Lions after the hurricane that hit the east coast), donating to the LCIF (to help the efforts in Turkey and Syria after the Earthquake that left massive destruction). These donations were able to be made because our members are working hard to get with our fundraisers and preparing and serving meals. We catered to the District Cabinet meeting in February.

We have donated toys to the Children with Cancer program to a total of \$120. We have a new member to be inducted at our March meeting and we are preparing for our Annual Duck Race in May. We were very surprised to receive the Award of Excellence. A wonderful motivator for our members. Our hard work is rewarded.

***Submitted by: Lioness Lion Catherine McIntyre***

# Markham Elite Lions Club

## *A Winter Drive – Share and Care*

Markham Elite Lions Club organized a WINTER DRIVE consisting of warm clothes, blankets, socks, gloves and personal items and donated to Share and Care organizations for distribution to the underprivileged and marginalized brothers and sisters of our community. We were able to positively affect and bring smiles to 70 plus families through this service project.

*Submitted by: Lion Kasturi Ghoshal*





# Fenelon Falls and District Lions Club

## *Giving Back to the Community*

Our organization has been busy over the last 6 months giving back to our community!



Over the holiday season we brought some cheer to the residents at Fenelon Court with presents for everyone, raised \$1,500 for the Salvation Army and Partnered with the Red Apple to collect gifts for families in need.

We were also a sponsor and participant in Santa Day, handing out

yummy treats for the kids and participating in the evening parade - fun was had by all!

We were also proud to support the Ross Memorial Hospital with a cheque for \$1,000 to support the purchase of a new CT Scanner. This brings the Club's cumulative giving to the Foundation to \$33,500 since 1996.



***Submitted by: Lion Debra Wilson***

# Stouffville Lions Club

## Christmas Toy Drive Project

### Bringing Happiness to Children of Families in Need



To illustrate the happiness that this Project can bring to children, the following is an example described by Lion Kim Stark, our Club Lead for this Project.

“One family arrived, a Mom and her 8 year old son. He was very quiet and shy. On the application she had said he was in need of a new pair of boots, we had one pair that was left. I matched them to the bottom of his foot. It looked like it would fit so I asked him to have a seat in the chair



and take off his boot. It was difficult to put the boot on at first but he stood up and put his weight on his foot and it slid in. There was an instant smile on his face. He took off running across the back room of the town hall. His Mom asked him to come and sit and try the other boot. He sat back down and we put the other boot on and he smiled again and took off again running circles all around the chairs and the garbage bins just everywhere like a dog doing ZOOMIES! He ran to his Mom and said “I can RUN”

This sounds like a story from a Hallmark movie but Lions Moe and Rouba can attest to its authenticity, they were there. The little boy had been wearing a size 4 pair of boots when the size that fit him properly was a size 2. This little boy’s Christmas was made with a new pair of boots.

***This is why I do the toy drive.*** The emotions and gratefulness expressed by the parents and the kids in receipt of the donations our residents and businesses share ... The toy drive committee is pretty darn lucky to be the conduit that gets to deliver these treasures.”

The success of the Stouffville Lions Toy Drive depends on the donations, support and contributions from: the Town of Whichurch-Stouffville, 13 businesses and organizations, and many individuals and families.

Overall we were able we were able to provide support to 57 families and 130 children.

***Submitted by: Lion Joe Boll***



# Haliburton & District Lions Club

*Haliburton Lions were busy during the holiday season!*



**Reverse Advent Calendar** - Members voluntarily collected food items during the month of November. We supported both the Haliburton and Wilberforce/Cardiff Food Banks. We even had some community members join in.



**Santa Claus Parades** - Every year the Haliburton Lions organize the nighttime Santa Claus Parade. This year we had over 40 floats. The big hit is Santa's Float which was built by the Haliburton Lions. If you visit our website, you'll see photos of its construction. The history of the float is enshrined in the Haliburton Museum.

You will also find us at the Wilberforce Santa Claus Parade as well.



