



Kitchener-Waterloo
Kiwaniis Club
P.O. Box 38046
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www.KwKiwaniis.org

www.kiwaniis.org

Newsletter

April 30/2025

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TBD

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*Send photos & news to 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 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:

What a solid volunteer month for K-W Kiwanians! The K-W Kiwanis Music Festival was a huge success with hundreds of children and youth participating. Kiwanians spent so many hours

volunteering to help the Festival run smoothly - some even dedicating full-time hours to ensure every child, youth, parent, caregiver, supporters, teachers and adjudicators had the best possible experience. The feedback came daily and parents are so thankful for everything Kiwanians do to make this Festival happen

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

for their children. Thank you to our Festival coordinator, Danielle Beck, for her hard work too and to the KW Kiwanis Festival Committee, fellow Kiwanians and community volunteers. Kiwanis hosts the Festival because music helps improve the lives of our children in the Kitchener-Waterloo community. Bravo!

more volunteers and members to socialize and serve with integrity. Join us in our efforts to provide scholarships to deserving students, help 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.

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.

at Westmount Golf & Country Club - with nary an April fool in attendance!



Joan Richardson-Horsey, Shelley DesCotes, Kevin Twomey, and Angela Vieth at Westmount

2. Activities & Events

For a complete listing of past and future events and volunteer opportunities, see our complete calendar at kwkiwanis.org.

Apr. 3 The Brantford Kiwanis Club held a Trivia Night. K-W Kiwanis was represented there by the *Table of Able* team (photo below). Our editorial team did not learn the final scores, but everyone had a good time!

Apr. 1 The monthly Board Meeting was held



(L-R): Caroline Lee (President-Elect of North Dumfries), Peter Tudisco, Angela Vieth (LG), Richard Lee (President North Dumfries), and Jan Alexanian

Apr. 5 The annual Maple Syrup Festival was held today in Elmira, north of Waterloo.



LG Angela Vieth flips flapjacks at the Elmira Syrup Festival alongside Elmira Kiwanis volunteers

Apr. 7-18 The signature event of our K-W Club is the K-W Kiwanis Music Festival, a week long event that we run each year in Waterloo. Based on feedback from parents, 2025 was another banner year and a great experience for young musicians in the Region. A record number of volunteers signed up to help guide visitors to the many venues, which included adjudicated sessions for bands, solo instruments, duets, jazz ensembles, etc. Young musicians of all ages competed before highly accredited judges who listened, evaluated, and conferred awards. Thank you everyone for helping make this year's event a big success !





Apr. 10 The Brantford Kiwanis Club hosted an Interclub Luncheon. Brantford Kiwanians, together with members of their Aktion Club, invited Division 5 clubs to a buffet luncheon from 11:45 am - 1:30 pm at the Best Western Hotel 19 Holiday Drive Brantford. The Brantford Aktion Club made a special presentation. The event included a hot buffet lunch organized by Interclub Chair Nelson McClinchey and his committee.

Apr. 12 A CAN-AM Goodwill Banquet was held at the Hellenic Cultural Centre in Windsor, Ontario from 6:00-9:30 pm. The theme was *Launching into Literacy*. Hope Markes, the Kiwanis International Vice President, was a Special Guest for the affair. A chicken buffet dinner was served with all the fixings. Two Keynote Speakers attended on behalf of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library: Jeanne Smitiuch, Senior Regional Director of the Imagination Library in Canada and Lauren Wirt who oversees growth and support of the Foundation in the U.S.

Kiwanis
CAN-AM Goodwill Banquet

"Launching into Literacy"

\$40 USD/ \$55 CAD

April 12, 2025 6-9pm
Hellenic Cultural Centre
3052 Walker Rd, Windsor, ON N8W 3R5

Keynote Speakers
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library:
Jeanne Smitiuch, Senior Regional Director, Canada.
Lauren Wirt, Regional Director; MI, OH.

With Very Special Guest
Kiwanis International Vice President
Hope Markes, Kiwanis Club of Hanover Jamaica

Register Here:

Contact: LG Angelo Ciardella, KC of Windsor
info.kiwaniswindsor@gmail.com
226-787-7940

Apr. 18 A Good Friday fish fry was held by the Elmira Kiwanis Club in Lions Hall from 4:00-6:30 pm. Dinner was available for \$25 and included a 1/2 lb. haddock filet, fries, tartar sauce, coleslaw, assorted pies, coffee, pop, water.

Apr. 22 Our Annual General Meeting was held at Westmount Golf & Country Club. A highlight of the evening was a ceremony to honour Shelley DesCotes who was the Club secretary, webmaster, and Key Club coordinator for many years – including through the difficult COVID pandemic period. Shelley’s husband Steve DesCotes also attended and offered a few remarks of his own about a memorable bus trip with Shelley and the Key Clubbers. K-W Kiwanians acknowledged Shelley’s dedication to community service with flowers, speeches, and well wishes.

constructed, electric feeds have to be installed, and thousands of lights need to be strung throughout the Park. Although K-W Kiwanis has provided volunteers for this family-oriented event for many years, the Club has committed to sponsoring a new exhibit for the first time in December 2025.

