



LIONS DISTRICT A-5 NEWSLETTER THE CHRISTMAS EDITION

LION BRIAN CLOSS, GOVERNOR



Editor & Publisher Lion Liam Brennan
December 2013
Volume 6 Number 3

The Governors Christmas Message



Fellow Lions, Here is my Christmas wish this year.

As I write this I can only think of one wish for Lions this year. That is for increased membership in our District of A-5.

So far this year we have added 60 new members but have dropped 79, a deficit of 19 members. As of December 12th the District has 1250 members; This is a very crucial number.

At the CTV Lions Children's Christmas Telethon this year, I spent a lot of my time talking to the volunteers. I was asking some of them; 'Are you a Lion? If not,' I asked, 'Why not.'

I spent time talking about the Lions and all the good things we do and what the benefits of membership are. A few people have my name and I am hopeful that we shall have some new members in the future.

By doing this I was just following the new member-recruiting guide for Lions. *'Just Ask!'* It says to do. It is a very simple concept - just ask members of your community to join your club. Very Simple! This recruiting guide is online on the LCI website and very easy to follow.

So this year while you are out at the Senior Suppers, your Breakfast with Santa, or any of the other great things your Club does in December, don't be too shy to promote Lions and 'Just Ask'.

Every Christmas, I am drawn back to the child in me and I am reminded of the poem "'Twas the Night Before Christmas" by Clement C. Moore. I want to leave you with the last sentence of that wonderful poem.

"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a goodnight"

Wishing everyone in District A5 all the best for 2014.

District Governor Lion Brian and Lion Ann



'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care
In hopes that St Nicholas soon would be there.
The children were nestled all snug in their beds
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter
Away to the window I flew like a flash
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tinny reindeer
With a little old driver, so lively and quick
I knew in a moment it must be St Nick
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name
"Now Dasher! Now, Dancer! Now, Prancer and Vixen
On, Comet! On, Cupid! On, on Donner and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall
Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!
As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky
So up to the housetop the coursers they flew
With the sleigh full of Toys, and St Nicholas too
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof
As I drew in my head, and was turning around
Down the chimney St Nicholas came with a bound
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot
A bundle of Toys he had flung on his back
And he looked like a peddler, just opening his pack
His eyes-how they twinkled! His dimples how merry
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath
He had a broad face and a little round belly
That shook when he laughed, like a bowlful of jelly
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work
And filled all the stockings, then turned with a jerk
And laying his finger aside of his nose
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle
But I heard him exclaim, 'ere he drove out of sight
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!"



The Governors Travels



The Town of **Gore Bay**, located on the North Channel of Lake Huron, is nestled between two splendid, tree-covered bluffs. And is home to one of the Best Lions Club's – No bluffing!



Blind River in beautiful natural surroundings is the envy of other areas just as with their Lions Club!



Earlton is known as the true Farmers, *Farmers* Community. It hosts the famous Bison Statue, and truly the best Lions Club!





Manitowaning boasts that it is the first European Settlement on the Island and is home to the number one Lions Club in the world



Little Current is considered the gateway to the World's Largest Freshwater Island. And their Lions Club is the Gateway to serving the community!



Temiskaming Shores is located on the shores of beautiful Lake Temiskaming in northeastern Ontario. The community is at the head of the Ottawa River waterway and Their Lions Club is head of the Class!



Powassan Ontario, "The Friendly Town". An Ojibway word meaning "bend in the river". And their friendly Lions Club will bend to help you!



Powassan Lions Celebrate 75 Years With Style

District Governor Lion Brian cozies up to Lion Ann Violette. Ohhh - We should mention Lion Ann is his partner.



Immediate Past District Governor Lion Andy is all smiles and flashing the peace sign, because Past District Governor Lion Myra has her Gold American Express out. Presumably to pay for Lion Andy's bar bill!!!!



