[*I have already sent you a photo of the “Round the World” lunch on April 4…. Taken by Toby Snelgrove. Caption: The Lions “Round the World” luncheon on April 4 to mark “Friends and Family” month.*

April 15th, 7: 40 p.m.

FROM THE LIONS DEN. MAY, 2014.

First of all, an accolade is due to one of our valued club members, and in the process of bestowing it, our club can give itself a small pat on the back. Word may already have reached our island that the Lions Clubs of District I held their spring conference in Nanaimo where they elected officers for 2014-15. The Second Vice-District Governor who was elected was Alan Guy, president of the Mayne Island Club for two terms, 2011-13, and now past-president. He was also one of three Lions at the conference who was selected to receive an International President’s Certificate of Appreciation along with a very nice badge. Our club was also received compliments, partly from reflected glory, but also, according to the reports that have reached me, because ours is one of the most active clubs in the district. We can all preen a little, though none of us deserves to do it as much as Alan Guy.

And now, more compliments. As the month of March ambled off into the embrace of history, Mayne Islanders will have received a copy of the 2014 Lions Telephone Directory, which has now become, as well, a directory of URLs and e-mail addresses, and a directory of local businesses. We hand delivered when we could, for mail is now an expensive luxury. A working man in the 1930 might have put in a day’s labour to earn what it costs to send a letter nowadays. But the job is done, and a pristine copy of the 2014 Lions directory is now ready to receive your coffee stains for the coming year. Thanks are due to Toby Snelgrove and his team. Thanks, too, to the advertisers that bought space in the Directory, both the businesses on Mayne Island and those in Sidney. I should mention with boundless admiration one foray to Sidney by a squadron of Lions advertising salesmen, consisting of Neil Howard, John Glover, Adrian Gowing and Bill Liversidge. First, they fortified themselves with a breakfast at *Tim Horton’s* and then, fueled by Tim’s doughnuts and coffee, they tackled and waylaid the businesses of Sidney-by-the-sea, who were made aware of the importance of the Mayne Island market. The Lions Telephone Directory has come a long way from its early beginnings as a mimeographed list of names and telephone numbers, and its story deserves telling.

On April 4th, Lions Clubs around the world staged luncheons to mark the start of “Friends and Family” month in the Lions calendar. The luncheons began in New Zealand, and then followed the time zones around the world. By the time that noon of 4 April reached Mayne Island, it had already almost circled the globe. Only Hawaii came later. But late though our luncheon was, it succeeded beyond expectation. The official count of the guests was 58, and when we upended the donations jar and counted up the contents, we found that the donors had covered the cost of the food and the rental of the Ag Hall, and there was a little left over. We shall try to repeat the success next year, perhaps not on a Friday. The Sunny Mayne Bakery provided the soup and sandwiches, and Lionesses stocked the dessert table. We owe a tremendous debt to the Lions and their wives who made the event a triumph, with a special word of thanks to Dennis Watts, Kit Mitchell and Alan Guy, and all the rest who set up the Ag Hall and cleaned up after the luncheon was over.

The Mayne Lions Club will once again sponsor a recital this summer by mezzo-soprano Molly Bushell, who is studying music at Newcastle University in the U.K. and is just finishing her second year. One left to go! Molly is the granddaughter of Lion Wayne Ming, and she is a familiar face in the Sunny Mayne Bakery in the summer months. The Lions summer promises to be crowded. We shall provide tents and/or equipment to the Silver Maynes plant sale on Mother’s Day weekend (May 10), to the Mayne Island Firemen’s pancake breakfast for Mother’s Day (May 11), and to the annual St. Mary Magdalene Church Fair (July 12). May 14th is the date of the Lions own “Steak Night”, when Lions assemble at the Adachi Pavilion in Dinner Bay Park to devour barbecued steaks. Lions are carnivores, as you would expect. “Summerfest” when we say goodbye to the 2013-14 Executive, is on June 21, and then on Canada Day, the Lions will put their patriotic side on display as we raise the flag at Dinner Bay, and as a sequel we shall sell our improved hamburgers and hot dogs, and purvey gently-used items in our flea market.

Tickets for the 2014 “222 draw” will be on sale at the Canada Day celebration. Each year, the Lions raise money for a worthy project with a raffle held at the annual Salmon Barbecue on Labour Day weekend. This year, the “worthy project” will be the Village Bay – Miners Bay bicycle corridor, which will provide a safe pathway for cyclists disembarking at Village Bay. Readers of this column will hear more of this later, and some may have already seen the plans for the corridor for they were on display at the Ag Hall in the dying days of March. This project deserves support.

James Allan Evans

Secretary, Mayne Island Lions.