

Highlights of the Thursday, 20 August, 2026, Weekly Meeting

President Maureen, welcomed all members and Guest Speakers Cindy Brown and Mindy Forrester and Guests Sandy Vos, Trixie Vos, Stan and Margaret Hutchinson to this Thursday 20, August 2026 weekly meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Brantford.

President Maureen called Phil Hoekstra to present the 50/50 Draw with Bob Saunders, Graham Schram, Faye Prince and Leo Vos holding potential winning tickets. Still, no one found the "Joker" and the "Pot" continues to grow.



President Maureen called on Faye Prince to come forward as Funmaster.

Faye Prince welcomed everyone and entertained us with an interesting Presentation titled: Who to Marry?

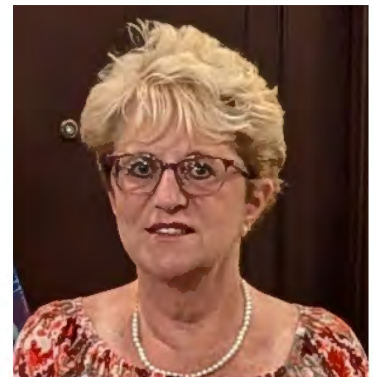
Faye presented a number of examples of children's opinions. There might be hope for future generations after all as they explain, HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO TO MARRY?

Following is a sample:

WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE DO ON A DATE?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough.

-- Lynnette, age 8 (isn't she a treasure)



Faye Prince moved on by helping celebrate Birthdays' and anniversaries

Anniversaries:

Anniversary of joining the Club (Yrs)

Ken McNaughton 32 years of outstanding service

Birthdays (Aug) Date

Paulette Hawk Aug 15

Heather Wyatt Aug 16

Faye called on members for Happy Stories

- Leo Vos noted that this weekend was Sandy and Leo's Wedding Anniversary and suggested her presence at this meeting was her, "Surprise", that he remembered and had her join him at the buffet.
- Bob Saunders said that his family surprised him by coincidentally, decluttering 3 large bags of clothing that were given away to charity.
- Phil Hoekstra announced that this weekend was his and Mary's Anniversary celebration.
- Sandy Vos announced that in support of Decluttering, Leo's idea of a good room is to have all their walls and corners filled, while her ideas, is to have clear walls with a few selected pictures.
- Paul Simon let us know that an elderly good friend of his, Sylvia, just had hip surgery and was out of hospital and doing well, one day after the surgery.

President Maureen thanked Funmaster Faye Prince for her interesting and instructional presentation.

President Maureen called Judy Jones to the Microphone to introduce our speakers today.

Judy Jones greeted everyone and Introduced our two speakers today who will be discussing: Decluttering & Downsizing.

Judy introduced Cindy Brown, who has 30+ years in client-focused work, now guiding people through real estate transitions. Currently navigating this stage with her own mom.

Judy next introduced Mindy Forrester who has been in real estate since 2015. Who understands firsthand what it's like to manage a home solo and weigh the right decisions about it.

Judy asked that we greet them with a sound round of applause.

Cindy
Brown



Mindy
Forrester



Cindy Brown and Mindy Forrester greeted the audience warmly addressing the Decluttering & Downsizing topic by suggesting that it be, a thoughtful approach to your next chapter of your lives.

What they would cover today:



1. Why this feels so hard.

a. You don't know where to start.

You look around at decades of life, and the volume alone is overwhelming before you've touched a single drawer.

b. Everything feels important

The chipped casserole dish. The golf clubs in the garage. None of it is just stuff. It's a marriage. A childhood. A person you loved.

c. "Later" becomes "too late".

A health change. A fall. The loss of a partner. Suddenly decisions that could have been made slowly have to be made all at once.

2. Where to begin

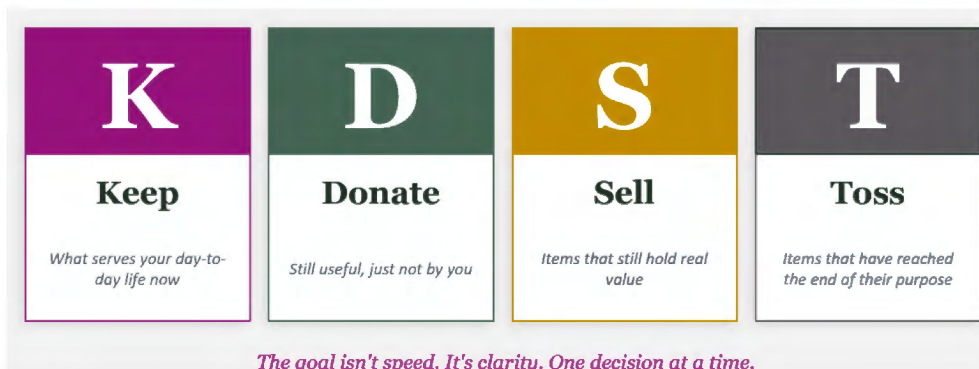
a. Start small. Finish something (30 Minute Set a timer).