The Blues Brothers;
Lion Brian and Vice District Governor Lion Harold, did their impersonation of John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd





Lion Brian presents a certificate to honor the Powassan Lions Club 75 years of service to their community. Club President Lion Sue Oshell accepted the honour on behalf of the club. Congratulations!



First Vice District Governor Lion Harold and Martha Huhtanen



The Governor Helps Little Current Lions Celebrate 75 Years



On Saturday, November 30, members of the Little Current Lions Club were joined by other clubs, Zone, Regional and District Lions and the District Governor, along with friends, local politicians and family members all coming together in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the club's charter.



Sitting at the head table were Lion Wendy Gauthier, Club President Lion Steve Nunn, Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing MP Carol Hughes, Lion Ann Closs and District A5 Governor Lion Brian Closs.

Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing MP Carol Hughes, said, "Lions Clubs are one of the organizations that are not just involved", she said, "You are so involved in so many ways. I tip my hat to you."



Ms. Hughes delivered congratulatory certificates to the club, from both herself and MPP Mr. Mantha, recognizing the Club's 75th Charter Night.

Lion Brian awarded the 75 years of service certificate and Lion President Steve Nunn, accepted it on behalf of the Club.



Lion Brian was also pleased to present Lion Dave Walton with his 15 year chevron



At the end of a fabulous evening, Lion Brian received a wonderful gift from the Clubs newest member!





District A-12 welcomes all Lions, Lioness, Leos and Partners!

Your 'Historic' combined MDA – A12 Convention May 2-4, 2014 is less than six months away. As of November 30, we have 402 Registrations with 230 attending the Saturday Luncheon and 273 attending the Saturday evening Dinner and Entertainment.

Deerhurst Resort advises that *individual* rooms are now fully booked. A few two and three bedroom condos are still available but going quickly. Hidden Valley Resort (1 km away) has 60 rooms blocked for our Lions, but is also filling fast. Comfort Inn, Huntsville, is offering 20 rooms at a special Lions rate of \$88/nite.

The Stew O'Brien Golf Tournament is set for Friday morning. This eighteen hole course is challenging enough to satisfy all skill levels. The cost is only \$55 per player, cart included.

We will have free entertainment Friday evening, Opportunity for Youth on Saturday morning, International Vice President Joe Preston as guest speaker at the Award Luncheon, Information Sessions in the afternoon, Pin Trading, Lioness business session, and a super-great Banquet that evening. Those attending the banquet will be pleased to know we will be following the A-12 tradition of *no speeches* – just great food followed by equally great entertainment!

Bonus – just by registering now, you will receive a chance to win a car - at absolutely no charge to you. FREE! Nothing to buy!

As an added bonus, Lions Camp Dorset is providing free bus service for a tour of the Camp on the Saturday afternoon. Founded and supported by the Lions and Lioness of Ontario, the Camp has evolved from dialysis in the back of a converted school bus to a state-of-the-art medical facility – thanks mainly to the Lions family.

MULTIPLE DISTRICT "A"/A12 CONVENTION 2014

MUSKOKA Rocks

Deerhurst Resort Huntsville

May 2 - May 4, 2014

Hosted by the Lions Clubs of District A12



<p>A District _____ Club _____</p> <p>Lion <input type="checkbox"/> Lioness <input type="checkbox"/> Leo <input type="checkbox"/> Partner in Service <input type="checkbox"/> Highest Office _____ Past <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____ Name to appear on badge (if different) _____</p> <p>Mailing Address _____ STREET # or PO BOX CITY PROV P.C.</p> <p>Phone _____ Email _____</p>
<p>B District _____ Club _____</p> <p>Lion <input type="checkbox"/> Lioness <input type="checkbox"/> Leo <input type="checkbox"/> Partner in Service <input type="checkbox"/> Highest Office _____ Past <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____ Name to appear on badge (if different) _____</p> <p>Mailing Address _____ STREET # or PO BOX CITY PROV P.C.</p> <p>Phone _____ Email _____</p>

Hotel registration is being handled by *Deerhurst Resort* and you are responsible for booking your room directly with them. Please refer to the *Accommodations* information flyer - choose your room then call *Deerhurst* and make your reservation. **Deadline for hotel reservations is APRIL 1, 2014.** Book early and avoid disappointment!



