

Highlights of the Thursday, 23 July, 2026, Weekly Meeting

President Maureen, welcomed all members and Guest Speaker Franklyn Smith and Guest Frances Richards onto this Thursday 23, July 2026 weekly meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Brantford.

President Maureen called Phil Hoekstra to present the 50/50 Draw with Joan Griffin and Phil Hoekstra holding potential winning tickets. No One found the "Joker" and the "Pot" continues to grow.



President Maureen called on Joanne Murray to come forward as Funmaster.

Joanne Murray came to the podium, and because most of us live in Brantford she asked if anyone new, what the 1st person to answer a phone said? Some members came close but the real answer was may be because of Alexandre Bell's Navel history, Ahoy Hoy!

Origins of the Greeting

- **Alexander Graham Bell:** The inventor of the telephone wanted people to answer calls with "ahoy-hoy" instead of "hello".
- **Thomas Edison:** Pushed for "hello" as the standard phone greeting because it carried better over long distances.
- **The Simpsons:** Mr. Burns uses "ahoy-hoy" to show that he was very old.

Joanne Murray helped us celebrate the following birthdays and anniversaries.

Birthdays:

Anniversary of joining the Club (Yrs)

Graham Schram 48 Years

Dave Lewis 15 Years

Birthdays (July) Date

Joan Griffin 25

Faye Prince 26



President Maureen called for Happy Stories

- LG Randy MacKenzie indicated this weekend was he and his wife Penny's Wedding Anniversary.
- Crystal Godwaldt was Happy to be back from their family trip to Ireland and said it was wonderful. This trip had a dual purpose, which was that her daughter Avery, was competing in a Dance Team, in an International Competition, and Avery came home with 4 medals. Congratulations!

President Maureen thanked Funmaster Joanne Murray for an interesting little-known fact about some one from our home town.

President Maureen asked Karen Adams to the microphone to introduce today's speaker.

Karen Adams welcomed everyone, and said the speaker today was Franklyn Smith who would be talking about, **"The Story of Water in Brantford 1830-1930"**.

Karen went on to say that Franklyn Smith has spent most of his life as a resident of Brantford. His educational background was in Chemical Engineering Technology with a focus on Water Treatment.

He was employed as a summer student at the Brantford Waterworks in the early 1980's and was the Supervisor of Water Quality and Operations at the plant in the late 1980's. Franklyn moved to the Region of Waterloo in 1991, as Supervisor of Process and SCADA Operations at the Mannheim Water Treatment Plant. The last twenty years of his Municipal career were spent as the Supervisor of Infrastructure Management in Water Services. Franklyn has more than 40 years experience in the Drinking Water Profession. (SCADA -Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition)

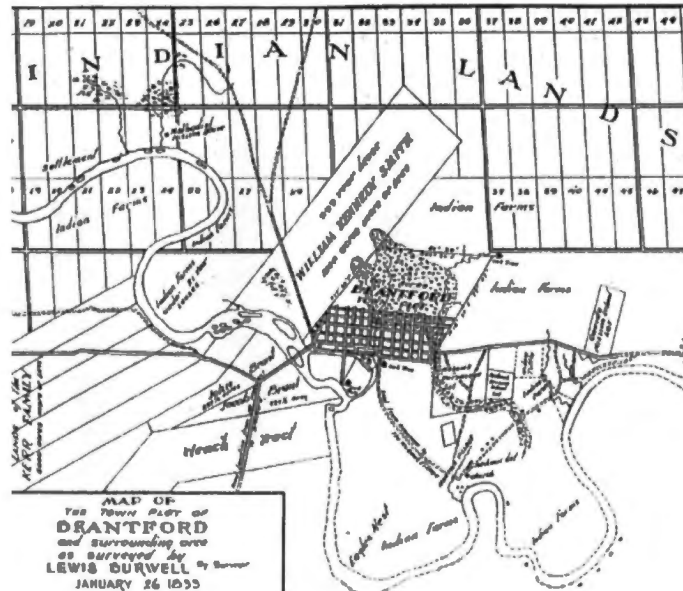
Karen asked the members to give Franklyn Smith a sound round of applause.

