
Kiwanis Club of Brantford Newsletter 27-February-2025

1 message

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Mon, Feb 24, 2025 at 5:04 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 – 43



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

PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY 27, 2025

Amy Campbell, Heart Health - Beating Strong

HEAD TABLE

President Nancy Thompson, Introducer Linda Moyer,
Thanker Leo Vos, Speaker Amy Campbell

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Thursday, March 6 – Anniversary of Club Founding
Thursday, March 13 – Pam MacDonald, Master Gardener
Thursday, March 20 – Bob Saunders, 50th Anniversary of
Metric System

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
Karen Adams
Joanne Murray

1 Year Term
Randy MacKenzie
Leo Vos
Bob Wade

Thursday, March 27 – TBD

Thursday, April 3 – Annemarie Peirce, Brantford Community Foundation, Vital Signs Report

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

March 17th: Pasta night at Piper Arms. Details and sign up sheet to follow.

June: Dinner and music night at Brantford Golf and Country club (date to be confirmed)

August 9th: Family potluck/picnic

September 13th: 2:00 PM Port Dover play and dinner ("Here on the flight path" Norm Foster")

KIWANIS CONVENTIONS

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

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

BIRTHDAYS

Kirby Brown – Birthday – February 23,

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

None

ANNIVERSARIES OF DATE JOINED

Bob Saunders – Joined – February 26

EDUCATIONAL SPOT

Eastern Canada & the Caribbean District is home to over 284 Kiwanis clubs. These clubs are divided up into Divisions. Each Division is led by a Lieutenant Governor, who reports to the Governor.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Each time a someone stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, they sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance. — Robert Kennedy (Paraphrased)

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

Last Week's Meeting Highlights



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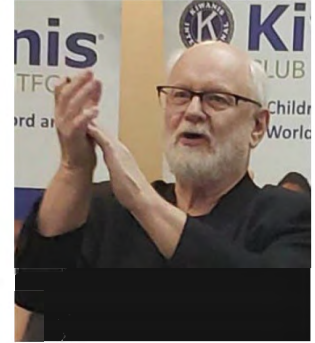
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Highlights of the Thursday, 20 February, 2025 Weekly Meeting

PP Alfred Hauk, welcomed all members, New Member Janet Jordan and Guest Speaker: James Popham, Professor of Criminology, WLU



Phil Hoekstra organized the 50/50 draw, with a “Phantom” and Maureen Henry holding potential winning tickets, neither member found the Joker this week and the pot continues to grow.

PG Joanne was our Funmaster for today and used our current spate of cold-snowy Canadian weather as her focus topic: Little known weather facts.

- She referenced, the largest snow flake ever recorded in the Guinness Book of World records was; 15 inches (38 centimeters) wide and 8 inches (20 centimeters) thick, spotted near Missoula, Montana in 1887.
- She also debunk the incorrect “fact” that all snow flakes are unique. (That is not true).
- While snowflakes appear white, as they fall through the sky or as they accumulate on the ground as snowfall, they are actually totally clear.
- **Snirt** – Snirt is an informal term for snow covered with dirt, especially where strong winds pick up topsoil from uncovered farm fields and blow it into nearby snowy areas.



Funmaster Joanne moved on the help us celebrate:

- Kirby Brown – Birthday – February 23
- Bob Saunders – Date of Joining our Club – February 26

PP Alfred thanked Funmaster Joanne for her presentation and called Dave Lewis to the podium to introduce our Guest Speaker.

Dave introduced James Popham, Assistant Professor, Criminology Wilfrid Laurier University in Brantford, and reviewed his Educational credentials of PHD, MA and BA relating to Criminal Justice.

Dave also mentioned that James was instrumental in the creation of the Brant Vital Signs Publications in 2018 and again last year 2024.

James was warmly welcomed by all members to speak about Cybercrime and offer some tips to help in its prevention.



Professor James Popham thanked us for inviting him to speak on the topic of CyberCrime and used a slide show in assistance.

He asked what our earliest memory was of our use of the World Wide Web?
Some members responses ranged from 20 to almost 30 years ago.

He then asked, what is something that you do today that was impossible to do 20 years ago?

One answer was, an instant use of a cell phone, to talk to my relatives, practically anywhere in the world.

These two questions set up a timeline, demonstrating the speed of change and constant development of the web based data transfer and communication in the past 20-30 years.

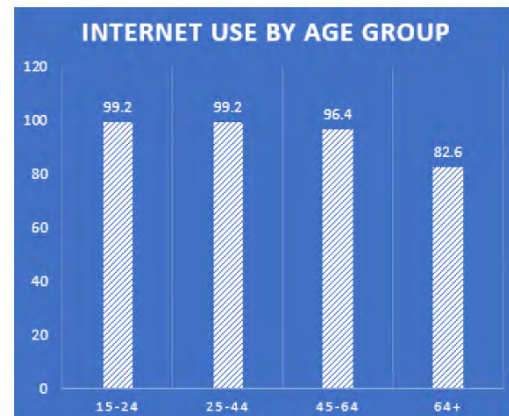


James Popham was Born in Oshawa, started using computers in 1992:

- Studied digital theft starting in 2003
- Received a BA (hons) in Criminal Justice and Public Policy from the University of Guelph in 2004
- Received an MA in Criminology from Griffith University in 2006
- Joined WLU in 2014
- Received a PhD in Sociology from the University of Saskatchewan in 2016

James said that In Canada, any criminal investigation where a computing device was used in the commission of the act is recorded as cybercrime.

Most people use computers and most infrastructure as well.
Note: Computers are now being used across all age groups in Canada today.