PLEASE NOTE:





Do you worry about ...

- Bullying?
- Community Safety?
- What the future holds for our Canadian young people?

It's time to make a difference by supporting Lions Quest Canada in your community

Lions Quest Canada brings the family, school and community together in support of Positive Youth Development.

We support ...

- The development of healthy and responsible young people
- Social and emotional learning
- Character development
- Building developmental assets in all young people
- Positive behaviour and social responsibility

How do we do it?

Workshop Training – Our workshops for communities, schools, parents, volunteers and youth-serving professionals are conducted by Lions Quest Canada Trainers who represent the highest standards of professionalism in training, education, positive youth development and in their commitment to children and youth.

Classroom Curriculum Resources – Participants in Lions Quest School-Based workshops receive a resource kit for their grade level at the workshop. The material is 'teacher-friendly' – written for teachers by teachers – is approved for use in every province and territory, and meets many of the provincial curriculum requirements around social and emotional learning and healthy living.

Engaging Parents as Partners – Lions Quest Canada values parents as partners in their child's positive development and education. Parent-friendly training and resources are provided to support the skills and concepts being taught outside of the classroom enabling parents to reinforce them in the home and community.

Engaging Community Support – Lions Quest Canada supports the engagement of caring people from the community in the positive development of children and youth. This engagement comes in many forms including out-of-school-time, coaching, camp settings, faith communities, police services, youth initiatives and programs which help to build a community climate that values young people as resources.

Service-Learning – As an important part of Lions Quest School-Based Programs students at all grade levels develop a sense of social responsibility and the skills to provide meaningful service to others in their community.

What You Can Do -

- Learn more by visiting www.lionsquest.ca
- Invite Lions Quest Canada to make a presentation to your club or group
- Talk to teachers you know about Lions Quest School-Based Programs
- Sponsor a Lions Quest Canada workshop in your community
- Learn the names of the children and youth in your community and don't be afraid to simply smile and say 'Hello'

For more information visit - www.lionsquest.ca - Call us toll free at 1-800-265-2680

*A Special Invitation To
"The Bonfield and District Lions Club
36th Charter Night"*

*The Bonfield & District Lions Club is celebrating its 36th
Charter on
Saturday January 25, 2014 at the Bonfield Lions Den.
We would be delighted to have you join us for this great
evening.*



*Saturday, January 25, 2014
Cocktails at 5:30 pm
Dinner at 6:30 pm
Bonfield Lions Den
350 Line 3 South
\$25.00 per Person*

*Please contact Lion Holley Menard by phone at 705-
776-7782 or
by email to bonfieldlions@hotmail.ca by January 20,
2014*

*if you wish to attend or if you would like more
information.*

*We look forward to celebrating this important event
with you.*

*Yours in Lionism,
Lion Gary Verge
President, Bonfield and District Lions Club*

Follow Your Dream

*"If you can dream it, you can do it." -Walt Disney_
Martin Luther King did not say, "I have a goal." Or "I have an aim."
The most powerful words in his famous speech were "I have a dream".
A dream embraces our most cherished longings. It embodies our very
identity. We often won't feel
fulfilled as human beings until we realize our dreams.*



