



District A-1 "LIONS LINES" Governor's Newsletter

December 2009



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Lions Web Sites

Lions International
www.lionsclubs.org

A-1 Lions

<http://a1lions.tripod.com/>

MD 'A'

www.mdalions.org

Leader Dogs

www.leaderdog.org

Lions Foundation
of Canada

www.dogguides.com

CNIB Lake Joseph

www.cnib.ca/lakejo



MERRY CHRISTMAS LIONS

With Christmas just around the corner I would be remiss if I did not wish you and your families Happy Holidays. I hope that this year will be all that you hope it will be.

Thanks to the clubs whom I have already visited for your fun and fellowship. I am looking forward to starting

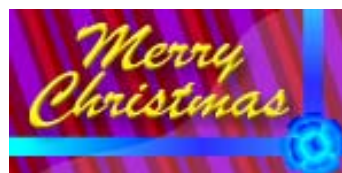
my visits again in the new year and hearing about all the wonderful things your clubs have been doing to make your community a better place to be.

Lions, with so many out of work, there are many agencies that need assistance not only monetary but with hands on. Lets try to help each other out by loading and distributing care packages, visiting seniors in Nursing and Retirement homes, just to name a few. Whatever your club can do I know will be appreciated.

So remember to leave out a glass of milk, and some cookies for Santa and maybe a carrot or two for the reindeer. Have a great holiday season.

Happy Holidays

Lion Evelyn



For more photos, resources and useful Lions links, go to
A-1 Web Site (<http://a1lions.tripod.com/>)

Send photos/stories
for the Governor's bulletin & web site to
curtis.marwood@gmail.com

Please attach photos as separate JPG files.

Eyes Right Annual Meeting

Petrolia—07-Feb-10

Chatham Breakfast

Chatham—07-Mar-10



MOVE TO GROW

LIONS LINES

Published by District A-1

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Lions International

International President Eberhard Wirfs



Eberhard J. Wirfs, of Kelkheim am Taunus, Hessen, Germany, was elected president of The International Association of Lions Clubs at the association's 92nd International Convention, held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, July 6-10, 2009.

From the President's Special November Message...

Get ready to come out of your dens and roar! **Lions In Sight** is fast approaching.



What is Lions in Sight?

Most people know Lions very well for our work in sight, but too often we are not 'in sight' of the public. Some Lions even say we are a 'best kept secret'. So to increase our visibility, I have asked all clubs and districts worldwide to organize public awareness events during the last two weeks of January 2010 in a special campaign called Lions In Sight.

The goal is very simple -- to raise public awareness to who we are and what we do.

To help you get ready, a special Lions In Sight section on our web site has suggested activities, promotional ideas, and helpful tools such as sample press releases, downloadable posters, newspaper ads, a new billboard advertisement, and other materials. www.lionsclubs.org

It's easy - 3 steps is all it takes for a successful Lions In Sight event:

1. Tell the public about your club...
2. Hold a community open house...
3. Organize a project to which the public can be invited...

As an incentive, district governors who achieve over 50% club participation will receive a specially designed Presidential Certificate and will be recognized on the LCI web site.

So again, Lions, let's together come out of our dens and roar... as we "Move to Grow".

Eberhard J. Wirfs, International President
Lions Clubs International

[Go to page 5 for ideas for marketing your club.](#)

Lions In-Sight Suggested Activities

Make yourself visible – while making a difference in your community! Showcase your favorite service project – or use one of these suggested activities to do a project in your community.

- Display 2009-2010 Peace Poster entries and finalists.
- Host an award program to recognize your local/district/multiple district Peace Poster winners.
- Plan a [Lions Crew at Work project](#) to paint or repair a community center, camp or seniors home.
- Arrange a [cultural event](#) such as a dance, music program or international food fair.
- Schedule a [Green Team project](#) to clean up a park, plant trees or recycle.
- Organize a [vision screening](#) to promote Glaucoma Awareness Month.
- Sponsor a hearing aid or [eyeglass collection](#).

