

# District A-16 Governor's Newsletter

December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## *A message from District Governor Sudha Verma*

HEARTFELT THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS

My Dear Lions Club Members,

As your District Governor I want to express my deepest gratitude to all the District A16 Lions Clubs that have generously come forward with their donations. Your support has been instrumental in helping us make a positive impact in our community.

Your commitment to Service and the spirit of giving have not only touched our hearts but have also contributed significantly to our ongoing projects and initiatives. Through your generosity, we are able to continue our mission to help Lions Camp Dorset, LCIF, Dog Guides to name a few with your kind donations.

It is heartening to see the Lions community come together to create a collective force for Good. Your donations will undoubtedly make a difference in the lives of those we serve, and we are truly thankful for your unwavering support.

We look forward to continuing this journey of service alongside dedicated Lions like you. Your kindness inspires us to reach new heights and reinforces the impact we can make when we stand together. Once again, thank you for your generosity, compassion, and commitment to making the world a better place. We are proud to be a part of the Lions Family.

As we approach the festive season, I want to extend my Best Warm Wishes to each and everyone of you.

The Holiday season is time for reflection, gratitude and joy and I am grateful to be a part of such an incredible family.

Yours In Lionism  
DG Lion Sudha Verma



**District Governor  
Sudha Verma  
Markham Mantra  
Lions Club**



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# District Governor Special Gathering

*Taste of Fusion & Diversity – West Meeting East  
Festival of Lights.....Christmas/Diwali*

*December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 Chauhan's Fine Indian Cuisine  
and Banquet Hall in Markham*



*Lighting of the traditional DIWALI Lamps*



**Diwali sparklers**



**ALL the EYES and EARS on you Debbie!**

**= Wishing Lion Debbie a Sparkling Year ahead!**



*It's all about the FOOD*

*A generous donation to LCIF*



*Inducting NEW members towards  
Mission 1.5*



*Some serious moment!?*



*"We wish you a Merry Christmas"  
from the PDG Choir*

*WEST meets EAST - SANTA style!*



*In the end Dancing the EVENING away!!*

*Submitted by: Lion Sanjiv Endley*

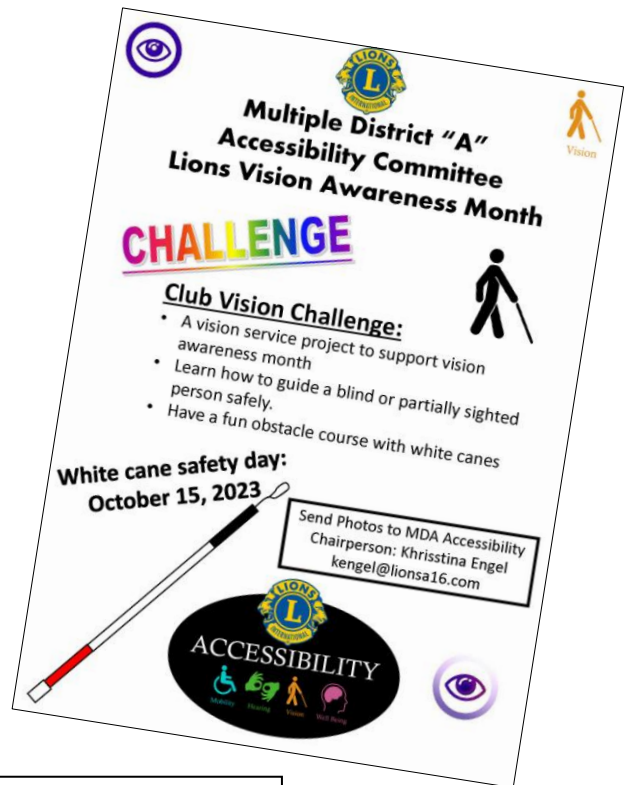


# District Accessibility Committee Report

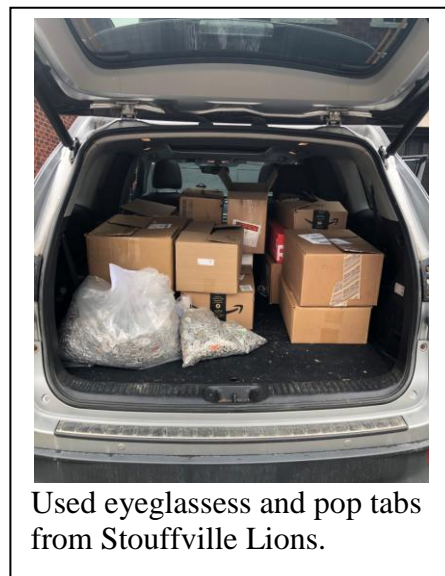
- Lion Khrisstina Engel

On behalf of the District A-16 Accessibility Committee we would like to thank the Udora-Leaskdale Lions Club for donating \$200.00 to CNIB Lake Joe “minibus” fundraiser. The Stouffville Lions Club delivered 1700 pairs of eyeglasses and 12 pounds of pop tabs. The North Newmarket Lions Club organized a White Cane obstacle course and donated \$1000 to the CNIB Lake Joe “minibus” fundraiser.

The District A-16 Accessibility committee sends our gratitude to all the Lions Clubs who participated in the MDA Lions Vision Awareness Challenge. Well Done, Lions!



North Newmarket Lions taking the White Cane challenge



Used eyeglasses and pop tabs from Stouffville Lions.

# District Childhood Cancer Committee Report

- Lion Chris Weerdenburg



Good Day Lions,

These are some pictures that were taken after the purchase of gift cards, hats, Christmas ornaments, stuffed animals, blankets, all the things that were asked for, with the generous donations of lions clubs. The lions family have done what they have been asked to do, support organizations that help those with cancer, Southlake Hospital, Hearth Place and Peterborough Regional, I know we are all very proud to be Lions and support our communities, when called upon.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas.  
Enjoy your time with loved ones and be safe.

Lion Chris Weerdenburg



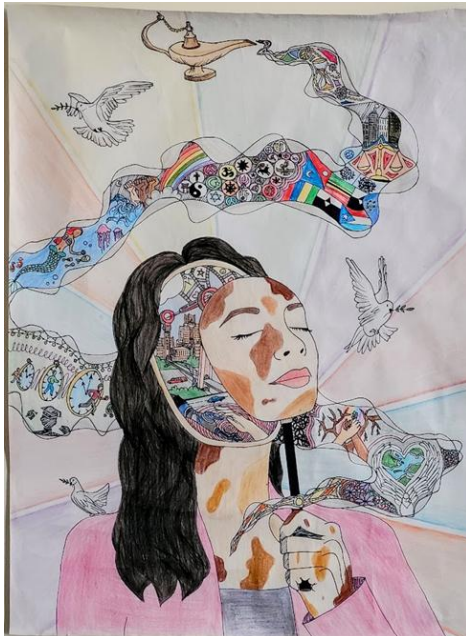


## Youth Opportunities Updates

- Lion Sylvia Brock

### Peace Poster Contest winners - 2023-2024 DARE TO DREAM

Shaima Khan placed first in our District A16 Peace Poster Contest and has won the MD 'A' Peace Poster Contest. Her poster has now entered the Lions Clubs International portion of the contest.



