

Highlights of the Thursday, 05 March, 2026 Weekly Meeting

President Maureen, welcomed everyone including many Guests that will be noted, further in these notes, at the Kiwanis Club of Brantford Weekly meeting Thursday, 05 March, 2026.

Today, we celebrate the 107th Anniversary of our club. We are pleased to be joined on this special occasion by a number of guests:

- Christine Middelkoop, Director of Operations and Human Resources at Six Nations Polytechnic Brantford Campus
- Children's Safety Village Special Volunteer Ken Gowing and Ken's wife Nancy Gowing
- Aktion Club Advisor Elaine Johnson
- Guest who we are pleased that has joined us again today – Welcome Joy Jolie



We are also pleased to have with us today the members of the Kiwanis Aktion Club of Brantford. I will now call on Aktion Club President Neil MacDonald to introduce these Aktion Club members.



- Past President - Mark Stewart
- Past President - Chris Stewart
- Past President - Kerry Lane
- Past President - Colleen Weeden
- Secretary - Heather Moore
- Treasurer - Kara Smithers
- Board Member - Terry Kuyper
- Board Member - Scott Gowing could not be here because he is working today

The Aktion Club members were welcomed with a warm round of applause.

President Maureen welcomed our next guests saying Our club has a long successful history, thanks to the contributions and dedication of an impressive list of Past Presidents. It is my honour to introduce the Past Presidents of the of the Kiwanis Club of Brantford.

Past Presidents, when you hear your name would you please stand and remain standing until everyone has been introduced. Please hold your applause until all the Presidents have been introduced.

- DST Jim Steele - President in 1997-98
- Past President Kirby Brown – 1996-97
- Past Governor Joanne Murray – 1997-98
- Past President Dave Neumann – 1998-99
- Past President Joan Griffin – 2003-04 and 2010-11
- Lieutenant Governor - Robert Lefebvre 1997-98 and 2005-2006
- Past President Crystal Godwaldt – 2006-2007
- Past President Leo Vos - 2009-2010
- Lieutenant Governor Randy MacKenzie – President in 2008-09 and 2021-22
- Past President David Lewis – 2016-17 and 2022-23
- Distinguished Lieutenant Governor Nelson McClinchey President 2019-20
- Past President Judy Jones – 2020-2021
- Immediate Past President – Nancy Thompson 2024-2025



President Maureen called for Fellow Kiwanians to join her in expressing sincere thanks to the Past Presidents who are with us today, for their ongoing dedication to Kiwanis, our community and the children we serve.

President Maureen indicated that we had come to the, “**Presentation of Appreciation Awards**”, and called Past President Leo Vos, to join her at the podium.

1. Leo Vos invited Christine Middelkoop from the Six Nations Polytechnic to come forward for the presentation of a special award of appreciation. He said that since, Christine came to SNP she has been very cooperative in helpful in many aspects of our Children’s Safety Village and Kiwanis Activities. Christine has helped in coordinating time and traffic for the CSV Halloween and Easter events and for the Kiwanis Club of Brantford, offering building, food storage and access time readily to accommodate our needs for the Annual Ploughman’s Lunch. She has been very helpful and accommodating in many way that have smoothed out many of our past problems. Christine was given a sound round of Applause.



2. Leo Vos then said it is his pleasure to call on Children's Safety Village "Volunteer Extraordinaire" Ken Gowing to please come up and join him. Leo explained that some 10 years had past since Ken Gowing quietly volunteer to cut the grass at the Children's Safety Village. Ken has since been the "Maintenance One-man Team", trimming trees, chopping down vines growing all over the property, repairing Electric Carts, and a myriad of other items that fell into disrepair. Ken was given a heart-felt round of applause in appreciation.



3. Leo Vos once again was called upon, to call on a man who has worn many hats in his 38 years as a member of the Kiwanis Club of Brantford, Kiwanian Bob Wade. Since Bob joined the Club in 1988, he became Treasure of the Kiwanis Club of Brantford around this time and also became the Treasure of the Children's Safety Village in September of 2005. Leo congratulated Bob for his years of volunteering and was given a hearty round of applause.



Leo Vos passed the Podium back to President Maureen.

4. President Maureen asked the Aktion Club Advisor Elaine Johnson, to come forward. Elaine has been a Volunteer Advisor to the Kiwanis Aktion Club of Brantford since the club was chartered in June 2008. Since that time, she has supported the Aktion Club's long history of projects and special events, managed the club's fundraising and service bank account and provided transportation for the members. For many years, she and her husband, Past Lieutenant Governor Bob Johnson, hosted an annual Aktion Club pool party at their home. That was always a special, fun time for everyone. President Maureen said to Elaine that on behalf of the Kiwanis Club of Brantford, it is her honour to present Elaine with this Appreciation Plaque in recognition of your dedication to the Aktion Club.



5. President Maureen asked Kiwanian Faye Prince to join her at the podium. President Maureen said, Faye is a well-recognized member of our Club. Whether it is collecting socks for the homeless or blankets for the SPCA or handing out bus tickets on Kiwanis Kindness Day, she is always ready to help with her typical grace and kindness. She has also let us witness her creative side, with the donation of seasonal centrepieces that decorate our tables at the appropriate times. For all this we award her with the first annual "Kiwanian of the Year prize".



President Maureen asked Kiwanian Paul Simon to come to the podium to give us a brief history of the Kiwanis Club of Brantford's 107 years.

History of the Kiwanis Club of Brantford HAPPY 107th ANNIVERSARY

We are sincerely grateful to the members of the Kiwanis Club of Toronto and their members who served in the year 1919. They obviously did a great deal of groundwork and provided the much-needed support, to sponsor The Kiwanis Club of Brantford.

..... There is something special happening in a service club that continues to evolve and remain relevant in its community after 107 years of service. That "something special" is happening here in this room today.... and it happens every time we come together as members of the Kiwanis Club of Brantford.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY Kiwanis Club of Brantford!

The full version of the history, will be publish on the website under the "Administration menu item" (Members only)



Legion of Honour

President Maureen called Twice Past President Joan Griffin - The Legion of Honour Award in recognition of 30 years of service to Kiwanis.



President Maureen said, It is now the time we have been waiting for – the cutting of the 107th Anniversary Cake. President-elect Pallo and Vice President Karen, would you please come up and help me with this task, while the photographer gets a picture that will look great on social media.



President Maureen called for Committee Reports and Announcements:

- Karen Adams reminded 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 volunteers to help on site. Please contact her if you can help or donate.

President Maureen, thanked all members and guests.

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