Trivia

The 20 Oldest Lions Clubs in Canada

Club ID	Club Name	Date of Charter
14540	WINDSOR 1	1920-03-12
14779	TORONTO CENTRAL	1920-05-18
14936	HAMILTON CENTRAL	1920-07-19
14518	LONDON CENTRAL	1921-06-28
7608	VANCOUVER CENTRAL	1921-12-01
3124	WINNIPEG	1921-12-15
14566	PORT COLBORNE	1922-04-14
14651	OTTAWA VANIER	1922-05-16
14564	NIAGARA FALLS	1922-06-02
14570	ST CATHARINE'S CENTRAL	1922-07-11
14843	GODERICH	1922-08-07
14811	MONTREAL CENTRAL	1922-09-14
14582	WELLAND	1923-04-03
14533	STRATHROY	1924-05-29
14711	SUDBURY	1924-09-29
14578	TILLSONBURG	1924-10-10
14867	SEAFORTH	1924-12-09
14868	STRATFORD	1925-01-13
14702	NORTH BAY	1925-03-02
14925	BURLINGTON	1925-04-27



Name the five oldest Clubs in District A-5

**CTV Lions
Children's
Christmas Telethon
in Sudbury was
another great success
this year.**

Lion Jerry 2nd VDG sitting
on Santa's knee!

Lion Brian, not to tell tales
but I think he asked Santa
to be the A-5 Governor
right now!!!!



Lion Brian asking Santa to
become a Lion!

Lion Brian and Santa at the
Bar checking out who is
naughty and who is nice!
I think you have to wait
two years to be governor
Lion Jerry!



As Lions we have to have FUN



This picture taken at the Temiskaming Shores Lioness Lions Club meeting in November, when they had their annual auction. Pictured is Lion President Janet Spencer auctioning off some treasures. DG Lion Brian spent \$14.50 that night and walked out with 2 garbage bags of bargains. I suspect there are some Christmas Presents!



Contribute to the Philippines Relief Efforts

The people of the Philippines are still recovering from the devastating typhoon that struck in November. Lions Clubs International Foundation has mobilized over US \$500,000 for relief efforts. More than 12,000 Philippine Lions in 380 clubs are working to rebuild their decimated communities. And clubs around the world have offered their support. But there is still much work to be done, and Lions will be there until the job is finished. "We may not be the first responders in areas hit by disasters, but when the TV cameras are gone, that's when Lions come in and we do the work years afterwards," said International President Barry Palmer, who visited Manila just 48 hours after the typhoon struck. Help the massive recovery efforts in the Philippines by [donating today!](#) For the latest updates, visit the [Lions Blog](#).

Peace Poster Contest



In the picture is Lion Brian and PDG Lion Ellen Flecher, our District Peace Poster Chair, with the winning peace poster from District A5. The Sault Ste Marie Lions Club sponsored this poster. The artist was Tiana Bressan, she is a grade 8 student at St. Ann School. Her quote on peace was "Peace comes from being able to give the best we have towards creating a world that supports everyone".

Congratulation Tianna.

Dear Lions,

I thank you for your interest in the Lions Peace Poster Contest, and all the requests I got for information.

A winner has been chosen for this year. It is with great pleasure I announce that Tianna Bressan from Sault Ste Marie was chosen by all the attendees at our district Cabinet Meeting back in November as the best poster submission.

All the Lions attending the Cabinet Meeting were conscripted as judges. It is their determination and with a lot of consultation that this year's winner of the Peace Posters Contest. The winner was

The Sault Ste Marie Lions Club sponsored her. Her Poster has been sent to the MDA competition.

Again, I thank the Clubs that have sent a \$100.00 donation to support the Peace Poster Contest, the Peace Essay Contest, and the Effective Speaking Contest.

Just a reminder, checks are to be made out to District A-5 and sent to our Cabinet Treasurer, Lion Peter Oshell, P.O. Box 322, Powassan, Ont. P0H 1Z0

Hoping for an excellent response,

PDG Lion Ellen Fletcher, District Chair



OK ... The international Convention is in Toronto, Ontario, and this year there is no reason in the world that you can't attend. Right?

Why, we are practically in the FRONT yard of Toronto! (District A-5)

Let's get with it and sign up RIGHT NOW!



