

The International Association of Lions Clubs



*Bradd Anderson — Past Council Chair
8138 Fatima Court — Niagara Falls — ON — L2H 2Y8
(905) 353-0175 — b.anderson@a2lions.org*

For Immediate Release

Subject: Grimsby Lions & Friends & the COVID-19 Challenge

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Almost twenty-three years ago, a small group of local women in the Grimsby area came together to share their interest in quilting. Today, they are known as the 'Fifty Quilters' and are now working with the Lions to make a difference in combatting COVID-19.

In the early days, the group taught new members the art of quilting: before long, beautiful quilts were being created singularly and together as a group. The quilting group now includes two Grimsby & District Lions Club members Jane Franks and Laurie MacKenzie.

Recently, their group sessions were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, always ready to lend a hand, quilters have been busy sewing from home, making face masks for individuals. To date the group have produced and donated over 1000 face masks for the St. Catharines General, West Lincoln Memorial Hospitals and McNally House (a 24 hour specialized palliative care centre).

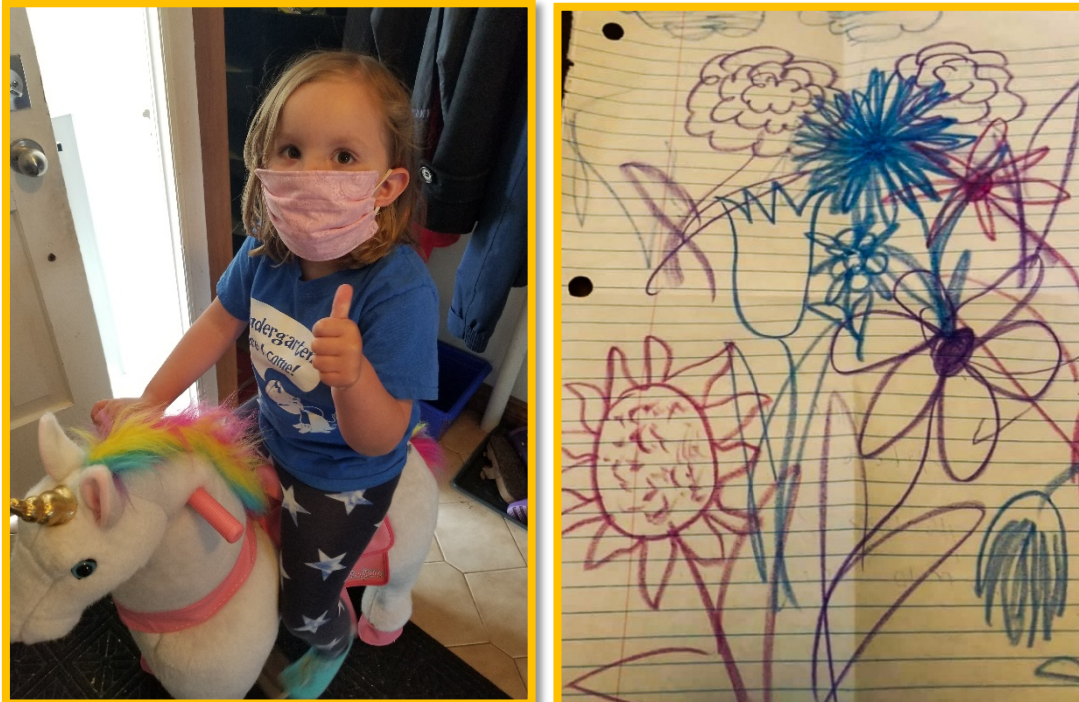
"We have had our challenges!" said group leader & Grimsby Lion Jane Franks. "We needed elastic cording and all stores were closed and it would take at least 4 weeks to get it from Amazon." Friends contributed what they had on hand to keep us going until Jane located a store owner who donated a large roll of medical grade cording. "It was green!" Jane exclaimed.

Just after the elastic cording issue resolved; both of Jane's sewing machines broke down, as did her steam iron. After several phone calls a repair technician was located. He visited Jane's home and worked at a distance in her sunroom to get both machines back in working order. Yep, Jane managed to borrow an iron. "The Grimsby community has been great providing support through these challenges!"



Lion Laurie MacKenzie shows a recent quilting creation and models one of the groups face masks.

Recently, the quilters have partnered with the Grimsby Lions. Club President Louise Seaton and Lions members are making the community aware of these home-made face masks that will be provided to those in need or for a donation to support face mask production.



Clara Miller a 3 year old Grimsby resident gives a 'thumbs up' approval and a colourful drawing as thanks to the Fifty Quilters group and the Grimsby Lions for her face mask

PCC Bradd Anderson
District A-2 Reporter