

Highlights of the Thursday, 02 July 2026, Weekly Meeting

President Maureen, welcomed all members and Guest Speakers Dave Levac and Phil McColeman and Guest Scott Adams to this Thursday 02, July 2026 weekly meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Brantford.

The County of Brant, Land acknowledgement was presented.



President Maureen called Phil Hoekstra to present the 50/50 Draw. The lucky ticket holders were: Graham Schram, Phil Hoekstra, Jim Steele and Linda Moyer. Unfortunately, none of the members found the “Joker”. The pot continues to grow.



President Maureen helped us celebrate anniversaries and Birthdays:

Anniversary of joining the Club (Yrs)

Graham Schram 48 Years

Dave Lewis 15 Years

Birthdays (July) Date

Ross Pope 10

Joan Griffin 25

Faye Prince 26

President Maureen called for Happy Stories

- Phil Hoekstra was proud to announce that Canada had beaten Morocco in the Game last evening.

- Linda Moyer announce her appreciation to our members for their support at the Grand River Council on Aging (GRCOA) celebration of its 15th Anniversary and Annual General Meeting. The event was held at the Best Western Brantford Hotel & Conference Centre in Brantford, Ontario. The celebration focused on the council's 15 years of leadership, advocacy, and service in building age-friendly communities across Brantford, Brant County, and Six Nations. Linda thanked all members from our club for their support and attendance at the meeting.
- Jim Steele announced his pleasure to confirm that Hope Markes of Hanover, Jamaica, was elected as the 2026–27 President of Kiwanis International. She formally takes office on October 1, 2026, making history as the first Caribbean woman to lead the 110-year-old global service organization. She was elected at the Kiwanis International Convention in Manila, Philippines, and oversees a worldwide membership across 84 countries.
- Leo Vos noted that the repaving of the Roads at the Childrens Safety Village will be complete next week. He also mentioned the Sandy (his Wife) was able to get the haying done just before the Rain-storm started.
- Joanne Murray said she had a wonderful time at the Convention and was glad to be back home.



President Maureen called Randy MacKenzie to the “Mic” to introduce our speakers.

Randy MacKenzie came to the Microphone and welcomed our Guest Speaker's the former Speaker of the Provincial Parliament, Dave Levac and former MP Phil McColeman. Randy said that Dave and Phil will share with us how they forged a friendship and working relationship as they represented the Brant and Brantford riding provincially and federally respectively.

LG Randy added a personal note saying, he has an endearing memory from several years ago at a hockey game at the Civic Center when he saw Phil, Jordon (Phil's Son) and Dave up in the stands watching the game. He noted that it was a long-time friendship that put, Family 1st, Community 2nd and Politics 3rd.

Randy asked Phil McColeman and Dave Levac to come to the podium.

Phil McColeman Member of Parliament (MP) from 2008 to 2021 (Conservative) and David Levac was the 41st speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario from 2011 to 2018. He was elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1999 as a member of the Ontario Liberal Party. He served as the member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for Brant until 2018 and is the Ontario legislature's longest serving speaker.



Phil McColeman and David Levac came to the Podium and were welcome warmly for their presence. They both acknowledged that they know many, if not all faces in the audience. Dave Levac took the microphone and suggested the presentation to today would be more of a fire-side chat.

Dave Levac highlighted several areas of change and improvements that he and Phil worked on despite being in different Political parties for the betterment of Brantford and Brant County.



One of the significant areas of change that Dave Levac mentioned was the Stedman Community Hospice, located at 445 Grey Street in Brantford, Ontario, was founded in 2004 as the fifth residential hospice in Ontario. It provides end-of-life care and bereavement services free of charge to patients and families in Brantford, Brant County, Six Nations, Haldimand, and Norfolk.

Phil McColeman has been a long-time advocate for Lansdowne Children's Centre for child development, working alongside local leaders and health organizations in Brantford to secure funding and support for youth with physical, communication, and developmental.

Dave and Phil took turns recounting various situation where at times they may have had opposing view points, but when the dust settle, it always came back to, was it good for our community? In the end the Friendship remained in place.



They talked about the reason for the "Commons"

Canada's House of Commons was created in 1867 under the Constitution Act, 1867 (originally the British North America Act) to establish an elected, democratic legislative body that would give Canada's diverse geographic regions equal, population-based representation in the newly formed federation.

The Fathers of Confederation structured Canada's federal government on the British Westminster model. They wanted to mirror the UK's parliamentary system by creating a lower house representing the "communities" (or communes) of regular citizens. This stood in contrast to the unelected Senate and the Crown.

The creators wanted a central chamber where the executive government (the Prime Minister and Cabinet) would be directly accountable to the public. By ensuring that only elected MPs could introduce tax and spending bills, they secured the principle of "no taxation without representation" at the federal level.

They mentioned that there is an insidious under ground that has developed in our politics. Many parliamentary observers, politicians, and political scientists argue that Question Period (QP) in Canada has devolved. It is widely criticized for shifting away from its core purpose of government accountability

and becoming an arena for partisan theater, "content studio" soundbites, and scripted talking points rather than genuine debate.

They noted that there are still good, dedicated politicians who care about their communities, but the hyper-partisan nature of modern politics and the 24/7 news cycle often obscure their work. The perception of a broken system is widespread, yet many individuals across various levels of government continue to focus on public service.

Recent international polling shows that public trust in politicians remains relatively low. However, a notable segment of the population still believes that many local and regional elected officials are doing ethical, hardworking work. Many voters find the most genuine and responsive politicians at the municipal or provincial/state levels, where representatives are directly accessible and deeply involved in tangible community issues.

Phil McColman and Dave Levac closed their presentation by answering a number of questions from various members.

Jim Steele thanked Phil McColman and Dave Levac for their interesting and frank presentation and In recognition of their presentation, we have made a donation to a Charity we like to support. That charity is the Brant Community Healthcare System Foundation.

President Maureen called for Committee Reports and Announcements:

- Joanne Murray, Chamber of Commerce Brantford, Business-After-Hours, Tuesday 14-July held at the Children's Safety Village.
- Nancy Thompson Brant Golf & Country Club July 31 Social @ 6:00PM Dinner & Music Sign up Sheet

President Maureen, thanked all members and Guest speakers Phil McColeman and David Levac as well as Guest Scott Adams.

Closing Thought of the day: "To be Aware and present with each other at work is to create an environment where everyone can thrive. ~ Dalai Lama spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism.

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.