Despite our minds being an intricate fold, the glory that one's imagination holds is endless dreams of peace daring to be told.

SHAIMA KHAN

KEDRON P.S.

Sponsor: North Oshawa Lions Club

Dream of a world where everyone is included.

2nd Place Tie

CLARA MAY WEST

MAZO DE LA ROCHE P.S.

Peace is not only something to wish for,  
it is something to make and bring to life.





2nd Place Tie  
MASHA NOORSAFI  
MAPLE LEAF P.S.  
Sponsors: Newmarket Lions Club



### *Peace Essay Contest winner - 2023-2024 DARE TO DREAM*

The Peace Essay Contest was created to give an opportunity for visually impaired young people to express their feelings of peace. The International Essay Contest is a staple of Lions clubs around the world. Lions work with local schools and area families to identify young people who are interested in participating. Thank you to the York Region District School Board for partnering with District A16.

This year's winner is Yashas Bhat of McLeod Landing Public School sponsored by Oak Ridges Lions Club.

Congratulations to Yashas and the other young people who participated in the event.

Here is the winning essay from Yahas Bhat.

### ***Dare to Dream***

*by Yashas Bhat*

*Dare to Dream means to dream even when people doubt you, you still follow your heart. I think like the quote "The greatest pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do," (Walter Bagehot). That means it is fun to try what people say you cannot do. For instance, in basketball they use auditory cues (tapping the net so the player knows where to aim), balls with bells inside, and a narrator announcing where players are. People sometimes underestimate what people with a visual impairment can do. I think everyone should dream big, even those with a disability. Everyone can accomplish their dreams with access and the right tools. Such as Perkins brailier, brailiant and jaws screen reader computer. Access means everyone can do*

*it with things like braille labels. It feels discouraging to have people underestimate you. Most people with a visual impairment have experienced this. I think everyone should be treated equally and have the same opportunities. Their boss should provide full access to the employee. Without it makes them feel like they are not as good at their job but really you just need to make it accessible. There should be braille labels around the office, elevators to travel between floors. My advice is to keep dreaming big and believe in yourself because believing in yourself is a big step to dreaming big, and you must take risks to dream big. A way you can do this is accepting yourself, if you are persistent and have a growth mindset. Having a growth mindset means saying I cannot do it now but later I will if I practice. Your limit is your imagination. This means you can dream as much as your imagination allows you. For instance, the hockey player Paul Rosen started playing competitive hockey at a young age. Because of an injury and illness, he got his leg amputated. He did not let that stop his dream of hockey. He found another way to play by joining the paralympic sport sledge hockey team. He was a three time gold medal paralympian. Mr. Rosen is a good example of a person who dared to dream. My dream is to entertain and make people happy. One of the ways I can do this is by working at Nintendo and working on my YouTube channel. I might face challenges as an adult. A challenge I could face would be getting hired because I have a visual impairment. I would write a resume and say even though I have a visual impairment I am still as capable at animation. I might do something slightly different but I would still get the animation in my own way, just as well as anyone else. Dare to Dream means to dream even when people doubt you, you still follow your heart. So, I will look for role models and work hard and follow my dreams. This is my hope for everyone.*

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## *The Honourary Committee at their regularly dinner meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 in Lindsay.*



## District A-16 Cabinet Committees



- *Working for You and Your Club*
- *Working for Our District*
- *Working for Your Community*

There are 30 committees in our Lions District A-16 that collectively we call Cabinet Committees. They are beyond the committees that keep our District running, such as Convention and Election and Honourary, etc. They support Lions' global causes and our clubs' community participation. They support us as members and us as clubs. They link us with other organizations we support, both Lions (Dog Guides, Camp Kirk and more) and non-Lions (SCAW, those with whom we might partner).

Leaders of these committees are approachable - they communicate activity (some by eBlasts), they can answer questions and provide guidance, they may be able to provide speakers for your club meeting or event. But do you know of them?

Our District A-16 Policy Manual has a big section called *Cabinet and District Committee Information* and in it is a description of each of these committees. It's a good place to start.

Our District A-16 web site [www.lionsa16family.org](http://www.lionsa16family.org) is a good place to look for contact information as well as content.

***Hover over MENU and you will find:***

- ***Documents to the right:*** That's where the Policy Manual with Committee descriptions resides; also this year's A-16 Newsletters, our Protocol Guide and Regulatory Reference Guide, plus much more.
- ***Committees at the centre:*** That's where you find the Leader contact info for all these committees, plus Committee Pages - content from many of the committees, ready for you to read and use.
- ***District Officers and our District's Clubs to the left:*** Contacts with pictures of our Officers; contacts, meeting dates/times of all our clubs.

Here is the list of Cabinet Committees described in the Policy Manual.

Accessibility	LEOs
Advocacy & Community Engagement	Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides
Childhood Cancer	Lioness Lions Triumvirate

Club Websites  
Communications  
Diabetes  
Diversity  
Environment  
Eyeglass Collection  
Fellowship  
Grants & Partnerships  
Health & Welfare  
Hearing  
Hunger  
International Relations/LCI

Lions Quest  
Marketing  
Memoriam  
Newsletter  
Protocol  
Publications  
Reading Action  
Regulatory  
Sleeping Children Around the World (SCAW)  
Special Olympics  
Vision  
Youth Opportunities

*Submitted by: Lion Jim Doak, Constitution & Bylaws Committee Chairperson*

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## *From the A-16 Global Membership Team:*

*As a member of your club, you are an integral part of what Lions do, whether you hold an official title or not.*

Every Lion in our organization, makes a difference in this world we live in. We are, together, a positive influence making great strides in helping others around the world. Every time a member joins our service organization, new ideas, new faces and new energy can start flowing as we strengthen in numbers of those who care.

Please do share your ideas and dreams with your club of how you and others in your club can make a bigger impact in helping others. A great way to do this, is to speak first with your sponsor, mentor or maybe a committee chair or someone that you feel close to in the club. They can help you prepare to share your vision, so that others will want to help you, serve with you and fill the need.



Another way, we can all make a BIGGER difference, is to share why we are Lions, and ask others to come out to a service event, help others and ask them to become Lions.

Time does seem to be more limited in this fast-paced world these days. That's largely why we need MORE Lions. Remember that if everyone in your club was to sponsor a new Lion in the next 2 years, how many more needs in the community could be met, even if not all of your members could help out at every service event.