Work with youth groups to organize a community shoveling event or snowman building contest or to help seniors clean up their yards.

**Objectives of the President's Theme
MOVE TO GROW**

- Move to Grow Membership
- Move to grow the DG TEAM
- Move to Grow LEADERS
- Move to grow SOCIAL UNDERSTANDING
- MOVE TO INCREASE public awareness
- The youth of today GROW to be the Lions of tomorrow
- Move to Grow OUR FOUNDATION

Read more about his theme on the web site
(www.lionsclubs.org)

Next Zone Advisory Meetings

ZONE 1 East	Stoney Point	02-Feb-10
ZONE 1 Central	Belle River	04-Mar-10
ZONE 1 West	Riverside	18-Mar-10
ZONE 2 East	Belmont	17-Feb-10
ZONE 2 North	London North	21-Jan-10
ZONE 2 South	Port Stanley	20-Jan-10
ZONE 24 North	Granton	27-Jan-10
ZONE 24 South	Delaware	25-Jan-10
ZONE 24 West	Petrolia	01-Feb-10

Editor's Page

From the Web Editor...

In this holiday edition of the Governor's newsletter, you will find a couple of submissions by Lions of A-1. Thank you for your contributions. Stories of your experiences or activities that will help Lions of A-1 to **Move to Grow** and serve are always welcome.

You will also find some resources that I have clipped from Lions International web site. The article on **Marketing Ideas** is condensed from a 4 page article that is offered to help promote Lionism. It would be useful to read in preparation for you **Lions In-Sight** activities in January.

I would also urge you to take note of some pointers from the MD'A' web-

site article on submitting articles and photos for *the Lion* magazine which would help to increase your chances of your submissions being published.

Support for the Stevenson Children's Camp near London that suffered significant loss due to theft and vandalism is endorsed by Governor Ev.

The Convention application form is on page 7. Please print for members. Please note the special notice about the hospitality rooms and the Wine Tour.

Lions are sharing in this holiday season. The article about the **Christmas Ship** on the west coast is just one of several stories of Lions in

action, sharing Christmas good will, which you may read on the Lions International web site.

<http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/our-impact/lions-in-action/index.php>

Wishing you all the blessings of hope, peace, joy and love.

Lion Curtis Marwood



A LEARNING EXPERIENCE

On the 11th of November I set out on a new adventure in my Lions experience, a trip to the Senior Lions Leadership Institute in Chicago along with 99 other Lions from the US, Can, Bermuda. At the institute I meet 99 new friends and we shared information & ideas from our respective Clubs & Districts during our training.

This training is set up to show you how to develop & better use your leadership skills. You will also learn how to better understand and use the various information and services that are available at L.C.I. Our training covered 18 different topics, in over a 34hr time span of instruction with a little homework during the evenings.

It was interesting to hear the various situations that are taking place in our Lions Clubs & Districts. This makes you think just how well or how much work will be required to improve your Club & District. I am pleased to say that A-1 seems to be doing a lot of things that some other Districts only dream of.

In closing I would recommend that any Lion thinking of being a Club President or going beyond should apply to attend this training. The information that you learn will help make you a better leader in you Club & our District.

If you are nervous about not knowing enough before you go, don't worry because no one knows it all and I now have 99 new friends who I can ask for help.

Lion Steven Mahovlich P.R.C.
Belle River Lions Club

Twinning

I am looking for clubs in the district which may be interested in twinning with another club from another country.

International Club Twinning is a voluntary and mutual agreement between Lions Clubs in different countries. I have a list of clubs worldwide that is interested in entering into a Club Twinning relationship. The clubs would be able to converse by mail or email, exchange bulletins, exchange ideas on fundraising and learn more about the other country and their culture. I think that this could be a very fun and rewarding experience.

Please contact me if this is something that may be of interest to your club. I will do whatever I can to get you set up to twin with another club. If I can be of any assistance and answer any questions, do not hesitate to contact me. I am new to this but will certainly find out whatever information that I can for you.

