FROM THE LIONS DEN

November, 2014

 November is Charter Month for the Mayne Island Lions Club. The date on our Charter, which the club has framed and keep in a special storage container, is November 12, 1971 and though most of the people listed on it are no more than names to me, one stands out: Harry Lane, a director of the club in 1971, who is still a Lion and very much alive: a volunteer fireman and a regular attendee at the fitness classes held at the Mayne Island Community Centre. Charter Night, held on November 8th this year, marks the club’s forty-third birthday, minus four days which are no great matter. It marks a worthy past and our hopes for an equally worthy future.

 Charter Night is open to non-Lions. Lions members are given first chance to buy tickets, but there are generally some left over. And so, last year, we issued an invitation to all of Mayne Island to join us, and guests came. They were enough to fill the Mayne Island School gymnasium to capacity. This year we are doing likewise. After October 18th, tickets are available to anyone with $25.00, and a craving to see Mayne Lions all scrubbed up, some of them wearing ties. The tickets are sold at Home Hardware and the Sunny Mayne Bakery, or you may order yours from Peter Hansche (dosamigos88@hotmail.com), but hurry, for sales end on November 2. The meal will be delicious. I can guarantee it, for I know the cooks. Charter Night will be a banner celebration.

 For friends of the Lions Club who cannot come to Charter Night, photographs of the festivities will be available. Check the Lions web site at [www.mayneislandlions.org](http://www.mayneislandlions.org), and there you will find pictures of Lions activities past and future. The web site is the place to go for anyone who wants to find out what is going on, or rent equipment from the Lions Club, or simply learn about the island. The motto of Lions Club International is “We Serve”, and on Mayne Island we try to live up to it. We like to help other organizations that also serve. On Hallowe’en, the Mayne Firefighters will put on their annual fireworks display. The Lions have made a grant each year to help defray the cost, and no one has told the secretary of the club as yet that this year will be different. The Lions contribute to the cost of the Santa Ship that visits Mayne Island each December. This year, more of the same: the Santa Ship will arrive on December 13. Do you want to know about the annual 222 draw which subsidizes a worthy project chosen from suggestions that have been submitted? The web site will keep you up to date.

August is past, but this year, I cannot let August pass by without mentioning the tragedy that began a hundred years ago: the outbreak of World War I, the so-called “Great War” of 1914-18. Four years of non-stop carnage followed its outbreak, and in its wake came our last great pandemic, the “Spanish Flu” which slew almost as many people as the war. The events that led to war a hundred years ago seem in retrospect to have developed a momentum of their own, but in August there was still optimism. By November, 1914, the realization began to dawn that “the boys” would not be home for Christmas, as the optimists had predicted. Instead, an era was coming to an end, for better or for worse. Let us hope that future historians can refer to the peace, not the war, of 2014-2018.

Allan Evans