



Kitchener-Waterloo  
Kiwaniis Club  
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[www.KwKiwaniis.org](http://www.KwKiwaniis.org)

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**Newsletter**

December 31/2024

## Club Officers:

### **President:**

Daisy Arseneault  
[daisyarseneault@gmail.com](mailto:daisyarseneault@gmail.com)

### **Past President**

Marilyn Motz  
[gmmotz@golden.net](mailto:gmmotz@golden.net)

### **President-Elect:**

Keri Cameron (2025)

### **Secretary:**

Jean Stacey  
[Staceyj49@gmail.com](mailto:Staceyj49@gmail.com)

### **Treasurer:** Maureen Farkouh

[maureenfarkouh@yahoo.ca](mailto:maureenfarkouh@yahoo.ca)

**Directors:** Lou Gere, Ian Inglis, Alan Chalmers, Paula Rand, Kevin Twomey

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*Send photos & news to editor Steve Rand at [waterloorands@gmail.com](mailto: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 and scholarship programs. 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 community needs. We build playgrounds, purchase medical equipment, run foodbanks, develop youth leadership, restock libraries and much more.



## President's Message:

A highlight of our late fall efforts was another successful fundraising event held at The Jazz Room in Uptown Waterloo in November. A special thanks goes to our Kiwanis Music Festival director Danielle

Beck and the Music Festival Committee for their commitment in showcasing local talent and making music lessons and instruments more accessible to students in need in our community. Over \$2400 was raised at the event. We saw lots of new faces participating this round. This is an encouraging sign that our projects have impact in enriching the culture of Kitchener-Waterloo and bringing people to understand just how much we care for kids, youth and the community at large.

Another memorable effort this month involved several of our members who pulled

together to distribute 103 Christmas cards to bring cheer to residents of our affordable housing homes at Cedar Court in downtown Kitchener and at Valleyview in south Kitchener. Local youth, ages 18-35, volunteered to include festive messages in the cards and our club supplied a \$25.00 grocery gift card per household. So , enjoy your holidays Kiwanians, and thank you for all your efforts to improve the Kitchener-Waterloo region one child and one community at a time.

**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? We are welcoming new members to the club all the time 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 Waterloo Park Wonders of Winter (Festival of Lights), have some fun at Bingo night, or support our Food4Kids volunteer 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.

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**1. Regular Meetings**

At our Board and club meetings we get together for fellowship and planning. Prospective members are welcome to attend. The meetings are free (except there is no free lunch !) and once a 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. Board meetings are currently held at 5:00 pm on the first Tuesday of the month at the Westmount Golf Club in Waterloo. Check our calendar for other (evening) meeting times or contact our membership chair to confirm time and place at [kwkiwanisclub@gmail.com](mailto:kwkiwanisclub@gmail.com).

For a complete listing of past and future events and volunteer opportunities, see our complete calendar at [kwkiwanis.org](http://kwkiwanis.org).

**Nov. 7** A Division 5 Caucus meeting was held at Concordia Club, Kitchener.



*President Daisy Arseneault at the Caucus meeting*

**2. Activities & Events**

**Dec. 3** The December Board meeting took place at Westmount Golf Club.



The Board of Directors met at Westmount Golf Club

**Dec. 5** The K-W Kiwanis Bingo Night fundraiser was well attended. Winners said they needed the cash for Christmas !

**Dec. 7** Wonders of Winter began November 30. The annual Festival of lights in Waterloo Park is very popular and draws enormous crowds of evening strollers to view dozens of imaginative displays sponsored by local businesses and organizations.



Wonders of Winter, or the Festival of Lights, is an annual celebration of the holidays held in Waterloo Park From the end of November to the end of December.

Hot chocolate and hot apple cider were available in the Park Inn on Friday and Saturday evenings. These offerings were especially popular with little elves.



Kiwanian Keri Cameron and two happy elves enjoyed Christmas lights in Waterloo Park and a heritage train ride this year

**Dec. 10** Kiwanians turned out to help ring in the holidays by raising funds for Salvation Army Christmas Kettles.



K-W Kiwanian Steve Rand takes a shift bell-ringing

Chocolate bar sales were brisk throughout December. These delectable treats can now be ordered online all year however. See the online order form under the “Forms” tab on our website kwkiwanis.org.



**Dec. 7,8+14,15+21,22** Waterloo Central Railway offered Santa’s Jolly Journeys. Tickets for the heritage train were available online at:

<https://waterloocentralrailway.com/christmas-trips/>

Passengers hopped aboard the heritage train to ride through the wintery Waterloo countryside from St. Jacob’s north toward Elmira and back, while enjoying festive carols, a seated visual scavenger hunt, and of course a visit from Santa! Our very own Kiwanians Angela, John, Kevin, Keri (and elves) were onboard. It was an exciting event that raised thousands of dollars for the Neighbours Helping Neighbours food program.

**Dec. 17** The monthly K-W Kiwanis club meeting was held at Concordia Club.



K-W Kiwanis Club members were treated to a Festive Holiday Dinner by Concordia staff. During the meeting, donations were accepted for Kids Ability in honour and loving memory of Kiwanian Greg Moore who passed away suddenly in October. A total of \$700 was raised for the charity. Attendees were also honoured to hear from Greg's wife, Kiwanian Keri Cameron, who shared how generous Greg was as a father with his family and as an advocate in the community.

At the meeting, our K-W Kiwanis Music Festival director Danielle Beck also shared how the Festival is growing and expanding. She reported that the new fund for Kiwanis Music Education assisted 8 students to take music lessons in its first year.