**Shindig Fuel for Warmth** - Each year there is a fundraiser for Fuel for Warmth whose mission is to make sure people do not suffer through the winter for lack of heat. The Haliburton Lions provide the snacks at the event with all the profits going to the cause, just over \$30,000 raised this year!



***The Nutcracker*** - This annual production came back to life after Covid. The Haliburton Lions provide the bus to bring the entire Cardiff Elementary School in to see the dress rehearsal.



***Support for Our Seniors*** - The Haliburton Lions visited the long-term care homes to bring some Christmas Cheer. Lion Gord provided the sing-along, and each resident received some treats as well as a Christmas present.



***Submitted by: Lion David Mills***

# Markham Lions Club

## *High 5 for the Markham Lions*



**The President's Party** - The Markham Lions Club President's Vintage Christmas Party was held on December 11, 2022 at the historic, restored Markham Train Station (GO) on Main Street in Old Markham Village. Town Crier, Lion John Webster did his usual stellar job as MC. Here he presents a special scroll on which he depicted the intertwining of the Train Station's History with that of the Markham Lions (1943 - ongoing). It was most gratefully received by Markham Lion President Elizabeth Price. Lion John's late uncle, Lion Carman Lewis, was a founding member of Markham Lions Club.



### **Markham Lions Club Induction**

Pictured on January 5, 2023 are Lion Jacqueline Medland Bell, Lion John Bell, her husband and sponsor. Lion Jacqueline's late parents Lion Grace (Past President) and Lion Bruce Medland would be very proud to see their daughter join the Markham Lions Club. Lion Jacqueline insisted that the family Lion (which John is holding) be front and centre at her Induction, which was performed by IPDG Barry MacDonald. The Bell family and PCC Debbie Dawson were there to celebrate this heart warming occasion.



### **District Governor's Visit**

Our very own Markham Lion, DG Carolyn Stephenson visited our club on February 2, 2023 and gave an inspirational speech, in her signature, classy manner. She presented a number of Certificates and Awards to deserving recipients. One being the Club Excellence Award for 2021-22 which was IPP Scott Young's year. Here DG Carolyn presents the Banner patch to the current President Elizabeth Price.

## **Childhood Cancer**

The Markham Lions Club was extremely fortunate to have PCC Debbie Dawson as our guest speaker on February 16, 2023. She spoke eloquently and passionately about Hearth Place Cancer Support Centre which is located in Oshawa, Ontario. PRC and Childhood Cancer Coordinator Ken Drynan is pictured shaking hands with PCC Debbie following her presentation. The Markham Lions are pleased to donate to such a worthy cause.



## **Lions Club International Foundation**

PDG Stan Durward, Markham Lions Club's guest speaker on March 2, 2023, was introduced by PDG and LCIF Coordinator Fred Sheehy. Lion Stan is the Administrator of the Lions of Canada Fund for LCIF. He regaled all with wonderful stories of the remarkable work that the Foundation does. PDG Stan (pictured right) was then thanked and presented with an Honorarium by PP Ken Harris. The Dinner meeting was held at the winsome Old Curiosity Tea Shop on Main Street in Old Markham Village.



*Submitted by: Lion Charles Herriot*

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## ***Did you know...***

Did you know that we have a booking calendar for the use of the A-16 Zoom Account?  
It is posted on the A-16 website.

Click [here](https://lionsa16family.org/a-16-goto-and-zoom-booking-calendar.html) to go to the calendar on the a16 website, or go to the site using the following link:  
<https://lionsa16family.org/a-16-goto-and-zoom-booking-calendar.html>

# Newmarket Lions Club

*The spirit of community service*



In 1931 the Newmarket Lions received its charter membership from what we know as Lions Club International. From the outset, members wanted to serve the community in as many ways possible with an emphasis on serving those most in need. The early food hamper program became the Christmas Food Hamper program during the Second World War for families in need who had their loved ones serving in the armed services.

