

## READING ACTION PROGRAM (RAP)

One of International President Brian Palmer's goals is the READING ACTION PROGRAM or RAP.

"The more you read the more things you'll know. The more that you learn the more places you'll go." This is a quote from Dr. Seuss, author of Children's Books.

Education and literacy are key to overcoming poverty, disease and other social issues. Yet today, nearly one billion people worldwide are illiterate.

The following are a few project ideas that your Lions Club might consider taking on:

- a) help an after school reading program
- b) read to children at local libraries or schools
- c) work with local literacy experts and agencies to promote reading
- d) read or record books on tape for the blind and visually impaired

A number of resources including a planning guide and project idea sheet are available. Artwork is also available on the LCI web-site that clubs can download to create Reading Action Program related materials.

In District A-1, there are many avenues to ask and see where you can help. Such as:

- i) Lambton County
  - Organization for Literacy in Lambton  
Lochiel Kiwanis Centre  
180 College Avenue North  
Sarnia, Ontario  
Phone: (519) 332-4876  
E-Mail: [oll@bellnet.ca](mailto:oll@bellnet.ca)
- ii) Essex County
  - South Essex Community Council  
215 Talbot Street East  
Leamington, Ontario  
Phone: (519) 326-8629  
E-Mail: [jswan@secc.on.ca](mailto:jswan@secc.on.ca)
- iii) Chatham-Kent
  - Adult Language and Learning  
48 Fifth Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Chatham, Ontario  
Phone: (519) 354-7424  
E-Mail: [info@adulthoodlanguageandlearning.ca](mailto:info@adulthoodlanguageandlearning.ca)
- iv) Windsor
  - Unemployed Help Centre  
6955 Cantelon Drive  
Windsor, Ontario  
Phone: (519) 944-4900  
  
Windsor Public Library  
Adult Literacy Program  
850 Ouellette Avenue  
Windsor, Ontario  
Phone: (519) 255-6770 Ext. 4433  
E-Mail: [cdean@windsorpubliclibrary.com](mailto:cdean@windsorpubliclibrary.com)

- v) London
  - Literacy Link South Central  
255 Horton Street  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
London, Ontario N6B 1L1  
Phone: (519) 681-7307  
E-Mail: [literacylink@bellnet.ca](mailto:literacylink@bellnet.ca)
  
- vi) Strathroy
  - Southwestern Ontario Adult Literacy  
24584 Adelaide Road  
Strathroy, Ontario N7G 2P8  
Phone: (519) 246-1577

Of course, there are also the various educational boards and colleges to contact such as:

- ◆ Lambton-Kent District School Board
- ◆ St. Clair Catholic District School Board
- ◆ Lambton College

Do not forget to share your projects and success stories.

Some that has been heard about so far:

Belle River Lions Club	Connections Early Year Family Centre – Reading Program
Bluewater Lions Club	Essex County Library – Reading Program during the summer months
City of Windsor	Invites as one of their guest speakers a representative from the Organization for Literacy in Lambton and asks how they can help
Petrolia Lions Club	Even a non Lions group is involved - the Chrysler Plant this past season donated approximately \$10,000 a year to the Christmas hampers – just for books alone recognizing the need to reduce the rate of illiteracy
	Placed a book in each of the 50 Christmas hamper distributed this past season

Do not forget to report this information on your club reports to the District and to International.

Perhaps on my next update on the Reading Action Program, I can report on your club's success story.

Respectfully Submitted

Lion Joyce Mahovlich  
Belle River Lions Club