



From the Desk of Lion Michael G Stanford, M.B.

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My Parents immigrated to Canada in the early 1950s and worked for the Royal Canadian Navy. They met each other on the East Coast and again on the West Coast. I was born in Victoria BC Canada, first generation Canadian. We moved East to Ottawa, Ont (1965-67) and Halifax, NS (1967-1982).

Highlights of my Youth, I played hockey at the Spryfield Lions Rink and Recreation Center, which was run by the Spryfield Lions. My Hockey Team was sponsored by the Lions Club. I also purchased Lions Mints which were sold at local Restaurants. I was influenced by Lions at an early age. It is an example of Lions working with Youth. Payoff for the future!!!

I served with the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve (HMCS Scotian) from 1976-81 on both the East and West Coasts.

I attended Dalhousie University to study Bachelor of Arts - Sociology and Social Anthropology with a minor in Psychology. I did not complete my degree because the RCMP accepted my Application. I do have an option to complete the degree.

January 5, 1982, I joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and moved West. My RCMP life took me to Burnaby, Deas Island Freeway Patrol, Ucluelet, Kimberley, Coquitlam and E Division Commercial Crime Section. I was a skilled Motorcycle and Boat Operator.

During my RCMP career, I received the Governor General's Medal of Bravery, Commissioner's Commendation for Bravery, British Columbia Lt Governors Award of Valour, Queens Golden Jubilee, and Long Service Clasp (30 years).

January 9, 2013, I retired (Corporal) from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police after 31 years of service and moved to Victoria BC Canada to be closer to my Father, who is dealing with health problems.

I have one Daughter, Jennifer and a Grandson, Rylan. My Girlfriend is Maartje Meijer, who has two sons, Josh and Luca.

Currently, I am launching a Professional Portrait Photography Business and will be giving great discounts to Lions. So, please do not forget to support your local Photographer!!

## Lions Service:

Over 30 years ago (Feb 1992), I joined Ucluelet Lions Clubs while living in Ucluelet BC Canada, Zone 19-I-7 and took on the role of Club Treasurer. My sponsoring Lion is Steve Wright, who is currently with the Sooke Lions Club. My friends did not have to convince me about Lions. I was in!

July 1993, I moved to Kimberley BC Canada and transferred to the Kimberley Lions Club, which I took on positions of Club Secretary and Club President. I also held Club Director for many years. My Lions Mentors, PDG Bill Inman and Lion Peter Luberg stated to qualify for District Roles as soon as you can do it. I had awesome RCMP bosses who understood about Community Service & supported my work/service in Lions. I worked Lions Quest out of my Police Car!!!

While I was serving in Kimberley, I served two years as a Zone Chairman with Zone 19-E-4 (an International Zone) and the District 19E Lions Quest Chair. I also introduced Leo's to Kimberley, which was awesome for Club Membership. I partnered with the Kimberley Dynamiters Junior A Hockey Team and influenced a few Parents to join Lions. Our Club Membership grew from 17 Members to over 33 Lions. We had a dynamic group of Youth.

July 2003, I moved to Mission BC Canada and transferred to the Abbotsford Lions Club, where I served as Club President, and Club Director. I was asked to be the Lions Quest Project Chairman for the MD19 Lions Quest Grant.

2005-2007, I was involved with Cops for Cancer, Tour de Coast, fund raising and Rider. I introduced Cops for Cancer to the District. 2007, I was chair for the Starting Line Gala Dinner which involved many District and Multiple District Lions. Many Lions Clubs are still involved with the Tour today.

During 2006-2007, I served as Zone Chairman 19-H-3 and received the 100% Zone Chairman Efficiency Award. I was also District 19H Lions Quest Chair and Multiple District. In 2007, I received the MD19 Distinguished Lion Award. My Lions Mentor, PDG Garry Lutz, District 19H was an amazing Guide. I am also thankful for the guidance of PCC Surinder Gahir, PCC Gord Roberts and PDG Mel Stokes.

In 2008-2010, I served two years as a Director with the BC Lions Society. I also continued to work with the Lions Quest Program throughout the next 14 years. I was Member of the Peace Arch Monarch Lions, Richmond Chinatown Lions and Sooke Lions.

Currently, I am the District 19-I 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor, District 19-I Lions Quest Chair and am a Director, Chair of the Board for Lions Quest Canada. I am a Member of the Victoria Lions Club.

During my Lions Service, I have received notable awards including: -

Judge Brian Stevenson Fellowship, Lions Quest Fellowship, Larry Schrodtt Memorial Award, Zone Chairman's 100% Excellence Award (2007), MD19 Distinguished Service Award (2007), multiple District Governor Appreciation Awards, multiple International President's Appreciation Awards, Club Lion of the Year (Kimberley, 2002).

Why did I join Lions: It was a calling to provide Service to the Community while I was serving in a small community as a Mountie. It was easy to say yes to Lions because I knew they supported the Community during my past. While with the Ucluelet Lions I learned about Lions Quest Canada, an amazing program. (It was prior to the Internet Days)! Through the lens of a Police Officer & my Dalhousie University Studies, I saw a need for Youth to learn about valuable life skills. Being involved in the Lions Quest Program locked me into Lions. Also doing a variety of smaller projects with Lions was very meaningful and an awesome way to pay it forward. Every Lion knows they are making a difference in their Community.

I am very proud of my past Lions Service and looking forward to serving District 19-L as your 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor 2023-2024.

Please follow me on Facebook - Send me a Friend Request! I have a following of Lions & Rotary Members from around the World.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael G Stanford, M.B.