

40 years of community service



HICKSON AND DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

BILL GLADDING / TAVISTOCK GAZETTE

Hickson Lions Charter Member Jim Butt (right) stands with the club's charter. Looking at one of the scrapbooks are, from the left, Murray Pink of Thorndale, Lion Governor Denis Vinette, and current Hickson Lion President Darrell Ford.

On May 29, 1974, twenty-eight Hickson area men met in the back of Currah Mills to form the Hickson and District Lions Club. This was a vision of their Charter President, the late John Tipping, who had formerly been a Lion in Thorndale.

Last Thursday evening, May 29, 2014, exactly 40 years to the day, the current 12 members of the Club and their guests gathered at Quehl's Banquet Hall in Tavistock to celebrate the milestone.

Master of Ceremonies for the evening was former President and Past Region

Chair David Riach. Lions Governor Denis Vinette brought greetings along with Mayor and Oxford County Warden Don McKay.

Guest speaker for the evening was Lion Rev. Steve Hendry of Woodstock. His inspirational address traced his involvement as a youth with Lions' public speaking to membership and charitable work within the Lions Club.

A special presentation was made to 25-year member Lawrence Clark who was awarded the Melvin Jones Fellowship. Mr. Lawrence has been an active member and held

every position within the Club over those years.

Two John Tipping Awards were also presented. Recipients were charter member Jim Butt who is the last active charter member and who chaired the anniversary event. Laverne McBurney also received the award for his involvement in the Club over the past 20 years. He has held every position within the Club, and among other things, initiated the T-ball program in Hickson.

Lions was established in 1917 by Chicago business leader Melvin Jones. It now has 1.35 million members in more than 46,000 clubs around the world.

The Hickson Lions meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month

from October to June at the Hickson Pavilion. No meetings in July or August, or the 1st meeting in September. Lions Daze is July 18-19 and the Fish Fry is August 23 in cooperation with the Firefighters. They work at the Farm Show in September, sell poinsettias in November with the 4-H club and put up Christmas lights and have a dinner in December. Public speaking is held in February with roadside cleanup in May.

This Sunday afternoon, June 8, at 1:00 p.m. the Lions Club will host a brunch at the Hickson Pavilion in support of National Service Dogs for Autism. Tickets are available from any Lion member or by calling 519-655-2098.

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