



Kiwanis Club of Brantford Newsletter June 20, 2024

1 message

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Mon, Jun 17, 2024 at 2:04 AM

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A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER from and about THE KIWANIS CLUB OF BRANTFORD

Meeting at the Best Western Brantford Hotel & Conference Centre:
Every Thursday at 12:00 noon

Current Membership – 47



E.C. & C. District

Governor

John Chave

KC of Barrie

Governor Elect

Pamela Rodney White

KC of Constant Spring

Vice Governor

Cynthina Blackman

KC of Pride of Barbados

Immediate Past Governor

Anthony Haile

PROGRAM FOR JUNE 20, 2024

All available Members of the Kiwanis Club of Brantford will be at the The Children's Safety Village helping to assemble and deliver sandwiches for the Ploughman's Lunch. There will no meeting at the Best Western.

HEAD TABLE

None

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Thursday, June 27: Jennifer Stebbings, Powers of Attorney

Thursday, July 04: History of Fireworks

KC of Curacao

Secretary/Treasurer

Jim Steele

KC of Brantford

Division Lt. Governor

David MacLennan

KC of Stratford

Club Officers

President

Alfred Hauk

Past President

David Lewis

President-Elect

Nancy Thompson

Treasurer

Jim Steele

Secretary

Bob MacLean

Club Directors

2 Year Term

Randy MacKenzie

Leo Vos

Bob Wade

1 Year Term

Stuart Parkinson

Graham Schram

Thursday, July 11: Update on Lighthouse Theatre

Thursday, July 18: Follow up Report from the International
Kiwanis Convention

Thursday, July 25 – Trivia and Fun

Thursday, August 8 – Nicole Fogarty on Navigating the
Canadian dental Plan for Seniors

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

Thursday June 27th at 6pm – Steel Wheel Brewery

Saturday August 10th Kiwanis Family Potluck

KIWANIS CONVENTIONS

Kiwanis International Convention – July 3 – 6 in Denver,
Colorado

BIRTHDAYS

Bob Lefebvre – Birthday – June 19 Congratulations!

ANNIVERSARIES

Crystal & David Godwaldt – Anniversary – June 22
Congratulations!

ANNIVERSARIES OF DATE JOINED

None this week.

EDUCATIONAL SPOT

Kiwanis was defined as “an organization for men” in the constitution adopted at the Denver Constitutional Convention in 1924. In 1987, after more than a decade of debate throughout the organization, delegates at the convention in Washington, DC, voted overwhelmingly to eliminate gender as a membership requirement. Today, about 18 percent of worldwide Kiwanis membership is female and about 29 percent of all new members are women.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"He who would reach a distant goal must take small steps." ~ Helmut Schmidt

**To view the highlights of last week's meeting,
please click page down.**

Last Week's Meeting Highlights



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Highlights of the Thursday, 13 June, 2024 Weekly Meeting

President Alfred Hauk called the meeting to order at 11:45 AM. He opened with, Good Morning everyone. My name is Alfred Hauk and I am honoured to be the 2023-2024 President of the Kiwanis Club of Brantford. On behalf of the Members of our Club, I am pleased to welcome you to our Thursday June 13th weekly meeting. We are delighted to have many special guests with us today including members of Kiwanis Clubs in Division 5 and members of our Kiwanis Aktion Club.



Before we enjoy our lunch, I would like to extend an apology to everyone on behalf of our Club and the management of the Best Western Hotel. Unfortunately, there was a significant leak in the roof of the hotel earlier this week which caused damage to the room originally planned. As a result, we are in this room, which is a bit of a walk to the buffet table. If anyone requires assistance carrying their food from the buffet, please ask one of the Kiwanis Members for assistance.

President Alf then called on Vice President Designate, Pallo Sahota to extend an invitation to you to go to the Buffet as she calls each table by number.

President Alf welcomed everyone back after the meal was completed. He asked Michael Jacques to open the meeting with the ringing of the bell, which he did with gusto. President Alf said he hoped everyone enjoyed their lunch and introduced those who had joined him at the President's table, and thank them for their company. He asked the 5 people at his table to stand when their names were called and that they be given a round of applause after all were standing.

Following were the members at the President's Table:

- Guest Speaker Michael Jacques
- Michael's father Marcel Jacques
- Distinguished Lieutenant Governor Nelson McClinchey,
- President-elect Designate Maureen Henry,
- Aktion Club Member Neil MacDonald
- Aktion Club Past President Colleen Weeden

President Alf introduced other Guest joining us today and let them know how much we appreciate having them with us at our meeting. He asked that when a group's name was called and all members of the group were named and standing, we would recognize each group with a rousing round of applause.