Many people today are not able to commit to more than 1 or 2 meetings a month along with 3 to 4 hours on one weekend a month. Be upfront and honest with those you ask. Ask them if they would find it worthwhile to make an impact of the lives of others by volunteering for no more than 10 hours a month. That's 10 hours out of 390 of our average waking hours a month. When you are asking a working individual with kids at home, they probably only have 40 hours a month of spare time, so asking for 10 hours may be a struggle sometimes.

## **Year 2024 - Time for a Reality Checkup?**

If we want younger, family members to join, we may need to consider some changes. Plan family friendly service projects and meetings, perhaps. If members can't make in-person meetings, can we arrange an online meet-up or an email vote and discussion? Ask your members and make effective changes in 2024.

Please remember to ask yourselves whether the services you are doing for the community are engaging for your members. Are they fun? Provide rewarding feedback? Limited time commitments for everyone involved? Are they fulfilling a need in the community? If your club did not do this event, would it be missed? Can you give this service a new twist to change things up?

Not sure..... maybe it's an ideal time to ask your mayor, principal of one of your schools and/or Community Police officer for their input on what is truly needed in the community and see how your club aligns with the needs suggested. (Community Needs Assessment)



Do you have youth involvement in your service activities? Does your local high school solicit for community service hours for their students? Are your local youth getting into more trouble than good? Do they lack Leadership, Experience and Opportunity? Not sure you are ready to meet those needs? Why not think about a public meeting to discuss an interest in forming a Leos club? Invite parents, students, local church ministers and other business leaders to it. Read all about Leos clubs, youth exchange programs and more at [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org) could just be the best service yet for your community.

I wish each and every one in the Lions family and beyond a wonderful holiday season and hope to see you in 2024.

Thank you for being a LION!

***Lion Karen Thompson***

***A-16 Global Membership Team Co-ordinator***



## *Seasons Greetings from ONTARIO BLIND GOLF*

The members and coaches of Ontario Blind Golf (OBG) wish the Lions of District A16 a very Merry Christmas and the greetings of the season to all. We wish everyone a happy holiday time and a Happy New Year.

OBG wishes to thank the Clubs in A16 for their generous support during 2023 and hope that the relationship between the Lions and the blind golfers will continue to grow in the years to come.

Although the golf clubs have been put away, the plans for next year's golf events are well underway. It is the Association's hope that whenever a tournament takes place in Ontario, that members from Lions Clubs in that area will come out and enjoy the comradery of playing Blind golf. When the next tournament takes place in A16, an invitation will be sent out.

Some of our blind golfers bring their guide dogs with them on the golf course and hopefully, with this article you will see a picture of one of the dogs. This guide dog usually sleeps in the golf cart during the entire round! Hey, it's a dog's life.



All the best to you from Ontario Blind Golf

***Submitted by: Lion David Burnett***



## Open Charity Bonspiel in support of

### *The Difference Campaign for Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides*

District A-16 Lions is pleased to announce that there will be an open charity bonspiel in support of The Difference Campaign for Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides new one-of-a-kind training school in Canada.

**Date:** *Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

**Time:** *9am and 11am starts*

**Venue:** *Fenelon Falls Curling Club*

This is being jointly hosted by the Fenelon Falls Curling Club and a committee of A-16 Lions.

It is open to experienced and new curlers, Lions and non-Lions.



Please consider registering a team, or a Lion or two individually. This is a great opportunity of exposure and support of Lions, our Canadian Foundation and Dog Guides. It is also an excellent Membership Growth event for the District.

Questions?

Please email Lion Karen Thompson at [kthompson@lionsa16.com](mailto:kthompson@lionsa16.com)

***Submitted by: Lion Karen Thompson***



# *A-16 Regional Lions Leadership Institute*

## *Congratulations to the 14 Graduates*

Over the two Saturdays on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, something very interesting happened at the Kirkfield Lions Hall.

We saw a group of over 20 Lions from different clubs across our District gathered there. There were lots of fun and laughter, group games and discussions, fellowship building, knowledge and experiences sharing, encouragement and support to each other there to help all to become better Lions in serving our communities.

It was the Regional Lions Leadership Institute (RLLI) hosted by the District Global Leadership Team for Lions of A-16. We covered topics on Working in Teams, Lions Fundamentals, Diversity, Motivating Club Members, Art of Recognition, and Setting Goals.

Congratulations to the 14 Lions who completed the RLLI.

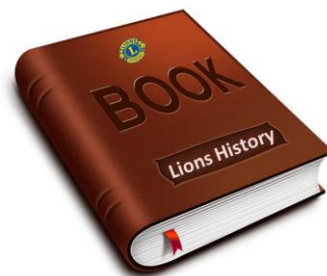
Thank you to the faculty members: Lions Glenn Conduit, Tom Gordon, JC Lagrange, John Relph, and Carolyn Stephenson. Special thanks to the administration support provided by Lion Patty Ko. Governor Sudha Verma was with us for the close of the event.

### *Class of 2023 A-16 RLLI*



*Submitted by: Lion Tim Cheung*

# Charter Anniversary Celebrations



Hearty Congratulations to All the Clubs who were recently presented to commemorate this special milestone:

- UXBRIDGE & DISTRICT LIONS -- 50 YEARS
- FENELON FALLS & DISTRICT LIONS - 50 YEARS
- MARKHAM LIONS -- 80 YEARS
- AURORA LIONS -- 80 YEARS



Celebrating the Anniversary of your Club's Charter is a wonderful occasion, marking the milestones, achievements and impact your club has had in the community. It is a time to reflect on the meaningful contributions made by your members and to renew your commitment to service and community involvement.

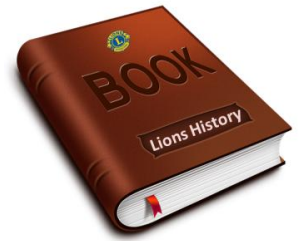
Here's to many more years of Service, Fellowship and Leadership making a difference to help "Changing the World". District A-16 is proud of YOU.

With Warm Regards & Best Wishes  
***DG Sudha Verma***

*(Clockwise from top: Uxbridge Lions, Fenelon Falls Lions, Markham Lions, and Aurora Lions)*

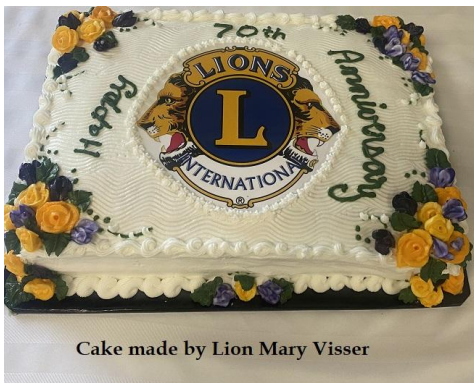


# Charter Anniversary



## Coboconk and District Lions Celebrate 70 Years of Service

Coboconk and District Lions Club was chartered on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 1953. On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 we held a celebration with 52 people in attendance. Attendees included the A16 Governor Sudha Verma, five PDG's, two Zone Chairs and a representative from all three levels of Government, as well as many Lions from neighboring Lions clubs.