Gradually, the program became known as the Santa Fund. In the last twenty years, the name has stayed the same but the activities within the name have morphed into food vouchers for 1200+ citizens, Lunch with Santa for 500+ children and their families, Christmas cards for institutional shut-ins, gifts for alone, single home care seniors, and clothing with coffee and snacks for 60+ challenged adults. Along the way, the Newmarket Lions supported the Huron Heights Student Peace Club Holiday Dinner for 800+ Newmarket citizens.



This month plans are underway to extend our Santa Fund Food Voucher Program for 100 of the neediest and largest families with food vouchers in our Spring Giving Program. From those beginnings in 1931 with food hampers, the need for food and the need to support those in need has not changed but the activities to make it happen have. Our weekly fundraising efforts have made much of this possible, along with our many Club and Friends of Lions volunteers.



*Submitted by: Lion Kirby Brock*

# Canada-HK New Horizon Lions Club

## *Horizon Gala 2023 celebrating 15<sup>th</sup> Charter Anniversary*



Canada-HK New Horizon Lions Club will be hosting the **Horizon Gala 2023** on April 15, 2023 at Premiere Ballroom raising funds for Carefirst Foundation, Carefirst Campus of Care.

This is a Reciprocity of Care, with 120 long-term care beds, a medical centre, a social service and care coordination hub, and gymnasium, in Richmond Hill, to be completed in 2025. We target to raise \$50,000 for the beneficiary.

This year our theme is “Looking Forward to New Horizons”. We are also celebrating our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Charter.

We would highly appreciate if you will attend and sponsor the Horizon Gala with your fellow Lions. The gala ticket is \$128. Attached herewith the Horizon Gala 2023 poster for your reference.



**Submitted by: Lion Tony Chan**

# Oak Ridges Lions Club

## *Making Magic Happen!*



Halfway through our Lions year, Oak Ridges Lions members took the opportunity to reflect and create an Action plan. At our club meeting in January, a quiet month for us, we used the time to assess what has worked in the past, what we wanted to change, and to build a plan and goals to take us into the year ahead. This was a meeting where we outlined our strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities and refined them into goals! We gave ourselves stretch goals that kept us engaged and eager to achieve. We discussed, debated and most importantly, we decided! We had a plan!

We currently have 15 members of which 10 are active. The effects of Covid were devastating on our club. Our fundraising was reduced to almost nothing and this deflated the energy and enthusiasm to take on any new fundraising initiatives amongst our longstanding members, considerably. We knew we needed an urgent influx of new blood and new revenue streams. The “Just Ask One” initiative, has been successful in turning our little club around.

Today we are proud to announce that our plan is working magic in the club. We continue to initiate new members with several more potential members due to be initiated before the end of the year. Our goal is to increase membership by *35% year over year*. We are thrilled to notice the energy even a few new members can bring to a club! We just truly have to ask our friends, associates and interested individuals at events to join us at a meeting! This works since our meetings are full of energy, enthusiasm, and interaction. We also have established goals.

We now have dedicated teams for each of the 5 pillars we serve, and established goals for each pillar that include events, fundraising and membership objectives. Everyone knows the goals we are working together towards, and even our newest members are actively involved in organizing, planning and implementing these goals.

We also set a bold goal of increasing our fundraising to levels we have not seen in years. No small feat for our small club. We knew there was so much more we could be doing. As a start, we set about getting a permit to volunteer at our local Bingo Hall, a lucrative event. We are confident that starting in the new year we will have a steady stream of income, we can direct to our community through our 5 pillars. We also have incorporated new ways of fundraising into our already established events. We are confident that our goals for next year will be met or even surpassed!

The members of the club are motivated, and excited about our plans and how we are going about reaching our goals. There is new energy flowing in our meetings and anticipation for events. We encourage you and your clubs to set goals, make plans and generate excitement! It works magic!

*Submitted by: Lion Kathrine Mabley*

# Kinmount & District Lions Club

- *a small but mighty club*



Kinmount & District Lions Club is a small but mighty group. With numerous service projects and fundraising events, our impact on the community is well received by local and surrounding area residents. We are growing again, with two new members being inducted on World Induction Day.

