

One of the great things about being a Lion is that it enables us to help people in a way we couldn't as individuals. When we pool our strength and share the work and responsibility, we can make our little town and the services it provides, locally and regionally, just a little better.

I've played on a few teams, and coached a few teams, but this is my favourite team.

One of the reasons I love this team is because volunteerism through this organization is a demonstration that goodwill is still possible in a fast-paced, materialistic world; and that we can truly enjoy working together without pay, to make this community better.

This club's focus on health, and especially the health of the children and youth, is making a difference. The Ilderton Lions have provided their support to Oxbow PS, St. Pat's in Lucan, Centennial Central PS and Medway HS. In fact, through the help of our Lions group, we have potentially changed the social culture for the students and residents who will be using the track and field complex at Medway, now that we have raised almost \$800,000 for this project.

We are also planning to help the municipality to build a park in the Timberwalk subdivision, we've contributed to the splash park in Heritage Park and continue to provide our financial support and labour to the Ailsa Craig Foodbank. Many community and regional charities and non-profits have been given financial support from funds raised by this club.

Our group is beautifully imperfect. We may not all have the same political views, the same sense of humour or the same skills but we share a vision of a better community. Perhaps we're here for our children, our children's children, the elderly, or for visitors to our little town...there are many different reasons people choose for being a Lion.

Since I have been a member, dating back to 2001, we have been searching for a way to attract new members so that we can do even more for our community. It's been a tough road to travel, however, and I don't think we really know how to motivate others to join but we're definitely ready to listen to any and all ideas.

Our retired seniors are amazing, and allow our club to do great things, but they need the help of the younger generation.

Perhaps we can find a way to meet the needs of the Millennials in the community, those born after 1984, who are drawn to organizations where they feel like they are really making a difference. They might feel compelled to join our cause.

Yes, if we can find a way to blend our generations, we will really have a powerful tool for making positive change.

You may be feeling like you are obligated to join before leaving this meeting but that's not why you were asked to be here tonight. Even if you are not destined to be a member, you can still make a contribution to this club's mission.

First, you have seen and heard the message tonight. Perhaps you can tell those who were not here.

Second, you all have something to offer. It may be your time (to help us run our events); it may be your talent (to perform one of the many tasks associated with being a Lion); or it may be your treasure (by spending money at our fundraising events). Everyone here can do something.

In conclusion, we firmly believe that the needs of the community can be met through the talents of people, like you, who live just next door, and that if we keep searching we are going to find the right people who are willing and able to make a positive contribution to improving the quality of life for those who live in Ilderton and the surrounding area.