



The Grand Island Lion

February-March 2009



Upcoming events:

Grand Island Lions Valentines Party
Wednesday February 11th.
Holiday Inn
Cocktails 6:30 Dinner 7PM

General Membership Meeting
Wednesday February 25th
Buffalo Launch Club
Cocktails 6:30 Dinner 7PM
Program TBA

Board Meeting
Wednesday February 25th
Buffalo Launch Club
Following the General Meeting

Merrittons 70th anniversary
February 21st:

Saturday February 28th
Bon-Ton Day Fund-raiser

Joint Membership Meeting
Wednesday March 11th
Merritton Ontario
Cocktails 6:00 Dinner 6:30PM
Program TBA

General Membership Meeting
Wednesday March 25th
Buffalo Launch Club
Cocktails 6:30 Dinner 7PM
Program TBA

Board Meeting
Wednesday March 25th
Buffalo Launch Club
Following the General Meeting

20N Cabinet Meeting
March 28th

Spaghetti Dinner
March 30th

ACM Meeting
April 8th
Grand Island Holliday Inn

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THE SPLIT
CLUB IS NOW
\$95 AND GROWING



WE SERVE



Former Buffalo Sabre Rob Ray, shown here with members of the Grand Island Lions Club, was the guest speaker at the Hands Across The Border Banquet. This was the 33rd Anniversary of an event that celebrates the friendship between US and Canadian Lions Clubs. The keynote speech portrayed the real heroes of the world as those who provide service to their communities even though our society may attempt to make heroes of entertainment stars and sports figures. Mr. Ray commended the Lions' Clubs on the sacrifices they make to help those in need. The dinner is hosted by the Wheatfield Lions

Spaghetti Dinner - March 30th Holiday Inn Ballroom - 5 - 8pm. This is the club's biggest financial event allowing us to support many charitable organizations and the magnificent special kids picnic. We need baked goods from everyone, basket raffle items and ads for the placemat. Sign up to help prepare the ballroom or help clean up at the end of the night. Lion Dick Crawford

The Special Kids Picnic is looking for able bodied and not so able bodied Lions to help with the planning and implementation of the picnic please let me know how and where you would like to participate in this project. Happy New year and Thanks. Lion Annette Lobl.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

January was a busy month in many ways, but I'd like to mention a few highlights: Congratulations to Lion Tom DeCarlo upon celebrating 25+ years of service in Lionism. He's to be commended for his dedication to the Special Children's Picnic, among many other activities. Congratulations, Lion Tom!

Thanks to Lion Tom Witkowski, Zone 1 Chair, and Lion Henry for representing our club at the ACM meeting in Pendleton on January 13th. On January 14th, the Merritton Lions were our guests at the Knights of Columbus Hall, for the first of two annual joint meetings. On January 20th, nine of our Lions attended the Hands Across the Border event, and had a great time. The guest speaker, Rob Ray, former Buffalo Sabre and TV sports commentator, was most congenial and friendly.

Looking forward to February, a Valentine's Day Party is being held February 11th at the Holiday Inn. Plan on attending with your loved one, for an evening of fun and good food.

Details are elsewhere in this Newsletter and your Telephone Committee will be calling you soon for your reservation.

A special note about Dr. Andy's Day for Kids on Sunday, February 22nd at the Buffalo Brew Pub: as many of you may know, Dr. Andrew Gage, Jr. founded this event to help children in need. He spent countless hours of giving and caring, and in his memory the tradition is being continued. Since children with special needs are dear to our hearts, too, I encourage you to consider attending the festivities that day, or at least sending a donation. In the spirit of family tradition, Lion Bill Wind, Sr. and Lion Dr. Bill Wind, Jr. have helped our club a great deal with our Special Children's Picnic. In that spirit, perhaps we can give a little to Dr. Andy Gage's cause. Our club will be sending a donation, as well.

Don't forget Bon-Ton Community Day on Saturday, February 28th. Lion Kathie Norris has coupon books for a \$5 donation, which is strictly profit for our club. She encourages more volunteers to spend two hours at the Bon-Ton store on Sheridan and Delaware, either on that day, or prior to the event. Call Lion Kathie to volunteer--more Lions helping will result in even more funds for our Club to continue our good work.

Have a great month!
Lion President Diane Dubiel

15th Annual Docs Day for Kids will be held on February 22nd, 12N-6PM, at the Buffalo Brew Pub 6861 Main Street Williamsville NY 14221. Come out and support this worthy cause.



