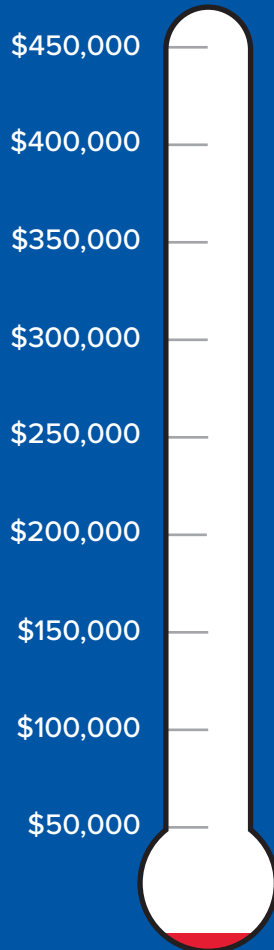




# LIONS DEN

SPRING 2024

## Camp Shawnigan Fundraising Goal



## Message from the Vice President

I want to start by saying thank you. Thank you for all you do to support Easter Seals and the communities where you live, work and play. At Easter Seals, we are especially grateful for all you do to help us serve the disability community.



We are currently going through some changes here at 23rd and Oak and I wanted to bring you up to speed on some of the things that we are doing to improve our work and our communication with audiences and stakeholders close to the organization.

One of the biggest changes will be this newsletter, which we have affectionately titled—*Lions Den*. We recognize that we have not been doing a great job communicating with you lately and we want to rectify that.

Once a quarter, you will receive this newsletter, which will focus specifically on Easter Seals

activities and updates, upcoming events, and feature articles on Lions Clubs across the province. It's our hope that this will keep you informed with what we're doing and where your support is making an impact, as well as give your Club a bigger voice in our community.

I sincerely hope you enjoy this first edition and I look forward to hearing from you—good or bad—so we can make this newsletter the most useful information-sharing tool possible, for both our organizations.

Thank you for all you do. We make a greater impact in our community because of the Lions Clubs.

Sincerely,

**Mike Leland**  
Vice-President, Engagement & Philanthropy

## Welcome to the Lions Den!

This quarterly publication is our opportunity to celebrate the fantastic work of our Lions Club. We want to hear from you! Send your Club updates to be considered for future editions! [info@eastersealsbcy.ca](mailto:info@eastersealsbcy.ca)

## Easter Seals House

This year has been a good one for the team at ESH. The House has 49 suites in total and we have been operating at over 90 percent occupancy rate this past quarter, and for most of the year. Aside from the normal wear and tear, our capital spends have been limited to upgrading individual suites. We have six suites that require upgrading and thanks to the generosity of the Tsawwassen Lions Club, we can start one this quarter.

**Easter Seals House is a place to stay when traveling to Vancouver for medical treatment and appointments. Our rooms are a fraction of the cost of a hotel and we provide valuable respite to parents and families needing a place to stay to relax and recharge.**

If you're interested in a tour, we would be happy to host your Club. Simply contact Jorgina Thompson [jthompson@eastersealsbcy.ca](mailto:jthompson@eastersealsbcy.ca) and book one today.

## Tsawwassen Bay Lions donate room...



*Pictured here with the Lions are the VP of Philanthropy, Mike Leland and Easter Seals House Director, Ann Fonseca*

In March, Dave Smith and several of the members of his Tsawwassen Bay Lions Club visited ESH and presented us with a cheque for \$25,000 to help renovate one of our rooms at Easter Seals House. Dave and his team got the VIP tour from our ESH Director, Ann Fonseca—they even got to see the room their generous donation will help renovate.

The group stuck around for lunch and go to know more about Easter Seals, and we got to learn more about their Club. It was a great day made even better by a bunch of great guys. Thank you, Tsawwassen Bay Lions... you're welcome back anytime.

## A Campaign to Transform Camp Shawnigan

As many of you know, we are currently working on a Campaign to rebuild Camp Shawnigan. The \$25 million project will be the largest one we have ever undertaken in our history in B.C. but when we are finished, we will have North America's first year-round, purpose-built, multifunctional space for children, youth, and adults with physical and intellectual disabilities.

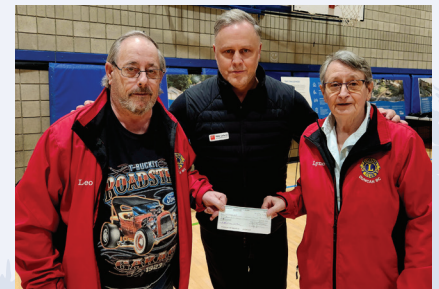
The new Camp will be able to run programs and services year-round and it will be self-sustaining so less fundraising will be required, and we will be able to serve a much larger audience, including hosting MD-19 conferences and other Lions' meetings.