Cake made by Lion Mary Visser

A decision was made early on not to hold the celebration at our Lions Hall but at the local RC Legion. A small committee was set up to handle the organizational part of the celebration. We contracted out the setup and cooking so our members could enjoy the events.

We had a meet and greet from noon until 12:30, followed by greetings from several dignitaries. Then our longest serving member and former Melvin Jones award winning Lion Bill Barber provide a brief history of the club. Next President Lion Bev Parsons formally welcomed attendees.

After a fantastic lunch we had a demonstration by Michelle Visser and her guide dog BonBon. Michelle followed up with a Q&A. The background story behind the guide dog is that it is the first guide dog our club sponsored. It was a long journey for our Club. In 2018 we decided to sponsor a dog, on condition the dog went to some deserving candidate within the City of Kawartha Lakes. Covid hit and everything was delayed. Finally in June of 2023 BonBon and Michelle were paired up. One fantastic part of this story is Michelle is the granddaughter of two of our Lions. This project was just meant to be.



Michelle accepting a cheque on behalf of Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides.

After Michelle's presentation we inducted a new member. No Lions Club can survive unless we all put a succession plan to get new members. Welcome to our newest Lion Linda McGregor. Festivities conclude with a draw for door prize and closing remarks.



**Sept. 23. 2023 Coboconk Lions 70th Charter Event**

**Front Row LtoR - Colleen McMahon, Mary Visser, Elaine Rowden, President Bev Parsons, Dale Houghton, John Byrne - 2nd Row - LtoR - Ed McMahon, Peter Visser, Pat Stone, David Parsons, Carol Parsons, Liz Cardno, Bill Barber, Linda McGregor, Glenn Houghton, Ted Stone, - Back Row - Centre - Tom Kiriakou, Rob Dasovic - Two members were absent - Sherry Stewart and David Lennox**

***Submitted by: Lion John Byrne***

## *A conversation with Lion Khrisstina Engel, our Accessibility Chairperson and Club President of a new Cyber Club Branch*



The District Governor's Newsletter editor invited Lion Khrisstina Engel of North Newmarket Lions Club to share her journey as a Lion with our readers.

Thank you Lion Khrisstina for participating in the interview.

**Editor:** Can you tell us when did you become a Lion? And how did you begin your journey as a Lion?

**Lion Khrisstina:** A close family friend who was a member brought me to my first North Newmarket Lions Club meeting in May 2015 hoping that one day to be sponsored for a guide dog. She thought the club members could meet me and they could tell me more about the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. I was only 7 months into my Vision Loss journey, so I was nowhere near to being able to apply for a guide dog. I had only been using a white cane for a month. The one consent memory of that first meeting was how welcomed I felt. No one treated me any differently. They saw me as the person first and the vision loss second. Members came over to where I was and took turns introducing themselves to me. During the meeting, they would explain certain things about Lions that as a new person I had no idea what they were talking about. There was another member in the club who lived with sight loss, and she was the President. I thought to myself Wow, this is amazing. I went home with a smile. My friend invited me to the next meeting which I was happy to be able to attend. That night I filled out my membership application with assistance. I was initiated as a member of the North Newmarket Lions Club in December 2015.



**Editor:** You are a very special individual as you do not let your vision impairment slow you down in serving as a Lion. Can you share with us some of your memorable moments as a Lion?

**Lion Khrisstina:** My motto has been since my vision loss journey began, I can do what you can do I just do it slower and differently but at the end of the day it comes out the same. I have so many memorable moments as a Lion that I would never have dreamt of before my Vision Loss

journey. The North Newmarket Lions Club has some wonderful leaders who see each person for their abilities, and the possibility of a great leader. If you live with challenges, that doesn't matter. This Lions Club really believes in mentoring. They will work with you to help you achieve a goal. Becoming the North Newmarket Lions Club, Club Secretary for 4 years was not something I thought I could do but one day I had 3 Lions knocking on my door who asked me to become the Club Secretary. They believed in me when I did not. These 2 great mentors spent the time to help me learn the Lions portal and how to do service reports. The one thing I should point out is that I was just learning to use a screen reader on my computer, so this was a learning curve for me but a good one as I now needed to be more efficient on my computer with the screen reader.

In 2017/2018 being asked my PDG JC LaGrange to start the first District A-16 Accessibility Committee. In 2020/2021 Council Chair Elect Debbie Dawson asked me to start the Accessibility Committee on Multiple District 'A' which has been a huge learning experience. I am so proud of the work we have been doing on Accessibility in District A-16 and Multiple District "A". In December 2021, I was asked to speak at the Lions of Canada Canadian Conversation on the work we have been doing in Accessibility which was such an honour. This year I was asked to be apart of the Multiple District "A" Sight Conservation/CNIB Lake Joesph Committee which has been an incredible honour for me as this camp means so much to me as a client/camper/and Lion.



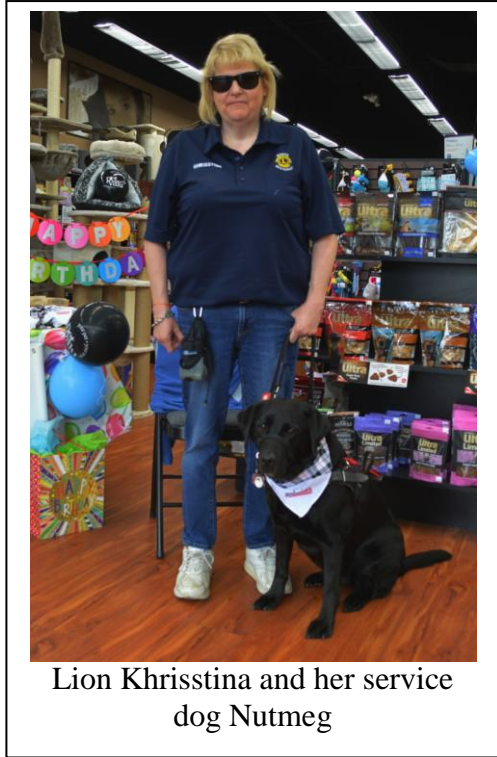
Lion Khristina selling Dog Guides calendars to support LFCDG

I have to say the work I have done to promote the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides is where I am the proudest. I have been honoured to have been invited to various Lions Clubs in District A-16 to speak about my experience as a Guide Dog handler and going through the training at the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. I have been a Guest speaker for several Pet Valu Walks for Dog Guides. The North Newmarket Lions Club is what makes me the happiest as they sponsored me to get a Guide Dog for which I am forever grateful. We organize the Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides Newmarket for several years including virtually during Covid-19. We have been selling the

Green Capes Calendars for several years. In 2019, at New'Barket' which is a dog festival in Newmarket every September we had a booth for the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides where I was able to call on my friends who are graduates from various programs and foster puppies/parents to attend during which we were able to educate the community on Dog Guides awareness and etiquette. The North Newmarket Lions Club holds a Curling Bonspiel for Puppies annually and we can get Graduates from various programs and foster puppies/parents to come out and educate the curlers.

