FROM THE LIONS DEN

JANUARY 2015.

 The December General Meeting of the Lions Club at the Ag Hall was a little different. We had pizzas prepared by Matt Bolla, served with salad. Helping Matt was Julie Hayward, newly married to our president, who is already learning what it means to be the wife of a Lions Club president. The dessert was provided by Anita McCamley, and it was magnificent. We are grateful to all of them. Once our inner selves were sated, we turned briskly to business. Lion Len Epp called for volunteers to set up the Christmas lights in the Japanese Gardens. By the time *Mayneliner* readers see this column, many of them will have already visited the Gardens in their Christmas splendour and will not have been disappointed. Plans were laid for the annual coming of the Lions Santa Ship from Bellingham on December 13. That has also happened by the time this column is published, and we thanks those organizations that helped make it a success: Mayne Island Fire Rescue, the Agricultural; Society and the Parks Board. Once the Santa Ship has left for its next port of call at Galiano Island, our Bingo crew, led by Dennis Watts and Adrian Gowing, hasten to set up the Ag Hall for the Lions Christmas Bingo. The Lions Bingos are the main source of the revenue that funds the Lions scholarships, and they are important to us. We had to scrap our Thanksgiving Bingos, for they were not cost effective. But the Turkey Bingos at Christmas still produce welcome income.

 The Club voted to award subsidies to the six secondary school students from Mayne Island who are planning a tour of Europe during spring break this year. They have been working hard all last year to save money to cover the cost. The Lions subsidy will pay for only a small portion of it – more than the price of a *cappuccino* on the Via Veneto in Rome, but not by a vast amount. Their trip will take them to London, Paris, Rome and Florence, and may they fare well! The club also recognized the achievement of Cliff Kiyooka, our web master who has made our web site something to be proud of. Check it out at [www.mayneislandlionsclub.org](http://www.mayneislandlionsclub.org).

Then, on December 10th, there was the Single Seniors Christmas Diner in the Agricultural Hall. Every Christmas season, the Lions Club offers a turkey dinner to seniors living alone on our island, for whom Christmas is often a time of loneliness. We invite them to dinner with the Lions. About half the guests are Lions members and their wives, and the other half are single seniors. For the seniors, the meal is free; for the Lions it is not. The turkey was succulent – Matt Bolla was in the kitchen once again -- and the entertainment splendid. Rob Noyes filled out the Lions Santa costume well, with the help of a pillow under his belt, and Karen Noyes played the role of Santa’s wife as only an experienced wife can. Neil Howard was master of ceremonies. The 2014 Christmas Dinner, however, had a tinge of sadness, for earlier the same day there was a memorial service in Ladner for Donna Parker, the wife of a former Lions Club president, Gail Parker. She lost her battle with cancer in November. She was a great lady and we miss her. We marked her passing by a moment of silence.

January is a time when quiet descends on our island. Sometimes snow does too, but the CBC weatherman has not warned us of any at time of writing. Now is the time when our Mexican subsidiary goes south to improve the economy of Mexico, and other Lions with those with travel insurance head for Palm Springs. They are often kind enough to e-mail us photographs of themselves sitting under Jacaranda trees and thinking of Mayne Island. The Mexican *émigrés* include our president, Richard Jarco, and his wife Julie. His absence does not mean that the secretary is free to do anything he feels like doing, for in the twenty-first century, i-phones have extended a president’s reach. Yet Richard’s absence will probably mean that there will be some days of somnolence in the Lions Club. Until he returns, our first vice-president, Bill Warning, rules.

Allan Evans

Secretary, Mayne Island Lions.