

# New Lions Club Gets Official Start In East Kildonan

Some time ago George Patterson of the Riverside Lions Club became interested in starting an East Kildonan Lions Club. His interest and efforts have borne fruit, as a group of Kildonan men got together last Thursday and formed the nucleus of a club.

Officers elected were:

President — Wayne Holmes, 236 Sydney ave.

Secretary — J. C. Stacey, 222 Roberta ave.

Treasurer — Allan D. Taylor, 34 Greene ave.

First vice-president—Col. W. D. E. Morley, 701 Munroe ave.

The officers have arranged a dinner meeting at the Curtis Hotel for 6.30 tonight. All men interested are urged to attend this meeting.

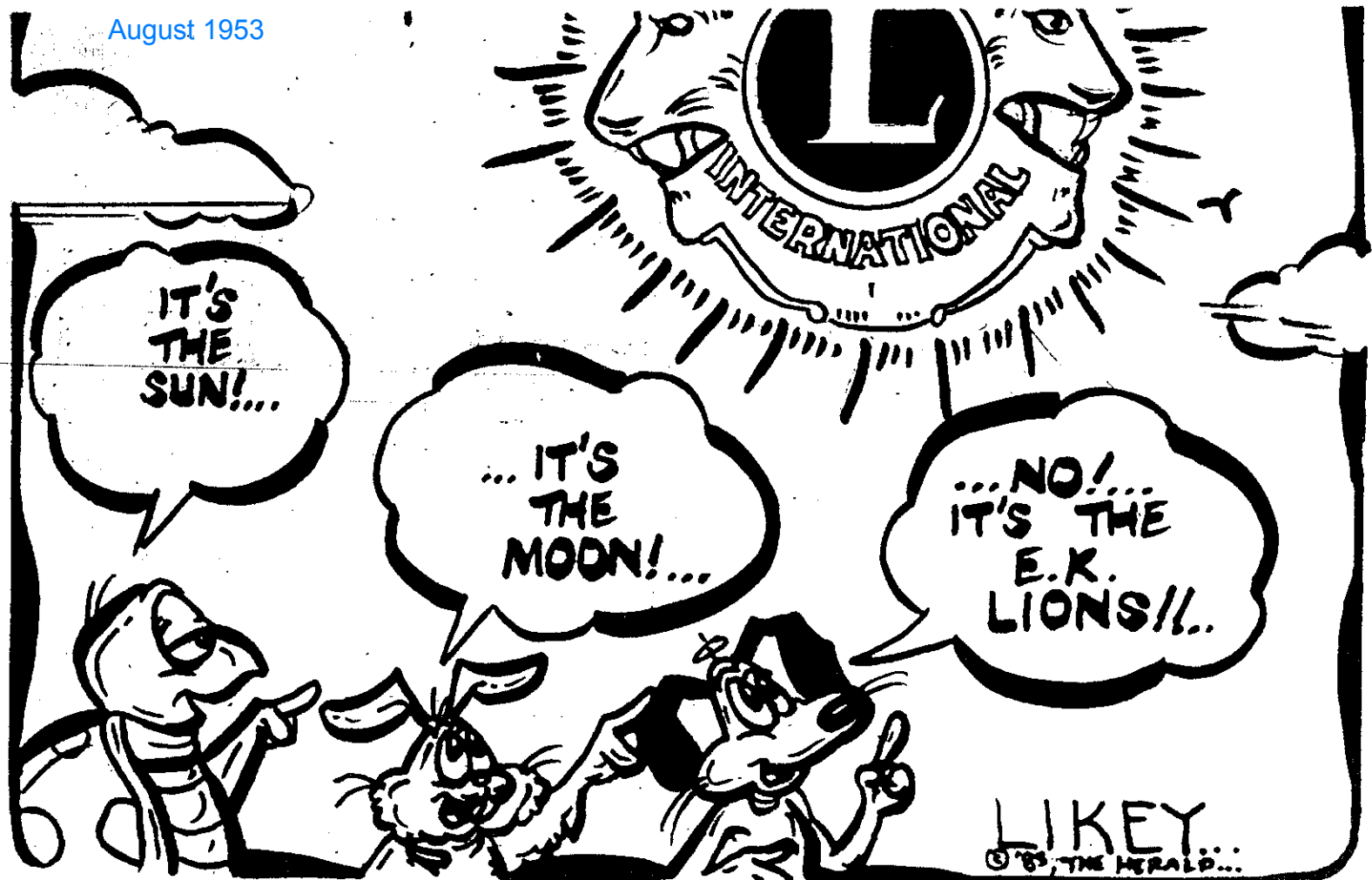
The officers tendered a vote of thanks to Mr. Patterson and F. Partidge, of the Riverside Club, and W. Houston, representative of Lions Club International, for their aid in establishing the club.

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**WEINER ROAST**

*Sept 10, 1953*

August 1953



by Phillip Hecht

Did you ever take a walk along Kildonan Drive at Kimberly Avenue? If you did you will discover a small river bank park called Senior Citizens' Park and a wading pool at Bronx Park across the street. Well, all this and other worthy projects were due to the work of the East Kildonan Lions.

The East Kildonan Lions Club got its start September 10, 1953 with its first meeting at the Curtis Hotel with a small room in the basement. It met every two weeks on Thursday in the same room since its inception up until the fall of 1976 where it now meets at the Nor-Villa Hotel.

It was set-up by a Lion who belonged to a club outside of East Kildonan and spon-

sored by the Riverside Lions Club of St. Vital. The first dinner meeting was on September 17, 1953 and the Riverside Lions assisted in running it.

