Lions’ Den Article for July 1, 2016

At our June 1st meeting the Mayne Island Lions enjoyed having special guests from Ottawa, Heather Chitussi, president of their club, and her husband. Our other guests were MJ and Ron Weeks. Three new members, Wayne Walker, Kim Fairall and Janet Guy were inducted into the club. Welcome to the team.

Gerry Wise talked about the upcoming Emergency Services and the role that the Lions Club can play during a crisis.

Wayne Ming, who has worked very hard for the community, received a 10 year Service Star Award Certificate. Bob Soper has the illustrious title of “tail twister” and it falls upon him to add a little enthusiasm to our meetings. Ask him about how his latest scheme works to understand why our members don’t want to miss a meeting!

It was announced that Sabrina Sommerville is the worthy recipient of the Fred Greenslade scholarship this year. Her hard work has paid off in her excellent achievements in school, and we wish her great success as she moves on with her education.

Once again the Lions will be helping at the school with the Bike Rodeo on June 22. This is a combined effort t of school staff, the RCMP and the Lions, to promote safe cycling and to have bicycles checked for safety as well. Thanks to Adrian Gowing for heading up this event.

While the Legion will be heading up the ceremonial flag raising at Miners Bay on July 1st, the Lions will be cooking up burgers and hotdogs and providing beverages for those in attendance from 11:30am to 1:30 pm.

With the Church Fair taking place on July 9, the Lions will be busy erecting tents and providing the chefs and the grill on wheels for lunch. Lots of hands will be needed at the end of the day for the take-downs.

On June 18, we held our annual Summerfest. Our members and partners attended this event at the Community Centre to celebrate our June to June calendar year, to honour the outgoing executive, welcome in the new executive, and to have a good meal and great entertainment. Neil Howard was our gracious MC and the Dennis Enns Trio provided background music during the meal as well as dance music afterwards. At one point they inspired 99% of us to do a chain dance around the tables.

In his parting speech, president Bill Warning thanked the members for their participation in a very active year, and the ongoing requirement of many hands needed for helping with summer weddings, Aboriginal Day, the Church Fair, the Syrian Refugee potluck day, the Quilt Show, the Salmon BBQ, and more.

Incoming president, Brian Dearden, spoke about how we operate as a team and in partnership with other community groups, giving the example of the very successful Kraft Dinner cook-off with the MIALS folks. He added that all of the proceeds from our 222 draw at the Salmon Bake on Labour Day weekend will be going to MIALS. In addition to these proceeds, Neil Howard presented an additional $300 cheque from the bar receipts of the mac and cheese evening to MIALS rep Colleen Dearden.

It remains to be seen what new ideas will spring forth from the club in the next year as we follow our motto, “We Serve.” Our next general meeting isn’t until September 7, but the executive will be meeting during the summer to keep business rolling.

Submitted by David Chase

www.mayneislandlions.org