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## Local Lions keep roaring

The Georgetown and Acton Lions Clubs have been actively contributing to the communities for a long time.

The Georgetown club has been around for 62 years, while the Acton club was set up 33 years ago.

"It's a way of giving back to the community what you have or share or get from the community. Our motto is we serve, and service is the key," Mani Mitera, second vice-president of the Georgetown club said.

The Lions Club is the largest service club in the world with more than 3,600 clubs in over 170 countries. There are an estimated 1.5 million members worldwide.

The Acton club has 11 members, while the Georgetown club boasts about 45 members. Both clubs are looking for new members, and Mitera would like his club to grow to 60 or 70 members.

"We'd like more people, because the more who are involved, the more we can do," he said. "Anybody is welcome to come to our meeting to find out if they want to be part of such a dynamic organization."

Meetings in Georgetown are held on Tuesday nights, with dinner meetings on the first and third Tuesday, while the executive meetings are alternate weeks. The next supper meeting is coming up this Tuesday Oct. 19 and anybody interested in joining can call Mitera at 877-2279 to make arrangements, or talk to any Lion.

"Normally it's better to come for a supper meeting. We work and we have fun. It's fellowship and friendship," Mitera said.

He has been a member of the club for six years and said it is very important to him now. He didn't realize how important until he was seriously ill and missed meetings for a month.

"When I walked back in the room after being away, I got a standing ovation," he said.

The Georgetown Lions raise money through the Lions Club bingo, the Grey Cup draw, pioneer days and a golf tournament.

Money is donated to numerous organizations, including public speaking, high school

scholarships, the Open Door and local sports.

The Georgetown Lions have contributed \$97,000 to Georgetown Hospital and spent \$41,000 to purchase a van for the North Halton Association for the Physically Handicapped.

The main project the Georgetown Lions are working on now is the campaign for sight first. Lions International is trying to raise \$130 million to prevent and cure blindness. The Georgetown club has pledged to raise a minimum of \$10,000 for this worldwide project.

The Acton club meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Legion board room. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meetings.

"We are currently without a president and are in the process of electing a new one," said Dave Pyke, a director of the Acton Lions Club. "We have found it difficult to elect one however because we haven't had enough people out to the meetings to have an election."

Pyke said anyone interested in joining or finding out more about the Acton club should call him at 853-0426.

The amount of money raised annually by the Acton club varies from year to year but Pyke estimates it ranges from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Traditional fund raising activities include a food booth at the fall fair, a ball tournament every June, and the Acton Citizen of the Year Dinner.

Pyke said the current major project the club is involved in is organizing the 1993 Citizen of the Year Dinner which is set for April 1994.

The Acton Lions took over responsibility for that four years ago from the Chamber of Commerce. The Acton Lions Swimming Pool is a former project.

This month each of the Lions clubs is contributing \$2,000 to the Halton Hills Library, for the purchase of robotron readers, which transmit printed books into voice for blind people. One reader will be in each of the two libraries.



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