I look forward to hearing from you or your club representative.

Yours in Lionism
Lion Catherine Heberle
Peace Poster and International Understanding



District News

ZONE 1 EAST REPORT.

Being your Zone Chair has been an honor & I have enjoyed going to the various clubs not only representing our District but our Chatham Lions Club as well. The learning experience has been wonderful & being welcomed so warmly has been an extra bonus.

I have succeeded in visiting all five of my clubs in Zone 1 East on my official visits.

- Sep 23 Blenheim Centennial Lions
- Oct 6 Stoney Point Lions
- Oct 26 Chatham Lions
- Nov 3 Tilbury Lions
- Dec 2 Lighthouse Cove.

I had the first of three Zone Advisory Meetings on November 23rd hosted by Chatham Lions with special guest VDG Lion John Ross & wife Bonnie.

Coming –

- Feb 2 at Stoney Point Lions
- Mar 16 at Tilbury Lions



Lion Mickey at Tecumseh Lions Club (above) and Lighthouse Cove Lions Club (below).



ZONE 1 WEST

I had the pleasure in taking three of their clubs for official visits --

- Oct 21 Windsor Downtown Lions Club

Coming

- Jan 7 at Windsor Roseland Lions Club
- Feb 4 at Windsor Riverside Lions Club

Zone Advisory Meetings

- Sep 16 Windsor Downtown Lions Club
- Nov 16 Tecumseh Lions Club

Coming

- Mar 18 Windsor Riverside Lions Club

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO MY DRIVERS—LIONS ANDY, ALDO, CURTIS & SEPPO—and to those who have joined me.

NOTE – There has been a lot more visitations than normal with the three clubs from Zone 1 West, I thank you for your support.

Respectfully submitted

Zone Chair Lion Mickey Puddicomb



Lion Mickey at Tilbury Lions Club.

***"The only real blind person
at Christmas-time is he
who has not Christmas in his heart."
- Helen Keller***

District News

Club Resources

Membership Recruitment Ideas

This 2 page article by Lion James Johnston, MD"A" Membership Coordinator 2009-2010, is an excellent summary for recruiting and retaining members. The full document is on the A1 Lions web site at http://a1lions.tripod.com/Membership_Recruitment_Ideas_Handout.htm.

Effective Speaking Contest

Are you gearing up for the Effective Speaking Contests in your Zone?

Check out the flyers and handbook on the A1 web site (<http://a1lions.tripod.com>) for help, dates and locations of region Speak-Offs.

Leader Dog Kick-Off 2009

Several District A-1 Lions, led by ZC Lion Mickey Puddicombe, attended the Leader Dog Kickoff 2009 Dinner in Troy, MI on December 3, 2009.

Highlights included special mention of London Central and Windsor Downtown as TOP DOG Lions Clubs. Seven District A-1 Clubs were represented in the parade of cheques. A wonderful start to this years fund-raising campaign!

Left to right: Lion Mickey, Margaret, Lion Myrtle, IPDG Lion Don, Lion Kurt, CT Lion Joyce, PDG Lion Mark and Lion Aldo.

PDG Lion Don McKessock



Stevenson Children's Camp Break-In

NEWS ITEM: DORCHESTER — November 23, 2009
(Source: London Free Press)

Thieves left behind when they broke into Stevenson Children's Camp on Gore Rd. east of London, causing damage estimated at up to \$10,000 and stealing equipment so far valued at \$30,000 to \$40,000.

According to the London Free Press, "Middlesex OPP are investigating the break-in in which it appears the thieves drove a truck across a field into the camp, loaded stolen goods in a closed trailer they found on the property then smashed through the locked gate as they left, sometime before 2 p.m. Sunday. Aside from the trailer, also missing is a John Deere utility tractor, an ATV, expensive industrial kitchen equipment, computer and printer, about 30 two-way radios and "a lot of little things."

