

# Lions enjoy membership growth in Little Current club

**by Lindsay Kelly**  
**LITTLE CURRENT**—In a period when lives are busy and time is stretched for even the most philanthropic of folks, the Little Current Lions Club is experiencing a minor surge in membership that veteran members are hoping will be an ongoing trend.  
 Four new members joined up during the winter

months—arguably the more quiet time for the club—and it's an encouraging sign that some new blood is joining the ranks, says president Bruce Burnett.  
 "If we can bring in a couple more new ones each year, it really helps with the club," he says. "In a few years some of the older ones may want to get out of

it and the younger ones will take over. It's really good for training to run Haweater Weekend."  
 With them, younger members bring new ideas and new energy, and he's hoping this is a positive trend. Their enrollment brings the membership total to 18—a solid core of dedicated individuals who meet twice a month to dis-

cuss ideas for raising funds, mull over potential projects to support, and have a lot of fun.  
 "It's not really a hard club to join and I think the benefits are great," Mr. Burnett enthuses.  
 The club is always welcoming new recruits, so "anybody that shows any interest, they get drawn in," Mr. Burnett quips.

The club's two main fundraisers are the Nevada box located at K & T Confectionary and Haweater Weekend, which bring in a huge chunk of the capital the Lions redistribute throughout they year. A third event—a hockey tournament held during the NEMI Winterfest—was added to the roster this year, and it also proved to be a big success.

"We have a great organization, great people and they acknowledge just about every letter that comes in looking for donations."  
 The 20-year club veteran notes that some members have been members ever longer, and it's that payoff that keeps them working hard year-round.

"It's great to see that a person has a better life and you know you've helped them," Mr. Burnett adds. "And it goes all ages: it doesn't matter whether you're two years old, or 90 years old—it's just to see how good they're feeling and they're having a better life."

While the Nevada tickets are largely self-sufficient, members are called upon to volunteer their time during the hockey tournament weekend and during Haweater. The summer fun festival is admittedly a lot of work, says Mr. Burnett, but when it's all over, volunteers celebrate their success and take four months off to recuperate.

But the hard work is hugely fulfilling, as Lions get to directly see the benefit of their efforts when they distribute the funds they've raised to worthy causes from helping sports teams to aiding with medical expenses.

"It's unbelievable when you see how you can help people in the community that need help," Mr. Burnett

While the Little Current based club operates largely within the municipality anyone residing in any community across Manitoulin is welcome to sign up: "Our doors are open for anybody that wants to join," Mr. Burnett says. "I think they'll have a great time."

Those interested in more information about joining the Little Current Lions Club can contact Mr. Burnett at 368-3163, or Alicia McCutcheon at 368-3461.

# Manitoulin Streams awarded grant to develop ecotourism experience

**MANITOWANING**—Manitoulin Streams has benefited from a FedNor investment of more than \$17,000 to help create an ecotourism experience focussed on restoring the lakes and streams on the Island.

"The government of Canada is delivering on its commitment to create jobs and strengthen Northern Ontario's economy by supporting the Manitoulin Streams Improvement Association in its efforts to expand its main tourist sites and attract visitors to the region," said Tony Clement, minister of industry and minister responsible for FedNor, in a press release.

"Today's announcement supports the tourism industry on Manitoulin Island in its quest to offer a one-of-a-kind regional landmark discovery experience to tourists from Canada and abroad," said Minister Rob Moore, minister of state, small business and tourism.

FedNor's contribution enabled the Manitoulin Streams Improvement Association to plan and develop an educational and interactive guided tour of streams and lakes in the area. The activity enables tourists to get a hands-on learning experience of regional ecosystems.

"FedNor's support has allowed us to create a unique tourism experience that has helped strengthen the local economy by attracting visitors and guests to the region," said Paul Moffatt, chair of Manitoulin Streams. "I am very excited about the positive long-term social, environmental and economic results this project will deliver for the people and businesses of the Manitoulin region."

Funding for this project was provided through FedNor's Northern Ontario Development Program, which promotes economic growth throughout a large and diverse geographic area stretching from Muskoka Lakes to James Bay, and from the Manitoba border to western Quebec.

By supporting people, communities and business through its programs and services, FedNor aims to open doors and build futures for a prosperous Northern Ontario.



A view of the stream stabilization project carried out on the Manitou River. Root wads and boulders help to reinforce the shore.

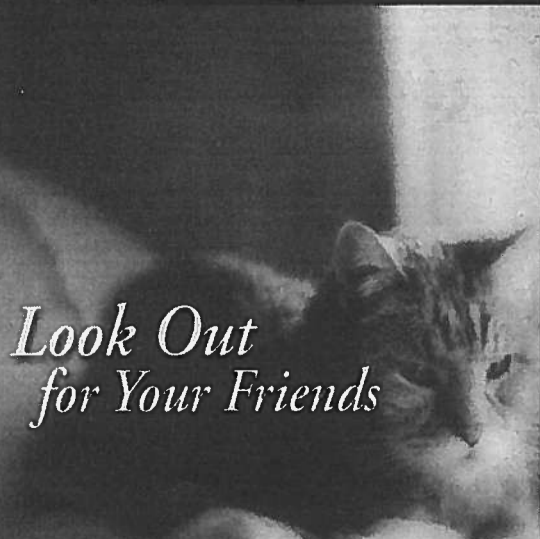
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Star donation

The Spanish chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star has made a \$500 donation to the Manitoulin Health Centre's ongoing campaign to raise funds to purchase digital X-ray and ultrasound equipment. Worthy Mother Evelyn Towns (left) recently presented a cheque to MHC Auxiliary president Laila Kiviahio (centre), while Worthy Patron Ron Towns and Elaine Moore look on. The auxiliary is gratefully accepting donations from charitable organizations and individuals who would like to make a donation, and raffle tickets are also available for sale, with all proceeds going to the campaign.

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