**Editor:** You have a service dog, Nutmeg, with you. How long have you two been together? And where did you receive your service dog?

**Lion Khrisstina:** Nutmeg is my Guide Dog, and she is from the Lions Foundation of Canada



Lion Khrisstina and her service dog Nutmeg

Dog Guides which the North Newmarket Lions Club sponsored us for which I am forever grateful. Nutmeg and I graduated on March 9, 2017. Nutmeg and I will be celebrating 7 years this March 2024. We are the only team left in my class that are still working. Nutmeg is such an incredible Guide Dog, and she truly loves to work. Nothing makes her happier than getting her harness on and heading out the door. I truly was blessed when Nutmeg came into my life. We bonded instantly from the moment we met and walked down the hall at the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides on my first full day of training. I didn't even know she was going to be my dog. We were told not to fall in love with the dog we were walking with as most likely they weren't our dogs but getting told she was going to go home with me was the most incredible feeling. It took me a few days to realize this new reality, but I am thankful Nutmeg was given to me. She is so special. I love her so much and she has given me more than I could ever give her.

**Editor:** You just started a new cyber branch club with members coming across a large geography. What can you tell us about the new club? And how did you come up with the idea of the new club?

**Lion Khrisstina:** I came up with the idea of starting a new Lions Club in 2018, after returning home from 12 days at CNIB Lake Joseph which is a camp for the blind in Muskoka. The problem was how to get us together when transportation is an issue. I thought perhaps through Facebook but not everyone who lives with Sight loss can use Facebook or use a computer. In 2019, CNIB started to teach clients how to use Zoom and started support groups across Canada in which I participated. I knew this was my answer. Covid-19 hit and my dream of starting a Lions Club for those who live with Sight Loss was put to the side. When PDG Carolyn Stephenson was District Governor I attended her Zoom District Committee Chairperson's Goals for the year. One goal was to start a Cyber Club, Speciality Club, and a Branch Club. PDG Carolyn and I quickly started to discuss this idea of a cyber specialty branch club. GMT Karen Thompson and I started to work on learning more about Branch Clubs as we didn't have one in A-16. When I left for Camp in August 2022, I had a plan in which I was able to talk to many of the campers who were and were not Lions. We now had some more people interested in

becoming a Lions member. At the end of February 2023, GMT Karen Thompson and I held the History meeting to follow 2 weeks later in March with the Information meeting. On August 30, 2023, Lions International accepted our Branch application and Canada True Vision Cyber Club Branch was now apart of District A-16 with thanks to the support of the North Newmarket Lions Club who is the parent club and sponsored our branch club.

**Editor:** I understand that your new branch club members come from all over Ontario and beyond. Can you tell us more about that?

**Lion Khrisstina:** Canada True Vision Cyber Club Branch represents members of the Lions family across Canada who are visually impaired or blind, but we do have sighted members as well. Members of Canada True Vision Cyber Club Branch are in 3 provinces which we like to say coast to coast across Canada. This is very exciting as we are the only Club that represents all of Canada with members in other provinces.



**Editor:** Looking forward, what do you want your new club to be like?

**Lion Khrisstina:** I would like to continue showing the Lions family how limitations and barriers can be overcome. True vision has little to do with sight rather it is more the way we perceive the world around us. With saying that Canada True Vision Lions has been accepting Lions who live with challenges who may not be able to attend in person meetings for various reasons relating to their non-visible challenges. Being on Zoom is giving them the opportunity to be active and doing service. I started this Lions Club for the visually impaired, but I see a bigger picture. There is a need for Cyber Clubs that are accepting of anyone who lives with challenges. We, the Canada True Vision Cyber Club Branch, will welcome everyone. Our main goals will not change going forward. It will always be to educate and communicate to the Lions family on issues relating to vision loss. We will share our experiences and advice in living in today's world. We will continue to celebrate each member's successes as a Lions Club family.

I would like to see Canada True Vision Cyber Club Branch continue breaking down barriers and developing a Lions community for those who live with sight loss which is something we are doing actively now. We are participating in the MD19 Knights of the Blind Christmas Extravaganza on December 16 via Zoom with other Knights of the Blind throughout the United States and Canada. My hope is that in the future we can come together often to learn from each other and what each Lions Club is doing in their community with living with the same



challenges. I hope our membership will continue to grow and one day we get our charter then we will be called the Lions of Canada True Vision Cyber Club which would be very exciting.

**Editor:** And for yourself, what would you like to focus more on in continuing your Lion journey?

**Lion Khrisstina:** For the last year, my main goal has been the Canada True Vision Cyber Club Branch. It's a lot of work to start a Lions Club, more than I anticipated but I have learned so much. Right now, we are planning our Celebration Party which will be in March 2024. We are still in the beginning stages, forming committees, building our membership, and building new relationships. I am really proud of this group of Lions. The response and support from Lions Canada-Wide has been incredible which has been fantastic!

I have no long-term goals right now in Lions. I will continue working on projects that I am passionate about. I love being a Lion and being around such an amazing positive group of people and doing service in our community. I love having fun with the North Newmarket Lions Club members and helping with BBQs and any other projects that we do.

One of my best decisions in my Life was becoming a Lion and I am so proud of the work we do. Becoming a Lion has filled me with so much joy and given me a purpose in Life. Thank you to the North Newmarket Lions Club and everyone who has been a mentor to me and supported me throughout the years. I am forever grateful to you all.

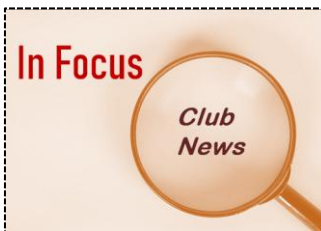
**Editor:** Thank you very much Lion Khrisstina for taking your time to join us for the interview. We wish you all the best in your Lion journey.



# 2024 District A-16 Convention

Save the Date: April 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Scugog Island, Port Perry hosted by The Port Perry Lions Club



- ✓ Registration forms available in January 2024 with accommodation details
- ✓ Overnight stays – special Lions rate bookings start in January at Great Blue Heron Hotel
- ✓ Accommodation for visiting RVs near hotel/casino
- ✓ All meals and most events will take place at the Mississaugas First Nation Health & Resource Centre (MSIFN Hall). 1.8 km north of hotel, shuttle service all day Saturday
- ✓ Special International Guests: International Director, Jay Moughon and Nancy Moughon from Clifton, Virginia



## A Glimpse at some of the Itinerary.....

**Friday 7 pm Warm up: MSIFN Hall** – A friendly club competition, Newcomers Contest, Entertainment, prize. Hospitality Suites at hotel



**Saturday: 7:30 am Lions Breakfast**

9:30 am Strides Walk - (Convention Service Project) in Memory of PDG Brian Moore. Club participation/pledges/donations encouraged, Strides pins for pre-registered participants Funds go to Governor's Camp Dorset project

11:00 am Opening Ceremonies – MSIFN Hall

12:30 pm Lions Luncheon – MSIFN Hall

1:30 pm – 4:30 pm Region Rallies - may include workshops/fun activities, Candidate Speeches, pin trading (donations to District projects), Mini LCI shop, local vendors and displays, casino time.

