FROM THE LIONS DEN. FEB. 2015.

This past month has been a time when we should be glad to be Mayne Islanders. Off island, frigid temperatures with snow and sleet have spread from Cape Race to Nootka Sound, and this morning CBC News showed a video of icy highways in the eastern United States, with trucks and cars looking like construction toys heaped together by drunken giants. Yet, outside my window, the morning sunlight was slanting across Campbell Bay and gilding Edith Point. Pity the poor sods on the mainland, cut off as they are from Mayne Island! However, winter is not over until our expat Lions return from Mexico with their suntans.

The 2015 year began with a Lions Executive meeting on January 5 and the General Meeting on the next Wednesday, where Anita McCamley catered the meal, helped by the Mayne Island Youth Fitness group, which got whatever profit that it generated. Len Epp, the Lion who rallies volunteers every year to put up and take down the Christmas lights in the Japanese Gardens, reported that donations this year reached a record number. That is good news, for the only revenue which the Gardens have, is from donations, and they are one of Mayne Island’s best tourist destinations. Millie Leathers, our membership secretary, presented copies of the new Lions brochure which should attract attention to Mayne Island. The design is superb and the photographs magnificent. Our treasurer Mike Bullis reported that a cheque for $2,673.00 had been delivered to the Mayne Island Paths and Trails Association to help pay for the bicycle path planned between Village Bay and Miners Bay. The funds came from last year’s Lions 222 draw at the annual Salmon Bake on Labour Day weekend. The Christmas Bingo, conducted under the baton of Adrian Gowing, brought in more than $1,200.00, which is a welcome addition to our scholarship fund.

There are some dates in the year ahead that Lions and friends of the Lions should mark in their calendars. “Steak Night” at the Adachi Pavilion is booked for 20 May. “Summerfest” at the Community Centre will be on 20 June and Charter Night at the Mayne Island School gymnasium on 7 November. For “Summerfest” and Charter Night, we offer tickets first to Lions members and then to the general public, whom we love to welcome. Our next General Meeting will be on the first Wednesday evening of February, and Millie Leathers and Kit Mitchell will cater. Shepherd’s Pie is on the menu.

James Allan Evans

Secretary, Mayne Island Lions Club.