FROM THE LIONS DEN

JULY, 2014.

As the month of May wound down, I received an e-mail forwarded to me by our incoming president, Richard Jarco, who was enjoying the sights and sounds of Europe but still keeping in touch with Mayne Island with his I-Pad. The e-mail told me that six intrepid students from Mayne Island, now at secondary school on Salt Spring, were planning a tour of England, France and Italy during spring break in 2015, and were looking for ways to raise money to pay expenses. They wanted the blessing of the Lions Club, and possibly a little financial assistance. So we invited the students to meet with the Lions Executive, and at our June meeting, a delegation arrived: the students and some of their parents, and they explained what their plans were. The expedition they envisage will be part of an educational student tour from the Salt Spring High School, organized by a couple teachers, and it will visit London, Paris, Florence and Rome. The Lions Executive took the project to the June general meeting where it received general support. No promises yet, but the Lions Club looks on this expedition with benevolence, and it applauds the initiative of six students who are already hard at work raising funds. So, dear reader, if you see teenage students helping out at the Canada Day celebration, or selling popcorn at the Church Fair (July 12), give them your encouragement. They deserve it.

The 2013-14 Lions year will be drawing to a close with the summer solstice, when a new executive takes over. It has been a year we can look back upon with pride. Our most costly contribution to the community has been a new stove for the Agricultural Hall kitchen. It is a magnificent appliance, a sculptural masterpiece in itself, and I have no idea how it works. But we made smaller grants to help pay for training four Emergency Medical Responders in a Red Cross programme led by Paul Stone, president of HeartSafe B.C., which was hosted last October by Mayne Island Fire Rescue, and we granted a subsidy to Mayne Islander John Aitken to allow him to take the production of his pantomime ‘”The Gift” to Pender and Galiano Islands. The Lions helped fund the Summer Earth Education and Seedlings Programme in 2013, which was offered by GICEL (Gulf Islands Centre for Ecological Learning). We donated $2,695.82 raised by our 222 draw in 2013 to the Mayne Island School Playground project, and the groundwork for this year’s draw, which will bankroll the Mayne Island Pathways initiative that plans a safe bicycle path from Village Bay to Miners Bay, is well underway. Our Salmon Bake on Labour Day weekend last year made the pages of *Border Crossing,* a Lions internet bi-monthly*.* We held a successful Charter Night dinner last November 9th, where we named Dereck and Sue Atha ‘Mayne Islanders of the Year’, and on December 14th, the club brought the Lions Santa Ship to Miners Bay as part of its Christmas voyage to the Southern Gulf Islands and the San Juans. And, to jump to the present calendar year, on June 21 we celebrated the year’s end with ‘Summerfest’ at the Community Centre, where for the first time, non-Lions were invited to join us.

And a good number did. I collected sixty-two tickets at the door, both from Lions and non-Lions. The feast was a superb production by Shaun Fitzgerald of Saturna Island, and its climax was the dessert: strawberry shortcake. The entertainment was by Paul Laverick from Larsen Music in Victoria ([www.larsenmusic.ca](http://www.larsenmusic.ca)) and he came with assorted ukuleles, took us back through several decades of popular song. There was even a song-sheet on our table with “You are my sunshine/My only sunshine,” though we never got around to singing it. Paul even attempted to show us how to play the ukulele, with mixed success. “Summerfest” was a splendid evening of merriment and Dennis Watts, who organized it, left us all deeply appreciative.

Last year, the Lions sponsored a recital by mezzo-soprano Molly Bushell who is a familiar face at the Sunny Mayne Bakery in the summer season, and this year we shall repeat the performance. Molly has finished her second year in the music programme at Newcastle University, and we can hear her at the Ag Hall, July 24th, singing pieces by Henry Purcell, Strauss, Gabriel Fauré, Johannes Brahms and others. At the keyboard will be Elizabeth Jahren, the talented pianist who is better known as the Mayne Island veterinarian. Note the date of the recital. The date which appears in the ‘From the Lions Den’ column in the July *Mayneliner* has been changed, but the change was made too late for the *Mayneliner*  deadline. The correct date is July 24th, at the Ag Hall, Miners Bay. Admission is by donation, and the money will go to help pay for Molly’s third year at Newcastle University.

July 1st will be Canada’s Charter Day and the Lions have been busy preparing a celebration. It will be a big bash at Dinner Bay Park, complete with the improved hamburgers offered this year, hot dogs, beer in a beer tent; and on the Peter Archer stage we present “Ray and Lo”: Ray and Lorie Naylor. Ray belongs to the Vancouver Men’s Choir and Lo to the Vancouver Women’s Chorus. Their programme will start after the Canadian flag has been raised, the Mountie(s) has saluted, and the assembled citizenry has belted out “O, Canada!” with patriotic fervour. Remember to join us at the Bingo Tent. We want your company, and the Lions scholarship programme, which bingo helps support, welcomes your money.

James Allan Evans

Secretary, Lions Club.