

Alberni Valley Lions Projects

Projects of the Alberni Valley Lions Club fall into two categories:

- Fundraisers;
- Service Projects.

The Alberni Valley Lions Club derives most of its income from the annual TV Auction, grants from BC Gaming, the “Your Vision Is Our Vision” Supermarket Dash and the sale of 911 Reflective Address Signs. The funds raised by these projects are redistributed within our community or district according to predetermined causes or applications submitted by individuals in need.

Fundraisers

Lions TV Auction

The TV Auction began in 1972 and is usually held on the last Saturday in November. In recent years, the auction has been held at the Glenwood Centre, but in 2015, it was moved to the Port Alberni Youth Centre. Shaw broadcasts the event on local Cable Channel 4 and, in 2015, the auction was streamed to computers using the Alberni Lions TV Auction Website.

Preparations for the auction typically begin in early September and increase in intensity as the target date approaches. Each member of the club is responsible for canvassing local businesses who contribute one or more articles to be sold at the TV Auction. In 2015, 302 items were auctioned and over 220 businesses contributed.

Reflective Sign Sales

Sales of reflective address signs continue in the Alberni Valley due largely to the efforts of PDG Lion Rob Dalton with support from members of the Alberni Valley Lions Club. The funds raised by these efforts are applied to community projects throughout the Alberni Valley. Such signs make it much easier for first responders such as police, ambulance or the fire department to locate an address.

Signs may be vertically or horizontally oriented and may be 4 or 5 numbers long. Two number sizes are available: 3” and 4” and can be chosen for a house or yard. House signs are priced at \$30.00, yard signs at \$35.00 (one side or both), and mounting hardware is included. Sign posts are available for \$15.00.

The “Your Vision is Our Vision” Supermarket Dash

The funds from this annual fundraiser support vision screening for children in Port Alberni. At our sales booth, volunteers from the Alberni Valley Lions Club provide information on the Welch-Allyn Spot™ Vision Screener in addition to selling raffle tickets.

Typically, sale of tickets begin at Buy-Low Foods in early May and continue until the first week in June. A draw is held shortly thereafter for the first prize of a 5-minute supermarket dash. Additional prizes of gift baskets and gift cards are also awarded.

BC Gaming Grants

BC Gaming derives its income from lotteries, independent bingos, ticket raffles, wheels of fortune, special occasion casinos and poker. In 2013-2014, revenues from provincial gaming in BC were about 1.17 billion dollars.

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Local non-profit organizations, such as the Alberni Valley Lions Club, must provide programs or services of direct benefit to the broader community and are required to submit a detailed description of the distribution of gaming funds. A strict set of criteria are applied to the grants which fall into the following categories:

- Arts and Culture;
- Public Safety;
- Human and Social Services;
- Sport;
- Environment.

Service Projects

Vision Screening

Although the project was started in 2015 as a local initiative of the Alberni Valley Lions Club, it has expanded to include Lions Clubs from other parts of Vancouver Island who are seizing the opportunity to make vision scanning a local project in their communities. Vision analysis is carried out by Lions using the Welch-Allyn's Spot™ Vision Screener. The scanner requires no physical contact and provides mass vision screenings in seconds for both children and adults. Initially, screening will be aimed at students in the elementary school system and then extended to adults and seniors.

Conditions such as near-sightedness, far-sightedness, blurred vision, unequal refractive power, unequal pupil size and eye misalignment may be detected by this device, then, if necessary, referrals can be made to eye care professionals for further diagnosis and treatment.

Dog Guides

Each year, the Alberni Valley Lions Club, donates a sum of money to the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guide Program. The foundation has developed six programs: Canine Vision, Hearing Ear, Autism Assistance, Service (for those with physical disabilities), Seizure Response and Diabetic Alert.

Lions and Lioness clubs contribute approximately 25% of revenue each year. The majority of funding is comprised of individual and corporate donations, foundation grants and service club contributions from across the country. Fundraising events such as the *Purina® Walk for Dog Guides* are essential to each year's funding since it costs approximately \$25,000 to train a dog. A local *Purina® Walk for Dog Guides*, supported by the Alberni Valley Lions Club, is usually held in late May of each year.

Several people in the Alberni Valley have received dog guides, usually for Autism Assistance or Seizure Response. Upon acceptance, recipients spend three weeks at the National Training School in Oakville, ON to train with the dog. All expenses, including return transportation, meals, accommodation and follow-up are supplied to the recipient free of charge.

Seniors' Breakfast

A breakfast of pancakes, eggs and sausages along with juice and coffee is served by Alberni Valley Lions members in two shifts. The event is usually held at the Echo Centre on a Sunday in early June.

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Seniors' Picnic

On a Sunday in early August, the Annual Seniors Picnic is held at Roger Park. Previously, the Seniors' Picnic was held at Little Qualicum Falls and at McLean's Mill, but it was eventually moved to Roger Park to allow easier access for wheelchair-bound seniors.

Although the meal is catered by an outside source, the Alberni Valley Lions Club is responsible for cooking hamburgers, hot dogs and chicken in addition to helping to serve the meals. The set-up and take down of chairs, tables and tents is also the responsibility of the club.

During the event, a band provides entertainment and opportunities are provided for informal visits among Lions, seniors and support workers. The seniors are transported to and from the park by Handi-Dart buses.

Traffic Control at the Alberni Valley Salmon Derby

Early in September, the Alberni Valley Lions Club diverts and directs traffic for the fireworks at the beginning of the Alberni Valley Salmon Festival. During the event, the club sets up barriers in four locations and directs traffic away from the fireworks display and spectators. After the fireworks, barriers are gathered and returned to the City of Port Alberni.

Children's Bullhead Derby

Alberni Valley Lions gather on the Sunday of the Labour day weekend for the Annual Children's Bullhead Derby. Registration begins at 8:30 am with about 300 children (accompanied by their parents and grandparents) participating. Fishing commences at 9:00 am.

Dignitaries from the city council and the provincial government often assist with the measuring of bullheads and the presentation of prizes. In the interest of safety, Alberni Search and Rescue and the Coast Guard Auxiliary patrol the Somass River.

Terry Fox Run

The Terry Fox Run is usually held in September in the parking lot of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 293. Lions volunteers are responsible for set-up and take down of registration tents for the runners, the cooking of breakfast and sale of T-shirts. Lions also greet runners as they cross the finish line and may participate in the run itself. The event usually attracts over a hundred runners and about a dozen Lions.

Tree Planting

At various times, the Alberni Valley Lions Club, both independently and in partnership with School District 70, replants trees in local parks and wooded areas. This project was developed as part of our commitment to community beautification and sustainable development.

In a 20-minute video entitled [“We Serve”](#), Lion Ryan Dvorak describes some of our projects.

(Click “We Serve” to view)