6 pm Governor's Banquet – MSIFN Hall

Following Banquet Entertainment at MSIFN Hall, Hospitality Suites at Hotel



**Sunday: 7:00 am MJF Breakfast** (Invitation only) -MSIFN Hall

8:00 am Voting Opens – MSIFN Boardroom

8:30 – Worship Service – MSIFN Hall 9:30 am Memorial Service -MSIFN Hall

10:30 am – Business Session, Announcements, Lions Pride, Closing of Convention

1:30/2 pm – Wrap up Luncheon – Local Pizza and Wings

## *King City Lions Club supports The Difference Campaign for Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides*



Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides (LFCDG) has grown to be the only training school in the world to train Dog Guides in 7 unique and distinct programs: Canine Vision, Hearing, Service, Seizure Response, Diabetic Alert, Autism Assistance and Facility Support. As the demand continues to grow, the training school in Oakville is at maximum capacity for both dogs and people and is not accessible for the people we serve. The Difference Campaign aims at investing in a new fully accessible school with expanded capacity towards the goal of matching 250 dog guides with people each year.

King City Lions Club made a very generous donation to The Difference Campaign and presented a cheque to LFCDG at the recent Region 18 Joint Zone Meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Lions Ken Orr, Ian McClelland, and David Perry of King City Lions Club were at the meeting presenting the cheque. Representing LFCDG to receive the donation were Lion Elizabeth Price, A16 LFCDG committee chairperson, and PCC Lion Tim Cheung, The Difference Campaign committee member.



In the picture (from L to R) : RC Ken Orr, Lion Elizabeth Price, Lion Tim Cheung. Lion Ian McClelland. and Lion David Perry.

***Submitted by: Lion Tim Cheung***

# Markham Lions Club

- In Action, and more Actions!

**Pop Cans:** The Markham Lions Club collected 113 pounds of aluminum pop cans over the summer and Lion Barry MacDonald delivered them to the recycler. It was a great Service project for the Environment, ensuring that the cans wouldn't end up in a landfill while it added \$49.7 to the Markham Lions Club Service account.



**Markham Lions Club 80th Charter Anniversary Celebration:** The Markham Lions Club celebrated their 80th Charter Anniversary on Sunday, October 22nd and welcomed Lions from all over District A16 who attended, as well as members of the Markham Lions Club, and local dignitaries who joined our celebration of 80 wonderful years of service. As part of the celebration, the Markham Lions took part in a rededication ceremony led by District Governor Sudha Verma. The club then received a plaque from our District Governor and a plaque from the City of Markham, presented by Markham's Mayor Frank Scarpitti. The club also received an official proclamation from Markham's Town Crier, Lion John Webster to honour the occasion.

**"Take a Walk, Diabetes" 5K fundraising walk:** On Sunday, November 5th, the Markham Lions Club held their 3rd Annual 5km "Take a Walk, Diabetes" fundraising walk. Milne Conservation Park was the venue; paths are smooth, with benches for resting. Lion President Charles was joined by MLC Lions Lionel, Ken Drynan, Barry, and Sharon. Lion Elaine from Campbellford Lions Club, and District Diabetes Chair Hugh Adams participated as well. The weather was as perfect as the company. Diabetes information signs were placed along the route, so anyone walking by could read them.

Pictured in the top image, from left to right: Lion Hugh Adams, Lion Ken Drynan, Lion Elaine Gooderham, Lion Lionel Clarke, Lion Secretary Sharon MacDonald, Lion President Charles Herriot, PDG Lion Barry MacDonald. Pictured in the bottom image, from left to right: PDG Lion Barry MacDonald, Lion Secretary Sharon MacDonald, Lion Lionel Clarke, Lion Hugh Adams, Lion Elaine Gooderham, Lion President Charles Herriot.



Above: At the start of our "Take a Walk, Diabetes" 5K fundraising walk  
Below: At the midway point of our "Take a Walk, Diabetes" 5K fundraising walk



**Markham Lions Club Remembrance Day 2023:** Markham Lions Club's Lion President Charles Herriot laid the club's wreath at Markham's Cenotaph, on November 11, 2023, along with Markham Lions Club Community Chair Lion Bill Dewberry, as they shared a moment of silence. Also attending the ceremony on behalf of the Markham Lions were Lions Sharon & Barry MacDonald, Lion Ken Drynan, Lion Bill Hosking, Lion John Macdonald and IPP Lion Elizabeth Price.



**Santa Claus Parade:** The Markham Lions participated in the recent 49th Annual Markham Santa Claus Parade to celebrate the holiday season and reach out to their community with best wishes on Saturday, November 25th. Club members handed out over 2,000 pieces of candy to happy children along the parade route and everyone agreed the number of people in the crowds who came out to see the parade has grown. The weather cooperated and much fun was had by all.



*Submitted by: Lion Charles Herriot*



## Markham Lions Club Celebrating Lion C. Donald Brodie

The Markham Lions are proud of their club member, the late Lion Don Brodie, a Melvin Jones Fellowship recipient, with a deep appreciation for community, as exemplified through his involvement with numerous volunteer organizations.

Upon his passing Lion Don, a quiet, visionary philanthropist, bequeathed a “transformational legacy gift” to Markham Stouffville Hospital. In so doing he has made a profoundly positive impact on many lives for a very long time to come.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2023 the Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation held a celebration honouring Lion Don Brodie. They gave thanks to Lion Don and to the Brodie family. Cora, Don’s beloved sister, was present as were members of the Markham Lions Club, friends, the Mayor, and MSH dignitaries.

The Program reads: “Markham Stouffville Hospital is a grateful beneficiary of Don’s transformational legacy gift and inspired by his generosity and that of the Brodie family.”

In recognition of Lion Don’s extraordinary generosity Markham Stouffville Hospital is pleased to name 377 Church Street in Markham, the ***C. Donald Brodie Medical Centre***.  
A fitting acknowledgement for a fine human being.



***Submitted by: Lion Charles Herriot***

# Bobcaygeon & District Lions Club

## *News from the Bobcaygeon Lions*



We have had a very busy year so far in serving up food at various events, having weekly Bingo, having a very successful 50/50 Raffle, picking up scrap from various residents and businesses, having a scrap drop off, renting out our Hall, and running our very successful food booth at the Bobcaygeon Fall Fair.

