
Kiwanis Club of Brantford Newsletter 27-March-2025

1 message

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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 MARCH 27, 2025

ALL HANDS ON DECK! Members are asked to make every effort to attend this important meeting. The Membership Committee will be reviewing the outcomes of the Membership Satisfaction Survey and receiving your input on “next steps.” Everyone’s thoughts and ideas are important in shaping the future direction of our club.

HEAD TABLE

Members of the Membership Committee – Pallo Sahota, Dave Lewis, Nelson McClinchey, Judy Jones, Leo Vos, Karen Adams (joining us in spirit from sunny Florida) and Joanne Murray

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

Thursday, April 10 – Aktion Club (Interclub Meeting)

Thursday, April 17 – Brian Wood, Bell Homestead

Thursday, April 24 – National Volunteer Week

Thursday, May 1 – Annual General Meeting

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

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

Phil Hoekstra – Birthday – March 24

Karen Adams – Joined – March 30

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

None

ANNIVERSARIES OF DATE JOINED

None

EDUCATIONAL SPOT

The Kiwanis Club of Brantford does not have an attendance requirement. Members are encouraged to attend a minimum of one meeting a month. On average, members currently attend 3 meetings per month.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has". –Margaret Mead

**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, 20 March, 2025 Weekly Meeting

President Elect Maureen, welcomed all members and Guest Speaker, our own Bob Saunders



Phil Hoekstra organized the 50/50 draw, Maureen Henry and Phil Hoekstra holding the potential winning tickets, but unfortunately they did not draw the Joker. The pot continues to grow.

Funmaster/Education – Funmaster: Pallo Sahota decided to Educate us with some little known Canadian Facts.



- Between 830 000 and 1 million Moose are found in Canadian forests from the Alaska boundary to the eastern tip of Newfoundland and Labrador. B.C. alone has more than 165,000.

- Basketball was invented by James Naismith's. **Background:** James Naismith was born in Almonte, Ontario, Canada, in 1861. Early Basketball rules and equipment: The original game used peach baskets with no bottom as hoops and a soccer ball.

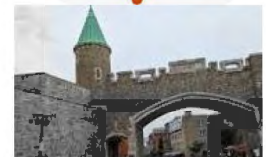


- Canada is still a constitutional monarchy, and the British Crown sits at the top of its political hierarchy despite Canada being a sovereign nation.

- Canada produces 71% of the world's pure maple syrup, 91% of which is produced in Quebec. Canada's maple syrup producing regions are located in the provinces of Quebec (primary producer), Ontario, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. There are more than 8,600 maple syrup businesses in Canada.



- Quebec's Old Town (Vieux-Québec) is the only intact walled city in North America.



- A Caesar is a cocktail created and consumed primarily in Canada. It typically contains vodka, Clamato, hot sauce, and Worcestershire sauce, and is served with ice in a large, celery salt-rimmed glass, typically garnished with a stalk of celery and wedge of lime.



- BC is 95 million hectares (235 million acres) in size (about double the size of California). Almost 64% of the province – about 60.3 million hectares (149 million acres) – is forested. Less than one-third of one percent of BC's forest land is harvested annually.

Pallo moved on to Birthdays and Anniversaries' noting the following:

Judy Lillico – Birthday – March 19

Paul Simon – Birthday – March 19

Jim Steele – Joined the Club – March 17. He has 43 Years as a member of the Kiwans Club of Brantford. All were given a rousing round of applause and wished well.

PE Maureen introduced our Guest speaker and Club Member Bob Saunders who would be talking about the Implementation of the Metric System to Canada 50 years ago on April 1, 1975.

Bob worked for 30 years for the Meteorological Service of Canada. For 15 years he was involved in the provision of aviation weather services. During that time, he was also involved in the implementation of the change to the metric system for aviation weather services. He will be speaking today on the implementation of the metric system in Canada.



Bob welcomed everyone for coming and said that, during his younger educational years he had taken classes in thermodynamics and was often confused with the Imperial standards relating to energy and temperature with the relationship of the BTU, Joule, Slug , It was like a breath of fresh air when the Metric system arrived on the scene, where you simply had to move a decimal.

Bob then reached away back in history with the following as it relates to measurement:

- Ancient Romans primarily based on the foot (pes), with subdivisions like the digit, inch, and palm, and larger units for distances like the pace, stride, and mile.
- Fourteenth-century statutes recorded a yard (perhaps based originally on a rod or stick) of 3 feet, each foot containing 12 inches, each inch equaling the length of three barleycorns
- In the 16th century the rod (5.5 yards, or 16.5 feet) was defined as the length of the left feet of 16 men lined up heel to toe.
- The British Imperial measurement system, officially defined by the Weights and Measures Act of 1824, became the official system of weights and measures in Great Britain and the British Empire and used well into the 20th century.



