

DISTRICT A-12 NEWSLETTER



Volume 1, Issue 1

August 2006

DISTRICT GOVERNOR JIM HILT

International Convention in Boston

The Convention was everything we were told and then some. No matter how many times you are told about Lions from all over the world being there, experiencing the event, is the only way to fathom the enormity of this "meeting".

The Lions parade takes four hours to pass any one area. Our daughter watched the parade and commented "I never realized how many people are involved". Some countries have hundreds marching and other just 2 or 3 but all are represented. It was special for us since it occurred on Canada Day.

The natives were extremely friendly and the party atmosphere that exists makes it possi-

ble to talk to everyone you meet. We managed to take in a few sights with our fellow MD"A" governors and spouses which included a trip to "Cheers" by bicycle, a visit to the local fire hall, a walk to the river and of course, some shopping.

Invites to hospitality parties just poured in and we did get an invite to the British Isles, a much sought-after event. Others visited were Belgium (chocolate and sugar waffles), Massachusetts (roast beef), Hawaii (fruit, leis & jewelry), Turkey (food and trinkets), Quebec (food & speeches), MD"A" (breakfast) and now you get the idea ...we were busy.

After voting for an International



A-12 Governor Jim Hilt

Director and a few speeches, IPDG Len and Lion Angela were there to "pull our ribbons" making the event truly special. D.G. Jim's official duties began.

"Riding for the Brand", Lion Jimmy Ross

International President, Jimmy Ross drew a simile between Rodeos and Lions. Being proud of the outfit you belong to automatically makes you want to brag about your club. "As Lions, we need first to take care of our own

communities where our members live. "If we do this, we will encourage other community-minded citizens to join our clubs.... " We must help Lions Clubs International better answer the needs of our customers-the

individual members. Ask members and potential members what they want as Lions and then work to meet those needs. "Only then will we strengthen the foundation of our clubs, districts and association."

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Special points of interest:

- Youth Exchange is back in A-12, see page 7 & 8
- Lions roar in Boston, pictures on page 8
- A paperless society? See article on page 3 and editorial on page 7.
- Strengthening our District- See MERLO write-up on page 6

Coming

- Aug 19—CNIB Lake Joe Appreciation Day
- Sep 14-16—USA/Canada Forum
- Sep 18-20—MERL Seminar, Columbus, Ohio
- Sep 23—Governors' Council, Markham
- Sep 30—Gravenhurst Lions 60th Charter Night
- Oct 1—Deadline for Peace Poster Kits
- Oct 10—MERLO Spaghetti Night, Emsdale
- Oct 11—MERLO Spaghetti Night, Wasaga Beach
- Oct 12—Lions World Sight Day
- Oct 17—MERLO Spaghetti Night, Bond Head
- Oct 20-21—Dorset Fun Weekend
- Oct 22—Cabinet, Dorset
- Oct 28—Barrie Lions 75th Charter Night

Camp Huronda Appreciation Day

We were welcomed by Heather , Camp Director, Jan Thomas, Camp Manager, Lion Ernie Rye and Lion Ruth Dutt , past & present A-12 Diabetes Camp Huronda Chairs.

After a few words of welcome we were offered an opportunity to tour the camp. We

saw the rock climbing wall, the horses, some cabins and the waterfront.

We gathered in front of the dining hall for an outdoor BBQ followed by brief speeches from Lions Ernie and Ruth and Governor Jim.

The camp then pre-

sented Lion Ernie with an award in recognition of his four years of dedication. This was followed by the traditional skits by all campers.

As there was still some time available Steve took about 15 of us for a ride on the pontoon boat.

Lions Year Goals-Gary Feehan, ZC 36W

A quick hello from Zone Chair Gary Feehan:

My goal is to do my part to improve Lionism, both by striving to learn more and to work towards increasing membership in the zone.

The role of District Officer is something new

for me, and I know that I can depend on everybody to guide me in the proper direction, whenever I ask.