Franklyn Smith thanked the Club for inviting him to give us his talk, but said that he wished to say hello to a number of members of the audience that he had not seen in years, specifically, Jim Steele and David Neumann, as well as several other familiar faces. He opened saying, he only brought 12 slides in his presentation but, he could easily talk for hours about the actual content of the slides but he would try to keep it to 20 minutes,

Franklyn spoke about a Town Map from 1830, surveyed by Lewis Burwell dated January 26, 1833, redrawn by F. Adams in 1969. This map portrayed early swamp like conditions and in the name "Cedar Swamp" as well, several freshwater creeks existed that later feed Wilkes Distiller near the Clarence & Colborne Street intersections. Geodetic points of reference (i.e.



geodetic datums) are oak trees on the town map. Likely a high ground water-table existed which flowed south towards the Grand. The population approximately 350 and water everywhere!



The first water pumping station (1870) was for firefighting only. Built over “Water Works” creek, water is pulled up via rotary pumps into a piping network 6,575 feet in length & 18 Hydrants. It was the leading edge of technology for the era but was short lived. Privately owned by the “Brantford Engine Works Company”

By 1886 the community was ready for a drinking water system. This private venture became public after 1886 at the cost \$64,700.

Lorne Dam

Construction: Built in the mid-1800s by the Grand River Navigation Company to raise water levels for commercial barge traffic on the Mohawk Canal

Removal:

Demolished in 1989 by the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) after years of severe deterioration.



Lorne Bridge

Early Predecessor: An original precursor bridge at the location opened in 1879, attended by the Marquis of Lorne.

Current Structure: The concrete open spandrel deck arch bridge seen today on Colborne Street West was constructed in 1924, designed by city engineer Frank P. Adams and built by the Port Arthur Construction Company.



Franklyn Smith next spoke about Wilkes Dam

Wilkes Dam in Brantford was built by George Samuel Wilkes (mayor of the town in 1853) to provide water power for his family business, the Holmedale Mills.

The 170-yearold low head dam is the oldest piece of municipal infrastructure in the City of Brantford.



Franklyn's final thoughts! – from a Water perspective.

The construction of Wilkes Dam almost 170 years ago provided water power to operate machinery and generate electricity for industry.

The Holmedale canal has been the source of water for the Brantford Waterworks for over a century and continuous to this day.

Periodic disinfection with “chloride-of-lime” in 1912, and continuous disinfection with gaseous chlorine in 1915 helped deal with water quality challenges.

Political acknowledgement for early water management is deserved however so is the recognition of early engineering, construction, operating and maintenance staff.



Franklyn Smith closed his presentation and answered a number of questions from various members.

Franklyn was thanked by Susan Szczechura who informed him that: In recognition of his presentation, we have made a donation to a Charity we like to support. That charity is the Lansdowne Children's Centre Foundation, and was given a heart-felt and enthusiastic round of applause.

President Maureen called for Committee Reports and Announcements:

- Dave Lewis reminded everyone that we should be preparing to return their sold and unsold tickets within the next few weeks as the date of the draw is Thursday 27 August-2026

- Nancy Thompson reminded all, of the Brant Golf & Country Club July 31 Social @ 6:00PM Dinner & Music. Please fill-in the, sign up sheet or let Linda know that you wish to attend.
- President Maureen mentioned that we are supporting the Staples Back to School event again this year starting on Friday, July 31, 2026 running through to Sunday, September 27, 2026. A sign-up sheet will be sent out to all of our member by Monday 27-July-2026.
- Nelson McClinchey notified everyone that Kiwanis Divisional Council Meeting to be held by Zoom on Wednesday, August 19th at 7:00 pm. Please let our Club Secretary Dave Lewis davegslewis@gmail.com know ahead of time, if you will be attending this meeting,

President Maureen, thanked all members and Guest speaker Franklyn Smith and Guest Frances Richards.

Closing thought of the day: "Thousands have lived without love, not one without water." — W. H. Auden

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 images from the Regular weekly Meeting.