2014 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FACT SHEET

WHERE:	Toronto
WHEN:	July 4 – 8, 2014
MD'A' HOTEL ASSIGNMENT	Intercontinental Hotel Cosmopolitan Hotel
HOTEL RATES:	International – standard - \$194.00 Club - \$264.00 Cosmopolitan - \$260.00
TRANSPORTATION:	A5 is arranging buses from Timmins, North Bay, Sudbury and Sault Ste Marie. Depart for Toronto – July 4 th , return July 8 th . Call All Seasons Travel at 705-560-1225 or 1-888-255-7327 to book or for more information.
TO VOLUNTEER:	Please go to the MD'A' website's 2014 International Convention section and fill out the Volunteer sign-up sheet.
REGISTRATION:	You must also register with Lions Clubs International. - Please fill out and submit a registration form - There is a special registration form for volunteers with a registration fee of \$110.00 US. -
PARADE DRESS:	- LCI Parade Delegate Ribbon - MD'A' Maple Leaf safari shirt - White pants - White shoes - Gambler hat with MD'A' headband (optional) - Dress items can be ordered from MD'A'



2 Stories ... The Governor His Scar s And His Bagpipes

One of the best things about knowing our District Governor is his wonderful straight forward unpretentious ability to tell stories that he sort of blurts out after a few of his favorite Scottish spirits. The other day, Lion Brian, Past District Governors Lions Andy, Lion Myra, and myself were sitting around solving all the problems of the world. And Lion Brian was in the middle of this great story about playing his Bagpipes. At one point during this story, to illustrate a point, he raised his hand in the air. That is when Lion Myra notice he a bad scare on one of his fingers. "Brian", Myra interrupted, "How in the world did ye ever get that scar?" Lion Brian hesitated a second, took a look at his hand, and stood up. As he did, he lifted his Kilt, above his knee, (yeah, he likes to wear his Closs Family Kilt to function's) which revealed another scar. "The one on my hand is nothing, Myra, this one", pointing to his knee, "is the one that has the real story!" he said. Myra looked relieved it was on his knee! He went on to say he was walking home one evening from his local pub after winning first prize at the bar for telling the biggest yarn, (That is story for another time)

He said, they awarded him a bottle of the fineness Glenfiddich, single malt Scottish Whiskey's ever made! He was telling Myra how proud he was of winning such a valuable prize and that he secured that precious cargo in his Sporrans for the long walk home.

It was on his way home, he said, that he got the scar! He accidentally tripped as he stepped over a curb and landed flat on his face! He said, it took him second or two and then he pulled himself up. That's when he could feel the warm sensation of liquid running down his leg!

He went on to say that he dared not look down in fear. But instead looked toward the heavens and prayed, "Dear Lord, I beg you, let that be blood!"



Lion Andy said, "Yeah fer sure Lion Brian, what Scottish fellow has that not happened to! " I got scars", (Lion Andy is of Scottish descent) "will ye git on wit yer story then, about the Bagpipe's!"



Where was I Lion Brian asked"? "Ahh Yeah, as a bagpiper, I play many gigs. When I was up North on my 'Great Northern Adventure,' I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man." Brian said, "He had no family, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Northern Ontario back country. He continued, "As I was not familiar with the area, I got lost and, being a typical man, I didn't stop for directions!"

"When I finally arrived late, I saw the funeral guy had left and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the grounds crew there, and they were eating lunch." "I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play." Brian said. "The workers," Brian went on, "Put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before." He continued, "And as I played Amazing Grace, the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, and we all wept together." He said. "When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head hung low, my heart was full."

He said, "As I opened the trunk of my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen nothing like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

"Apparently I should have asked for directions," Brian said....

"It's a man thing, Brian," Myra added reassuringly!



**Merry Christmas
And
Happy New Year
From the
Management and
Staff
At the
District A-5
Governors
Newsletter**

