



Kiwaniis

Kitchener-Waterloo

Kiwanis Club

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www.kwkiwanis.org

www.kiwanis.org

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Thanks to all our K-W Kiwanis members who are sending in photos and stories for the newsletter. Whenever you have input or suggestions please continue to contact our newsletter editor Steve Rand at waterloorands@gmail.com.

"Who" is Kiwanis and what is our Impact?

Kiwanis clubs and members conduct service projects. They hold fundraisers. They donate to the Kiwanis Children's Fund. They change children's lives in their own communities and through international initiatives — helping young people develop mentally, physically and emotionally

Every year, Kiwanis members stage more than 150,000 service projects, devote more than six million hours of service and raise nearly US\$100 million for children, families and communities around the world. Kiwanis club projects are based on the community's needs — we build playgrounds, purchase medical equipment, stuff backpacks with school supplies, restock libraries and much more.

Join us:

Chartered in 1921, we are the oldest service club in the Kitchener-Waterloo area. We are always looking for new members to serve the community ! Interested in donating a little time, money, or elbow grease to serve the needy, the deserving, and kids throughout the Waterloo Region? Every year we welcome new members to the club who want to help do exactly that. They have stepped up to help and we need still more volunteers and members to socialize and serve with integrity. Join us in our efforts to provide scholarships to deserving students, run the Kiwanis Music Festival or the Waterloo Park Wonders of Winter (Festival of Lights), have some fun at Bingo night, or support our Food4Kids and Food Bank teams. Pick some of our activities and let the good times roll. Reward yourself with service. Become a leader. We are celebrating over 100 years of community service.



President's Message:

Happy Holidays KW Kiwanians & Happy New Year!

2024 is looking very exciting as new members continue to join the K-W Kiwanis Service Club so they can give back to the Kitchener-Waterloo communities. We're very grateful for new Kiwanians and their enthusiasm, new perspectives, skills and generosity with their time and talents. You help us fulfill the Kiwanis Mission of "improving the world one child and one community at a time."

The KW Kiwanis Club is fortunate to have long-term members who have given many years of service and their experience will mentor and strengthen our club so that we can continue providing service to the Kitchener-Waterloo communities for years to come. What has been done in just a month?

I'd like to highlight the grand efforts of the Calendar Committee, with the leadership of Chair Marilyn Motz. Hours upon hours are spent preparing for the annual calendar sales and then executing all sales. 2500 calendars flew out of Marilyn's garage both locally and to neighbouring Kiwanis Clubs and communities. Every single calendar is accounted for and the money raised supports Food4Kids in the Waterloo Region, a local organization that feeds over 1000 school children every weekend of the year. Calendar money also supports projects that the KW Kiwanis Club sponsors and has been our top fundraiser for many years now. Thank you Calendar Committee and we hope you received some well deserved rest during the holidays.

Let's stay in touch, Kiwanians! I look forward to seeing you at one of our meetings in January. Every meeting brings us closer together and supports our efforts of "improving the world one child and one community at a time".

Daisy Arseneault, President of K-W Kiwanis

1. Meetings:

At our regular meetings we get together for fellowship and planning. Prospective members are welcome to attend. The meetings are free (optional dinner is available for a fee) and each month we host expert guest speakers to discuss a wide range of topics that give us insight and inspiration to carry over into our activities and projects. Dinner meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month from 5:30 -

7:30 pm and give us an opportunity to socialize as well. Check our calendar for meeting times and location or contact our membership chair at kwkiwanismembership@gmail.com to confirm time and place.

Our usual monthly speaker dinner was pre-empted by the 2023 December **holiday dinner** for K-W Kiwanis members and guests that was held amidst festive decorations at the Westmount Golf Club. Appetizers were served at 5:30 pm. Musical entertainment was provided by guitarist Juneyt who is a noted Flamenco artist. Music began at 5:45 pm, and dinner was served at 6:00 pm. Live & silent auctions were held throughout the evening.



2. Activities & Events:

For a complete listing of past and future events and volunteer opportunities, see the K-W Kiwanis Calendar.

December 2 A Christmas tree decorating group and candy delivery team went out to our affordable housing projects to bring good cheer to residents and members alike. Our busy elves were also treated with a visit from old Saint Nick.



December 5 Board Meeting and Holiday Dinner with speaker. Silent and live auctions were held and \$1034 was raised for the general fund. Music was provided by Juneyt (www.juneyt.com)





December 7 K-W Kiwanis Bingo Night at the K-W Gaming Centre. Proceeds from Bingo nights fund our high-impact scholarship and bursary program.