"Nearly 800 children from London and Middlesex County attend the camp each summer for one week at a cost of \$15 a week, which is often waived because the parents can't afford to pay. School boards and the Children's Aid Society sponsor the children who attend. Meanwhile, other organizations also use the camp on a rental basis, such as the Canadian Diabetes Association. The camp receives about \$97,000 a year from the United Way of London and Middlesex, corporate sponsors and individual donations to cover its estimated \$250,000 annual budget."

Like many organizations, Stevenson Children's Camp struggles financially and has had to cut back on insurance coverage over the years, said board member Randy McLay.

District Governor Ev personally endorses their request and says that they would appreciate any assistance the District could provide.

Donations can be sent to the following address:
Stevenson Children's Camp
PO Box 582
Thamesford, ON
N0M 2M0
Attn: Randy McClay (Brd. of Dir.)



Eyes Right Annual Meeting

Petrolia—07-Feb-10

Chatham Breakfast

Chatham—07-Mar-10

District News

DISTRICT A-1 LEADER DOG REPORT

November 7th was the tour at Leader Dogs for the Blind. We had Lions from Chatham, Belle River, Tecumseh, Windsor Downtown and Sarnia Township. A great day and wonderful time.



from 4 months to 11 months. They announced we had present 1st time puppy raisers and one that had raised 48 puppies for Leader Dog; that is what I call dedication! The parade of cheques that evening was \$ 70,290.00 which was down from last year, but will continue to grow with those clubs that couldn't make this evening. Full total will be tallied at the end of the year. PIN TRADER Lion Jim Leach Sr. from Rochester Lions came to me for a Breakfast flyer; he couldn't make it last year, but will be coming in 2010. Those who were not there missed a wonderful evening.

December 8th – SARNIA LIONS Christmas Dinner for the Blind. I had the honor of being their guest speaker. It was wonderful talking with 175 persons, most being visually impaired and blind. As IPDG Don McKessock stated I had even the shyest blind twins laughing. "They knew what I was talking about!" They had displayed a blown up picture of Emerson and me from one of the conventions (Emerson in his bow tie of course). It was a wonderful meal and evening. Thank you Lion Seppo for driving Emerson & me.

December 3rd Leader Dog Kick Off Dinner in Troy Michigan. Last year there were only three from District A-1; this year there were 8, better but lets try to increase that next year. Lions from Chatham, Belle River, Sarnia and Sarnia Township. Instead of having trainers with dogs in training they invited 21 Puppy Raisers with their puppies ages

December 12th – I was to go to the brand new Leos Club in Belle River and talk on Leader Dog, but it was postponed at the last minute. We are looking forward to going in the New Year.

Submitted by District A-1 Leader Dog Chair
Lion Mickey & Emerson

Holiday Cheer!

Can't find the turkey? Have fun with this!

Submitted by Sharon Ball.



Peace Poster 2008-2009

Merit Award
By Wei Li, Taiwan



District News

The Lion

The following notes are guidelines for submitting articles and photos to The Lion magazine. They are excerpted from the MD'A' web site at

<http://mdalions.org/thelion/howtogetin.pdf> and click the "Submit your Article" button.

What Do We Want?

We're looking for articles, preferably accompanied by photos, which explain in detail the successful completion of a service project or fund raising activity. Using the Event Report form available on the website www.mdalions.org will help you cover all the basic facts:

- What the project was all about
- Who was involved and who benefited
- When and where it took place
- How it happened

What Makes a Good Photograph?

Take a few candid shots of Lions in action. Simplicity is the key to good photos. Too many people and too much background clutter the scene. Focus on what's happening and get close to the action. Photos of check presentations or people shaking hands are simply not interesting, instead we'd much rather see someone using the new equipment your club helped purchase.

A GUIDE OF DO'S AND DON'TS

Please Do:

- Submit detailed descriptions of your club's completed service projects and fund raising activities.
- Tell us how much money was raised at your fund raiser and for what purpose it is intended.
- Include candid, clear photographs of Lions participating in the project.
- Include the name, mailing address, daytime phone number and/or email address of someone we can contact about the material submitted.
- Be patient. It sometimes can take several months for accepted items to appear in print.

