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## Kiwanis Club of Brantford Newsletter October 17, 2024

1 message

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Mon, Oct 14, 2024 at 5:05 PM

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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**

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**Current Membership – 43**



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E.C. & C. District

*Governor*

Pamela Rodney White  
KC of Constant Spring

*Governor Elect*

Cynthina Blackman  
KC of Pride of Barbados

*Immediate Past Governor*

John Chave  
KC of Barrie

*Secretary/Treasurer*

Jim Steele

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**PROGRAM FOR October 17, 2024**

At a Show and Tell this Thursday, various Kiwanians will present an article or relic they own and tell its story.

**HEAD TABLE**

President Nancy Thompson, Funmaster Alex and Joyce Morris, Judy Jones, Paul Simon, Dave Lewis, Nelson McClinchey, Randy MacKenzie

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Thursday, October 17 – Show and Tell

Thursday, October 24 – Lori Dawn Cavin for the City of

KC of Brantford

*Division Lt. Governor*

Angel Vieth

KC of Kitchener–Waterloo

Club Officers

*President*

Nancy Thompson

*Past President*

Alfred Hauk

*President–Elect*

Maureen Henry

*Treasurer*

Jim Steele

*Secretary*

Dave Lewis

Club Directors

*2 Year Term*

Ross Pope

Joanne Murray

*1 Year Term*

Randy MacKenzie

Leo Vos

Bob Wade

Brantford

Thursday, October 31 – Halloween Fun and Games

Thursday, November 7 – Murray Angus The 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade, WWI

Thursday, November 14 – Laura Moulton, Woodview Autism and Mental Health Services

## **UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS**

### **KIWANIS CONVENTIONS**

Eastern Canada & Caribbean District Convention – Niagara Falls, May 29 to 31, 2025

Kiwanis International Convention – Pittsburgh, June 25 to 28–2025

### **BIRTHDAYS**

None

### **WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

None

### **ANNIVERSARIES OF DATE JOINED**

None

## **EDUCATIONAL SPOT**

A “service project” is defined by Kiwanis International as “an activity, consistent with the Objects, objectives, and policies of Kiwanis International, which is devised or planned by a Kiwanis club or a club committee and performed by members of the club for the benefit of others.”

## **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

"Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma – which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition." – Steve Jobs Tweet

# To view the highlights of last week's meeting, please page down

## Last Week's Meeting Highlights



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## Highlights of the Thursday, 10 October, 2024 Weekly Meeting

The meeting started at 12:30 pm with President Nancy welcoming everyone to the Thursday 10 October weekly meeting with a special welcome to our Guest Speaker Derek Ritschel.

President Nancy called on Kiwanian Paulette to organize the 50/50 Draw. Two Tickets were drawn by Jim Steele and Randy/Paul Mackenzie. Neither found the Joker and the pot continues to grow.



President Nancy thanked Kiwanian Paulette and called our Funmaster Dave Lewis to the podium

Kiwanian Dave opened with some examples of how words that were used to describe food in the 1950's have changed.

- Pasta had not even been invented. It was macaroni or spaghetti.
- Curry was a surname.
- Pizza? Sounds like a leaning tower somewhere.
- Bananas and Oranges only appeared at Christmas time.
- All chips were plain.
- The one thing that we never ever had on, or at our table in the fifties.... was elbow, hats and cell phones.



We moved on to what had to be a perfect trifecta: Anniversaries of Joining the Club:

- Alfred Hauk – Joined - October 7, 2019
- Faye Prince – Joined – October 7, 2019
- Paul Simon – Joined – October 7, 2019

Happy Stories and Dollars were offered by: PLG Nelson informing us that Randy Mackenzie has been confirm at the Lieutenant Governor for Division 5 (Black Walnut) for the Kiwanis Year 2024-2025., Joanne Murray thanked Kiwanis Faye for the excellent Halloween Table decorations, Leo Vos announced the Saturday 26 October Halloween in the Village event at the Children's Safety Village and that his grand kids and at his Home to celebrate Thanksgiving with them.

President Nancy thanked Funmaster Dave and moved on to the Speaker's portion of the program.

President Nancy called Kiwanis Bob Saunders forward to introduce today's speaker.

