FROM THE LIONS DEN, AUGUST, 2014.

 We move forward into the Lions new 2014-15 year, but first we shall cast a retrospective glance backwards. The Canada Day celebration at Dinner Bay Park this year was the best within my memory. A great troop of volunteers, both Lions and non-Lions, among them two from Mayne Island Fire Rescue, Kyle Stobart and Eric Rice, turned up to set up the tents on the last morning of June, and next day, the park was filled with visitors whose appetite for hamburgers and hot dogs kept the cooking crew’s assembly line moving briskly. Sales at the Lions Flea Market and the Silver Maynes Antiques and Collectibles Mart were healthy. At twelve noon, everything stopped for ten minutes, and as a cohort of firefighters watched, and a Mountie in full regalia saluted, Marion Worrall, representing the Royal Canadian Legion, raised the red-and-white maple-leaf flag, and Ray and Lo led us in the national anthem. “Ray and Lo” are Ray MacDonald and Lorie Naylor. Ray sings with the Vancouver Men’s Choir and Lorie is a summer resident on our island who sings with a group called the “Harmony Choir”. They provided us with a splendid programme of song to help make this the best Canada Day ever on Mayne Island.

 We sold 300 hamburgers and 150 hot dogs, with the proceeds donated to the Legion, and for that accomplishment, I must say a word of thanks to TruValu Grocery at the Maynestreet Mall. It provided the improved hamburger patties, 2014 version, which met general approbation, and when we ran low on the trimmings, we telephoned Paul van Giesen at TruValu and he arrived at the Adachi Pavilion with more lettuce, tomatoes and condiments within ten minutes. You don’t get service like that from Costco. The cooking team, headed by Richard Jarco, maintained a pace that MacDonald’s could not have bettered – and without the help of Temporary Foreign Workers! Then, on July 12, the Jarco team was back at the St. Mary Madgalene Church Fair, where the pace was hardly less brisk. Lion Bob Soper was in charge of setting up the grounds for the Church Fair and he has asked me to pass on his thanks to all the Lions members who helped –and there were a lot of them.

 St. Mary Magdalene church customarily recognizes the service that the Lions Club provides for the fair by making a small donation, once the proceeds have been counted. We neither ask for nor expect it, but we greatly appreciate it. It is a pleasant thing to be thanked, and our bank account is grateful.

 Lions who count on being hale and more or less hearty in 2015 should note the weekend of April 17-19th on their calendars, for that is the date of “Festival Active Pass”. April is a month when marine birds and mammals ready themselves for their migrations to their breeding grounds, while on land, spring flowers that have escaped the attention of the fallow deer burst into bloom. So in April, 2015, and hopefully in many Aprils to follow, we shall celebrate the season that bursts upon Active Pass and the Salish Sea every April. The waters of Active Pass are designated an international IBA, another acronym to remember, or, if the memory in your brain is overloaded, enter it in your Blackberry or whatever. It means “Important Bird Area.” Migrating birds pause here to rest on the journey northwards, and some stay to raise their young. Ten pairs of Bald Eagles nest in this IBA and upwards to one hundred forage here in the winter months. The diversity of life in the sea around us is almost as great as in the air. Active Pass deserves a festival and the Lions Club is one of its supporters. Watch the plans as they develop, on the festival’s web site, at [www.festivalactivepass.com](http://www.festivalactivepass.com). The contact man is Stephen Cropper, info@festivactivepass.com.

 Lions members have been busy selling tickets for the 222 draw which will take place at the Lions Salmon Bake on the last day of August, just before Labour Day. The proceeds will go to help pay the cost of a macadamized cycling pathway along Village Bay Road between the ferry terminal and Miners Bay. The path is part of the Southern Gulf Islands cycling and pedestrian draft trail plan which the Capital Regional District is promoting. Anyone who bears a few nicks on his body from falling off a bicycle before oncoming traffic will appreciate a dedicated cycling path. On July 26th, too late for my deadline, the Gulf Islands trail plan will all be explained at the Ag Hall while the Farmer’s Market is unfolding on the Ag Hall grounds. Our 222 draw will support this endeavor. So readers who do not have a ticket for the draw should run down a Lion and secure one. I know there are still tickets for sale out there among the Lions of Mayne Island. But they will soon be harder to find. Only two hundred and twenty-two tickets are printed, and so chances of winning compare well with BC Lottery.

 On August 16th, Miners Bay will host Mayne Island’s answer to the PNE, the annual Fall Fair. The Lions Club will be there, peddling our new, improved hamburgers and hot dogs, and offering bingo games to all comers. Bingo provides much of the money that funds the Fred Greenslade scholarship and the other grants we make in aid of training and education. So thank you to all the good people who have patronized Lions bingos in the past and will do so in the future. They are investing in our youth and having fun doing it. The parade that opens the fair is one of the highlights of the summer, which is passing too quickly. I would be happier if the “Fall Fair” were called the “Summer Fair”, but on Mayne Island, by hallowed tradition, fall begins in August. However, it’s been a great summer, so far, and it is passing too quickly.

 Parkinson’s Disease, which occurs when the brain stops making dopamine, a chemical that helps keep the body moving, is no stranger to the Mayne Island Lions Club. In communities across British Columbia, there will be “Superwalks” in September to raise money for research into finding a cure. Right now, medical intervention and exercise programmes can slow the disease, but there is no cure yet. One hundred thousand Canadians live in hope that a cure can be found, and research funding can bring the hope closer to realization. There will be a “Superwalk” in Vancouver on September 7th, and one of our members, Brian Bovet, will make the walk. He is looking for sponsors and the Lions Club wants to help him find them. The URL of the “Superwalk” is [www.parkinsonsuperwalk.ca](http://www.parkinsonsuperwalk.ca).

 On July 24, the Lions presented Molly Bushell and Stephen Cropper in a recital at the Ag Hall. When I arrived, there was already a lineup at the door of the old Ag Hall, and we were not disappointed. Molly presented a concert which began with Richard Straussand ended with Schubert’s *Ave Maria.* Molly returns this fall for her third and final year in the music programme at Newcastle University in the United Kingdom, and she goes with our best wishes. And finally, I want to remind everyone of the Lions Salmon Bake on Labour Day weekend. Scott Naylor will present a programme of music and song from the Peter Archer Stage at Dinner Bay Park. It’s been a good year for salmon, and for those odd souls who don’t like salmon, there is barbecued chicken. The Salmon Bake is an annual event that no visitor to Mayne Island should miss.

James Allan Evans