### 3. Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities

For a complete listing of past and future events and volunteer opportunities, see our Event Calendar at [www.kwkiwanis.org](http://www.kwkiwanis.org).

**Jan. 2, 30 Two Bingo Nights this month** (see the online calendar at [kwkiwanis.org](http://kwkiwanis.org) for details)

**Jan. 6,8,11,13,15** Volunteers will be needed to help clean up Waterloo Park after the Wonders of Winter light show concludes. See the online calendar for details or contact Daisy Arseneault to sign up.

**Jan. 7** The K-W Kiwanis Board will meet today at Westmount Golf Club. Also, the North Dumfries club has issued an invitation to their upcoming Interclub Meeting. The meeting will start at 5:30 pm at the Ridge Social Eatery in Roseville. Dinner will be available and the speaker will be Roz Gunn of YMCA Cambridge Women’s Shelter. The club is asking for donations. Please bring something. (hats, mitts, boots for kids of all sizes).

**Jan. 21** The monthly club meeting will start 6:00 pm at the Esta Chocolates business located at 1421 Victoria St., S., Kitchener.

The meeting will include a short tour of the manufacturing facility and club business will be conducted afterward. See you there to see how it is all done !

Jan. 25 The first Division Council Meeting of the year will be held today. (See the online calendar at kwkiwanis.org for details)

#### **4. Service Leadership Clubs**

K-W Kiwanis runs Leadership clubs to engage young students:

*Circle K International for college students:* University of Waterloo students Cesar Arriojas and Shradhaa Srikanth have re-launched the University of Waterloo Circle K club. The club already has a roster of over two dozen members. Most college students leave the Waterloo Region for the summer months, but Circle K volunteers joined our members this month to help make Kids Day a big success. Thank you Circle K !

Circle K International (CKI) is the largest student-run volunteer organization of its kind, with over 12,600 members on over 500 campuses in 17 countries. CKI mirrors the mandate of Kiwanis at the university level in making our community a better place to live, through service, with a special emphasis on helping children.

*Key Club for students aged 14-18:* High schoolers can apply to become members of our K-W Kiwanis Key Clubs. Members run their own meetings and devise service projects in the Waterloo Region. They are also eligible to attend the annual leadership conference that Kiwanis International runs for their age group. Key Clubbers also have the benefit of guidance and record-keeping by an approved advisor from our Kiwanis Club.

#### **5. Membership**

Interested in joining us? Let us know at kwkiwanismembership@gmail.com or contact a member of K-W Kiwanis whom

you may know. Just have questions? Send us email at kwkiwanisclub@gmail.com.

#### **6. Committees & Reports**

Committee reports are received at the monthly Board meeting by the K-W Kiwanis Club Board Members. Committee work is essential to smooth functioning of the club and all members are encouraged to participate in at least one of our eleven committees. Typically, assignments require an average of only 1-2 hours per month. K-W Kiwanis committees have the charters outlined below. Check the club calendar and connect with your committee chair each month to verify when and where your meetings will take place.

##### ***Affordable Housing***

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

Chair: Lou Gere

Members: Daisy Arseneault, Lou Gere, Ian Inglis, Stephen Rand, Angela Vieth, Greg Wood

##### ***Fundraising***

(a) New Ideas (Research and develop ideas and activities to raise funds for general club use or for a specific reason as agreed from time to time. Review “New & Existing Service Projects”).

Chair: Maureen Farkouh

Members: Daisy Arseneault, Paula Rand, Jean Stacey, Angela Vieth, Sandeep Shroff

(b) Bingo (Organize, recruit and train volunteers for bingo)

Chair: Lou Gere

Members: Maureen Farkouh, Gary Keller, John Vieth, Mike Wolf, Greg & Michelle Wood

##### ***Bursaries***

Charter: Determine criteria for the evaluation of academic bursary applications.

Receive and review applications. Select recipients and personally deliver the awards.

Chair: Lou Gere

Members: Jan Alexanian, Gary Keller, Stephen Rand, Paula Rand, Jean Stacey

### ***Membership***

Charter: Provide advice to anyone who may need help in their approach to prospective new members. Meet quarterly to plan membership recruitment and retention.

Approve new member applications and bring them to the Board. Review honorary members annually. Check on absentee and delinquent members.

Chair: Keri Cameron

Members: Daisy Arseneault, Maureen Farkouh, Ian Inglis, Kevin Twomey, Angela Vieth

### ***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. Learn from mistakes and maintain improvements. Create fundraising vehicles specifically for the music festival with the goal of being financially self-sufficient.

Chair: Shelley des Cotes

Members: Danielle Beck, Keri Cameron, Jaime Downey, Maureen Farkouh, Ian Inglis, Angela Vieth, Mike Wolf

### ***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 groups. Help out with Key Service Leadership training.

Chair: Shelley des Cotes

Members: Angela Vieth, Kevin Twomey, Sandeep Shroff

### ***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.

Chair: Daisy Arseneault

Members: Keri Cameron, Kevin Twomey

### ***Financial Review Committee***

Charter: Perform an annual review of the financial reports of the treasurer and Property Management.

Chair: Greg Wood

Members: Andrew Kelly, Andre Arseneault

### ***Marketing & Public Relations***

Charter: Raise awareness of Kiwanis in our community. Publicize events and club news. 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.

Chair: Stephen Rand

Members: Daisy Arseneault, Kevin Twomey, Andre Arseneault

### ***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) Maximize member involvement

Chair: Daisy Arseneault

Members: All club members