December 7 Christmas Kettles is a traditional opportunity for K-W Kiwanis members to volunteer a couple of hours in support of the Salvation Army's annual fundraiser. This year we donned elf hats once again and went to work as Kiwanis bell ringers to help fund the myriad projects that the Salvation Army undertakes in Canada and the United States.



December 25 Meals on Wheels is another volunteer activity supported by K-W Kiwanians each year at Christmas time. It's a joy to roll out hot meals right to those who need them and hear their stories !



3. Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities

For a complete listing of past and future events and volunteer opportunities, see the K-W Kiwanis Calendar at www.kwkiwanis.org.

January 9 Board meeting at Westmount Golf Club at 5:00 pm

January 23 Dinner meeting with outside speaker Greg Moore.

The **Wonders of Winter** (Festival of Lights) sponsored by K-W Kiwanis continues to inspire holiday spirits in Waterloo. The Park has been decked out for weeks now with more dynamic light shows and holiday scenes than ever from dozens of sponsors. Thank you Key Club members and Kiwanian volunteers for helping set up the displays. We believe this festival helps everyone cultivate the holiday spirit - in the Kiwanis way.





4. Service Leadership Clubs:

- Circle K International for university students
- Key Club for students age 14-18
- Builders Club for students age 11-14
- Kiwanis Kids for students age 6-12
- Aktion Club for adults living with disabilities

5. Membership:

Interested in joining us? Please contact our membership chair at kwkiwanismembership@gmail.com or a member of K-W Kiwanis whom you may know. Just have questions? Send us email at info@kwkiwanis.org.

6. Committees & Reports:

Committee reports are received each month at the Board meeting of the Club Officers and Directors at Westmount Golf Club. Committee work is essential to smooth functioning of the Club and all members are encouraged to participate in at least one of our thirteen committees. Typically, assignments require an average of only 1-2 hours per month. K-W Kiwanis committees have the charters outlined below.

Affordable Housing

Charter: Work with Property Management to oversee the operations of the Cedar Court and Valley View housing units owned by Kiwanis.

Fundraising

(a) New Ideas (Receive & evaluate proposals for new fundraising activities. Interface with the Board to approve new initiatives.)
 (b) Bingo (Organize and recruit volunteers for bingos run by K-W Kiwanis. Train volunteers.)
 (c) Calendar Sales (Organize the calendar created by K-W Kiwanis for fundraising. Recruit advertisers, determine winners of cash draws and allocate prizes.)

Scholarships & Bursaries

Charter: Determine criteria for the evaluation of scholarship and bursary applications. Receive and review applications. Select recipients and personally communicate/deliver the awards.

Membership

Charter: Advise members on how to introduce prospective members to Kiwanis and provide welcome packets for new members. Meet once a quarter to plan recruitment and retention. Approve new member applications and forward them to the Board. Review honorary memberships annually. Check on absentee or delinquent members.

Music Festival

Charter: Continue to refine and improve all aspects of the renowned Kiwanis Music Festival's operation. Develop and utilize permanent check lists for all aspects of the festival so nothing is missed and we continually learn from mistakes and maintain improvements. Create fundraising vehicles specifically for the music festival with the goal of being financially self-sufficient.

Service Leadership Programs

Charter: Provide liaison between Kiwanis student organizations and our membership. Look for every opportunity to initiate Kiwanis student organizations and activities. Provide necessary support to all sponsored Kiwanis student organizations. Help out with Key Service Leadership training events.

Program & Club Meetings

Charter: Plan and improve the regular club meetings to keep them interactive, fun and informative. Make everyone feel that time spent at meetings is "time well spent". Maintain sociability among members as a top priority by planning outside activities that foster good fellowship.

Financial Investment - Vacant

Marketing & Public Relations

Charter: Raise awareness of Kiwanis in our community. Publicize events. Maintain the club website and social media outlets. Distribute a regular newsletter to keep members up to date and assist with community outreach and recruitment.

New/Existing Projects

Charter: Assess all requests for funds submitted to the club with respect to how well they meet our criteria and make their recommendations to the membership. Manage existing projects, recommend their continuance or discontinuance. Search for new club service projects, making sure they meet our criteria, and present them as options to the membership.

Criteria:
 (a) regional effect, not national

- (b) involves children and youth
- (c) Improves quality of life in some way
- (d) Involves as many of our members as possible