From the Lions Den. March, 2015.

Secretaries write minutes of meetings, and as far as I can recollect, up until this year when Judi Walker took over as recording secretary, I have produced four years of minutes for the Lions Club. I have just finished rereading this corpus of deathless prose to find raw material for a procedures manual, and have been quite appalled by the lapses in grammar and literary style, which the members have approved without objection, to say nothing of elementary matters such as dates, to which they have. I have never quite grasped the concept behind the Gregorian calendar, which is an effort to chop time into units of days, weeks and months, whereas time flows non-stop, fast or slowly as it chooses, without regard for our attempts to measure it. Yet the reread is a revelation of what our club has done, or left undone. A couple years ago, a member observed that we should try to discover if the club generates enough income to cover financial commitments. The question was held over for future discussion. (At its last meeting, the Executive did set up a bipartite committee to look into ways and means of raising money.) A motion of about the same date raised the value of our Fred Greenslade scholarship for post-secondary students resident on our island from $1,000, to $1,500.00 a year for four years. The minutes record grants requested, services offered, and even help offered when it was not requested. The Lions’ motto, “We Serve” is taken seriously, though at least once I was reminded of the pint-sized Boy Scout who came to his Scout Master with a black eye, and when the Scout Master asked why, he replied,

“I was just trying to help a little old lady across the street, and she didn’t want to go.”

As I write, I have just returned from a Lions Zone meeting at the Centre Saanich club house, which is itself a fragment of history, for the local farmers built it some 115 years ago as a Temperance House to accommodate non-alcoholic social occasions. Time passed, and the old Temperance House fell into such disrepair that Saanich Firemen marked it for a burn down. But just in time, the Lions Club stepped in and restored it. Club representatives in our zone gathered there to report activities and your scrivener listened. The Central Saanich club has raised money by chipping Christmas trees and selling the wood pulp to local farmers. The Gordon Head club has collected 1,100 eyeglasses as well as 30 lenses that were shipped to India. We collect eyeglasses too, thanks to the efforts of Lion Bill Liversidge who has reported that our club donated twenty pairs of eyeglasses this month, but Gordon Head is well ahead. The Pender Island Club supported the Santa Ship visit last December, as did we, and Santa attracted more children than Pender has seen for a long time. On Saturna Island, the Lions Club remains the one bright spot in the island economy.

The Lions District Governor, Georgia Medwedrich paid us a visit at our February General Meeting where the chefs who produced the dinner were Millie Leathers and Kit Mitchell. A few days ago I received a card of appreciation from her and she made particular mention of “the most awesome dinner!” She assisted with the induction ceremony of our newest member, Marion Worrall. Welcome, Marion! Our membership total remains healthy, though we’ve lost couple members to ill health. Before DG Georgia left for her next stop, we presented her with an assortment of jams and jellies from Mayne Island, and a carton of Guinness, which she once learned to like during a visit to Ireland. She mentioned it especially in her card of appreciation. The profit from the dinner at the General Meeting, once expenses were paid, was donated to the Mayne Island Food bank.

Festival Active Pass will fill the weekend of April 17th. The Lions Club is not a sponsor but we shall be busy, for all our tents and equipment will be in use. Estimates of the number of visitors expected vary. I’ve heard numbers ranging from 150 to 250. It will be the great beginning to the Mayne Island tourist season.

Finally, I am delighted to report that our president, Richard Jarco is back from Mexico. I spotted him at Swartz Bay, transferring to the *Queen of Cumberland,* on his way home to Mayne Island. Mexico may be appropriating our automotive industry, but at least we’re keeping Richard.

Allan Evans (Secretary)

www.mayneislandlionsclub.org