Please Don't:

- Submit news of club anniversaries, birthdays or deaths of long-time members.
- Send posed photos of people staring at the camera.
- Staple or write on photos, or use an ink pen or marker to write on the back—it smears, often ruining the pictures.
- Forget to identify people in photos.
- Print out digital photographs and submit them for publication. Email the file instead.
- Rely on your yearly Activities Report only to publicize your club's activities. Make sure your club news gets the attention it deserves by sending a separate notice and photos directly to THE LION Magazine.

Correction

Note that the Lion Magazine had mistakenly listed Curtis Marwood as the contact for submitting articles to the Lion magazine.

Please submit your articles to the District Reporter:
Lion Marilyn Madacsi,
fonenet.madacsi@golden.net

District A1 Web Calendar

Check out the District calendar on the web sight.

<http://sites.google.com/site/a1lionscalendar/>

Send notices of events to be posted on the calendar to the webmaster (curtis.marwood@gmail.com)



JOY

*Somehow, not only for Christmas,
but all the long year through,
The joy that you give to others,
Is the joy that comes back to you.*

- John Greenleaf Whittier



*Blessed is
The season which
Engages the whole
World in a
Conspiracy of love.*

-Hamilton Wright Mabie

District News

MARKETING IDEAS

Is your club keeping its service a secret?

Some ideas to help clubs with the **Lions In-Sight** activities from Lions International.

These thirty marketing ideas, in categories ranging from exhibit marketing to direct marketing, designed to assist clubs with inviting new members and promoting your club may be found on the Lions web site at <http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/common/pdfs/mk97.pdf>

Exhibit Marketing

1. **Sponsor a booth at a special event.**
2. **Exhibit in a public place.**
3. **Place an information table at your next project.**
4. **Use your prospect information.** Use the information of those who express interest in Lionism. Hold a raffle for the people who stopped by your exhibit or information table. Add their names to the club's updated mailing list. Inform those interested in ways to become involved.

Advertising & Public Service Announcements

5. **Place an ad in the local newspaper.**
6. **Place an ad in school and community publications.**
7. **Develop a point-of-purchase display.** Ask the owners of local businesses if they will allow your club to place its brochures in a holder near the cash register. Remember: By placing information in a business, your club will then be associated with that business and its customers.
8. **Broadcast on radio.**
9. **Post billboards/mobile advertising.** Access this advertising type online by visiting the LCI Web site (www.lionsclubs.org) and typing "Billboard Artwork" in the search field.
10. **Utilize Yellow Pages & directories.**
11. **Broadcast public service announcements (PSAs) on television.** Public Service Announcements are available from the Public Relations & Production Division. Access television PSAs online by visiting the LCI Web site (www.lionsclubs.org) and typing "Television PSAs" in the search field.
12. **Use THE LION Magazine.** Consider donating the magazine to your library or putting your extra copies in doctors, dentists or other offices.
13. **Develop a Web page.** Include project information, your club's contact information and steps the prospective member can take to become a Lion. Get started now creating your Web site, go to Lionnet (www.lionnet.com) to learn more.
14. **Put information about your club in "Welcome to the Community" packets offered by local agencies or chambers of commerce.**

Media Relations

15. **Write a news release.** Access news release templates online by visiting the LCI Web site (www.lionsclubs.org) and typing "News Releases" in the search field.
16. **Pitch a story.** For more information contact the Public Relations & Production Division at (630) 571-5466, ext. 327 or e-mail questions to pr@lionsclubs.org.

Group Presentations

17. **Show audiovisual presentations.** Order audiovisual presentations by visiting the LCI Web site (www.lionsclubs.org) and typing "AV Presentations" into the search field.

