

## Highlights of the Thursday, 05 February, 2026 Weekly Meeting

President Maureen, welcomed everyone including our speaker Sherry Kerr, CEO Participation Support Services and Guests: Shambhavi Chaturvedi - PSS staff, Mary Hoekstra, Bill and Ute Schram to the Kiwanis Club of Brantford Weekly meeting Thursday, 29 January, 2026.

President Maureen asked all to stand for the Land Acknowledgement statement to start our meeting.



President Maureen called Phil Hoekstra to present the 50/50 Draw with Bill Schram, Ute Schram, Paulette Hawk and Joanne Murray holding potential winning tickets, but no one found the elusive "Joker". Better luck next time.



President Maureen called Alfred Hawk to come forward as Funmaster.

Funmaster Alfred Hawk welcomed everyone and took a different approach to get members participating in his presentation. He passed out sheets with seven, "word logic puzzles" on them and reviewed each question, calling for answers from everyone present. After a brief time for people to work out the solution, Alfred disclosed the correct answer to each question.

The questions were convoluted and you really had to focus on the objective.

**Following is an example.**

I am your mother's brother's only brother-in-law. Who am I?

Some people did better than others in getting the right answer to all seven questions but they were all Brain-Teasers.

The presentation was enjoyed by everyone.



Alfred moved on to celebrate Birthdays and Anniversaries of members Joining the Club.

**February Birthday's**

Kirby Brown, 23  
Doug DeLaronde, 1  
Pallo Sahota, 13  
Robert Saunders, 10

**February Anniversaries (Yrs)**

Maureen Henry	5
Jessica Jackson	1
Randy MacKenzie	24
Robert Saunders	23

**PP Alfred called for any Happy Stories.**

- Linda Moyer was Happy because today was Her and her Husband's Wedding Anniversary.

President Maureen thanked Funmaster Alfred and called Susan Szczechura to introduce our guest speaker.

Susan Szczechura came to the podium and introduced today's speaker Sherry Kerr.

Kiwanian Susan opened by saying, Fellow Kiwanians and Guests, it is my pleasure to introduce today's speaker Sherry Kerr.

Sherry has lived in Paris since 1992. Since 1991 she has devoted her career to supporting people with special needs and since 2007 has served as Executive Director of Participation Support Services.

Sherry is deeply involved with in community service. She is a long-time Rotarian, a Past Club President and former Co-Chair of the Rotary Air Show. She also volunteers as a ski instructor to the disabled with Waterloo Region.



Sherry Kerr has recently been appointed to the Board of Directors of Brant Municipal Enterprises, bringing a wealth of experience from her role as the Executive Director of Participation Support Services in Brant County. Her background is marked by significant contributions to community health and social services, where she has demonstrated strong leadership in planning, operations, and administration. At Participation Support Services, Sherry Kerr has been instrumental in managing a team and overseeing substantial budgets, aiming to deliver high-quality care and support to the community.

Please welcome Sherry Kerr.

Sherry Kerr welcome everyone and thanked all in attendance, indicating that she was greeted by many familiar faces and friends.

Sherry said that Participation House Brantford, now known as Participation Support Services, was founded in 1975 to provide supportive housing for individuals with physical disabilities. The organization formally opened its building at 10 Bell Lane in 1978.

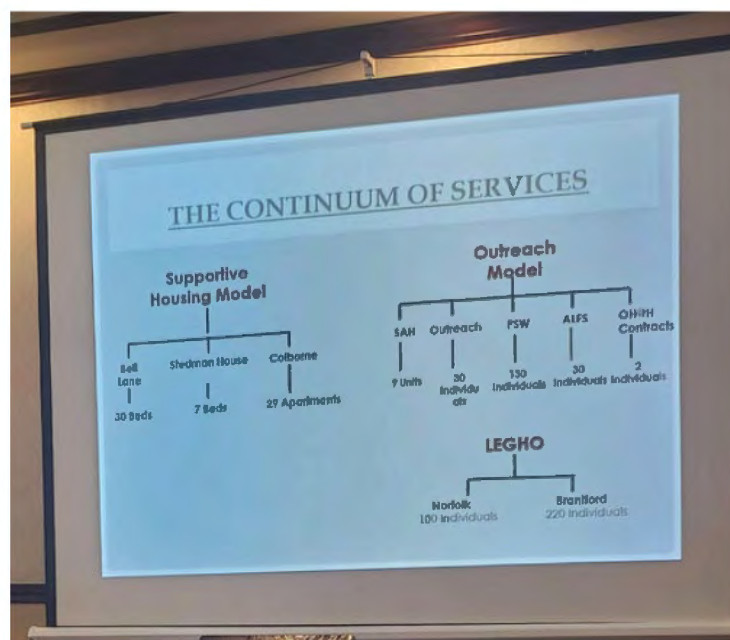
Since that time many changes and expansions in various needed direction were realized.

Following is an outline, of the details Sherry gave us with the aid of her slide presentation.

#### Timeline

- 1975 Participation House established
- 1978 10 Bell Lane opens
- 1985 Colborne Street Apartments open
- 1987 Attendant Care Outreach Program begins
- 2008 First respite beds open at 10 Bell Lane
- 2011 Opening of new units at 255 Colborne Street and High-Risk Seniors pilot project begins
- 2013 Transitional care beds opened at 10 Bell Lane and Opening of 40 Queen St
- 2015 Expansion of Outreach to Seniors Program in Brant County/Brantford
- 2018 "Participation Support Services - **Your care, your way, your home**" adopted as new name and slogan

Below is a slide showing the layout of the three areas of service and the number of residences that are currently in these Facilities.



Sherry readily handled several questions for the members and was thanked on behalf of the Club by Leo Vos, in recognition of her presentation, we have made a donation to a Charity we like to support. That charity is the Lansdowne Children's Centre Foundation.

Sherry Kerr was given a sound round of applause for her very informative presentation.

President Maureen called for Committee Reports and Announcements:

- Nancy Thompson reminded everyone that: Saturday, February 7, 2026, was the Kiwanis Club of Guelph Music Festival Gala. Rsvp By: January 26, 2026. Sign Up Sheet Available at our Lunch Meetings or Email to: [thompson834@icloud.com](mailto:thompson834@icloud.com) .  
Nelson McClinchey mentioned that Chris Bisson is having a Pre-cocktail Social at his home. Contact Nelson if you are interested. [nelsonmcclinchey@gmail.com](mailto:nelsonmcclinchey@gmail.com)
- Nancy Thompson reminded everyone that March 6-8 is the 2nd Annual OBAN Inn Weekend Getaway. Please let Nancy know that you have made your own reservations for the Friday and/or Saturday, so evening meals as a group can be made.
- LG Randy informed us that Karen Adams is progressing well.
- Maureen Henry mention that a Christmas Card sale idea was being reviewed and asked that if anyone had nature or some other appropriate Christmas image, to please send them to Graham Schram Email: [grahamschram@rogers.com](mailto:grahamschram@rogers.com)

President Maureen, thanked all members and guests and guest speaker Sherry Kerr.

Closing Thought for the Day: "Volunteering is an act of heroism on a grand scale. And it matters profoundly. It does more than help people beat the odds; it changes the odds." – William J. Clinton

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.



**Answer to Funmaster Question:** *Your Father. Your mother's brother is your uncle. Your uncle's brother-in-law is your mother's husband. or your father.*