From these fund raising events, we have been able to donate quite a bit of money to help organizations and people in need. From September to now, I am very proud to submit this list of donations from our club:

- \$500 to help a resident purchase hearing aids
- \$3500 to LCIF (\$1000 to disaster relief in Acapulco)
- \$1000 to ALS on behalf of a Bobcaygeon Resident
- \$931 to Camp Huronda
- \$931 to Kawartha North Family Health Team
- \$300 to help with transportation costs to Sick Kids for a local family dealing with Childhood Cancer
- \$3000 for 30 x \$100 gift cards from Foodland for clients of the Food Bank
- \$200 for Peterborough Hospital's Cancer Surgical Unit
- \$300 for children's crafts at Festival of Trees
- \$400 for SCAW kits
- \$450 for gift cards from Pharmasave for Senior Food Bank clients
- \$1186 for Childhood Cancer Christmas gifts
- \$100 to Bobcaygeon Legion for Remembrance Day wreath
- \$2000 to Lions Dog Guide Foundation Building Fund
- \$2000 to Lions Camp Dorset
- \$5000 to the Community Care Fund Raiser for New Building
- \$500 to CNIB Camp Joe towards a new bus
- \$200 to a family in need through the Bobcaygeon Public School
- \$200 to Pinecrest Nursing Home for their Christmas Program
- \$5000 to Globus Theatre for the Performing Arts Fund Raiser (several of our youth are involved) The owners cried when we presented the cheque.
- \$602.95 to pay for special lenses for a young boy with vision issues
- \$1000 to a local resident who has just found out that she has cancer and must take a leave of absence from her job for her chemo treatments, then surgery.

Not only do we fundraise, but we like to help out local organizations with their events. We have members who volunteer their time to pick up groceries and deliver them to clients of the Food

Bank, who are house bound. Several of our members helped out the local Pickleball club with their very successful tournament to raise needed funds for the Kawartha North Family Health Unit.

We helped a local Marina raise funds for ALS by cooking for them. We also volunteered to help the Salvation Army with their kettle drive several times this month. We supported our Chamber of Commerce by joining in on the Mingle/Jingle Day.

We supported the Bobcaygeon Kinettes by putting a float in the Santa Claus parade which gave us the opportunity to advertise our Bobcaygeon Lions Club once again. Better still, we had a local boy, who we had helped to get a guide dog, ride in the sleigh, promoting what we do. The same evening, when we were warming up in a Tim Hortons, a lovely lady presented us with a big bag of toys for Children's Cancer.

We are definitely known around our community.

I would be very remiss if I did not praise our Bingo players. They really appreciate our Lions club holding a Bingo every week which has become more of a social gathering for them and they thank us constantly. They are very generous in donating anything we ask for, whether it is food for the Food Bank or gifts for Children dealing with cancer this Christmas. They also help us collect glasses, pop tabs, prescription bottles, and gently used shoes and boots. Recently, many of them who knit or crochet, made several new born baby caps for premature babies in the hospital for us.



We were also very fortunate and happy to welcome 5 new members to our club. 4 of them have been inducted. They are already working hard for our club and community.

We are hoping to hold a free soup and sandwich day in the new year to bring residents into our Hall and meet us.

***Submitted by: Lion Lynda Darling***



# Udora & Leaskdale Lions Club



## *Made Donations to two worthy Foundations*

Earlier this year, The Udora & Leaskdale Lions Club made donations to two very worthy foundations.

We donated \$10,000.00 to the Uxbridge Hospital Foundation (UHF) for the New Uxbridge Hospital. The cheque was accepted by Michele Varela on behalf of the UHF.

We also presented a cheque for \$5000.00 to PDG Janet Marissen and King, her guide dog trainee for the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides \$5000.00 for their “The Difference” Capital campaign.



Pictured on the left are Lions Larry, Byron, and Bob with Michele Varela of the Uxbridge Hospital Foundation.

Pictured on the right are President Byron, PDG Janet Marissen and Lions Randy, Mae, Lisa, and Jo-Anne with King.



***Submitted by: Lion Dave Minns***

# Canada True Vision Cyber Club Branch



Canada True Vision Cyber Club Branch has been going through the initial steps when a new club is forming. Our first official service project was putting out our first quarterly newsletter. The Newsletter is intended to reach out to all of our Lions family across Canada, to share in the lives of members who are visually impaired or blind. The stories in our article reflect who we are and how we function in our daily lives. Through this communication we ask that vision impaired or blind people that you know can share with us, tricks, tips, and technologies that enhances the quality of their lives and those around them.

The Lions are the Knights of the Blind and we hope to illustrate that life without sight can be fruitful, productive, and fulfilling.

We are looking forward to our inaugural Celebration Party in March 2024. More details to come.

From our Lions Club to yours have a Merry Christmas, and if you missed our Newsletter, please click [here](#) to access the eblast sent out previously for a copy of the newsletter.

***Submitted by: Lion Khrisstina Engel, President  
Canada True Vision Cyber Club Branch***



# Beaverton Lions Club

## *The Reading Action Project 2023*



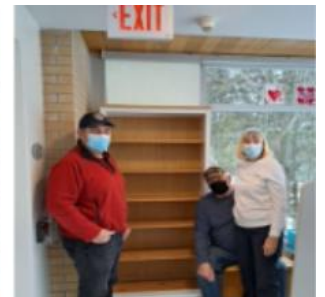
The Beaverton Lions provide ongoing programs, activities and services to the residents of the Lakeview Manor Long Term Care. Lakeview is owned by the Regional Municipality of Durham. It is home to 149 people.

During COVID the residents were restricted to their immediate residence areas. They were unable to access the common areas in the facility, including the library. Many residents missed being able to have books, audiobooks and DVDs available to them. The library was converted into a staff and caregiver COVID test center. In 2022, the Beaverton Lions purchased and installed bookcases for each of the units. It was noted at the time that many of the books in the testing/library area were in poor condition or were unsuitable for use by the residents.

This need inspired.

### ***The Great Library Collection Makeover 2023 edition.***

In January, a group of Lions met at Lakeview Manor for a few hours every week to sort, label, and reorganize the entire collection in the still “closed” library. Books that were beyond their useful lifespan were recycled. We soon realized we needed more books to fill up the shelves on the units and to refill the library. After requesting donations at a Lions meeting, cartons and cartons of gently used and new books began arriving.



As our project progressed, the staff at Lakeview mentioned that it was a dream of theirs to have the fiction collection become Large Print only so the books could be enjoyed by more residents. One of our Lion’s members works at the local public library and was able to arrange for large print books that had been removed from their collection to be donated to the makeover. Another nearby library system was hosting a book sale, so a member purchased and donated over 100 gently used large print.



All the books had genre labels affixed to their spines so the books could be easily identified. The labels help keep the main library looking organized and tidy. Labelling books, we soon learned, takes a very long time. Lions put in over 30 service hours just on the labelling task.