Kiwanian Bob Saunders outlined our Speaker Derek Ritschel's background and that today his topic would be the History of the Lighthouse Summer Theatre.

Kiwanian Bob S. stated that Derek Ritschel has become one of the most influential artists in the history of Lighthouse Theatre. Before becoming Artistic Director in 2011, he performed over 300 times on the Lighthouse stage, more than any actor in the company's history. He has also directed ten Lighthouse productions and has written and premiered three of his own original plays there. In total, he has directly participated in close to 1000 Lighthouse Theatre performances in some way.

Since taking over as Lighthouse's Artistic Director, Derek has added a community production for local amateur actors to work in tandem with professional artists in the offseason, overseen considerable technical improvements, witnessed the most successful seasons in the theatre's 39-year history and has made significant ambassadorial efforts by expanding the theatre's participation in other community groups and events.

Derek Ritschel came to the podium and thanked the Kiwanis Club of Brantford for inviting him to make his presentation.

He opened by letting us know that **The Lighthouse Theatre in Port Dover** is a designated historical building that was originally Port Dover's Town Hall. This building and live theatre in Port Dover have a long and storied history.

It is believed that the first show produced by local artists on the Town Hall stage was a musical which opened on Wednesday, February 1, 1905.

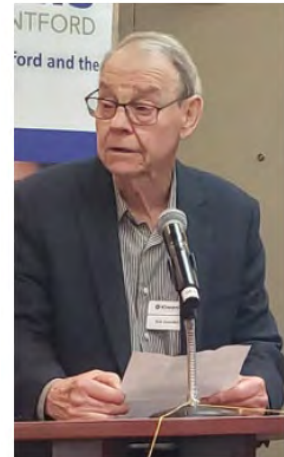
The Town Hall became part of the Canadian/American Vaudeville Circuit and many of these performers stayed on to work in town before moving off to the next show stop.

During World War II, the Port Dover Red Cross met daily to knit and sew in contribution to the war effort. Hundreds of gallons of jam were made and shipped to Great Britain to feed town children, victims of bomb raids on their towns and villages.

In 1958, the Town Hall stage curtain was removed and taken to the newly built auditorium in Port Dover Public School. It was a sign of the times. The advent of television, the popularity and availability of movies and the greater ease of travel had resulted in Vaudeville's demise. And newer, more modern facilities were available for community events and gatherings. During the late 50s, 60s and 70s, the old Town Hall became nothing more than storage space for the municipality and fell into disrepair — forgotten and ignored.

### **The Birth of Lighthouse Festival Theatre**

In the late 70s, Sara Staysa, Artistic Director of the Carpet Bag Theatre Company of Brantford, had been looking for a facility out of which to operate the company. A frequent visitor to Port Dover, Sara knew of the old Town Hall building and began making inquiries regarding the feasibility of reopening the run-down auditorium for professional summer stock theatre. In 1979, a team of volunteers, including Carlos,



Don Simpson, Harry Barrett, Bill Gunn and George McCloy, oversaw the custom construction of two new ceiling beams.

The City of Nanticoke came up with \$160,000 for the reconstruction project and members of the community worked tirelessly, around the clock, in time for the opening on June 18, 1980 just before the curtain went up.

Ms. Staysa lobbied foundations and corporations for funding for that first season. Founding sponsors included The Audrey S. Hellyer Foundation, S.C. Johnson, American Can, Texaco, Simcoe Leaf Tobacco, Thomas A. Ivey and Sons, Dover Mills Heritage Association and Gould Outdoor Advertising. Volunteers Deb Porter and Sharon Cairns handled the marketing to bring groups to the performances.

In 1989, when it appeared that Lighthouse would most certainly suffer financial ruin, Artistic Director, Simon Johnston, established an all-Canadian mandate, with an emphasis on and commitment to new play development. Since that time, LFT has presented over 30 World Premieres and many subsequent productions of new Canadian scripts.