Cybercrime can be categorized into three types

1. Romance Fraud
2. Ransomware
3. Data theft

1. Romance Fraud, ~ What is it?

From RCMP:

A romance scam is when a person creates a false identity and pretends to have romantic feelings for a victim to gain their trust and affection for the purpose of obtaining their money.



The Simpsons – “Bart the Lover” (1992)

What is the Damage? (Romance Fraud)

2023 Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre data:

- 1,135 romance reports; \$50.3 million in losses
- 4,010 investment reports; \$309.4 million
- 9,421 job/service reports; \$49.9 million
- 2,542 emergency reports; \$11.3 million (Grandma, I have been hurt and need \$550.)



Romance Fraud (and other types)

2. Ransomware

From Canadian Centre for Cyber Security:

Ransomware is a type of malware that denies a user's access to files or systems until a sum of money is paid. Ransomware can infect your network and spread to all connected devices



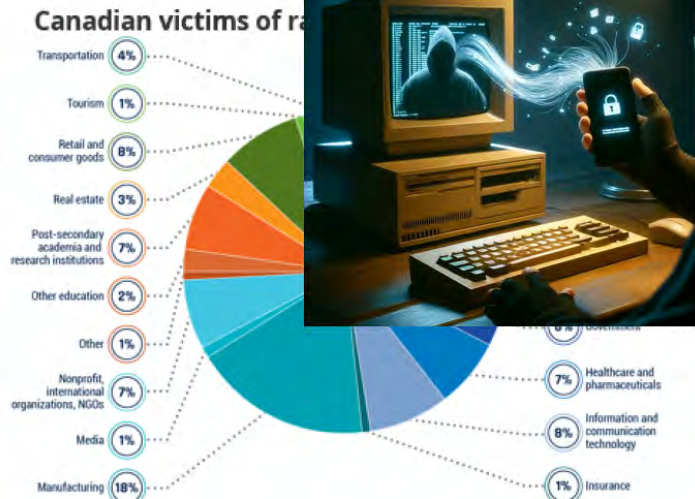
How? Ransomware as a service (RaaS)

- Attackers gain access to the system (e.g. social engineering, day one vulnerabilities, stolen credentials, etc.)
- System structure is mapped and recorded
- Data is encrypted through malware or similar
- Notification sent to admins/leaders
- Offered as a “service” by cybercrime groups
- Target under-protected or under-funded systems

What is the damage? (Ransomware)

2023 Statistics Canada data:

- 1 in 8 businesses
- Demands range from \$10k - \$50m; average \$1.13 million
- \$1.2 billion spent sector wide
- Most payments in form of bitcoin, often unreported



3. Data theft

From Canadian Centre for Cyber Security:

Data exfiltration is a tactic used by threat actors to accomplish their objectives, such as data theft, financial extortion and gain, and service disruption.

How? Penetration testing

- Social/online marketplaces: Sale of stolen credentials; social engineering attacks; data triangulations; identity theft; etc.
- Physical: unprotected/under-protected access points and devices; aggrieved employees; data preservation policies and standards, etc.
- Digital: Unknown vulnerabilities; under-resourced administrators; under-protected and older systems; credentialing issues; training issues; etc.
- Obfuscation: Data encryption; transformation; steganography; etc.

What is the damage? (Data theft)

2024 IBM report:

- Average \$6.3m per breach
- 158 days to identify; 258 days to contain
- More than 100 data points per record
- Total impacted numbers unknown; 3.5 million in Alberta alone



Solution, ~ Being prepared, Cyber Criminals are Professionals

DO

- Take it seriously – early action means early mitigation
- Become risk aware – ask questions and expect answers
- Pay attention to loved ones' finances where possible – especially gift cards or applications that are unusual for them
- Train yourself and others based on abilities – evidence shows people pay more attention when challenged
- Use and enforce strong security policies – at least Two Factor Authentication (2FA)
- Treat data like cash – it is! – keep it secure and use secure services



DO NOT

- Ignore it or “turn it off” – data is persistent
- Blame yourself or others – cybercriminals are experts
- Expect people to “know” – AI and generative tech is very convincing
- Use basic or one-size-fits-all training – it isn't effective
- Ignore security alerts and updates – use these tools to your advantage
- Use out-of-the-box systems without customizing – change passwords, etc.
- Believe that you can manage it yourself – contact cyber.gc.ca, the police, insurance

Spot the difference? Which of these two is an AI generated picture?



James Popham thanked everyone for their attention and asked if there were any questions, which was answered with a flurry of hands.

Once a number of questions were answered Phil Hoekstra gave James Popham the official thank you for his presentation.

PP Alfred returned to the podium and called for any Announcements or Committee Reports

- Melany MacKay once again announced a social event at the Lighthouse Theatre, Saturday 13th September, 2025. It is a Norm Foster's Play "Here on the Flight Path". Note it is the 2:00 PM, matinee. Tickets can be purchase by Credit card. Following is the link to the website. <https://lighthousetheatre.com/>. Once you have purchased your tickets, please be sure to let Pallo Sahota and Nancy Thompson know by email as they will be attempting to organize a Dinner after the Theatre presentation.
- A reminder was made that the Kiwanis Club of Paris-Brant is holding an Interclub Saturday March 30 at the Paris Curling Club starting at 11:30AM. Please let PLG Nelson know if you are interested in attending.
- Our guest speaker today, James Popham, informed us that he is currently organizing a survey about, "**Brantford's vision for 2050**", and asked if some of our members would consider filling it out. **Please let Dave Lewis know if you would like to participate and he will send you the link.**

PP Alfred thanked all members and Guests and wished everyone well.

Final thought of the day: "An idiot with a plan can beat a genius without one." — Warren Buffet

If there is nothing else for the good of Kiwanis, we will adjourn this meeting with the ringing of the Bell.

Have a safe Weekend.

Meeting adjourned