Some of the notable projects were:

- Presentation of an audimeter to the Winnipeg Health Region unit which was needed for detection of hearing loss in school students.

- Paving of paths, planting of trees and shrubs, and cleaning up of a Senior Citizen's Park on the riverbank at Kildonan Drive and Bronx Avenue.

- Building of a wading pool at Bronx Park in the Bronx Community centre in which they did everything except dig out the pool. The contractor who put up the

community centre did this from them for FREE.

- Providing parks throughout the East Kildonan area with swings, slides, teeter-totters, etc for the children of our community to enjoy themselves.

- They were also responsible for the inception of jam pail curling held at various schools in East Kildonan as well as North Kildonan. The members filled jam pails with cement and put on handles. Sites were selected and sheets of ice were marked out. Ever since then it has been an overwhelming success with massive turn outs and write-up in the Weekend Magazine in 1978. It owes its success to

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## E.K. Lions pause to celebrate

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work of school staffs, parks board personnel, and East Kildonan Lions.

- Only July 1st, 1957, the Club was put in charge of organizing and co-ordinating the inauguration ceremonies of the City of East Kildonan by the city council of East Kildonan.

- They even went out and purchased musical instruments with the intention of setting up a band. Although the band was never established the instruments were given to David Thompson and Elmwood High School Bands.

- The Club helped the 695 Squadron of the R.C.A.F. Cadets and contributed money and personnel effects to the adapting of a building on Gateway Road as a rifle range.

- Football has played a great part in this Club with its support of the Lions Midgets from Bronx Community Centre and Bantam from Springfield Heights Community Centre Football teams.

- Other projects included helping in the formation of equipment and finances to Chalmers, Bronx, Springfield Heights, North Kildonan and East St. Paul Community Centres, as well as the Child Guidance Clinic, Lork Selkirk Scots Pipe Band, Shrine Circus Daddies, U.N. Seminar, Y.M.C.A. Building Fund, Children's Hospital, Boy Scouts, East Kildonan Library Fund, Underprivileged Children's Day at Lockport to just name a few.

The concept of Club visitations had its early beginnings in infant years of this club when the spirit of Lionism was high and its spread contagious.

Back then one could pretty well visit all the Lions Clubs within a two-week spread at least once.

Back then instead of bringing a Club banner from your club, one brought a shoat or a young pig to the visiting Club as a gift. That Club would then feed it and pass it on to another Club as a gift. That

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Club would then feed it and pass it on to another Club until the Brandon Fair came up where it was presented as an entry.

Then East Kildonan presented a deodorized skunk as a gift but this did not go over as well as the baby pig and besides the president had to wear a towel around his arm while hiding the skunk for presentation. The pig was called "Kildie".

One of the ways that the Club used to raise money was from the sale of nuts in the fall where the Lions Club members went from door to door selling cases and cases.

In 1965 they raised \$1,000. Another was the selling of Grey Cup pool tickets which raised in 1964 \$700 and also occurred in the fall of this year.

Then there were special fund-raising drives for people in need of special medical treatments and operations, usually now available in the community.

A good sample of this was in March, April

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# Lions pause to celebrate

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1966, Kathy Ewachewski left for a kidney transplant operation in Denver, Colorado and was quite successful.

This fund could take on the form of helping pay the costs of travel, lodging and meals for persons needing the medical treatment and their families going along for moral support.

Another fund raiser was Monte Carlo Night in November of each year. The club puts on a formal dinner and has various games of chance and draws for door prizes after the dinner as well as raffles. This for the most part has been an overwhelming success with \$350 raised in 1969 and \$2,000 in 1982.

Some of the original members were Peter Byars, who was the secretary-treasurer of the municipality of East Kildonan, Wayne Holmes, Bob Carlson, Doug Carney, Jack Drewys, Jack Husak, Jimmy Jones, Cam Landreth, Leo Rudolph, Ed Walker and Tom Sutherland.

An offshoot of the East Kildonan Lions Club was the formation of the East Kildonan Lionells Club in the spring of 1954. Its first president was Margaret Sutherland. It was sponsored by the St. Vital Lioness Club.

The major project it had was looking after senior citizens in the Bronx Park area of East Kildonan. The club provided food, playing cards and other needs, and assisted in work needed for them; while the seniors ran their affairs.

The Club also assisted the Lions in their various projects especially providing food and refreshments when needed.

They originally met in each others homes for strictly business meetings but gradually and presently now meet at Rossmere Country Club.

Unlike the Lions, they have no dinner meetings.

Originally the membership was composed only of wives of existing Lions members

but due to the sufferage movement, divorce and death, other women married and singles with no other Lion connections were allowed to join.

Today they are referred to as Lioness Clubs which is due to the fact that the Lionells Club is not chartered while the Lioness Club is chartered as in the Lions Clubs.

A great deal has been contributed to the community by the efforts and projects of the East Kildonan Lions, much of it is a living memorial around us.

## Kildonan Place Mall blossoms with show

Kildonan Place Mall will blossom August 24 and 25 with the East Kildonan Horticultural Society's annual horticultural show.

They're holding it in conjunction with the Transcona Society, so people have a chance to enter in various categories of both society shows at the same time. There will be a special section for junior gardeners to enter their prize flowers or vegetables.

Class entries include: cut flowers, flower arrangements, roses, plants in pots, gladiolus: cut and in baskets, assorted flower baskets, vegetables and fruit, and the Junior Gardeners' section.

For further information call 668-4315.

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