LFT now mounts five regular season productions each summer, from May through August, and has expanded the season to include a sixth show, or 'Encore Presentation' in September. Plays are typically comedies and musicals, although there may be 'one for the soul'. In recent years *400 Kilometres*, *A Stranger in our House*, and *Fire* have dealt with relevant social and cultural issues that reflect the lives of Canadians. *400 Kilometres*, by celebrated Native playwright Drew Hayden Taylor told the story of a Native woman raised by Caucasian parents reconnecting with her cultural heritage. *Stranger* focused on a family coping with their father/husband's stroke and the adjustments they have to make in order to accommodate his new behaviour. In *Fire*, the relationships between celebrity, religion, and politics were examined in a story based on the lives of Jerry Lee Lewis and Jimmy Swaggart. All three shows received critical acclaim and were popular with audiences.

Prior to 2003, a series of plays known as the Norfolk Series were commissioned, and told stories about the community. Embodying the very essence of home-grown Canadian theatre, the Norfolk Series celebrates the folklore, history and prominent personalities that have shaped and changed life in this area.

### **Lighthouse and the Community Today**

Just as it was in the early 1900s, the theatre was open "all year 'round" for a variety of events, including concerts, public meetings, community fundraisers, dance recitals, workshops, and band rehearsals.

In cooperation with the Norfolk Arts Centre, the Lighthouse Gallery presents the works of local artists, throughout the year, in the theatre lobby. Each season, the works of a different artist are on display for viewing and purchase.

And so the story continues . . . a story of a Town Hall built more than 100 years ago, and a theatre company who made that building its home. But more importantly, it is the story of a community that found its centre — its very heart — in that old Town Hall. A community that built her, shored up her walls and supported her and the theatre she housed when that support was needed the most.

## The building — a Series of Renovations

From the beginning, Port Dover and the City of Nanticoke owned the building. A Committee of Council (the Town Hall Management Committee) oversaw everything that went on in the facility as well as the maintenance. Jack Matham, Charles Ivey and Sonny Lowe sat on that committee.

In 1999, the City of Nanticoke announced its intention to sell the old Town Hall building. Lighthouse entered into discussions to repay the amount that the City of Nanticoke had given them.

Now that the building was its own, LFT was ready to renovate once again, in 2000. Fundraising began and, with financial assistance from the Trillium Foundation, S.C. Johnson, the Port Dover Lions Club, The Ventin Group, Reid and Deleye, the Lighthouse Volunteer Committee and Dorothy Blake, an elevator to the theatre level was installed and the new lobby was built.

## Future options

In 2012, Lighthouse was approached with an opportunity to share resources, knowledge and leverage with Showboat Festival Theatre in Port Colborne by uniting as sister theatres. Showboat Theatre was a part of the Roselawn Centre for the Arts and managed by the City of Port Colborne. Artistic Director Derek Ritschel brought the summer season from Port Dover to Port Colborne, productions were presented in Port Dover first and then travelled down to perform in Port Colborne. By 2015, each theatre had welcomed their highest number of subscriptions and Showboat's summer season had grown from four weeks to eight weeks.



In 2021 Lighthouse Festival and the City of Port Colborne came to a new agreement which saw Lighthouse assume all management duties for the theatre, including the ability to offer live theatre all year round.

Derek ended his presentation and answered a number of questions, several about playwright Norm Foster.

Jim Steele gave Derek our formal thanks for our Club members.

President Nancy called for any Committee Reports and Announcements:

- Maureen Henry said that the Youth Writers Fest Contest is progressing well with a number registrants submission received with the Dead Line of Friday October 18, 2024 Midnight. Awards will be held on Saturday, November 16th, 3:00 pm at the BPL
- Leo reminded everyone that 14 Nov was Trivia Challenge at a new location, Dunsdon Legion.
- Leo reminded everyone that Halloween in the Village was on Oct 26 and if you wish to volunteer let him know.



- Randy reminded everyone that Doug the Great could use some parking directors at Brantwood Farms and to please give Randy or Doug a call or email.

President Nancy thanked all members and our Guest Speaker Derek Ritschel and wished them all a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend.

Final Thought for the day: "We should certainly count our blessings, but we should also make our blessings count." — Neal A. Maxwell

If there is nothing else for the good of Kiwanis, we will adjourn this meeting with the ringing of the bell. Have a great weekend.

Meeting Adjourned

Following are candid pictures of our members at this meeting.