Lions, when wearing a different hat, Lion Gary is working with Lion Fred Heyduk to make sure our May 2007 A-12 Convention is as good as it can be. Information will be added

to the web page as available and included in upcoming issues of the Governor's Newsletter.

Both these Lions have a wealth of experience to offer and have assembled a great team. Check this site frequently for updates.

Bulletin Contest Chair—Lion Marian Wilson

Mail your
Bulletins to:
Lion Marian Wilson
32 King Cr
Huntsville P1H1X6
or email to
bulletin@
a12lions.org

I am very pleased to have been asked to be the Bulletin Contest Chair for this Lions year.

A bulletin is an important communications tool within a Lions club. It keeps its members up to date on what is happening in the club as well as 'dates to remember'. Members who have missed regular meetings will

always be current on club activities, but only if they receive a bulletin.

Clubs who don't presently have a regular bulletin should certainly consider producing one. Our District has a bulletin contest each year with awards and recognition given to the best club bulletins in various categories.

A letter will be going out to each club at the end of August with the categories and criteria for bulletins to be entered in the contest. I plan to have a large display of bulletins at the A-12 Convention in Wasaga Beach.

Please plan to send a copy of each bulletin to me in order to be eligible.

"e-Serve!" PCST Chris Lewis, Webmaster



Our new District A-12 website, www.a12lions.org, is live and operational. It is still a work in progress, and will evolve as the year goes on. I urge you to visit the site, and send me your advice and input as to what it should contain. It is **your** site and should reflect your needs. It is, in many ways, the "front door" of our District. It will serve the needs of the public, but most importantly the needs of the members of A-12. It will be a portal for information about our clubs, our projects and events. It will be an avenue for communication between the District Cabinet and the Clubs.

I would like to commend PDG Harold Keiser for his vision of developing our District website for the past several years. He truly is one who recognized that the world was quickly changing. He was able to grab the bull of technology by the horns, and tame it. He did not fear the inter-

net, but instead embraced it, and it became a primary means of communication for him. This allowed PDG Harold to continue to live our motto, "We Serve!" He remains ahead of his time, and the new District Website is dedicated to him.

I encourage you to use the new District email addresses assigned to the various officers, chairs and clubs. They will be maintained centrally, and for most purposes will not need to be changed.

Please send pictures, news, and information that you would like posted on the District site to me at webmaster@a12lions.org. If you have any questions about technology, or how you or your club can move towards a culture of "e-Serve!" please contact me at 705-687-2144, webmaster@a12lions.org

Message from ZC Stan Corkum Zone 36E

It is a pleasure to have this opportunity to "speak" in the first Newsletter of Governor Jim's year. As the new kid on the block as Zone Chair, I hope to be able to make a difference in serving the Lions of 36E and District A12. I certainly look forward to do my best in helping Governor Jim and the rest of the members of the A12 Officers to make this a successful year for all clubs in the district.

My main goal is to encourage neighbourhood clubs to work together on larger projects to make use of a larger member base. This objective is already in place whereby many clubs in the Barrie area will be taking part in a tag day to raise funds for the RVH Cancer Centre in October. The Lions Club of Barrie and Oro District Lions Club collaborated at Kempenfest 2006 in selling draw tickets for the Oro District fund raising project.

I look forward in meeting and working with all Lions in District A12 during the current year.

Peace Poster Contest—Lion Jennifer McCague

Order Your Peace Poster Kits Now!

Please consider participating in this valuable opportunity for youth

Lions Clubs interested in sponsoring the Lions International Peace Poster Contest can or-

der a kit now. The deadline for ordering a kit is October 1st, 2006

"Celebrate Peace" is the theme of the 2006-2007 Peace Poster Contest. A Lions Club can sponsor the contest in their community for children ages 11, 12 or 13 in local schools or organized

sponsored youth groups

More information and a link to order kits is available at www.a12lions.org/peaceposter.htm



2005-2006

District Winner Lisa,
sponsored by

Wasaga Beach

Dog Guides of Canada

from District A-12 Lions Foundation of Canada Chair Lion Les Stevens

905 936 5644 or email les.stevens@sympatico.ca

July 2006

Canine Baby Alarm

Making the decision to have a baby is a tremendous responsibility - but imagine being hearing impaired and wondering how you manage caring for the new little person about to enter your life. That is Kimberly's reality - and her attitude is to "Bring it on!"