Personal Contact

18. **Give personal presentations.**
19. **Recruit one-on-one.**

Direct Marketing

20. **Call people.**
21. **Write letters.**
22. **Produce club newsletters.** Mail a special edition of your club's newsletter to prospective members. Outline your club's accomplishments and announce plans for the future.
23. **Send out project announcements.** Send announcements explaining a special activity to people who will benefit from the program. Invite them to take part in the project and find out more about the club.

Membership Campaigns

24. **Participate in Lions Clubs International awards programs.**
25. **Run club contests.** "Who can invite the most new members?"

Quick Market Research

26. **Conduct a Community Needs Assessment.** A Community Needs Assessment (MK-9) can help your club discover new projects, ones of special importance and need in the community. Visit the LCI Web site (www.lionsclubs.org) and type "New Clubs Publications" in the search field.
27. **Keep former members on your list.**
28. **Monitor member activity.** Let inactive members know you are thinking about them and would like to make their experience better.
29. **Conduct a new member or prospective member needs appraisal.**
New Member Needs Appraisal: Identify what motivated each new member to join and help them reach their goals. Encourage them to use talents and skills by matching them with projects they will find rewarding.
Prospective Member Needs Appraisal: Consider creating a questionnaire for nonmembers about what they are looking for when considering becoming a member of a community organization.
30. **Conduct a survey.** Access the Former Member Satisfaction Survey by visiting the LCI Web site (www.lionsclubs.org) and typing "Former Member Satisfaction Survey" into the search field.

Developing a Membership Marketing Campaign

- Step 1: Identify Your Target Markets
- Step 2: Review and Analyze Previous Programs
- Step 3: Chart your Strategy
- Step 4: Allocate a Budget
- Step 5: Delegate
- Step 6: Follow-up



Club News

Petrolia Lions Donate to Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital

The Lions Club of Petrolia presented Eyes Right Chairman Lion Dr. Harry Wismer with a cheque for twelve thousand dollars [\$12,000.00] completing their pledge of twenty thousand dollars [\$20,000.00] in one year, for the Phaco Imaging machine at the Pat Mailloux Eye Centre, Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital, Petrolia.

Pictured are: Lion Dr. Gail Tanner, Vice Chair Eyes Right, Lions Club President Lion Darcie Gray, Chairman Lion Dr. Harry Wismer, and Eyes Right Treasurer P. D. G. Lion Joe Madacsi.

Submitted by: Lion Marilyn Madacsi, Reporter Dist. A-1.



COLOURING BOOKS

12 Butterfly Colouring Books were donated to the Chatham Good Fellows by the Chatham Lions.



Windsor Downtown Lions Christmas Party

Windsor Downtown Lions had a Christmas party for the registered blind children in the Windsor area on Saturday, November 28.

In the picture you will see PDG Ron Devos (Santa) with Joe (owner of Antinino's Pizza), who donated pizza for the afternoon event, along with some of the children that had attended the party. We had 19 registered children attend with their parents. We had Green Earth Exotics bring in a variety of animals that the children could touch then they each got to do a craft and sing along with Roy Lesperance, retired manager from CNIB who played guitar and sang. Each child got to sit on Santa's knee and received a bag of goodies (gift, mitts, knitted hat, scarf and goodies) and the parents got an opportunity to network. A really great afternoon.

Valerie Burningham, President
Windsor Downtown Lions Club



Chatham Lions Donate TTY Phone to Hospital

Chatham Lions Club raised funds from selling the Really Big Colouring Books to purchase a TTY phone for the Sydenham Campus of the Chatham-Kent Health Alliance. Earlier, funds from the colouring books were used to supply Braille rest room signs in both hospitals. The presentation took place Thursday December 17th at Chatham-Kent Health Alliance (in Chatham).

President Lion Curtis is seen presenting the phone to Sally Jenkins, Clinical Manager, Women and Children's Program. Past President Mickey who spear-headed the project is holding the cheque with Lions and members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.





