October 2015 FROM THE LIONS DEN

 The weather gods were scowling when the day dawned on Sunday, September 6th, the day of the Lions Club’s annual salmon barbecue, but they soon relented. The sun came out, and by noon, the crowds were lining up for their dinners of barbecued salmon or pork tenderloin. This was the first year that we offered pork medaillons as an alternative to salmon, which is not all taste buds welcome, and by all reports, the pork was delicious. The pigs that made the ultimate sacrifice to make the Lions BBQ a success deserve our gratitude, and so do the cooks that roasted them. The jazz programme which the David Enns trio offered attracted an eager audience. The chairs fronting the Peter Archer stage were almost full of listeners most of the time. Salmon and jazz went well together. However, the barbecued chicken that used to be an alternative to salmon was missed, and the club received a letter from two friends of the Lions, asking us to bring back the chicken rotisserie. So next year it will be back, and the two friends who expressed affection for it will have the opportunity to cook with it.

 Contrary to the historical trend, I was lucky in the 222 Draw. So was my wife, Eleanor. Somebody Up There must look with favour upon us. The big winner, however, was Nancy Walker, wife of former Mayne Island Lion Doug Walker. The total yield from the Draw goes to is the Mayne Island Volunteer Firemen’s Association that is restoring the Old School House, the oldest building on Mayne Island which will take on new life not only as a firemen’s clubhouse but also as the new depot for the Mayne Island Food Bank. The Food Bank has for years used the St. Mary Magdalene Church House as a depot, and the church deserves gratitude for its service. But storage space there is restricted, and the Food Bank has been looking for a new outlet where it can operate. I don’t know the exact amount that the Volunteer Firemen received from the Lions 222 draw, though I think that I may have co-signed the cheque. But it should make a difference, and the Old Schoolhouse will be a welcome community resource.

Charter Night this year will be on November 7th. It is the night that celebrates the granting of a charter to our club by the International Association of Lions Clubs. The charter is dated to the 12th day of November, 1971; so our celebration will be five days previous, but let’s not quibble about small matters. The general public is invited and is very welcome. This is a chance for the glitterati of Mayne Island to feast together (on roast beef), to dance and – of course –to glitter. And each year, the Lions Club chooses, and does honour to a Mayne Islander of the Year, who is named at Charter Night. The Mayne Islanders of the Year are persons with a record of service to the community, and their names are inscribed on a plaque which is affixed to the wall of the Adachi Pavilion at Dinner Bay Park. At time of writing, I have no idea who the nominees are.

We have lost six members this year: Lions who have moved away or have been felled by illness. New members are very welcome. Lions take seriously their motto: “We Serve”, but it is satisfying service. Would-be members should e-mail our membership secretary, Millie Leathers (millieleathers@shaw.ca).

Allan Evans