Shortly after they married, Kim and Ted started to talk about having a baby - but they were worried about how they would manage if Kim couldn't hear their baby's cry. Kim explored many options, especially when she found that hearing aids were no longer effective for her. Kim then learned about the Lions Foundation of Canada's Hearing Ear Dog program.

These Dog Guides alert their handlers to various sounds in the home, such as a telephone ringing, a baby's cry, a knock at the door, or an activated smoke alarm.



"Buddy is my ears. He can alert me to important sounds such as my baby crying, and takes enormous pressure off me. I feel

more freedom and confidence as a result," says Kim.

District A-12 Dog Guide Sponsorship

It is stories like this that inspire me to promote the Dog Guides of Canada as much as I can. The benefits go beyond the simple mechanics of the dog's tasks, they alter the lifestyle for the complete family.

District A-12 has sponsored only one dog guide in the last three years, although individual clubs, including Elmvale Lions and Killarney Beach Lions have sponsored others. We have some donations towards the next sponsorship, so I wish to encourage all clubs to donate towards the completion of this dog this year. Send your donation to me, or direct to Lions Foundation of Canada, but ensure that it is marked for "District A-12 Dog Guide Sponsorship".

Purina Walk for Dog Guides

Dog Guides of Canada does not receive any government contribution towards expenses. All costs are covered by corporate, service group or individual donations and fund raising events. The biggest event is the Purina Walk for Dog Guides.

The recommended date for holding the Walk was moved from October to May earlier this year, in effort to avoid clashing with many other events. This means that there were two Walks at some locations in the financial year. This May, there were over 200 Walks in Canada, compared to about 70 in the previous complete year. In the complete 2005/2006 year, income from the Walks exceeded \$600,000.

The number of Walks in District A-12 doubled from five in 2004/2005 to ten. However, because some clubs held two Walks, income rose from about \$25,000 to over \$37,000.

Well done

**Alliston Lions Barrie Council of Blind
Elmvale Lions Gilford & District Lions
Gravenhurst/Bracebridge Lions
Huntsville Lioness Midland Lions
Stephenson Lions Sundridge Lioness
Tottenham & District Lions.**

You have made a difference

If any club would like information about the Walk, please contact your LFC Chair, Lion Les Stevens.

District A-12 Quest—Lion Kate Heels

Our District A-12 Lions-Quest program is in full swing to begin this year with a ROAR! We have one confirmed workshop in December, thanks to the positive efforts and sponsorship of the workshop by the Dunchurch Lions Club! Please offer to sponsor a workshop: supply a workshop site and provide food and beverages. These workshops will be one day sessions only!

Contact has also been made with three elementary school principals who LOVE Lions-Quest and direct contact will be made with the schools to promote workshops to run before April. We need them to happen before the MDA Convention and before I finally leave for England on a teaching contract. Please contact the principals in your area regarding a workshop - per-

haps one could be set up! Workshops cost the teachers approximately \$50, which includes the LQ Teacher's Kit valued at \$150! Remember members of the Lions Family.....LQ reduces negative behavior/bullying by over 81%.