The Grand Island Lions hosted their sister club, The Merritton Lions from St Catherine's Ontario, at The Knights of Columbus Hall on Wednesday Jan. 14th. The group enjoyed steak dinners prepared to perfection by the Knights, while member Tom DeCarlo was presented with a pin recognizing 25 years of service as a Lion. Their Canadian friends participate in the Special Kids Picnic held every July and the two groups have enjoyed a close and mutually beneficial relationship for many years putting their motto "We Serve" into practice year after year.

On October 2-4th The Knights of Columbus will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary. Mark your calendars and look for more information on the coming events!

THE LIONS CLUB OF MERRITTON WOULD LIKE YOU TO JOIN THEM FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THEIR 70TH CHARTER ANNIVERSARY

Mark your calendars — Mats Sundin returns to Toronto to play *against the Maple Leafs* and we will be having a party.

DATE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2009 TIME:

SOCIAL 6:00 - 7:00 P.M. DINNER AT 7:00 P.M.

PLACE: MERRITTON LIONS COMMUNITY CENTRE
7 PARK AVENUE, ST. CATHARINES

COST: \$30.00 PER PERSON

PROGRAM: VERY SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

PAST INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR, LION BRUCE MURRAY

PLUS: WE WILL BE AWARDING LIFE MEMBERSHIPS IN LIONS INTERNATIONAL TO 9 (YES NINE) OF OUR CURRENT MEMBERS

We will have some very Historical Memorabilia on display and casual entertainment. To let us know if you can come or how many might be attending, please contact: Lion Secretary Glenn Connell: 905-935-5054 or grizwald_ca@yahoo.ca or Lion PDG George Hostick: 905-938-8457 or georgehostick@hotmail.com



Our Valentines Party is being arranged by Lion Fred and scheduled for February 11th at the Holiday Inn. It will be held in-lieu of our regular meeting and will be only \$15 per person. Plan on being entertained by Lion Fred and Tammy and having a great time.!

A man is driving down the road and breaks down near a monastery. He goes to the monastery, knocks on the door, and says, My car broke down. Do you think I could stay the night? The monks graciously accept him, feed him dinner, and even fix his car. As the man tries to fall asleep, he hears a strange sound; a sound like no other that he has ever heard. The next morning, he asks the monks what the sound was, but they say, We can't tell you. You're not a monk.



The man is disappointed but thanks them anyway and goes about his merry way. Some years later, the same man breaks down in front of the same monastery.

The monks again accept him, feed him, and even fix his car.

That night, he hears the same strange mesmerizing sound that he had heard years earlier.

The next morning, he asks what the sound was, but the monks reply,

We can't tell you. You're not a monk.

The man says, All right, all right. I'm dying to know.

If the only way I can find out what that sound was, is to become a monk, how do I become a monk? The monks reply, you must travel the earth and tell us how many blades of grass there are and the exact number of sand pebbles. When you find these numbers, you will become a monk. The man sets about his task. Some forty-five years later, he returns and knocks on the door of the monastery. He says, I have traveled the earth and devoted my life to the task demanded and have found what you had asked for. There are 371,145,236,284,232 blades of grass and 231,281,219,999,129,382 sand pebbles on the earth.

The monks reply, Congratulations, you are correct and now you are a monk.

We shall now show you the way to the sound.

The monks lead the man to a wooden door, where the head monk says, the sound is behind that door. The man reaches for the knob, but the door is locked. He asks, May I have the key?

The monks give him the key, and he opens the door.

Behind the wooden door is another door made of stone. The man requests the key to the stone door. The monks give him the key, and he opens it, only to find a door made of ruby. He demands another key from the monks, who provide it. Behind that door is another door, this one made of sapphire. And so it went until the man had gone through doors of emerald,...
...silver, topaz, and amethyst.

Finally, the monks say, This is the key to the last door.

The man is relieved to no end. He unlocks the door, turns the knob, and behind that door he is astonished to find the source of that strange sound. It is truly an amazing and unbelievable sight . . . But I can't tell you what it is because you're not a monk.

Thanks to Lions Kathie Norris, Paul Bassette, Fred Ruocco, Glenn Connell, Anne Fahning, Annette Boies-Lobl, Dick Crawford and Diane Dubiel all of whom contributed to this newsletter. The deadline for the April Newsletter is Saturday March 28th. If you have material for the newsletter, you can e-mail it to Dave Chervinsky, the editor/publisher, at dschervin@yahoo.com.

Please visit our web site: www.gilions.com.

Grand Island Lions Club
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

"We Serve"