Jordan Lions Club
since 1946

WE SERVE

Ten members of the Beamsville Lions Club, mostly residents of the Jordan area, met at the Vintage House (which was a part of the Jordan Museum) during the winter of 1948 and decided to form a new Lions Club. With the sponsorship of the Beamsville Lions, the Jordan Lions Club was chartered on March 31, 1948.

The ten founding members were:

Len Dale
Elston Honsberger
Gord Honsberger
Herb Morrison
Stan Price
Wilf Richardson
Vic Scull
Clarence Stoner
Don Weatherson
Reverend Norman Kelly

The Charter Night was held at the Queensway Hotel in St. Catharines On June 2, 1948 with Guest Speaker Lion Walter Fishers, then 2nd Vice President of Lions International – later to become International President.

Originally the Club met in a basement room of Jordan Public School. Later the Club moved to Prudhomme's Hotel where they met until the complex was destroyed by fire in 1967. In the fire the Lions lost their charter document which was later replaced by Lions International. The meeting place was then transferred to the Beacon Motor Hotel.

The first project was the building of an outdoor rink where the big cider press stood, behind the Vintage House. The first Lions summer carnival was held at that site and later moved to the Lions Park on Middle Road.

The Jordan Athletic Association, formed to promote softball in the Jordan area, had acquired land from the Clarence Honsberger farm and had constructed a floodlit ball diamond. When this Association ran into financial difficulties, they turned their facility over to the Lions Club in 1967. Since that time the majority of the activities of the Lions Club centered around this park.

This young and very active Club sponsored many events, such as a softball program and a sports day for the public school children in the area. Originally called Frolic Day, it carried on for many years before finally being phased out. A wide-spread area school swimming program was carried out at Prudhomme's pool until fire destroyed the complex.

Funds for the early projects were raised from the Jordan Lions Summer Carnival and the periodic sale of light bulbs and brooms. Over the years, service projects were added such as the Lions Santa Claus Parade (still going strong), the Lions Public Speaking contest and the Beauty Queen Contest (later the Snow Queen).

With the termination of the swimming program at Prudhommes, the idea of construction of a pool was brought forward and with the purchase of 4.6 acres of land adjacent to the Park, the project begun. This undertaking really brought the Jordan Lions Club together and virtually every member became involved. The official opening was held on July 18th, 1968 with local MPP Robert Welch, cutting the ribbon while standing in an aluminum boat in the middle of the pool.

In the meantime, an ambitious Centennial project had been undertaken – an old fashion Winter Carnival. The well-known Mascot was a snowman name Hoy Boy. This Carnival became the premier fundraising event for the Club and was transferred from the original site at Balls Falls Conservation Park to the Lions Sports Park in 1983.

The continuing emphasis for the Park was sports activities and in 1970 the Jordan Lions Softball Association was formed and is still a very successful undertaking.

With the improved success of the Winter Carnival, the idea of building an arena was discussed and after much work and co-operation with the Town of Lincoln and many interested citizens, the Jordan Arena and Community Centre was officially opened on October 18, 1974. This spawned the Jordan Lions Hockey Association and provided recreation for many young people in the community. Following thereafter was the Jordan Figure Skating Club with the facility also housing the monthly meetings for the members of Jordan Lions Club itself.

With the addition of 7.2 acres adjacent to the Park in 1977, the Sports Park was able to include one modern floodlit ball diamond, another diamond, tennis courts and a new refreshment booth. The refreshment booth continues to be in operation during ball season and is staffed by volunteers arranged through the ball league. A pavilion was added in 1982.

Continually striving to improve the park, the pool has been refurbished, the soccer field completed and new washrooms constructed. With the loss of the wading pool, the Jordan Lions combined efforts with the Town of Lincoln and a splash pad was opened in 2007.

When the Jordan Fire Department began construction of a new fire hall, the decision was made to relocate the Cenotaph into the Jordan Sports Park. Each year a Remembrance Day ceremony is held in the Park organized by the Royal Canadian Legion, with the assistance of the Jordan Lions. Wreaths sponsored by local businesses and individual are placed with precision around the base of the cenotaph. Bleachers are filled with loved one and children are brought in from local schools.

Successfully continuing today, there are many projects and activities that are obvious to the community such as the annual Remembrance Day ceremony, wild game dinner and all-you-can eat chicken wing nights. What isn't so obvious is the impact the Jordan Lions make behind the scenes. Originally providing glasses to disadvantaged children, Christmas baskets to needy families and helping financially with the various programs for the sight and hearing impaired, the giving has been expanded in recent years to include donations to various charitable organizations, groups and individuals. Local and District support is provided to Village of Hope, McNally House, Cave Springs Camp, Community Care, Eye Care Niagara, Lions Effective Speaking Program, Lions Quest, Camp Dorset (diabetes) and Camp Trillium (childhood cancer).

Today the Jordan Lion Club is alive and well. They are very proud to uphold the motto of Lions Club International – **WE SERVE**