

## Highlights of the Thursday, 12 March, 2026 Meeting

President Maureen, welcomed everyone including our speaker today, Carrie Sinkowski – from the Community Legal Clinic of Brant, Haldiman, Norfolk, to this Thursday 12, March 2026 weekly meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Brantford. President Maureen mentioned that members may have been **surprised** that we had the St Patrick’s Day centre pieces on the table and some members were wearing green as the actual date is offset this year.



The meeting was opened with our Land Acknowledgement video.



President Maureen asked Crystal Godwaldt to come to the podium for the presentation of her Legion of Honour Plaque for 25 years of Service with the Kiwanis Club of Brantford.

President Maureen called Phil Hoekstra to present the 50/50 Draw with Carrie Sinkowski, Ken McNaughtin, Bob Saunders and Crystal Godwaldt holding potential winning tickets, but we had no luck today in finding the “Joker”. The pot continues to grow!



President Maureen called Ken McNaughton to come forward as Funmaster.

Ken McNaughton welcomed everyone and mentioned that he had just returned from a two-week vacation and was **surprised** that he was Funmaster but motored on by helping us to celebrate the Birthday's and Anniversary Dates of members joining our club shown below.

Birthdays (March)	Date	Anniversary of joining the Club (Yrs)	
Ivone DeMarchi	9	Jim Steele	43
Judy Lillico	19	Eardly Judah	16
Michelle Yuile	2		
Paul Simon	19		
Peter Liberati	2		
Philip Hoekstra	24		

### Happy Stories

- Jim Steele confirmed that the Social Event last weekend at OBAN was another wonderful time for all, which included some Funds raised through some Slight-of-Hand at Cards that Nancy Thompson excelled at. Nancy being the, "kind soul" she is, passed the winnings to Jim Steele, to be deposited in the "Kiwanis K" today.
- Phil Hoekstra had some Happy Dollars recalling that last week his son was checking into a hotel in Toronto and when he signed in as P Hoekstra the attendant at the desk, tried to update him to the penthouse suite. His son pointed out that he was not, Pete Hoekstra the American politician and diplomat serving as the United States Ambassador to Canada. All went well.
- Graham Schram suggested that we should all have our home check for Radon gas as it can cause cancer.
- Faye Prince noted that Brantford was on Jeopardy in a question this past week were asked to name the Canadian province home to Kitchener, Brantford, and Punkeydoodles Corners.
- Nancy thanked Jim Steele for depositing the winnings from the OBAN social event.
- Leo mentions the Easter Event at the Children's Safety Village is on 04 April-2026 and thank those who have already volunteered and asked those that wanted to help to contact him or Vivian at the Village.
- Karen Adams reminded everyone of the Quarter Auction Fundraiser on Thursday March 26 2026 at the Dundon Legion. She thanked those that have donated and volunteered and said they still need a few more. She asked anyone wish to help or donate to call her.
- Ken McNaughton said he was glad to be back from his trip from Antigua and that the Island and people were great but he had food-poisoning twice from an Hot-Dog and later from a Hamburger.



President Maureen thanked Funmaster Ken McNaughton and called LG Randy MacKenzie to introduce our guest speaker.

LG Randy came to the podium to introduce Carrie Sinkowski.

LG Randy greeted everyone and read the following:

Carrie Sinkowski is a lifelong resident of Port Dover and grew up in her grandfather's hardware store, Stoney's. Hearing the stories exchanged all day, every day, at the front of the store, brought to her the understanding that communities are built through sharing and connecting, creating a love for community work.



Since 2016 she has been the community developer for the Community Legal Clinic - Brant, Haldimand Norfolk.

She is also the creator and manager of the Taylor the Turtle program, a human rights-based program for children, at the Sexual Assault Centre, and a sessional instructor in the Labour Studies Department at McMaster.

Access to Justice is central to all her work, which is why she loves her role in the clinic system.

Carrie has an undergrad in Women studies, and an MA in Labour Studies; both from McMaster, and a diploma in Polish culture and language from the Catholic University of Lublin. She recently received her LLM in Constitutional Law from Osgoode Hall Law School.



She loves to read, travel here/there/everywhere, cross stitch, try to beat her partner in cribbage, and snuggle her beagle, Frankie. She is grateful to engage in community work and be part of transformative change work.

Kiwanians, please welcome Carrie Sinkowski

Carrie Sinkowski thanked us for asking her to address how the Community Legal Clinic addresses "Homelessness". Carrie, open with a Slide show for her presentation titled, Access to Justice and Community Development.

Carrie indicated that **Areas of Law they work in** are:

- 1) Consumer
- 2) Residential Tendencies
- 3) Income Support
- 4) Human Rights
- 5) Employment

She then outlined. **What our lawyers can do for you.....**

- Legal information
  - E.g. You want to know if your landlord is responsible for repairs
- Legal support or advice

- E.g. You receive and eviction notice from your landlord for being in arrears and want to organize next steps
- Legal Representation (income tested needed for this service)
  - E.g. You are going to the Housing Tribunal and require legal representation

2025.....

- Food banks – 7,689,590 times between April 2023 and March 2024 – 31% increase
- Unemployment – 6.9%
- Encampments – over 1400 in 2023
- [Tribunal Watch Ontario](#)
- Virtual hearings – impact on structure of labour
- Housing
- [Almost one-quarter of a million Canadian households are on a wait list for social and affordable housing - Statistics Canada](#)

**Holding space, and mitigating and navigating crisis issues creates vicarious trauma**

**What is Community Development? (CD)**

- It is NOT only outreach
- It is not focused on increasing numbers for service but rather on cultivating and supporting the strengthening of the capacity of the community to become healthier and more cohesive

### Community development cont'd



Takes direction from the community not from within organization



Work is responsive to needs of community while also connecting to the mandate of the clinic but not always the services



Privy to trends and anticipate demand for services



Programming does not necessarily require a correlation to client cases

### Four themes of CD work

- Building Relationships
- Creating more accessible communities
- Increasing capacity of individuals and communities
- Raising awareness of issues and rights



## Community Support



If you love soccer/football.....

- August 9
- My annual soccer tournament for migrant farm workers – 7<sup>th</sup> year ☺
- Simcoe Soccer fields on West Street
- Food trucks
- Face painting

## Encampment Justice Coalition

Bill 6

Impacts on Access to Justice

[Encampment Justice Coalition — Letter to the Premier](#)



Carrie went into many specific details that supported the above images and she answered several of our members questions after her presentation.

Carrie was thanked on behalf of the Club by Karen Adams 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.

Carrie Sinkowski was given a warm round of applause for her informative and engaging presentation.

President Maureen called for Committee Reports and Announcements:

- Maureen Henry thanked Faye Prince for the St Patrick's Day centre pieces and supplying some green bandannas.

President Maureen, thanked all members and guest speaker Carrie Sinkowski for joining us today.

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 some pictures of our members at a Social Event at the Oban Inn at Niagara-On-The-Lake