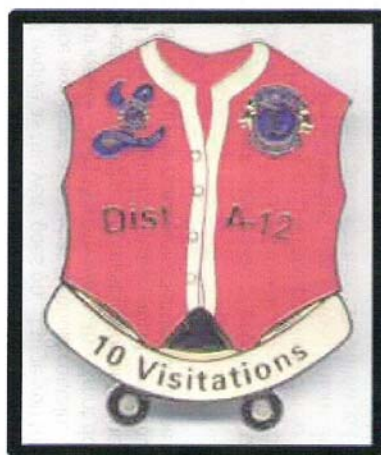
The Q-Bear Awards for the top club in each Region (Lioness Clubs compete with all Lioness clubs and are eligible in the competition), to be the top District A-12 Lions Family Club overall, based on LQ activity from last year, will be presented at the first Cabinet meeting. Presidents from each club who gave over \$100 will be receiving their special District A-12 President's LQ button. The program will continue this year.

The special "Safe Schools", Burton Cummings, LQ concert is still on the organizational track, with negotiations occurring with some major sponsors and proposed assistance from Multiple District. Since Burton sold out at every concert on his recent tour and raised \$6.5 million at a charity gala a week ago, this can be a very positive fundraiser for LQ while providing PR for Lionism that is not available to anyone else!

If you require any assistance with your efforts in LQ, for our kids in District A-12, please do not hesitate to contact me.

DISTRICT A-12 VISITATION PIN

Don't forget to keep track of where you have been this year. Fill out your District A-12 Visitation Pin form, and Let your Pin Chair know where you have been. Lets get every member of A-12 proudly wearing a Visitation Pin this year.



PINS & TROPHY CHAIR

LION RANDALL MCGREGOR

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E: LIONS_TALE_2@YAHOO.CA

MERLO Team News—VDG Lion Peter

Teamwork in Action!

What is **MERLO**?

MERLO is an acronym for the Chairpersons of Membership, Extension, Retention, Leadership, and Orientation. These five Chairs form a team, the MERLO Team.

The MERLO Team works in cooperation with the District Governor and the District Cabinet to set goals, action plans and establish priorities for the District.

Some of the things our MERLO Team offers include: Membership/Retention information sessions, assistance to Clubs hosting open house Community Information nights and new member recruitment drives, the Lions Learning Weekend, strategies to retain and increase membership, the formation of new clubs, and more.

The following Lions comprise your MERLO Team:

MERLO Chair	-	VDG Peter McCague
Membership	-	PDG Dave Durant
Extension	-	PCST Nancy Watt-Durant
Retention	-	PRC Larry Vine
Leadership	-	PDG Kathy Daoust
Orientation	-	PRC Barry Jaynes

These Lions are available to provide information and resources to our clubs; please use them.

To learn

more, go to www.lionsclubs.org and click on membership pro-



Where are they?

September

18—Burk's Falls-DG
20-Dunchurch-DG
25—Dwight-DG
26—Port McNicoll-VDG
27-South River-DG
28—Bracebridge-DG

October

2-Basville-DG
3-Britt-VDG
3-Oro-Medonte-DG
4-Midland-DG

9-Thornton-DG
10-Windermere-DG
11-Alliston-DG
12-Sundridge-VDG
16-Bradford-DG
17-Magnetawan-VDG
18-Huntsville-DG
19-Stayner-DG
23-Orillia-DG
24-Gilford-DG
25-Dorset-DG
26-Springwater-Vespra-DG

To have your article included in the next issue please send your article

newsletter@a12lions.org

Next issue deadline:

October 9, 2006

Lion Maureen Hilt
P 705-636-1862 F 705-636-0305
E-mail: jimohilt@vianet.ca

ZC Lion Stan Corkum
P 705-727-0915
E-mail: stanbarb56@aol.com

Etienne de Grellet:

I shall pass through this life but once; .any good, therefore, that I can do, or any kindness I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.

Youth Exchange—Summer 2006

On July 8th, nine youth were welcomed at the Toronto airport. We had three youth from Austria, two from Finland, one from Hungary, two from Italy and one from Sweden.

Twelve host families from five different clubs, Wasaga Beach, Dunchurch, MacTier, Barrie, and Burk's Falls were involved directly with the youth through hosting. Many clubs were visited where meals and entertainment were provided.

