

# Acton Lions Club is 30 years young

By NEIL MILLER  
Herald Special

Lionism was started in 1917 in Chicago when Melvin Jones and a small group of business men decided to start up a club dedicated to helping their fellow man.

In 1920 Lionism became international when the first club was founded in Windsor, Ontario.

Today Lionism is carried on by 1.35 million Lions in 39,000 clubs, in 166 nations.

"Lions International" as it is known, has its headquarters in Oakbrook, Illinois where it oversees Lions Clubs all over the world sending out information in 10 official languages.

For more efficient operation, the organization is broken down into smaller groups.

Acton belongs to (Multiple District-A) which includes Ontario, Quebec, Labrador and Newfoundland.

All Lions proudly wear the Lions' emblem, a gold "L" on a purple background, surrounded by two lions' profiles, facing away from the centre, representing both past and future.

Proud of the past, confident of the future.

The objects of Lionism which all Lions try to live up to are:

To create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.

To promote the principles of good government and good citizenship.

To take an active interest in the

civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community.

To unite the Lions Clubs in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship and understanding.

To provide a forum for the open discussion of all matters of public interest, provided however, that partisan politics and sectarian religion shall not be debated by club members.

To encourage service-minded men to serve their community without personal financial reward and to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce industry, professions, public works and private endeavors.

Acton Lions Club was chartered on March 17, 1960, when a group of Georgetown Lions decided to come to Acton and talk to a group of Acton men about starting up a service club.

On March 17, 1960 at a banquet arranged in the "old" Legion Hall on Main St., Acton, the following men took their oath of office and the Acton Lions Club was born.

Charter President was G. Alex Johnson. Charter Members included: Morley Allen, Raymond Arbic, Rino Braida, John Doherty, George Gold, Anthony Ironside, Sydney Lam, Philip Lawrence, Victor Morris, Thomas Mullen, Peter Papillon, Frank Swift, Frank Terry and Henry Wissenz.

Of this original group only Peter Papillon remains in the club.

Friday evening he was recognized for his 30 years service with his



Acton Lions Club celebrated its 30th year as a community service club Friday evening at the Acton Legion and a host of dignitaries was on hand to join in the celebration. Pictured above, from left to right; Bill Paterson (representing M.P. Garth Turner),

Lions Club District Governor George Carpenter, International Director of the Lions Club International Gil Constantini, Acton Lions Club President Tim Price, Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller and M.P.P. Walt Elliot. (Herald photos by Colin Gibson)



Peter Papillon (left), an original charter member of the Acton Lions Club, receives congratulations and a framed certificate from M.P.P. Walt Elliot, in recognition of his 30 years of community service with the Acton Lions Club.

30-year pin and was honored by his fellow members who bestowed on him a life membership.

Looking back over the years, Acton Lions have assisted in a multitude of projects.

One of the first was a donation to the Acton Community Centre to assist with the installation of artificial ice.

This was later followed with donations of hockey nets, tables and chairs and later the Zamboni Ice Shaver.

The Lions have been a faithful contributor for over 20 years to the Lake Joseph Camp for The Blind. Here visitors are amazed to see blind people water skiing and practising archery.

The Lions had a tural commissioned for presentation to the Acton Library and sponsored the C.N.I.B. campaign in Acton for many years.

Acton Lions have sponsored ball and hockey teams for years; for several years sponsored the Husky dog races at the high school and held teenage dancing for several years.

Acton Lions sponsored the Golden Age Club, supplied the public schools with Elmer the Safety Elephant and Elmer Flags, which flew from the flag pole at half mast if a child was injured.

Oddly enough, Elmer, pulled down the street in a little red wagon in the Fall Fair Parade was the hit of the show with the children.

In 1969-70 Acton Lions had the north and northwest shores of Fairy Lake graded after the lake was dredged so they could be used as parkland and had a culvert in-

stalled, so it was possible to walk over from Lakeview Subdivision.

Many residents will remember taking part in the minstrel show held annually.

At one time the Lions owned a complete set of costumes.

The club had a Western Roundup Show in 1966 and practiced for weeks in the Anglican Church and were the first club in Acton to have a horse on stage in the Acton arena.

The Lions had Maurice (Rocket) Richard as guest speaker at a dinner in the old Legion and packed the arena with more than 1200 people several times to dance to the down eastern music of "Harry Hibbs and The Shrimp Cocktail."

One of our greatest accomplishments was getting a swimming pool for Acton, along with the help of all the citizens of Acton, the council and staff of the school board.

One of our big disappointments was buying the Acton Railway Station and not being able to move it to the park.

We first incurred the wrath of the Lakeview Subdivision residents by trying to get permission to put it on parkland on that side of the lake.

We finally received permission to put it at the point of the park where the new pumping station is presently located.

This proved financially unfeasible and we had to demolish it.

We had a dead line for demolishing it and filling in the

basement. The Queen was touring Canada and it had to be done before she came through.

This was barely accomplished and with a huge crowd by the tracks, the train roared through with the curtains tightly drawn.

We are proud to be life members of Canine Vision Canada, which with financial and moral support of Lions of Canada, was established in Oakville in 1985 to train guide dogs.

In 1988 a second project involved hearing ear dogs.

This training establishment also trains the recipients in the use and handling of their dog.

Dogs are matched to the recipients personality and take about two years to train, the cost to the blind person is absorbed by Lions Clubs through donations.

This training establishment has combined its training program with a similar establishment in St. Madeline, Quebec.

In recent years projects have included hockey and ball teams, talking books for the library and "Camp Dorset" where campers can have dialysis treatment regularly.

Lionism is open to all men and for the last two years, women.

Membership is by invitation, and anyone wishing to be invited may ask any Lion for sponsorship. The member will submit a proposal for membership.

The Acton Lions are cooking up a storm in the park at "Back to Acton Days" Sat., June 23, 1990. See you there.

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## LUCKY LICENCE NUMBER

HERE'S HOW TO WIN:

Each week The Herald will select a licence number from the parking lot of a different Halton Hills retailer and publish that number in this feature. The owner of that vehicle then has seven (7) days to claim his/her prize of a FREE Lube Lube, Oil and Filter.

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Home Newspaper of Halton Hills - Established 1866

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Georgetown & District Memorial Hospital

We are pleased to advise friends of the Georgetown & District Memorial Hospital that the Annual General Meeting of the Hospital will be held on **June 28th, 1990** at 7:30 p.m. in the Bennett Health Care Centre.

Mr. Andy Barry, Host of the Andy Barry Show on CFRB radio, will be our guest speaker. Mr. Barry has discussed many issues relating to health care on his program and also serves as a Director of a Toronto Hospital.

In order to qualify as an annual voting member, one must either pay the Annual Membership fee of \$5.00 by May 29th, 1990 during business hours at the Hospital - or - a donation of \$100.00 qualifies the donor as a Life Member.

Please join us!

Mark Rochon,  
Executive Director

Graeme Goebelle, F.C.A.,  
Chairman