



Alberni Valley Lions Club

Box 44
Port Alberni, BC
V9Y 7M6



December 12, 2017

*On the Occasion of the 50th Anniversary
Lion Monarch Winston Joseph
In Lionism*

It is truly an honour to speak this evening at the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Lion Monarch Winston Joseph. He is not only the sponsor of my return to the AV Lions Club but also a very dear and cherished friend.

Lion Winston - Yesterday, when I visited, you asked why the club was honouring you? Well, the truth is that it has been 50 years since you joined our Club. A Golden Anniversary! But, I believe it is more than that...it is what you represent, what you have contributed to not only our Club but also to our community. Allow me to share with those here a little of your background and the contributions you have made.

My friends, Lion Joseph was born at Forrest Reserve in southern Trinidad on August 31, 1931. He immigrated to Canada to earn a university degree, first at UBC and then at the Western Washington. The love of his life, Sheila arrived in 1961 and that same year they were married. In 1963 the Joseph family came to Port Alberni where Winston had secured a teaching job with School District 70. The 54 years since their arrival have been filled with inspiration, leadership and substantial involvement that have been enjoyed not only by his family, but by the entire Alberni Community. Sheila & Winston raised 4 children during this time – Jay, Judy, Janis & Peter and now have 7 grandchildren. He is a proud family man & they are the love of his life! We regret that Janis is unable to be here with us this evening.

If you spend time with Winston you quickly learn he is a God-loving, Christian man. His religion is the foundation of his beliefs, his philosophy, his behavior and service to others is at the root of his actions. To speak of only his involvement in Lionism this evening is to deny how all of his life in our community is inter-connected. Therefore, I will give you a synopsis of his volunteer work as it aligns with our community and our Club.

In Our Community Winston has served on the boards of the Friendship Centre and the Family Guidance Association. He wrote a column for the AV Times known to its many readers as the Gadfly. It was in this column he often highlighted the good deeds of the Lions Club so that the community could know of our service. It was through this column that Winston became nicknamed "Mr. Positive Port Alberni".

Winston was part of the 'Creative Writing Group', was a Toastmaster, founded the popular public forums "Adventures in Attitudes", "Food and Philosophy", and worked diligently for 15 years within the Folkfest Society. Ever wonder how the Lions became involved in Canada Day celebrations?



Alberni Valley Lions Club

Box 44
Port Alberni, BC
V9Y 7M6



Winston has organized Parks & Recreation hikes and was instrumental in initiating the New Year's Day 'Peace Walks'. He even took a stab at organizing a 'Snowfest' for our community.

In his church, Winston is a member of the Knights of Columbus, has been a facilitator in RCIA, was a member of Basic Faith Community study group, and up to a couple of years ago he was a Lay Reader at church services, a position he held since 1965.

In his profession, Winston was President of the Alberni District Teachers Association, and at ADSS where he spent 13 of his 33 year career he helped with inter-murals, sponsored a Christian Club, and for our purposes this evening, established a Leo's Club that ran under his guidance for some 10 years.

Winston loves exercise. After his term with the Neill Runners, he spent time walking to Echo Centre in the wee hours of the morning to exercise and it is most fortunate that he lives near Bob Daily Stadium, because you can still find him walking early in the morning contemplating life and where he finds himself at this time in his journey.

Where were you in 1967 - the year Canada celebrated its Centennial and the call echoed through Expo '67 to "Celebrate the World"? Winston, true to form, was doing just that – he joined the world's largest volunteer service organization – the Lions Club. And, as our records clearly indicate, he was no passive member.

Lion Winston immediately joined our founding member Jim Rezac in the Easter Seals Campaign. He became a founding member of the Lions TV Auction and during the early years, hosted a "Dignitaries, Celebrities, Donors & Charities in Need" table where he interviewed 'live and on air' individuals to gain the pulse of why the Auction was so very important to the community. And, as you know, he had been an anchor of auctioneering up until just a few years ago.

Lion Winston has served our Club as President, Secretary, Lion Tamer, Publicity Chair and Membership Director. On 7 occasions he initiated a local Lion response to World Service Day which targeted visiting seniors in residential home care.

As an immigrant Lion Winston understands the benefits of holding your mother country heritage while embracing the customs and culture of your new nation. As such he organized a club social fundraiser – the 3 time, ever popular and sold-out Caribbean Nights featuring the rhythms and energy of the Trinidadian 'Steel Band'! Limbo anyone?



Alberni Valley Lions Club

Box 44
Port Alberni, BC
V9Y 7M6



At Christmas Lion Winston was instrumental in the Christmas Tree Pick-up & Bonfire and convinced our club to sponsor a free Christmas swim at Echo Centre for families of the Alberni Valley. He served on the Bursary Committee and the Halloween Party Committee. His name was associated with Lions Garage Sales, Christmas Hampers, our Giant Bingos, and the Senior's Picnic where for years he was responsible for entertainment – who can ever forget those bus trips to Little Qualicum Falls where if Winston was not on board, the bus trip was a failure according to all the seniors. We told stories and we laughed, but mostly we sang all the way with such featured hits as “Its a Long Way to Tipperary” and Winston's signature song – “Kumbaya”. On reaching our destination, it was food, picnic draws & bingo! To say the least, the ride home was more subdued. Most recently, Lion Winston is associated with getting our club involved in Project Pride.

Lion Winston is accredited with the first recruiting of a female to join our Club. He has sponsored at least 5 members. In his 50 years as a Lion, Lion Winston has had 12 years of perfect attendance, 11 of those consecutive from 1968 – 1978.

For all of his efforts, Lion Winston has received a number of honours. In our Community he has been named Toast Master of the Year (1998) and “Citizen of the Year” (1984). In Lions he has twice been recognized as Lion of the Year. He is a Melvin Jones recipient and a Lion Monarch.

So, Lion Winston, why are we here? To honour you as a man of principles who has lived an exemplary and accomplished life to the benefit of so many! I know you have not finished with us, that your favourite moment at Club meetings will still be when you can share a famous quote from literature to inspire us, but to this point, your volunteer work has been a remarkable model for us all.

On this, the 50th Anniversary of your membership in Lionism, on behalf of the club and of our greater community, I salute you and honour you for a life well-lived and a family dearly loved. Congratulations on 50 years of Service to each of us here this evening and to the community –

WE SERVE!