

Verona column 070809

Big news for the Verona Lions! The Ontario Trillium Foundation has awarded them a \$75,000 grant to help fund a major renovation project. Built in 1969, the Lions Hall sits on the ashes of another that had barely been completed and never used before it was destroyed by fire. The hall has seen hundreds of weddings, family functions and benefit dances, plus dozens of election polling stations and community information gatherings. Like many other buildings of its era, the hall is heated very inefficiently and not air conditioned at all, so part of this grant will go toward a much more energy friendly heating and cooling system. Other renovations will bring the "summer kitchen" (where Jamboree burgers and Farmers Market breakfasts are cooked and served) up to modern health and safety codes and another phase will see major redesign and modernization of the inside kitchen. Most of this work is planned to happen without interfering with hall rentals. The hall will be closed for the last half of December into February - the time when the Farmers Market takes a break too .

Speaking of Lions and the Farmers Market, the Lions are looking for a reliable person to cook breakfast every Saturday morning at the market. Casey Lansdell, who has been the stalwart presence for almost two years, has graduated from SHS and is headed to Trent University to study forensics. If you're interested in a casual paid job one morning a week, call Wayne Conway at 374-3807.

Parade Alert! Road 38 will be closed for about a half hour starting at 7:00 this Friday, August 10 for the Verona Festival kickoff parade.

Festival Saturday night entertainment will feature rockin' music – first by Kingston's Kickstand, featuring Gerry McGrath along with Dan-O and Verona's own Lee Casement. Led Zepplin and Soundgarden are among their musical influences. Then stick around for classic rock and roll from HEMP – **The Hammer Evans Morey Project**. The band is spearheaded by local musicians Rob Hammer, Todd Evans and Pam and Curtis Morey. Bring your dancing shoes. Sunday after the Ecumenical Service and salute to the troops, be sure to head down to the Classic Car Show, but do wander back for some great music. Steve Clow will present contemporary gospel, followed by Handsome Molly, one of the best bluegrass bands in many a mile. Kiington's Roger James will close off the afternoon. This talented musician can make you laugh till you cry, while wowing you with his musicality and showmanship. Of course, you'll have to eat at some point. On Sunday, in addition to the yummy canteen fare and the ice cream sundaes, you can buy a terrific beef luncheon prepared in Rivendell Golf Club's custom-designed cooker. Inventor Jim Lansdell calls it R2-D3. Once you've tasted this beef, you'll never miss another chance. See you at the Festival! Don't forget your clown hat.