i. Not the whole bathroom, One drawer.

ii. Not the whole bedroom. *One closet.*

iii. Not the basement (yet). Something low-emotion, low-stakes

3. Four simple categories



4. Eight Tactics that actually work



5. The hardest part: sentimental items

You don't lose the memory just because you let go of the object.



Photograph it

Take a picture. You're not losing the memory. You're just changing how you keep it.



Pass it on now

Give it to a child or grandchild. Tell them the story. It becomes a shared moment.



Choose the meaningful few

Keep the pieces you want with you, not the ones you are keeping out of guilt.

Downsizing

Start with a destination in mind.



Before you decide what stays...

Know where it's going.

- Closet size and storage limits
- Room layout and traffic flow
- Wall space for furniture
- Accessibility for years ahead

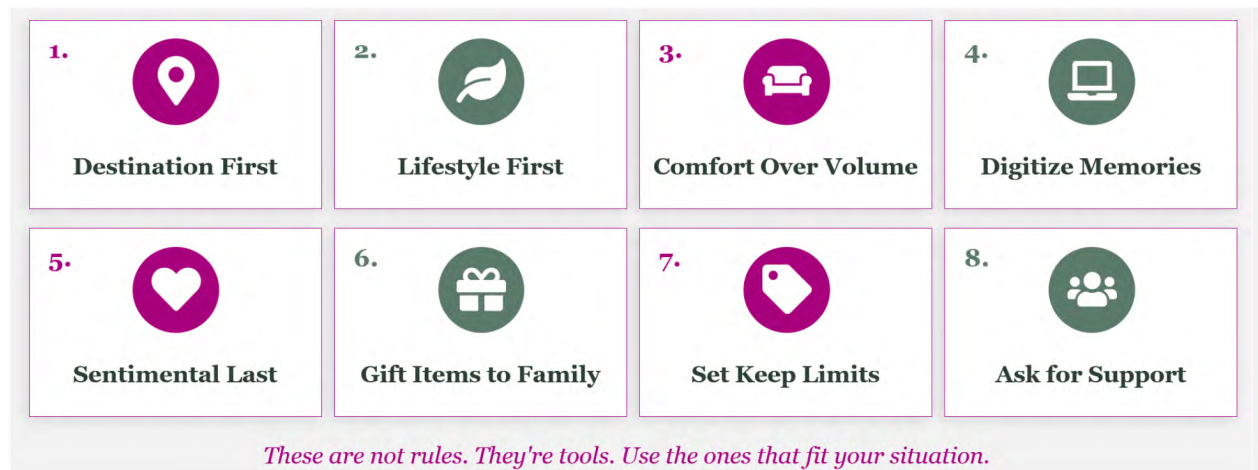
When the timeline is already set what can you do



WHAT WE SHIFTED

Same deadline. New approach.

- ✓ Slowed down the approach
- ✓ Mapped what was actually possible
- ✓ Moved at his pace, hit the deadline
- ✓ Presentable home, not magazine perfect

Eight downsizing principles

At the end of their presentation, Cindy Brown and Mindy Forrester answered a number of questions and was formally thanked for their presentation by Leo Vos.

President Maureen thanked Cindy Brown and Mindy Forrester for their interesting and informative presentation.

President Maureen called for Committee Reports and Announcements:

- Dave Lewis reminded everyone that we should have all sold and unsold tickets returned by Friday 21-August-2026, as the date of the draw is Thursday 27 August-2026
- President Maureen mentioned that we are supporting the Staples Back to School event again this year has started and is running through to Sunday, September 27, 2026.
- Aktion Club Trunk Sale, Saturday August 29 9:30 AM - 12:30PM @ CSV.
- Grand Parade in partnership with GRCOA September 19, 2026.

President Maureen, thanked all members and Guests and Guest speakers Cindy Brown and Mindy Forrester for attending.

Final Thought for the day: "Just because a Space exists does not mean it has to be filled.

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 is an image from this weeks meeting.

