

Highlights of the Thursday, 25 June, 2026, Weekly Meeting

President Maureen, welcomed all members and Guest Speaker Leo Vos to this Thursday 25, June 2026 weekly meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Brantford.



We had asked our members to invite any friends or contacts that may find this presentation interesting, to join us. President Maureen asked our members to introduce their guests who were interested. The following guests were given a welcome applause; Kim Carpenter, Jenney Dowling, Janice Field, Vivian Kariuki, Gloria Keene, John Liberati and Francis Richardson.

President Maureen called Phil Hoekstra to present the 50/50 Draw. The lucky winner was Paulette Hauk, however as she was preoccupied, Alfred Hauk accepted the winnings to be transferred to Paulette later.



President Maureen helped us celebrate anniversaries and Birthdays:

Anniversary of joining the Club (Yrs)

Nelson McClinchey	13
Susan Szechura	1
Roger Smith	1

Birthdays (June)

	Date
Dave Lewis	24
Jessica Jackson	28
Leo Vos	30

President Maureen called for Happy Stories

- Randy MacKenzie said that his daughter had been ordained officially as a Minister, after many years of study and practice. This week is also 50 years since Randy became a Minister and it is Randy and Penny's 50th Wedding Anniversary.
- Linda Moyer thanked all members of our club for attending the 15th Anniversary of the GRCOA. The Grand River Council on Aging celebrated 15 years of leadership, advocacy, service, and community impact at the Celebration and 2026 Annual General Meeting!

- Phil Hoekstra was happy to announce three grand kids were celebrating their levels of graduation at various levels, and he was very proud.

President Maureen called Karen Adam to introduce our speaker.

Karen Adams came to the Microphone and gave us a brief Bio of Leo Vos, saying that his journey started when Leo Vos graduated from Dentistry at Western University in 1981 and practised dentistry in Brantford until 2023.

He Married Sandra, a grass-fed beef farmer, for 45 years. They have 3 great kids and 4 even greater grandchildren.

Leo joined Kiwanis in 1999, is a past president and has the distinct pleasure of working with a large number of Kiwanians on a variety of committees, projects and fundraisers over the past 27 years.

He became a member of the Board of Directors of the Children's Safety Village of Brant in 2015, and has been President of the Board since 2016.

He has interests in golf, curling, skiing, photography, volunteer as a farm-hand and just getting stuff done.



Leo Vos welcomed everyone and said he was pleased to see such good attendance.

Leo Vos opened, by speaking about the origins of the Kiwanis Club of Brantford community-focused millennium project started in 1998 and how it has evolved, to its present state in 2026 called the Children's Safety Village of Brant.

Leo opened with the defining statement for Kiwanis.

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

Origins of a Kiwanis Club of Brantford community-focused project

1998 - The incidence of childhood injuries in Brantford, Brant County and Six Nations of the Grand River was 27% higher than the Provincial average.

- An idea to address this problem was conceived by Kiwanis President Paul Thompson – build a Children's Safety Village as a Millenium Project
- Today, as then, **UNINTENTIONAL INJURIES** are the leading cause of death for children in Canada. The majority were considered to have been preventable. Hundreds of children die each year and thousands more suffer life-altering injuries.

- The Safety Village can, and **WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE** in the life of a child and thousands more who have the opportunity to participate in hands-on safety programs acquiring practical skills, safety knowledge and making good choices.
- After a longer than expected gestation period involving finding land (1.2 acres), collaboration with over 30 community partners and eventually raising over \$1.2 Million, CSV Brant was born in **September 2005**.
- At the time, we were the 9th CSV in Ontario, smallest community to have one and the first to open debt free.

In 2026 we have had, over 115,000 student visits since 2005 (2.5 years lost to COVID) plus safety information to thousands of children and adults at our public events (Halloween, Easter) over 15+ years.



