

## Highlights of the Thursday, 08 January, 2026 Weekly Meeting

President Maureen, welcomed everyone including Guests, Michelle and Rob Yuile, to the Kiwanis Club of Brantford's meeting for Thursday, 08-January, 2026.

President Maureen called the meeting to order and asked LG Randy MacKenzie to the podium to perform the induction of Michelle and Rob Yuile as new members of our Club today.



LG Randy greeted everyone with a special greeting to Michelle and Rob Yuile on this special day for them and our Club members to celebrate their official induction. LG asked that, Michelle Yuile, Rob Yuile and their Sponsor, Joanne Murray join him at the front of the room.

LG Randy opened with the Kiwanis, Defining and Vision Statement.

**Defining:** Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.

**Vision:** Kiwanis will be a positive influence in communities worldwide.... so that one day, all children will wake up in communities that believe in them, nurture them and provide the support they need to thrive.

LG Randy called President Maureen to the podium to read the six objects of Kiwanis.

President Randy review the prescribed script for the induction of each new member, which was followed with the presentation of a "Members Pin" to Michelle Yuile and Rob Yuile by Joanne Murray.



LG Randy closed the induction ceremony asking all members to rise and acknowledge our newest Kiwanians with an enthusiastic round of applause.



LG Randy asked if Michelle and Rob Yuile would give us brief summaries of their background and interests. President Maureen welcomed our two new members and directed all to return to their seats.

President Maureen called Phil Hoekstra to present the 50/50 Draw with Nelson McClinchey and Ken McNaughton holding potential winning ticket, but neither were able to find the "Joker".



President Maureen called Jim Steele to come forward as this week's Funmaster.

Funmaster Jim presented a mini-version of "Name That Tune", where he played a few bars of the beginning of a tune and asked a member from each table to give their collective guess as to the name of the tune.

Following is a sample [Click here to listen to song clip](#).

Answer: Little Drummer Boy.

There were several song clips played and most tables did well in getting the correct answers. Jim had some fun with us as his final offering was not a song but from a movie with Adam Sandler.

Jim moved on the Birthday's and Anniversaries of joining the Club.

#### January Birthday's

Judy Jones	09
Simran Shoker	13
Randy MacKenzie	17
Bonnie Little	18

#### Anniversaries of Joining the Club

Linda Moyer	7 Years
Randy MacKenzie	24 Years
Bob Wade	38 Years

Jim called for any Happy Stories.

- Ken McNaughton was happy that his daughter was able to spend several days with him and Robin over the Christmas Holiday's
- Leo Vos had a good Christmas as he was able to share time with his mother, who will be 100 next Wednesday.
- Faye Prince thanked everyone who donated "Socks for Warmth" for Christmas that were given to the Salvation Army.



President Maureen thanked Funmaster Jim and called Nelson McClinchey to introduce our guest, Speaker.

Nelson McClinchey Introduced Simran Shoker, who has been a member of our club for 5 years, is a mother of two active young boys, is a Licence Realtor and a licenced Paralegal. Nelson welcomed Simran to the podium.

Simran Shoker welcome everyone and thanked the Club for inviting her to explain, what a paralegal is.



Simran used a slide presentation as she explained, who are Paralegal in Ontario and their Roles, responsibilities & differences.

She indicated that a Paralegal is:

- A licensed legal professional
- Regulated by the Law Society of Ontario
- Authorized to offer legal services and advice
- May represent clients independently
- Focused on everyday legal problems people actually face
- Mostly deal with smaller legal problems faced by people
- More affordable than Lawyers



Where Paralegals Can Represent Clients:

Paralegals are licensed to appear in:

1. Small Claims Court
  - Civil disputes involving money
  - Contract issues, unpaid invoices
  - Limit is now \$50,000 (This was recently changed from \$35,000 to \$50,000)
2. Personal injury claims
  - Accident benefits = no-fault statutory benefits under SABS
  - Cover medical costs, income replacement, caregiver support
    - Disputes go to Licence Appeal Tribunal (LAT)
3. Workplace Safety Tribunals (WSIB)
  - Workplace injury claims
  - Benefit entitlement disputes (within licensing scope)
4. Other Administrative Tribunals
  - Regulatory & licensing hearings
  - Minor criminal matters within defined limits



Simran explained:

Why Paralegals Exist:

- Improve access to justice
- Offer affordable representation
- Support people navigating systems alone
- Help reduce court backlogs
- Provide practical, timely legal solutions

## How to Become a Paralegal

1. Complete a Law Society-approved paralegal diploma (generally, 2 years)
2. Finish a supervised field placement
3. Apply for and pass the LSO licensing exam
4. Obtain professional liability insurance
5. Register as a licensed Paralegal
6. Complete ongoing continuing education

## Paralegal vs. Lawyer

### Lawyers

- Law degree + articling
- Can practice in all areas of law
- Handle family law, immigration, wills, real estate, corporate law, complex criminal files

### Paralegals

- Specialized college diploma (There is also a [4 year Paralegal Degree Program at Humber College](#))
- Scope limited to approved areas
- Focus on everyday legal issues
- Often more cost-effective and efficient

## The Bigger Picture

### Paralegals support:

- Small businesses
- Tenants and landlords
- Consumers & workers
- New Canadians
- People priced out of legal help

Paralegals make legal help **accessible**

## WHAT I PRACTICE SHOKER PARALEGAL SERVICES

### I am currently taking the following cases:

- Landlord and Tenant Board matters
- Notary Clients

### In the near future, hopefully this year, I will be taking :

- Small Claims Court matters
- POA and Traffic Court Matters
- Employment related disputes

Simran finished off with a “Question and Answer” period, that left members with a far better understanding and appreciation for the changes that are happening in Ontario, to alleviate some of the Legal backlogs with educations and forward thinking.

Simran Shoker was thanked on behalf of the Club by Phil Hoekstra and given a hearty round of applause for her presentation.

President Maureen called for Committee Reports and Announcements:

- President Maureen read a letter of appreciation from the Kiwanis Foundation of Canada for the \$10,000 donation our Club made to the “Caribbean Relief – Jamaica” Initiative.
- President Maureen read a letter of appreciation from the Lansdowne Children’s Centre for our donation of \$1,000 to them.
- Bob Saunders thanked everyone for the support of the Christmas Campaign once again this year. We sold all the product we purchased and made a net profit of \$5,680.



President Maureen, thanked all members and guests and wished everyone well.

Closing Thought for the Day: "The life of a man consists not in seeing visions and in dreaming dreams, but in active charity and in willing service." Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

President Maureen asked If there was anything else for the good of Kiwanis, seeing none, she adjourned the meeting with the ringing of the Bell.

Following are a few candid pictures of members at this meeting.