The Guest Groups in attendance were:

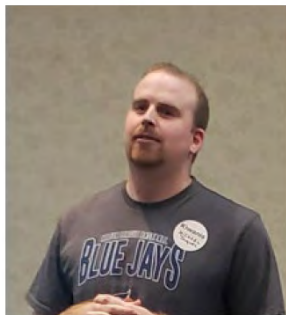
- Representatives from Woodbridge Community Services
- Aktion Club Advisor Elaine Johnson
- Members of the Kiwanis Aktion Club of Brantford
- Members of the Kiwanis Club of Paris-Brant
- Members of the Kiwanis Club of Cambridge
- Members of the Kiwanis Club of North Dumfries
- Guests of President Alf: Vanda Godfree, Kevin Godfree, Andrea Gordon, Rose Faltenhine, Gerry

Branget, Teresa Beal and Darlene

- Guests of Vice President Designate Pallo Sahota: Ian Kerr, Sherry Kerr
- Guest of District Secretary Treasurer Jim Steele: Steve Smith
- Guest of Past President Dave Neumann: Jake Huisman
- Guests of Past President Dave Lewis: Joanne Lewis
- Guest of Past Governor Joanne Murray: Lindsay Stevenson

With the acknowledgement of our members and Guest in attendance, President Alf announced that, we were now at the time on our agenda to welcome our special guest speaker.

He is a public speaker, activist, and author from Fonthill, Ontario who has written and self-published two books: **Can't Read, Can't Write, Here's My Book** and **I Belong: Can I Play?** Fellow Kiwanians and guests, would you please give a warm Kiwanis welcome to Michael Jacques.



Michael thanked President Alf and asked Marcel (his father) to start the presentation. Right from the start of Michael's presentation it is apparent that these two are a great team. They presented real facts, humour and emotion. The presentation is a moving story and record of the life experiences and every day invisible challenges that Michael had to overcome.



Michael started his presentation by saying: "My name is Michael Jacques; I am 28 years old and I have an invisible disability; I have autism and an intellectual disability. I like to use the word 'challenges' instead of 'disability', because it feels less like a label and more like everyone else. I kind of look like everyone else but I cannot read or write, and I get stuff mixed up like money and time. I am 6'3" and when I was young, I was clumsy and would trip over my own feet. In elementary school at recess, I would never get picked for a team or be picked last because I didn't understand the rules and if I did, the kids would change them on me during the game and I would get confused. If I was picked for a team, they would lose and think it was because of me, the boys especially. This made me feel sad, so lots of times I walked with staff of the school and sometimes hung out with the girls. I couldn't understand why being me made school so hard and being different made me feel like I didn't belong."

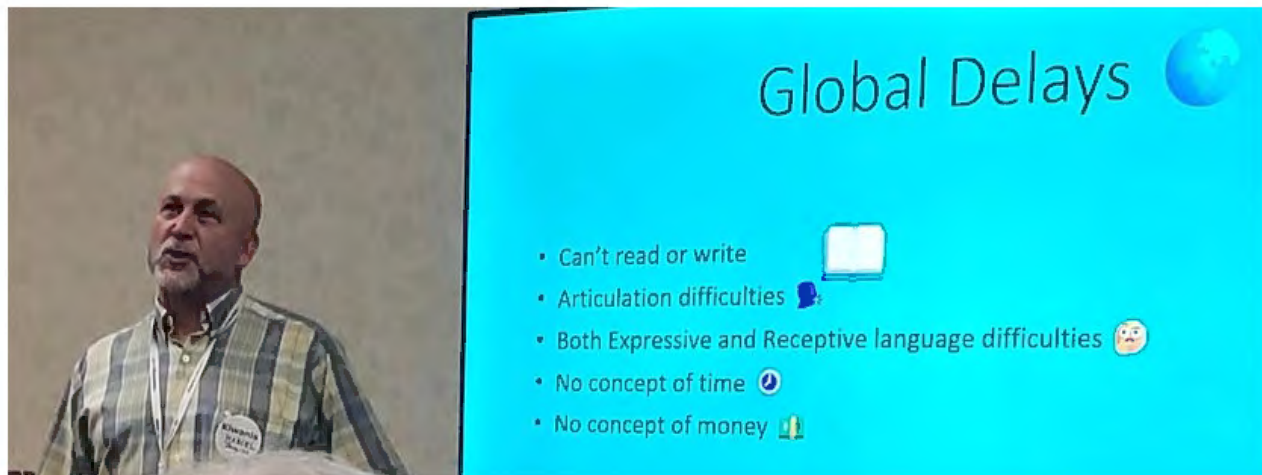
As I got older, I really never got invited to birthday parties. I had one good friend that lived next door to me, and we are still best friends to this day. Having even one friend meant a lot to me. It's hard to have friends when you have challenges because people don't understand you, and they don't want to get to know you. My parents always told me I had challenges, but they also told me to focus on the things I could do and reminded me to focus on strengths. I'm proud of who I am, and have thought outside the box and used technology to help me be more independent.



I now want to share my story to educate people on the importance of social inclusion, and to inspire

others with challenges that they can do anything they set your mind to. So here it is!

Micheal told us that:



To help him overcome the challenges, he uses the following Strategy



I started to write my book when I was 21 years old. I didn't want to forget what was happening in my life, so I started a journal. I was learning a lot about myself and how others saw me, and I wanted to document that. At the beginning, my journal was about basic stuff in my life, but near the end I started talking about more important things like authentic inclusion and how anything is possible if you believe in yourself. I also talked about volunteering in my community and how it is important to give back. I talked about the importance of working and feeling like a member of society.

