

# **Diabetes Awareness Report**

## **Cabinet Meeting August 29, 2010 – Tilbury, Ontario**

Governor John and fellow Lions, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Governor John for asking me to continue on with the position of Diabetes Awareness Chair.

During the last few years, many changes have occurred to help individuals with diabetes. Through the continued advocacy of the Canadian Diabetes Association, residents of Ontario with type 1 diabetes who have difficulty regulating their blood sugars are now able to apply for a free insulin pump through the Ontario Government with help of their physician and diabetes educators. When the program started, only children could apply but now any age can apply. Just 3 years ago many clubs in District A-1 were having fundraising events to help citizens in their community purchase a pump at a cost of \$7,000.

Last year the Lions and CDA across Canada teamed up to hold their first annual Tag Day. 6 Clubs in District A-1 with the help from Lions, Lioness, Leos and family raised over \$3,300 for their one day effort and over \$17,000 across Canada. Due to this success, we would like to execute a successful 2<sup>nd</sup> annual World Diabetes Tag Day and we are looking to have 350 participating clubs across Canada. With this nationwide effort, the Lions and CDA are hoping to raise \$70,000 for diabetes education and awareness.

From the results last years, I had very positive response from our 6 clubs and I have sent out letters to each club hoping that many more of the clubs in District A-1 will support this fundraising activity in their community on November 13, 2010. It is a fun way to get out into the community for a one day event and raise funds for Diabetes which affects so many people.

November is diabetes month and Governor John has asked that we have our annual Diabetes Parade of Cheques at the Cabinet meeting on November 28. Lions Cavalcade cheques have gone to support Diabetes Research. I will be sending out letters to each club regarding the Cavalcade and information on the Harry A. Newman Award.

I look forward to hearing from the clubs in District A-1 regarding the World Diabetes Tag Day participation and for your financial support at the annual Diabetes Parade of Cheques.

Lion Bev Wirta