FROM THE LIONS DEN JUNE 2014.

I predict good weather for the Lions end-of-year ‘Summerfest’, on the summer solstice, June 21, at the Community Centre. The food will be good. The chef, Shaun Fitzgerald, has been imported from Saturna Island where the gourmet feast that he prepared for the Saturna Lions Charter Night on April 28th has solidified his reputation. The Mayne Island Lions Club sent a large delegation to the Saturna Charter Night celebration, transported by a small flotilla of boats from Mayne Island, under the command of Toby Snelgrove. The flotilla also returned the delegation safely to Mayne Island, full of praise for Saturna hospitality and cuisine. So we can be sure that the banquet at ‘Summerfest’ will delight our taste buds.

So, too, should the entertainment give delight. It will be a program by ukulele virtuoso Paul Laverick of the Larsen School of Music in Victoria, accompanied by a band of happy ukulele players. It may have escaped the notice of some Mayne islanders that in our neighbouring city of Victoria, “Ukulele Week” took place on April 18-25. Ukuleles used to be very popular until they were pushed aside by electric guitars, but they are now making a comeback. They are a democratic instruments. Everyone can strum one, and everyone can enjoy it. I’m assured, too, told that almost everyone can produce real music from it. “Summerfest” will end the 2013-14 Lions year magnificently.

 Tickets cost $30.00, and they are available to Lions members first, and then if tickets are still available after June 15, the feast will be opened to the general public. So, if you are not a Lion and want to go, get in touch with your local friendly Lion.

The evening of May 14th was the date of the Lions spring Steak Night at the Adachi Pavilion on Dinner Bay. It was a time when Lions could get in touch with their inner Neanderthal Man, and devour meat. I was glad to see not only a large number of Lions but also ex-Lions at the feast. Richard Jarco, Jerry Betker and Bryan Westby were the cooks and for the barbecue they unveiled the “new-to-us” party grille which was a welcome donation to the club last year. Some like their steaks carbonized and others are happy to have them merely travel quickly over the grill – our cooks satisfied all tastes. With salad, baked potato, vegetable and bun, the meal was a bargain for $20.00. The silver twilight of our northern spring lasted until the meal was over and we packed up the tables and chairs to return them to the Lions shed at Dinner Bay. A few of us even had time before dusk fell to check the putting green at Dinner Bay, which now is ready for use, thanks to the efforts of Lions members, Bryan Westby and Brian Bovet.

Lions Clubs are required to be non-political, but now that the Mayne Firehall referendum belongs to past history, the question has graduated into the realm of the apolitical, and I can express satisfaction at the decisive majority vote for the new firehall. We can now unite in non-political support. We have a fine volunteer fire department, which is a very good thing, for the wildfires in California presage a hot, dry summer on the west coast. Mayne’s Fire Rescue will soon be matched with a modern firehall that will help move the island’s micro-economy forward. So should another project, which the Lions will help fund with their 222 draw this year, the Mayne Island Pathways Initiative. Its first undertaking is to build a bicycle path from the Village Bay ferry terminal to Miners Bay. At the moment, cyclists who take that route must dodge traffic on a narrow hilly road that challenges the sturdiest of them. The path won’t be ready this year, but let’s pin hopes on 2015. Tickets for the Lions 222 draw that will support the Pathways Initiative, are being numbered as I write. Contact your friendly local Lions to purchase one. If he has none to sell, tell him to contact the writer of this column, who will bite him.

I am glad to report that the Lions Easter Bingo had the best attendance of any Lions bingo in living memory, Thanks should go to Dennis Watts who organized it, and the other Lions too numerous to mention who helped. There will be another bingo at Dinner Bay Park on July 1st, as part of the Canada Day celebration. Proceeds from the Lions bingos go to fund the Fred Greenslade scholarship, worth $1,500.00 a year for four years, and the winner of this year’s Greenslade is Sierra Steele who plans to enter the social sciences programme at the University of Victoria next year. Island theatre patrons will have seen her this year in the Mayne Island Little Theatre production of *Emotional Creatures.* We wish Sierra a brilliant career in the future.

Readers of this column who can tear themselves away from video games should check out the new Mayne Lions web site. The URL is [www.mayneislandlions.org](http://www.mayneislandlions.org). The web master is Cliff Kiyooka who is also a talented photographer. A second edition of the “From the Lions Den” column also appears regularly on the web site, with corrected information and last minute news. The web site is also the place to go for anyone who wants to rent party paraphernalia from the Lions club.

Then there is Canada Day. The Lions will be out in force at Dinner Bay Park on July I. The flag- raising ceremony is scheduled for twelve noon. There will be a flea market run by the Lions and an antiques and collectibles sale run by the Silver Maynes. There will hamburgers and hot dogs and – did I mention bingo? There will be friends to meet, beer to quaff in the Beer Garden, and musical entertainment to enjoy. See the advertisement in this month’s *Mayneliner* for details. Finally, we tender our compliments and congratulations to Lion Brian Dearden and Lioness Cilla Brooke –we don’t have a formal Lioness club on Mayne Island but we use the Lioness tag to denote a Lions’ partner, and Cilla’s partner is Lion Dennis Watts. Both Brian and Cilla were elected to the Mayne Island Improvement District’s council in April.

James Allan Evans

Secretary.