19th Century Greenwich Observatory
Public Imperial measure standard

- The Americans were the same except the imperial gallon and the American gallon differ because the United States adopted a system based on the 231-cubic-inch wine - gallon, while the British established the imperial gallon in 1824, defined as the volume of 10 pounds of water.

- The French Revolution of 1789 provided an opportunity to pursue the frequently discussed idea of replacing the confusing jumble of thousands of traditional units of measure with a rational system based on multiples of 10. In 1791 the French National Assembly directed the French Academy of Sciences to address the chaotic state of French weights and measures.
- It was decided that the new system would be based on a natural physical unit as Follows:
 1. **Length:** ~ The academy settled on the 1/10,000,000 of the distance from the North Pole to the equator, the new unit to be called the metre, from Greek metron, meaning “measure.”
 2. **Temperature:** ~ 0 C freezing point of water and 100 C boiling point of water.
 3. **Mass:** Gram, was defined as the mass of one cubic centimeter of water at 4 degrees Celsius.
- Jump over to Canada in 1871, Prime Minister John A. Macdonald continued to use the imperial system
- The Liberal **federal government** of Pierre Trudeau first **began implementing metrication in Canada in 1970** with a government agency dedicated to implementing the project, the Metric Commission, being established in 1971 by the Weights and Measures Act. By the mid-1970s, metric product labelling was introduced.
- **1973 the Metric Commission was established** with 100 committees, national associations, education of industries where consultations took place for several years. It was a bureaucrat’s dream.
- **Canadian Metrification was Launched in 1975**
Meteorology was first.
 - Temperature $(32^{\circ}\text{F} - 32) \times 5/9 = 0^{\circ}\text{C}$
 - Rainfall mm
 - Pressure mb
 - It was taught in schools

It was at this point the Bob Saunders became involved in implementing metric changes to aviation weather service for National Defense. In 1977 all wind speed, visibility and barometric pressure was labelled in metric units.

On Labour Day Weekend of 1977 every single speed limit in the country was changed from miles per hour to kilometers per hour, every new car sold in Canada had to have a speedometer that showed speed in kilometers per hour and distance in kilometers and the distance markers on all signs were changed to kilometers as well.

By 1979 Gas pumps were converted to Liters

In 1982 Grocery stores began to give weights and measures in metric.

There was some backlash and opposition but despite the resistance, the Liberals under P.E. Trudeau stood firm and pushed ahead.

Bob Saunders said he was involved with discussions with his American counterparts for changing temperatures wind speeds and distances from imperial to metric. The Americans were very friendly very agreeable but refused to make any changes. They said the public wouldn't stand for it

1983 Government changed and the change to metric was shelved by Mulroney a year later.

What's Left in Canada today – a hodgepodge

- Weather officially metric but much imperial left
- House temps in C but many still use F
- Cooking in F, weight in pounds/ounces
- Anybody know their waist size in centimeters or their height in centimeters? Clothes in inches
- Distance is metric but our height is usually in feet and inches.
- Meat is sold sometimes in oz or lbs. eg. 12 LB Turkey but mostly in grams or kilograms.
- Metric adopted in medicine, industry, manufacturing
- Canadian Construction mostly in imperial. Inches and feet eg. 2X4'S

Only three countries today, have not adopted the metric system, the United States, Liberia and Myanmar.

Bob recounted a harrowing story of the Gimli Glider in July 1993, which was a classic example where metric conversion caused a near disaster.

[Click here to read the story about the Gimli Glider](#)

Jim Steele offered Bob Saunders our thanks and appreciation for sharing his experiences with the implementation for Metrication coming to Canada and his insightful views of how our Country and the World has changed in the last 50 years.



PE Maureen called for any Announcements or Committee Reports.

- Faye Prince reminded everyone to bring their Food donations to the meeting next week in support of the Kiwanis Kindness Day effort for the Brantford Food Bank.
- Dave Lewis let members know that there was an opportunity to promote your company as a sponsor, with your logo and name in 1 of 8 squares, to be stamped on the back of each child's Easter Egg certificate at the Children's Safety Village Easter Egg hunt. Just let Dave or Vivian at

the Safety Village know that you would like to be a Sponsor.

- Leo Vos asked that anyone wishing to help out at the Trivia Challenge should contact him, as we can always use help setting up and managing the event.
- Pallo and the Social Committee were thanked for organizing a great St Patrick's day event at the Pipers arms. Everyone had a great time and a very good meal.

PE Maureen thanked all members

Final thought of the day: "Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less." Marie Curie.

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

Have a good weekend. Meeting adjourned

Following are candid pictures at our St Patty's Day Social