The Kiwanis Club of Brantford continues to be the largest single supporter of the CSV in both financial and volunteer terms and our name is closely associated with the CSV throughout our area.

- While we continue to have many community partners contributing in a variety of ways, the continued operations of the CSV are Kiwanis driven.
- We currently provide \$20,000/year for operations and hundreds of thousands of dollars from the club and individual Kiwanians since the beginning of one of our most significant and impactful major projects.
- Over 1,000 volunteer hours/year by Kiwanians for administration, property and equipment maintenance and events. Many hundreds of hours from non-Kiwanians. Half of the CSV Board of Directors and all of our Executive have always been Kiwanians.
- Many of our "Bob's – MacLean, Ritchie and Lefebvre – served the CSV for over 25 years. Our Treasurer Bob Wade is at 28 years and counting, Past President Doug DeLaronde is over 20 years.





Mission Statement: The Children's Safety Village of Brant is committed to providing quality interactive safety education for the children of our communities.

Vision: To be the catalyst for facilitating Kindergarten to Grade 8 safety education activities by taking a leadership role and working with our community partners to prevent injuries and save lives in our community. By raising safety consciousness through educating its youngest members, there will be a decrease in preventable tragedies.



Leo explained that Our programs are based on the Ministry of Education Ontario Curriculum. Our hands-on instructional practice follows the philosophy:

“Tell me and I will forget, show me and I may remember; involve me and I will understand.”

- Instruction is provided by Police and Fire services from Brantford, Brant County, Six Nations of the Grand River and Norfolk County on their specified days
- Classes are booked by teachers from both school boards and private schools with different grades at certain times of the year

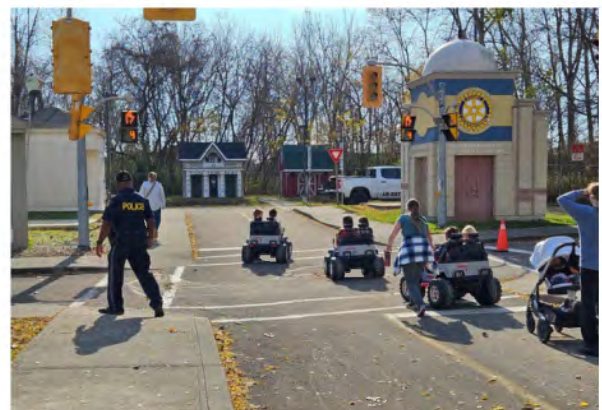
Kindergarten – **Police and Fire Intro**

- Learning the “**4 W’s**” – **Where** they are going, **Who** they are with, **What** they are doing, and **When** they will be back
- Discussing who a **community helper** is
- Practising how to “**Stop, Look and Listen**” in our miniature village before safely crossing the road
- Learning about having a **home escape plan** in case of a fire and going to a safe meeting place
- Demonstrating how to “**Get Low and Go**” in case of a fire.



Grade 1 – Police **Personal Safety**

- Outlining potential **risks** in the community
- Identifying **community helpers**
- Identifying people who can provide **personal safety assistance**
- Learning how to react to a **stranger**
- Recognizing and responding properly to **traffic signs and signals**
- Practising new **road safety skills** in the miniature village by driving battery powered **jeeps**
- A powerful story of personal safety knowledge



Grade 2 - Fire Safety Education

- Learning to recognize **fire hazards** around the home
- Practising how to respond to a **smoke alarm**
- Identifying the dangers of **matches, lighters and candles**
- Discussing when to call **911**



- Visiting **"Sparky's Apartment"** to identify potential fire hazards and practising how to safely escape a building through a back window in a drill with simulated smoke

Grade 3 – Police **Bicycle Safety**

- Practising how to do an **ABC check** of their bike (Air, Brakes, Chain)
- Identifying different **road signs** and their meanings
- Practising different **hand signals**
- Learning how to properly fit a helmet with the **2-V-1** rule