Once all the books were ready for reading, several Lions delivered a selection of books, audiobooks and DVDs to each of the bookcases in the unit common areas. It was at that time we realized that we had no bookends (and no budget to purchase safe new bookends). Another group of Lions got together and made beautiful custom bookends from wood and labeled with our Lions Club logo.

As we were able to switch the Lakeview collection to large print, we realized we had a collection of labeled regular print books to find new space for. We contacted Durham Region Community Housing who arranged for us to meet with the building manager at the Wayside Apartments. They welcomed our help. We were able to replace their entire collection and the residents and manager were thrilled. We will visit a couple of times a year to switch out their materials.



Our project reached nearly 200 people who could not access reading materials. We put in over 150 hours of service and had a lot of fun whilst doing so.

*Submitted by: Lion Jo Scott*



# Omemees Lioness Lions Club

## *Little Free Library – a dream come true*



I am an avid reader and have always been fascinated with the different little libraries I have seen. Last Spring I had a dream of bringing one to our community of Omemees.

I spoke to our Reading Action Chairperson and discovered Little Free Libraries. I then asked an Omemees Lion, who has a Real Estate Office on our main street with a lovely lawn, if he would allow us to put a library on his property. Then, I made a proposal to my Omemees Lioness Lions, and they agreed to support my dream!

Over the summer, my recently retired husband, created our library with skill and love. Then on September 30/23, I was able to fill it with assorted books for adults and children, and with the support of everyone involved, I was able to present “my dream come true” to all of Omemees and surrounding district.

We are all so proud of our Little Free Library.



***Take a Book***  
***Share a Book***



***Submitted by: Omemees Lioness Lion Pat Aitken***

# Udora & Leaskdale Lions Club

## *Supporting Food Bank*



Last month the Udora-Leaskdale Lions Club gave donations of \$2,000.00 to the Georgina Food Pantry and the Uxbridge Loaves and Fishes Food Bank. We also were able to give over 150 lbs of to the food banks. The club earned the money volunteering at Bingo World in Newmarket.



Pictured above are Lion Ron Robinson, Lion Dave Minns, Cesar Caneo of the Georgina Food Pantry and Lion Larry Emo



In the picture above are Heather and Heather of the Uxbridge Loaves and Fishes Food Bank, Lion Larry Emo and Lion Byron Taylor

# Udora & Leaskdale Lions Club

## *Breakfast with Santa in Udora*



On December 3<sup>rd</sup> after three years absent Breakfast with Santa returned to Udora. Everyone enjoyed a pancake and sausage breakfast, then Santa arrived and 80 children were photographed with Santa and received a present. If the smiles on the kid's faces were any indication this was another successful event by our club. Thank you to everyone for your generous donations. We were able to delivery nearly 100 lbs of food to the Food Bank.



### ***Santa's Helpers***

Breakfast with Santa could not have been such a success without the help of the many elves behind the scene. Thank you, Lions Bob, Russ, and Robin for organizing the event and the many helpers in the kitchen and the photography teams.

### ***Santa Thanks You All***



***Submitted by: Lion Dave Minns***

# Kinmount & District Lions Club



Kinmount and District Lions concluded another successful summer of selling tickets on our Summer Draw on October 2, 2023. The 13 lucky tickets were drawn including the main prize Carved Bear Bench which was won by a very happy gentleman from Lindsay.

We were happy to provide a shining example of ‘where there’s a need, there’s a Lion’. Club President JC was contacted by the principal of Ridgewood Public School in Coboconk. They were holding a Terry Fox Run at Kinmount Fairgrounds on October 4 but needed someone to supply 350 hot dogs and apples to students and staff. It was short notice but Kinmount Lions stepped up and Coboconk Lions promptly agreed to assist so that 350 hot dogs were purchased, cooked and served for the successful Terry Fox Run.



On October 17, we had the honour of having the official visit from District Governor, Sudha Verma. She talked on emphasizing Leadership, Service and Fellowship. She presented several members with her beautiful DG pin and Lion JC presented her with a cheque for her project- Dialysis Camp Dorset.



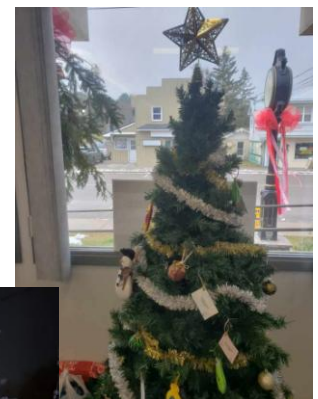
## ***Additional Service Projects:***



October 28- Club Members had a lot of hard work and also lot of fun in preparing our first annual Halloween Event- Terror in the Park for Tots and Teens- held at Austin Sawmill Park.

November 13- erected Angel Tree at Kinmount Post Office to collect gifts for kids and food items to be distributed by Kinmount Food Bank.

December 7- provided hot chocolate and cookies at annual Kinmount Tree Lighting.



December 9- decorated Kinmount Legion, prepared and served pancakes and bacon at our Annual Breakfast with Santa, also provided various activities for the children including visiting Santa.



***Submitted by: Lion Margaret McAllister***



# Sunderland Lions Club

## *Water Bottle Filling Station*



Sunderland Lions Club provided a water bottle filling station at the Sunderland Baseball Diamonds. The filling station was donated by the Sunderland Lions and installed by Bagshaw Plumbing of Sunderland.

Pictured below are Brad Bagshaw of Bagshaw Plumbing and Past President Brian Hodgson of Sunderland Lions Club



***Submitted by: Lion Brian Hodgson***

***Thank You for reading the December 2023 issue of the A-16 District Governor Newsletter!***

*This is a quarterly Newsletter to share news and information for Lions across our District. You can find all issues of the Newsletter in the A16 website at <https://lionsa16family.org/documents.html>*



*We are happy to welcome Lion Sanjiv Endley of Victoria Markham Square Lions Club joining the Newsletter committee. Welcome Lion Sanjiv!*

*The DG Newsletter committee is looking for additional committee members. If you are interested in knowing more on what service projects and club activities that clubs in A-16 are doing, this would be an excellent opportunity to get some first-hand experience in getting the information and posting it to the Newsletter for all Lions in A-16 to enjoy. It is also a great opportunity to get to know more Lions in A-16 through some direct communications with Lions working on their submissions. We ask that you are proficient in using Word document in creating and editing documents with text and pictures.*

*If you are interested in joining the committee, send me an email at [tcheung@lionsa16.com](mailto:tcheung@lionsa16.com).*

*We want to thank the Clubs submitting their club events and service projects to us for this issue. The DG Newsletter needs your support!*

***The next issue will go out on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Submissions are due on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Please send your stories in WORD document format. If you have pictures, please send them as separate files in JPEG format. This will make the editing a lot simpler.***

*We are waiting for your stories via email at: [tcheung@lionsa16.com](mailto:tcheung@lionsa16.com)*

***Happy Reading!***

***DG Newsletter Committee***

***Lions Sanjiv Endley, Eleanor Colwell and Tim Cheung***