To date, we've made several presentations to the Lions Clubs at various levels and have been encouraged by the interest and level of support. We have also found a donor who is willing to match dollar-for-dollar any funds raised by the Lions, up to \$450,000.

We are currently working with local clubs on the Island to raise funds and awareness around the project. If you would like to know more, contact Shannon Bernays [sbernays@eastersealsbcy.ca](mailto:sbernays@eastersealsbcy.ca).

We would like to thank the Alberni Lions and Duncan Lions for their generous contributions. Both clubs have donated \$5,000 each.

[campshawnigan.ca](http://campshawnigan.ca)



*Mike Leland, Easter Seals, with Leo and Lyne Moreau of the Duncan Lions presenting their \$5,000 donation*

## A Year to Celebrate: Lunar New Year, Lions Style



Top—Vancouver East Lions Club 80th Anniversary Gala

Bottom—Victoria Chinatown Lionness Lions Club Celebration

January was filled with celebrations as Clubs across B.C. celebrated the Lunar New Year. In Richmond, the Vancouver East Lions Club celebrated its 80th year, and it was magical. A couple hundred members were on hand to enjoy the festivities and celebrate the club, including founding member Renzo Montagliani. In Victoria, Victoria Chinatown Lionness Lions Club put on an amazing dinner, filled with the who's who in the city, including the Mayor and several other dignitaries. District Governor, Elaine Luk was on hand to help bring in the New Year and spread prosperity and joy to all.



## Easter Seals in the Community

### Drop Zone

This September, we are running our largest fundraising campaign of the year, but REGISTRATION starts now. Spread across four communities (Victoria, Vancouver, Burnaby & Kelowna) our annual Drop Zone campaign hopes to raise significant funds to support the disability community. Registration is open today at [dropzonebc.ca](http://dropzonebc.ca)



### Fore All Golf Tournament

On May 24th, Easter Seals BC/ Yukon will hold our first ever Golf Tournament. Hosted at UBC, we are looking forward to a wonderful day of golf, fundraising and friend-building. If you're a golfer, and live in the Lower Mainland, please consider signing up your team. For more information, contact Agnes Wong [awong@eastersealsbcy.ca](mailto:awong@eastersealsbcy.ca)



### The Beachlands Victoria Open PGA Golf Tournament

June 17-24 we will be in Victoria for the Victoria Beachlands Open PGA Golf tournament. Hosted at beautiful Uplands Golf Course, we will be on site for three days taking donations. If you would like to volunteer, contact Amy Kleckner [akleckner@eastersealsbcy.ca](mailto:akleckner@eastersealsbcy.ca)



## Thank You Lions

Every year, the Lions Clubs donate generously to support the disability community. Because of you, we can and are making a significant impact on the lives of individuals and families. We would like to recognize the following Clubs for their support this quarter.

Alberni Valley Lions Club

Barriere Lions Club

Creston Lions Club

Duncan Lions Club

Esquimalt Lions Club

Fairmont & District Lions Club

Gabriola Island Lions Club

Kamloops Paddlewheelers Lions Club

Kelowna Okanagan Mission Lions Club

Kootenay Lake Lions Club

Malahat Lions Club

Nanoose Bay Lions Club

North Kamloops Lions Club

North Shuswap Lions Club

Salt Spring Island Lions Club

Sand Creek Lions Club

Sidney Lions Club

Vancouver East Lions Club

Vancouver Renfrew Lions Club

Victoria Lions Club

Wasa District Lions Club

## Lions on the Board of Directors

Wanda Eddy, Board Chair • Sharon Hanson • Michael Cheng • Robin Woolmer



## Volunteer Opportunities

Help support Easter Seals events as a volunteer! We have many volunteer opportunities at our events happening this summer and fall. All Drop Zone events and our Fore All golf tournament need volunteers on event days to make the events a success! To find out more details about these opportunities, contact Jorgina Thompson [jthompson@eastersealsbcy.ca](mailto:jthompson@eastersealsbcy.ca)

## Share your stories!

Send along your photos and a brief description of any fundraising activity or event that your Club has undertaken for Easter Seals. [info@eastersealsbcy.ca](mailto:info@eastersealsbcy.ca)

