FINAL COPY

From the Lions Den. October 2014.

 Another year for the Mayne Island Lions Club began with the month of September, when children usually head back to school, but not in Beautiful B.C., where schools remained closed. However, the Mayne Island Lions club held its first General Meeting on September 3, when it inducted four new members and welcomed back two whose membership had lapsed. The new members are Kit Mitchell, Richard Bougie, John Verheuil and Marion Worrall. The reinstated members are Gary Teager and Anita McCamley. We owe a special debt to Anita. At the 2014 Salmon BBQ on August 31st, Scott Naylor’s band, the “Mortimers”, was booked to provide entertainment from the Peter Archer stage at Dinner Bay Park, and when it cancelled, Anita stepped in with a brilliant performance. It was good to see her back, and in good form. I made peace with my Blackberry long enough to steal a few pictures of her on stage, and I am including the best of them here. Thanks, Anita.

 A number of Mayne Islanders went home from the Salmon BBQ richer than when they came, for Lady Luck, or whoever presides over the Lions 222 draw, ordained that this year, domicile on our island mattered. The big winners, who took home more than $100.00, were Rena Chase, Joanna Weeks and Millie Leathers. Those whom the gods deemed worthy of more niggardly sums were John Glover, S. Marshall, Jerry Betker, Brian Dearden, Kathy Jensen, David Wetson, George Koomas, and Julie Hayward. However, the big winner is the Mayne Island Pathways and Trails project, which is starting work this fall, building a bicycle path linking Village Bay and Miners Bay. The proceeds from the 222 draw will help to make it happen.

 Next spring, the Lions Club will ask itself the question whether or not to hold a 222 draw for 2015, and if the answer is yes, then it will decide on a project to support: one that will add to the amenities of Mayne Island. If any readers have suggestions, mention them to a Lions member. We like new ideas.

 How many guests came to the Salmon BBQ? We can estimate the size of the crowd by adding together the number of meals and hot dogs sold, as many to adults as to children, and the total is in the vicinity of five hundred. The BBQ qualifies as the major event of the Mayne Island Summer.

 The bards of ancient Greece told the story of clever Odysseus, a dauntless survivor, who wandered over the wine-dark sea for ten long years until he reached his home on the little island of Ithaca, where he found his wife Penelope besieged by forty-eight suitors, all of whom he dispatched to the Underworld. We have our own counterpart of Odysseus, Brian Dearden, who sailed the pathless ocean for 17 days from Hawaii back home to Mayne Island, where he and his wife Colleen cooked dinner for the Lions General Meeting on September 3. That is an epic worthy of an oral bard’s song, accompanied by a lyre, but since we have neither a bard nor a lyre available, I can record the voyage of Brian Dearden for history with no more than a mention in this column. We are glad to have him back safe and sound, and by all reports, his cuisine at the Lions September meeting was superb. It deserves a reprise. I could not attend the September meeting, and my information is based on hearsay.

The tent rental crew has been busy this summer, and the rental business has fattened the Lions bank account, though half the tents, chairs and tables that we lent were provided free to other non-profit societies. We are very grateful to Henry Till, who looks after booking the rentals and to Bill Warning, who organizes the crews to deliver the goods, set up and take down the tents. All the Lions members that helped deserve a big thank- you. To serve the community better, we have purchased another barbecue, two new tents and ten more tables. We are donating $400.00 to the Meredyth James Fund to help the Community Centre with start-up costs for its “All Dressed-Up and Somewhere to Go” party on 27 September. And one thousand dollars has been set aside for the Music Society’s campaign to renovate the bandstand on the Agricultural Hall grounds at Miners Bay.

The Lions Charter night is scheduled for 8 November, in the Mayne Island School auditorium. The Teachers’ Strike has just been settled as I write, and the school auditorium should be available. Charter Night is inclusive: Lions members are given first chance to buy tickets and then Charter Night is opened up to all Mayne Islanders, and very welcome they will be. This will be the occasion when the Club announces its choice as “Mayne Islander of the Year” – MIOY for short --, and the nomination process for that distinction will take place in the weeks ahead. Nominations can be made by anyone to the “MIOY Committee” which makes the final choice. They can be left at Gulfport Realty Freemail, in a sealed envelope addressed to the MIOY Nominating Committee.

We have a date when we can expect the Santa Ship which sails to Miners Bay from Bellingham each Christmas season. It is December 13th. Rest assured: Santa is coming.

 Allan.