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# Roaring good time at Lions celebration

By JIM THOMAS

Vern Davies, associated with Lionism 40 years and a charter member of the Ballantrae and District Lions Club, was paid the ultimate honor at a charter anniversary ceremony Saturday.

He was presented with a Melvin Jones Fellowship for "deep commitment to the ideals of Lionism and concern for his fellow man."

The presentation was made by Ellerby Farr, a Past District Governor from Newmarket.

President Ron Stewart described the evening as "a milestone" in the life of the Ballantrae Club.

"It's a very proud moment for all of us," said Dave Probert, a member of the evening's organizing committee and the program's emcee. "One can always find a friend in Vern Davies."

Lorne Boadway, a past-president of the Stouffville Lions Club, to which Mr. Davies originally belonged,

told how Vern's assistance within the community had extended far beyond the expectations of Lionism.

In referring to him as "Mr. Nice Guy", he explained how Vern has served as president at Ballantrae in 1979 and was the guiding light in the formation of the Goodwood Club in 1981.

Background history of the Melvin Jones Award was provided by Carl Young, a Past Council Chairman and Past-President of the Claremont Lions Club.

Mr. Davies, with wife Audrey by his side, responded with, "I've never felt so proud."

Modest concerning his own contributions, he referred to other members who had 'dug in' to help the cause of Lionism at Ballantrae.

He described Lionism as "a fulfillment of joy and happiness."

"I would urge others to get in there with both hands, both feet and your heart."

Head table guests included Sinclair and Norrine Stevens. Mr. Stevens described Vern and Audrey Davies as "champions of the community."

He presented 10-year chevrons to Ken Hamilton, Al Saunders, Ralph Wise, Don Acton and Al Kerr, all members of the Ballantrae and District Lions Club.

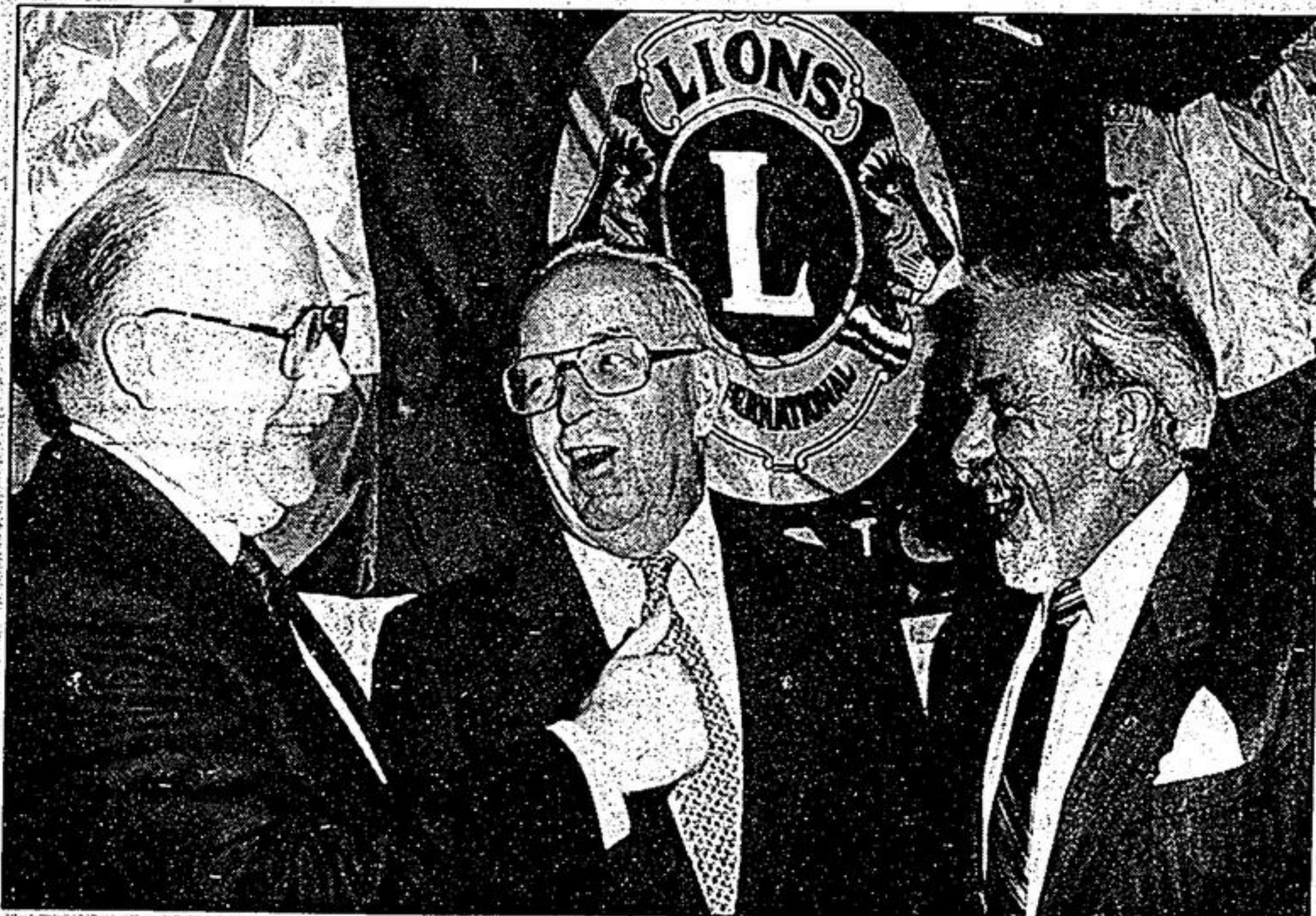
Mr. Probert told The Tribune it's unlikely any Ballantrae Club member will ever reach the service stature attained by Mr. Davies.

"Forty years is an awful long time," he stated.



Vern Davies gets a well-deserved kiss from wife Audrey after he was honored by the Lions Club for 40 years of service in the Ballantrae area. Mr. Davies was presented with the coveted Melvin Jones Fellowship award at a ceremony and party

on Saturday. One Lions Club member said it's unlikely another would ever reach the stature attained by Mr. Davies in the community. "Forty years is an awful long time."



Lions Club members made sure they had a roaring good time at the event. Here (from left) Lorne Boadway, Cliff Aiken and John Foulds share a

laugh or three. All three are past-presidents of the Stouffville Lions Club.



Town of Zephyr residents Bruce and Lillian Kennedy shared a moment on the dance floor after the awards ceremony. Lions Club members from

around the Ballantrae area turned out to congratulate award winners who have long been a part of the Lions Club's successes.




Other Ballantrae Lions were honored for their service in the community at the celebration. Here, Sinclair Stevens presents Don Acton (left) with a

10-year chevron for his efforts in furthering "Lionism."

**Photos by Jim Thomas**

**Venture**  
**Goodwood**  
 Inman Sel  
 OF SUCCESS



**Missing anything?**  
 If you're reading Focus on its own this week, you're missing out on other happenings in the Whitchurch-Stouffville area. This week in our Stouffville Tribune news section you missed a story by Editor Jim Thomas about disagreements between students and the Stouffville District Secondary School administration which has led to the latter withdrawing support for the school's participation in the P.M.C. (P.M.C. is a private organization that provides a variety of services to the school community. It is a non-profit organization and is not affiliated with the school board.)

**Adoption**  
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 Page C-8

