
Legend to Lions Clubs of Canada Legacy Map

November 2006

The Map's Creation

This Legacy map was created in conjunction with the Campaign SightFirst II and to honour Canada's contribution to the International organization.

Overall Themes

It is a celebration of how each Lion, Lioness and Leo brings sight and light to their community and to the global community as well. It is amazing to see how over the years, how individuals stand together to make this world a better place, whether it be offering of time, money and/or support. One only has to look at the range of participation, types of campaigns and projects each year to marvel at the impact made by such generous spirits.

The story of this commemorative map is about sight, yet ultimately it is about the light we bring into this world. It is about the spirit of the Lions Clubs of Canada.

Lions International Logo

Emblazed by the sun, the logo is emanating radiating beams and surrounded by a daylight sky with the Canadian flag in the breeze nearby. Where the sun shines is where the Canadian Lions have touched this country and the world.

Rainbow of Light

The rainbow stretches over Canada from the Dog Guides to the Golden Lion. It represents the full spectrum of colour, of hope, and the promise of sunshine after the rain. In this case the proverbial 'pots of gold' are the golden heart the lion protects and the golden retriever puppy from the Lions Foundation Dog Guides.

Kaleidoscope

Connected to the rainbow is a kaleidoscope, a toy of childlike wonder. Look through it and you will see colours, patterns, light. It matches the colours of a rainbow and the jewel lights on the globe. The newborn symbolizes seeing the world through new eyes. It's about having the vision to give sight to those in other parts of the world and to help the next generation with programs being implemented in those countries.

"Imagine..."

- ~ If you were to have regained your eyesight, the first thing you would see is light and colour.
- ~ How important vision is, and being able to have appreciation of the sights the world has to offer.
- ~ The difference you make in the world.

Lion Statue

A golden statue of a lion appears holding a heart. It is a guardian of the globe, acting as a sentinel of hope
~ **Knights of the Blind** ~

"What makes a Lion great" • Compassion • Honour • Courage • Loyalty

Everything done by the Lions is heartfelt: Lionhearted, big hearts, hearts-of-gold, 'light-hearted'.
The people around the map of Canada represents the cross-section of community aided by Lions initiatives.

Clouds At Sunset

As the clouds move to the side of the map an ocean of love is revealed.

The rain brings renewal, water, refreshing, calm after the storm and tears of joy.

Beams of light shine through clouds onto globe and shows where the Lions shine. If you were to draw a line from the sun/ Lions International logo to the sunbeams, you would create a rainbow along the way through the rain and the clouds.

World Globe At Night

Here the world appears at night illuminated by many lights. Each bejewelled light is where the Lions are making an impact.

“Love knows no borders” &

“Canadians bringing hope and light”

Some amazing facts about Canadian Lions:

Over 2,000 clubs, 45,000+ members contributing over 1/4 million volunteer hours per year, and 5 billion dollars in over 86 years.

Young Girl

“and Making wishes come true”

The young girl looks up to the North Star. The maple leaves beside have blown in on the wind of kindness.

North Star/ Stella Polaris

A constant navigational point in the night and is the guiding central light.

“We Serve” ~ is the motto created in 1954 by a Canadian Lion member

It also is a “wishing star”.

Hourglass

Red hearts turn to gold with each second, minute, hour of contribution.

The hourglass is connected to the rainbow showing the alchemy of action, of converting intention into physical reality.

It shows how each dollar and hour contributed has such a deep impact when gathered together, and there is no contribution too small as they can accumulate like grains of sand.

Key Persons of the Lions Clubs of Canada

The past four Canadian International Presidents are represented in order from left to right:

Harry A Newman ~ Toronto, Ontario 1924-25

Walter C. Fisher ~ St. Catherines, Ontario 1949-50

Tris Coffin ~ Rosemere, Quebec 1973-74

Judge Brian Stevenson ~ Calgary, Alberta 1987-88

To honour the original founder and spokesperson:

Melvin Jones ~ Founder of Lions Clubs International 1879-1961

Helen Keller ~ 1880-1968 ~ Spokesperson & figurehead for the blind and visually impaired

Map of Canada

Windsor, Ontario 1920. The first club in Canada is created, and also becomes the first ‘international’ branch of the Lions International. Each province’s first club is represented by a star, the name of the city and the year it was established.

Featured is a collection of how the Lions Clubs of Canada are active in their ‘own back yard’.

Left Pillar

Commemorating national pride of beginnings of club and significant events, namely how Canada made the International Lions Clubs officially “international”.

Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides

The Dog Guides program is featured with the Sir James Dunn Dog Guide Training Centre appearing in the background. Canada is the first country to cross-train guide dogs.

Right Pillar

National programs, foundations affiliated with the Lions are shown:
CNIB, Scouts Canada, Vision 2020, Safe Grads, Lions Quest, and Project Pride.

Lighthouse

The lighthouse provides navigation at the edge of the sea, and illuminates the SightFirst II logo, to the sea of people, onwards to the bridge of light and finally to the world.

Bridge ~ Canada To the World

A suspension bridge as if suspended by light, can cross great expanses.
The design is a cross between Lions Gate Bridge and the Thousand Islands Bridge (both Canadian bridges) and is a metaphor of the Canadian Lions members in the thousands. The bridge ties in with the Sea of Love.

Sea of Love

A sea of people, all holding candles, are the sparkles on a sea of love.
The hands are an offering of safety and shelter, and acting as the compassionate hands on behalf of God.
Imagine if you at the front of the bridge and seeing a sparkling line of people coming to you. The red pillars on either side of the map are the bridge's supports. Everything in between the pillars symbolizes how the world is made a better place by each Canadian Lion member. A pouring forth of generosity and good will with the maple leaves serving as reminders of the gentle caring touch of Canadians for others.

Campaign SightFirst II ~ 2005 to 2008

It's astounding that \$7 CDN / \$6 US can restore eyesight.

Compass Rose

Has a combination of Lions' purple and gold with the Canadian Flag colours of red and white.
The "N" stands for the North Star and also for Noble.
The compass rose aligns with the true north, magnetic north, and in reality is a moral compass of how each Canadian Lion member aligns with the Credo of the Lions.

Gold Braille Message

"Together we can change the world"

Braille was chosen as something that can be felt and ties in with Helen Keller's (1880 ~ 1968) quote:

"The best and most beautiful things in the world are not seen nor heard.... but felt in the heart"



Specifications

48" x 31" Original art size
Colour palette: Blues, teals, wood tones, purples, reds, golds
Acrylic paint on specially treated canvas
Completed August 31st, 2006
Illustrated by Lisa Strecko