

Highlights of the Thursday, 26 February, 2026 Meeting

President Maureen, welcomed everyone including our speaker Marcia Proctor with the topic: Travel Smarter, to the Kiwanis Club of Brantford Weekly meeting Thursday, 26 February, 2026.



President Maureen called Phil Hoekstra to present the 50/50 Draw with Marcia Proctor, Leo Vos, Dave Lewis and Joanne Murray holding potential winning tickets, but no one found the “Joker”. Better luck next time.



President Maureen called Pallo Sahota to come forward as Funmaster.

Funmaster Pallo Sahota welcomed everyone and, in keeping with our Guest Speakers topic who will be talking about Travel Vacations, Pallo presented some Travel complaints recorded by various uncharacteristic Travelers.



Following are a few samples:

- It took us nine hours to get home from Jamaica to England. It took the Americans only three hours to go home. That seems unfair to us.
- My fiancé and I booked a room with two beds, but ended up in a room with a double bed. We therefore hold you responsible for the fact that I am now pregnant. It would not have happened if you had put us in the room we had booked.
- We booked an excursion to a water park, but we did not know that we had to bring our own swimsuits and towels. We thought they would be included in the price.
- No one told us there would be fish in the water. The children were very scared.
- I was bitten by a mosquito. However, your brochure does not mention the presence of mosquitoes.
- We found that the sand did not look like the sand in the brochure. Your pamphlet shows white sand, but it was more yellow.

Each of the items mentioned were met with disbelief and chuckles.

Pallo helped us celebrate the following Birthdays and Anniversaries of Joining our Club.

Birthdays (February)

Kirby Brown, 23

Anniversary of joining the Club (Yrs)

Judy Lillico 13

Nancy Thompson 7

Maureen Henry 5

Happy Stories

- Leo Vos told us of his great weekend of Skiing in Collingwood with wonderful weather and snow.
- Bob Saunders indicated that he did not get his hat back yet, and would ask that we pass-the-word to members to check their hats to ensure that it is theirs. If it is too small, it may be Bob's.

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

Susan Szczechura came to the podium to introduce **Marcia Proctor**. Marcia is an independent travel consultant working with, "**The Travel Agent Next Door**", since 2015. Marcia's said she can be contacted, anytime, anywhere, and she will help you plan and book your next quick get-away or dream vacation!



Please join me in welcoming Marcia Proctor with the topic: Travel Smarter: safe, affordable and adventurous Journeys.

Marcia Proctor thanked us for inviting her to speak at our meeting today.

Marcia opened saying that there are a lot of reasons to travel and you don't have to be cooped-up or house-bound. There are a number of reasons to travel like: Exploration, see "the real thing", find your Roots, see major events, create memories, escape winter or pick an item from your bucket list.



Marcia said that often people don't travel because of health, cost, fear of the unknown. You can reduce the impact of these factors by taking precautions through increasing knowledge and awareness. Following are bullet references that Marcia elaborated on with travel knowledge and



experience verbally and in detail during her presentation. Marcia indicated that you can reduce health-related concerns understand what you are getting into. Plan things out in advance by knowing: how physical are the demand, how busy the schedule is, what are the food restrictions, how many people will you be travelling with, do you require a room for yourself, how would a medical emergency be handled?

Marcia said that **Travelers' health insurance is very important. Plan in advance:**

- Insurance covers trip cancellation/interruption and/or emergency medical coverage

- Medical questionnaire
- Price depends on age, health, length of trip and cost
- Budget for insurance

Keeping travel costs in check

- What's included in the price?
- How much are upgrades?
- Budget for costs that aren't included
- Monitor your spending



Cost-saving measures

- Pay before you leave
 - Share a room
 - e-sim cards rather than "roam like home"
 - Public transportation or walk
 - Book early
 - Tour company: "all-inclusive" approach
- If paying by credit card, opt for "local currency"
 - Budget for tips
 - "Points" programs
 - Travel "specials"

Choosing the time and place

- Where to go? Ask others
- "Emerging destinations"
- Avoid peak times
- Travel in "shoulder season"
- Events in destination: attend or avoid?

Logistics Getting from A to B

- Don't "wing it"
- Info on plane (or train) ticket
- Arrive a day early
- Entry requirements
- Key phone numbers in cell phone
- Keep itinerary handy

Safety in numbers - Want company?

- Guided coach tour
- Hybrid model
- Cruises
- Your own groups



Marcia Proctor
Travel Consultant
The Travel Agent Next Door

mproctor@thetravelagentnextdoor.com

Tel: 905-510-7110

www.theproctorteam.thetravelagentnextdoor.com

At the end of her presentation, Marcia handled a number of questions from the members.

She was thanked on behalf of the Club by Bob Saunders indicating that, in recognition of her presentation, we have made a donation to a charity we like to support. That charity is the Brant Community Healthcare System Foundation.

Marcia Proctor was given a sound round of applause for her candid and informative presentation.

President Maureen called for Committee Reports and Announcements:

- Pallo Sahota 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.
- President Maureen Henry mention [Registration for the next cohort of Kiwanis Amplify is now live!](#)
The **Amplify program** will begin in April. To optimize flexibility, all modules will be available at launch (rather than a week-by-week release). To maintain accessibility to the program for all Kiwanians, the participation fee will remain US\$50 for members. The fee will stay at US\$600 for non members.
- Karen Adams told us about the Quarter Auction we have at the Dunsdon Legion as a fund raiser on Thursday March 26 2026. We will need about 10 donations and 6 volunteer to help on site. More details to come shortly, about what it is and how it works.

President Maureen, thanked all members and guest speaker Marcia Proctor.

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.