"MOVE TO GROW"

35th Annual District A-1 Convention Registration Form April 9, 10 & 11, 2010, at the Pelee Days Inn, Leamington 566 Bevel Line Rd., Leamington, Ontario N8H 3V4

**Note: Each attendee must have a Registration Form filled out
Everyone attending the Convention MUST be Registered**

Lion/Lioness/Leo/Guest: _____ **Current/Previous Title:** _____
(Please circle) (Please print clearly)

Address: _____

(City)

(Postal Code)

Telephone: (____) _____ **Club Name:** _____

On and before Apr. 2

Note: Free Registration for
Lions or Lioness attending
convention for the first time.

Please check here ☐

Free Registration for Leo's

Please check here ☐

Free Registration

Children under 12

Please check here ☐

WINE TOUR

Please check here ☐

(*One Night Holiday Jacuzzi Suite + Breakfast +,
use at convention if you wish)

Select the following you require – then total

Reg. Prior to Feb. 20th	\$15.00	_____
Reg. After Feb. 20th	\$20.00	_____
Saturday Luncheon	\$22.00	_____
Saturday Banquet	\$39.00	_____
Convention Pins	X\$ 6.00	_____
Friday Draw	X\$ 2.00	_____
Saturday Draw	X\$ 2.00	_____
Sunday Draw	X\$ 2.00	_____
Total	\$	_____

Cheque must accompany registration form.

On and after Apr. 3

Note:

Registration

Friday April 9
And Saturday April 10
Lions and Lioness \$25.00

Leos and First Timers
\$15.00

Sunday April 11 all \$10.00

**NOTE: Cutoff date for
meals is March 26, 2010**

Signature: _____ **Enclosed Cheque for: \$** _____

Make cheque payable to "District A-1 Convention"

**Return to: PDG Lion Mark Mahovlich
1551 Myers Rd
Belle River, Ontario N0R 1A0
Phone 519-728-3659**

District News

IMPORTANT CONVENTION NOTICE

ALL HOSPITALITY ROOMS MUST BE REGISTERED AND AGAINST THE POOL SIDE OF HOTEL
NO EXCEPTIONS—ALL OTHERS WILL BE CLOSED

SOMETHING NEW FOR CONVENTION

A WINE TOUR
IF INTERESTED PLEASE INDICATE ON REGISTRATION

COST TO BE ANNOUNCED

Bringing Holiday Joy to the Pacific Northwest

Source: Lions International Web site:

<http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/our-impact/lions-in-action/the-christmas-ship.php>

In parts of the world, Santa arrives by sleigh, slides down chimneys or walks through front doors. But for people living in small island communities in the Pacific Northwest, access to the mainland is limited – and children rarely have the chance to visit Santa.

The Lions Step In

Lions clubs in the Pacific Northwest saw the need, and wanted to do something to make the holidays happier. "The kids on the islands didn't have transportation to and from the big cities," according to Don Wight of the Bellingham Lions Club. "One of the islands asked if a boat that had lights on it could possibly come out to the islands with candy and toys for the kids."

That marked the beginning of the Christmas Ship. Every December for the past 60 years, Santa has suited up and stepped off the Christmas Ship to bring gifts and joy to people living in remote islands off the coast of Bellingham, Washington in the United States and British Columbia, Canada.



The Gift that Keeps on Giving

Today, Lions dressed as pirates, elves, clowns and Santa all climb aboard the Christmas Ship to create a unique holiday experience. Dozens of Lions clubs throughout Washington and British Columbia collaborate to make the project a success. "It just is inspiring to everybody there. Everybody feels it," says Judy Portas of the Abbotsford Lions Club. "It's just a vibration and they all cheer and wait. So it's just a great, great experience."

Almost all of the islands that the ship visits are home to a Lions club. And every island offers its own brand of hospitality – from bagpipes to bonfires to a fire truck escort. "It's certainly well received on the island," says Harry Lane of the Main Island Lions Club. "It's an event nobody's gonna miss, that's for sure."

Fast Facts

During the two day cruise, Lions give away approximately 800 gifts to children and seniors. Santa also makes time to visit with the elderly and homebound during this event.