FROM THE LIONS DEN

SEPTEMBER 2O14.

 By time-honoured tradition, every Sunday before Labour Day, the Mayne Island Lions Club presents a salmon barbecue (with chicken if you prefer) at Dinner Bay Park, complete with the best meal anywhere for $18.00, with first-rate entertainment as an add on, and bingo for those who like fun and educational outreach, for the proceeds from the Lions bingo games support scholarships. There is also a children’s menu: hot dog and pop for $3.00. Adults can have it too; maturity is not a reason for discrimination. We start serving salmon and chicken at 12 noon, and keep on serving until 5, unless we run out of food. The meal comes along with Caesar salad, baked potato, dessert, coffee or tea, and a big smile from our servers.

 The entertainment on the Peter Archer stage will be by the rock dance band that rejoices in the moniker of “the Mortimers”. Yes, that is a lower case “t” on “the”. The band, Kurt Turner, Greg Wall, Jimm Fedyk, Colin “Boomer” Powell, and Scott Naylor, is four years old, but they all have careers behind them. They have been on the Peter Archer stage once before. Check our web site at [www.mayneislandlions.org](http://www.mayneislandlions.org) for some photos to remind you of a performance a couple years ago at a Mayne Island Canada Day celebration. Kurt Turner, the lead singer, has done everything from musical reviews back in the 1950s, and marching bands before he graduated to punk rock. Greg Wall commands the lead guitar, and also plays a hot saxophone. Jimm Fedyk, who spells his first name with a double “m” to distinguish himself from ordinary Jims, also plays guitar. In fact, he has spent a lifetime playing it and refining his sound, which is not a bad way to spend a life. Colin Powell, nicknamed ‘Boomer”, is a drummer, and also sings background vocals, as does Scott Naylor. Scott’s instrument is bass guitar. “The Mortimers” will help you enjoy a pleasant afternoon as you watch the autumn sun give a final caress to Dinner Bay.

 There will be more as well. I have mentioned bingo. It’s worth mentioning again. And watch for the winners of the 222 draw. This year the Lions Club at Lake Sumter, Florida, bought a batch of 222 tickets. Let’s see how lucky they are. As I write, all of this year’s 222 tickets have been sold, and almost all have been paid for. The draw will help defray the cost of a macadamized bicycle path from Village Bay to Miners Bay. The work surveying the pathway has already started.

 Another summer is gone. It has been a busy season for the Lions. Our tents have been in demand, both by private parties who pay for them, and by other Mayne Island Societies, for which we charge nothing. *Grazie tanto* is enough, though let me not discourage any urge to make a donation. Bill Warning is the point man who has led the crews that pitch the tents and take them down, and Lions have turned out willingly to help this year, sometimes at short notice. The Lions were at the Mayne Island Fall Fair on August 16th, selling hamburgers and hot dogs to a great queue of customers. Richard Jarco, our president, organized the hamburger vendors, and any of his relatives who happened to be visiting were put to work. The bingo tent on Dixon Road, outside the fairground, was a lively place. Thank you, Mayne Islanders (if you read this column), for your support.

The year ahead will present new challenges. I’m not sure what they will be, but I do know that will come. Ill health has sidelined some of our veteran members and will sideline more. That’s life. But we are receiving new members. You will see some of them at the Salmon Bake on August 31st, where all Mayne Islanders, residents and visitors, are welcome.

One last minute news flash! Each year at the Lions Charter Night in November, the club chooses a “Mayne Islander of the Year” whose contributions have made life on Mayne Island a little better, and the selection process for the 2014 Islander has begun. Anyone can put forward a nominee. Nominations should be made in writing, and sent with letters of support to the selection committee. Letters may be left at the Gulfport Realty Freemail in an envelope addressed to Dennis Watts and marked “Lions Islander Nomination”, or give the envelope to a Lions member who will see to it that it reaches the selection committee.

 James Allan Evans