On July 11th Parry Sound and MacTier took the youth for a boat cruise while Pointe au Baril provided a BBQ. A welcome party was held by the Dunchurch Club on July 12th. Then came a tour of Lions

Foundation in Oakville and an overnight stay followed by a trip to Niagara Falls and a ride on the Maid of the Mist. Fares for the latter were donated by ZC Peter Hope of Burk's Falls Lions.

The Midland Lions hosted a tour of St. Marie Camp Huronda and Algonquin Park followed



Algonquin Park Campsite



Huntsville Lioness

and are covered in a separate article. Next came the trip to Toronto with many sites included (CN Tower, Toronto Zoo, Science Centre, shopping at the Eaton's Centre and to complete the tour after some had left for home, a baseball game.



Algonquin Park

The Editors ramble..... Lions Maureen & Stan

We've always believed the adage, "If you have to ask, you can't afford it". However, we never expected it to apply to the rising cost of postage stamps.

It just doesn't seem that long ago, that we were licking 5 cent stamps to put on the Christmas card envelopes. Not only has the price been multiplied, the most popular denominations don't even have to be licked anymore. With automation, it seems we have also lost overnight delivery in a lot of cases. And for those of us

in new housing developments or who live in rural areas, there is no longer need for a mailbox at the front door.

If you are looking for a silver lining to those large green multi-door mail boxes, at least now we can meet our neighbours, instead of just waving as they drive by in a cloud of dust!

So, we are going to bring back personal mail delivery! Yes, not only to your door, but right inside your house to a desktop near you! Starting with this issue, the Governor's

newsletter will be published on the web – available to every Club Lion, Lioness and Leo, not just the chosen two members as in past years. There will still be one copy available for each Club and for Past Governors and LCI, but more than sixty-five hard copies will be eliminated, even while providing a wider circulation.

Oh, we know there will be some initial growing pains, and maybe even a complaint or two, but we believe our role is to publish a quality newsletter at

the lowest possible price. We commend Lion Shirley for her efforts last year – by extensively using the photocopier, she was able to keep costs down, but several Lions were disappointed they did not get their personal copy.

It is our goal to make the Newsletter available to all members of the Lions family, wherever they may be – including our "snowbirds" while they are away from home!

Youth Exchange—July 22-23

Tremendous job Lions Fred & Michelle. The kids were great, the host families gracious and accommodating. This was the first time in over five years we did this. There were plenty of varied places for them to visit and all saw a lot of Canada (from an Ontario point of view) probably more than some Ontarians. Visits were made to

Toronto Zoo, Casa Loma, Canada's Wonderland, Niagara Falls, Camp Huronda, Algon-



quin Park as well as visits and traveling each did

with their host families.

In 21 North they were entertained by Camp Huronda, Dunchurch Lions Club, Lions Ernie & Helen Rye, the Huntsville Lioness and PDG Raija and Jim Rosenthal. Other areas in our District did likewise.



Giving the rock wall a try at Camp Huronda

Let's do it all again next year!

We've all know intimidation—one mosquito in a dark bedroom.

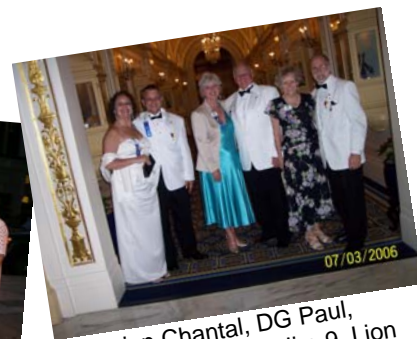
Some Boston Pictures



Water Taxi ride to the Belgium hospitality evening at the Marine Museum



The MDA Group, First Night, out for a stroll



Lion Chantal, DG Paul, Lion Moira, DG Jim-9, Lion Maureen and DG Jim-12



DG Jim with PID Pat Shirley



It's Official—Ribbons were pulled by IPDG Len and Lion Angela



DGE Spouses with President Jimmy Ross and Lion Velda