Grade 4 – Science of Fire The, Fire Triangle: Oxygen, Heat, and Fuel

- Learn about the 3 sides of the fire triangle and how this can be used to **prevent fires** at home
- Participate in science **experiments** to gain a deeper understanding about the fire triangle
- Have a visit in **Sparky's Apartment** to learn to identify and address home hazards
- Gain an understanding of the role and importance of working **smoke alarms** at home
- Gain an understanding of home **fire escape planning** principles
- Participate in a simulated **home fire escape** to put the concepts learned into practice in a safe environment



Grade 5 – Police **Internet Safety**

- Discussing information that should never be shared over the internet
- Explaining the need for **parents to be aware** when they are on the internet at home and ensuring they are in a common area where they can be monitored
- Learning about what makes **strong vs. weak passwords** and once they tell anyone other than you it no longer is a strong password. Encouraging establishing a system that ensures **parents know login and password** information for any program they are signing up for
- Practise configuring **general privacy settings** for software and internet browsers using **Tablets**. Learning of ways to keep yourself safe while using the internet
- **Cyberbullying** and the consequences of it
- **Online predators** and making sure we know who we are talking to online

Grade 6 - Police **K.I.D.S. Program** AM 3 hours

K = Knowledge: What do I need to know?

I = Issues: What do I need to talk about?

D = Decisions: How do I make smart choices?

S = Supports: Where do I go for help?

- Youth and the Law
- Peer to Peer Relationships
- Online and Social Media Awareness
- Drug Awareness
- Mental Health Awareness
- Efficient use of Police instructor time to deliver a large program in one lesson.



Grade 6 - Fire **You Are In Charge!** PM

- Recognize potential **fire hazards and emergency situations** that could occur along with how to properly respond
- Learn about **kitchen fire safety**
- Learn about the information they need to stay safe while **babysitting**
- Recognize the importance of required life safety devices
- Play a fire-safety themed **Jeopardy game**. Classes participating will put their fire safety knowledge to the test. The class with the highest score at the end of the program wins a class pizza party!
- An all-day program to provide what used to take **4 separate classes** and significant instructor/travel time.



Grades 7,8 Police **Social Media Safety**

- Discussing information that should **never be shared** over the internet Explaining the value of their parents being aware of all their **social media accounts** and have access to all **passwords**
- Reviewing the long-term consequences of anything they decide to share publicly – reminding them that anything public could easily **exist forever**
- Learning the importance of not interacting with **strangers** and profiles of people they do not know personally
- Practise configuring **general privacy settings** for commonly used social media accounts



The facility is used by:

Hundreds of Safety Patrollers for training each September.

- Autism Dog Services for staff and client training, fundraising events and graduation celebrations. Secured village is ideal for their client needs.
- Police K9 units use for dog training. Police Cadet training as well.
- Police family and community events
- Girl Guides for earning Safety Badge.
- Crossing All Bridges Learning Centre for special needs adults.
- Teacher directed instruction for Special needs children.
- Education classes (NEW) - to practise road awareness in safe environment.
- Kiwanis events like Ploughman's Lunch





Leo Vos closed his presentation by answering a number of questions from various members.

Randy MacKenzie thanked Leo Vos indicating that he was not aware of the details of training that was happening at all Grade levels and for so many areas within the County. Leo Vos was given a rousing round of applause.

President Maureen called for Committee Reports and Announcements:

- Joanne Murray, Chamber of Brantford, Business-After-Hours, Tuesday 14-July held at the Children's Safety Village.
- Nelson McClinchey asked any members interested in attending the Ayr Pig Roast to be held on July 18, 2026 to call him immediately.

President Maureen, thanked all members and Guests speaker Leo Vos as well as all of the guests.

Closing Thought of the day: "Many things can wait. Children cannot. Today their bones are being formed, their blood is being made, their senses are being developed. To them we cannot say tomorrow"
~ Gabriela Mistral

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.