Examples of these successful events and projects include:

## ***Fundraisers***

- Kinmount Lions Annual Monster Bingo Fundraiser before the Kinmount Fair reopening,
- Annual Bear Bench - a huge success,
- E-waste and scrap metal collection – (one of our annual fundraising projects.)



## ***Service Activities***

- Environmental cleanup around town and roads,
- Sight & Hearing project (We have collected, so far, over 700 pairs of eyeglasses and some hearing aids.)
- A new initiative for Diabetes and Hunger Awareness Month,
- Collecting non-perishable food items for the pantry,
- Handing out candy in October to the local children and parents on Halloween, as well as encouraging them to know their local Lions Club,
- A "Breakfast with Santa" event, in December, held for the community, as well as Lions handing out books and candy to the children,
- Club members serving hot cocoa the evening of the Christmas tree lighting and carolling,
- Angel trees placed by Lions in local businesses for our Toy Drive.



***Donations***

- Dog Guides,
- a new upcoming Sensory Garden project in the community.
- Childhood Cancer - 60 children’s books given to the Cancer Wards of Peterborough Regional Hospital and the South Lake Regional Health Centre.
- Kinmount Food Bank for the sole purchase of “diabetic food items” for local residents coping with diabetes.
- Kinmount Bursary Students to help them continue their education.



***Submitted by: Lion Theresa Pomerleau***

# A Message from 1VDG Sudha Verma

I would like to express my Gratitude to everyone who has been a part of my journey in Lionism. Every drop in the ocean counts and I will never forget those who have helped me in sailing through on this journey.

A big thank you to my Markham Mantra Lions Club for having the faith in me and to nominate me for this position We may be half way there but we are just getting started, and I can't wait to see how much further we'll go together -- Thank you so much as always, for all your support and dedication, that you have been offering me as your SVDG and FVDG on this journey.

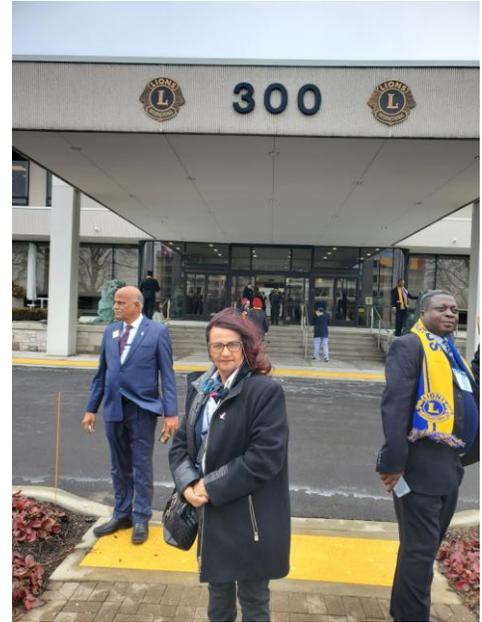
I am ready to take on my duties, but it can't be done without you. I look forward to be working together with you with dedication to Service.

I would like to thank you all in Advance and Hope to see you all at the District A-16 Convention with your Full Support.

Thank You!

Your in Lionism,

Lion Sudha



***Thank You for reading the March 2023 issue of the A-16 District Governor Newsletter!***

***And Thank You for your support in sharing your stories on club activities and service events.***



*It is so nice to read the **Making Magic Happen** story of Oak Ridges Lions Club, **The Spirit of Community Service** from Newmarket, and the many service stories you share in this issue of the Newsletter.*

*We thank you for the excellent support you provided to the Newsletter.*

*We hope that you may find a few inspiring ideas from reading the stories of what the other clubs are doing.*

*As always, we welcome your comments and feedback on how we can make the DG Newsletters more interesting to you to read.*

***Please do drop me a line on what you think about the Newsletter, and how we can make it even better for all. Send your feedback via email to me at [tcheung@lionsa16.com](mailto:tcheung@lionsa16.com)***

*Happy Reading!*

***DG Newsletter Committee***

***Lions Eleanor Colwell, Joe Boll, Tim Cheung***

