

Lion Fred Overland

A lot of people have said that Lions were a large part of Lion Fred's life but it is more so that Lion Fred was a large part of Lions especially the Hillsburgh Lions.

Lion Fred was a charter member of the Hillsburgh and District Lions Club joining in June of 1971 and has maintained perfect attendance since joining. .

A major accomplishment of Lions Fred's life was that he had been sober for 34 years. How this is connected to Lions is twofold. After he quit, Fred became a bartender and the longtime Lion Tamer for Hillsburgh Lions. We often called Fred 7/8's – referring to the amount that he poured into the glass. To this he responded that Lions were for the needy and not the greedy and yes the next time you did get a 7/8s shot.

Secondly, it gave Fred a purpose in life where he could volunteer his time. Lion Fred was appointed to the Community Centre Board and the Victoria Park Board where the Lions operated and maintained the park. Lion Fred was the committee chair who oversaw the operation of the snack bar at this location – a full time job seven nights a week and all day on the weekends.

Lion Fred held almost every position in the club including being president twice once in 1982/83 and again in 1987/88.

In 1980, he campaigned the first District Governor from Hillsburgh, PDG Warren Wicks.

In 1981, Fred received the Long Tailed Award (for visiting every club in District A-15), the 6th one awarded.

In 1983, Lion Fred was awarded the Outstanding Member from the Hillsburgh Club, the first to be honoured.

At the first meeting of 1983/84, Lion Fred was bestowed the honour of being a Melvin Jones Fellow.

In 1989, Fred became a Life Member of the Lions Foundation of Canada.

In 1989/90/91, Lion Fred campaigned and chauffeured District Governor Doug Smith to his many visits in District A-15. It was during this time that Lion Fred celebrated many birthdays.

At the District A-15 Convention in April 1991, Lion Fred received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Lions International President Wm. Biggs.

In 1996, at the Club's 25th Anniversary, Lion Fred was made a Life Member of Lions Club International.

In 2000 Lion Fred was recognized by the Town of Erin as an outstanding Volunteer.

Over the years, Fred has attended many District, MDA and International Conventions – His favorite being his first International Convention in Pheonix, Arizona.

For the last few years, the last order of business every meeting for Lion Fred was to motion that the meeting be adjourned. Lion Fred, may I say that your motion is carried.

Rest well my friend and take it easy!