One day my sister Kaila came home and asked to go on my iPad to watch Netflix. She's an older sister, so she snooped through my iPad and stumbled upon my notes. She read everything about herself first and then asked me what I was doing with all the notes. I was never able to read a book because I can't read or write so I said: "I think I would like to write a book". And she said: "well let's do it!" And that's how it all started.

I think it was in grade 10, a teacher told me that she believed I could get a high school diploma, with lots of support and by using technology. She suggested I attend a student conference called "Re: Action4Inclusion".

It was at that conference where I found my voice and learnt not to be afraid to speak up for myself despite my challenges. I used to be nervous about my speech impediment and that I didn't always use the right words. But I was learning it was better to speak up than to be silent. It was that year when I first spoke at the special meetings and told my teachers what I needed to get a high school diploma. My parents were very proud of me because I no longer just sat at the meetings and listened, I used my voice to make changes and I advocated for myself.



Usually, it takes 4 years to get a high school diploma, but it took me 7 years because I needed help. I used technology, I did oral presentations, I took courses more than once, I got help from staff and students, and I took less courses each semester. It might have taken longer, but I didn't care. I had done it.

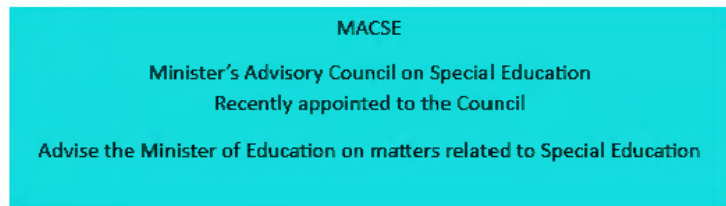
After I found my voice, I started to talk about authentic inclusion in my high school. I spoke to the principal and staff and asked if we could make my high school more inclusive. I was able to get individuals with challenges onto the student council, and began to make sure individuals with challenges were represented in sports and the yearbook. I became a role model for the students with challenges and did my best to make sure we were included in high school life. I started to do a few community presentations in high school talking about my life and the importance of inclusion. I received an inclusion award from the community I live in and that was really cool.

After high school I was asked to sit on the board of a local agency called Community Living Welland/Pelham that supports people who have challenges. We meet once a month and I share my perspective with the other board members to make positive changes about authentic inclusion in my community. I am now the secretary of the board which is funny because I can't read or write, but they actually have someone else that does that part.



I am also a board member of a provincial organization called Community Living Ontario. They help individuals that have intellectual disabilities like myself. I was elected to the position and this past year I was elected as Vice-President of the Board. I am glad to be one of the voices at the meetings because I want to help people like me. I want a more inclusive world and I think everyone should volunteer in their community.

Lastly, this year I was appointed, by the Minister of Education, to the MACSE (Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education). It's a provincial Council that advises the Minister on matters related to Special Education. This is another opportunity for me to share my voice and perspective with individuals that can make positive changes in our society.



Since the day my sister looked in my Ipad much has changed but all for the good.

- Sold over 21,000 "Can't Read Books"
- Sold over 4,000 "I Belong Book"
- Have done over 400 presentations across Canada
- Have been a guest speaker at the Ontario Police College and shared my story with over 6,000 Police Cadets
- I have appeared in multiple newspapers articles/magazines and TV interviews
- Donated over \$12,000 to Special Olympics Canada and Community Living Ontario.

What don't I have:

Can't Read or Write

Have articulation difficulties

No concept of time

No concept of money

What do I Have:

Use Visual cues

Use Technology

Use my Humor

Use my Strong Voice

I have **"Lived Experience"**

I care about Inclusion in our community for myself and others



Following are some websites where you can find out more about Michael and his journey.

<https://queenscommonwealthtrust.org/michael-jacques-cant-read-cant-write-heres-my-book/>

<https://www.heresmybook.com/>

President Alf thanked Michael very much for his wonderful presentation and indicated that Michael would be available to stay after the meeting to answer any questions you may have for him and to show you the books, he has available for sale.

President Alf, call upon Distinguished Lieutenant Governor Nelson McClinchey and Aktion Club Member Neil MacDonald to share with Michael the official thanks of the club.



President Alf called for Committee Reports and Announcements.

- Stuart Parkinson noted that sales for the Ploughman's Lunch, were going well and that there were still openings for anyone who had not volunteered to sign up on the sheets on the table.
- Vice President Designate Pallo Sahota reminded Members to save the date for a Social Committee event at the Steel Wheel Brewery on Thursday 27-June @ 6:00 PM, the Power Line Road.
- Aktion Club Past President Colleen reminded everyone to save the date for the Aktion Club 15th Anniversary Celebration on Wednesday 04 September at the Evangel Church 30 Fairview Drive Brantford

President Alf thanked the members and Guests and Michael Jacques rang the bell to adjourned the meeting.

Following are some candid photos of today's meeting.