Apr. 24 Our monthly Bingo night took place as usual at the K-W Gaming Centre and brought in hundreds of dollars to support our academic scholarship program.

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.

May 3 Division 5 Black Walnut Divisional Council Meeting will be held at 1195 King Street East, Cambridge, downstairs in the Kiwanis Non-profit Housing Building. The schedule will include 9:30 am registration and coffee. 10:00 - 12:00 business meeting. 12:00 noon lunch (\$5 coffee only; \$20 coffee & lunch). If you plan to attend please RSVP to Heather Fleming, Public Relations for Team Angela at heathercfleming@hotmail.com.

May 12 Stratford Interclub event at the Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans Unit 261 Complex, 151 Lorne Avenue East, Stratford, Ontario N5A 6S4. Social hour at 5:30 pm; roast beef dinner at 6:15 pm followed by Speaker: Lois Adamson, Director of Education for the Stratford Festival. Topic: *The current season at the Stratford Festival*. \$20/person by cash at the door or e-transfer to kiwanisstat@gmail.com. Please RSVP to wilf.smith@gmail.com by May 7.

May 21 The Guelph Kiwanis Club will host the 37th Sports Celebrity Dinner, at the Italian Canadian Club, an entertaining event with cocktails, raffles, live and silent auctions in addition to a delicious dinner! Join the individuals being inducted into the prestigious Guelph Sports Hall of Fame for



The poster for the KW Kiwanis Club 2025 AGM features the club's logo on the left, which includes a '100 YEARS' anniversary banner. The main text in the center reads: 'KW KIWANIS CLUB 2025 AGM TUESDAY, APRIL 22ND, 5:00PM WESTMOUNT GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB 50 INVERNESS DR., KITCHENER, ON menu available'. Below this, it says 'RSVP by April 17th | Space is limited! Email: kwkiwanisclub@gmail.com'. At the bottom, there are three photographs: two women smiling, a woman in a red jacket holding a box, and two women holding a bouquet of flowers. Below the photos, the text reads: 'Join us for a special presentation to Shelley Des Cotes & an exclusive update from the Wonders of Winter team, Lynne Taylor & David Hollinger!'. At the very bottom is a logo for 'WONDERS of WINTER' with a starry background.

Lynne Taylor and David Hollinger gave an overview of the Wonders of Winter organization that presents the annual holiday display of lights in Waterloo Park. Every year displays must be updated, repaired or

2025 and Broadcaster Brian Williams who will share stories of his 50 year career in sports as the keynote speaker. Tickets: www.guelphsportshalloffame.com (Adults \$125, Past inductees \$85, Students/children under 17 \$50). All proceeds support the Kiwanis Club of Guelph charities including Belwood Lodge and Camp, the Kiwanis Music Festival of Guelph, the Staples Back-to-School Program, and the Teen ETCH Creative Writing Contest.

May 29-31 Come alive in '25. This year the *district convention* for Eastern Canada and the Caribbean will be held in Niagara Falls. Explore the iconic falls by air, water, or land. Helicopter or zipline over the falls or get a bird's eye view at the Skylon Tower or Skywheel. If getting wet is more your style, the Wet Wild Cruise is your best bet. ECC Kiwanians and friends are invited to share in the program of education, inspiration, and plain old fun at one of the most famous natural wonders of the world - Niagara Falls. Venue: Marriott Fallsview Hotel & Spa, 6740 Fallsview Blvd., Niagara Falls.

4. Service Leadership Clubs

K-W Kiwanis runs Leadership clubs to engage young students in community service.

Circle K International for college students: The University of Waterloo Circle K club runs service projects with the guidance of an approved Kiwanis advisor. Currently it has a roster of over two dozen members.

Last month CKI club officers Ginny and Cesar helped organize the Grand River Hospital Fundraiser (photo). Circle K members also hosted the 2025 district convention (DCON) in Waterloo on March 8 for clubs from all over Eastern Canada. The event included a full day of energy, service, and celebration. Members labelled hygiene kits for donation and collected non-perishable food for the local food bank.



Circle K members Ginny and Cesar prepare tables for the Region of Waterloo hospital fundraiser.



Circle K attendees at DCON 2025 in Waterloo

The agenda included workshops on fundraising, inspiring speakers from the Kiwanis Family, and District Board elections and concluded with recognition of outstanding clubs from across the province. In March, Circle K District Governor

Shradhaa Srikanth also launched a newsletter for Eastern Canada CKI members – the Governor’s Gazette. The first issue is available at our website under “What We Do – Leadership Clubs”.

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. However our club is especially proud of our local up-and-coming group of civic leaders. 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 to develop leadership skills.



Former Keyclub president Heeva (centre) joins advisor Shelley Des Cotes, Mike Wolf and Circle K members Ginny and Cesar at the new hospital fundraising dinner.

Last month Key Clubbers sent out health kits to the district and held their own event with entertainment by PopNation kids at the Adventure-4-Change facility in Waterloo. Kyle Christy was the Master of Ceremonies.

Keyclubbers are 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, 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. Proceeds are applied to our academic bursary program.)

Chair: Lou Gere
Members: Maureen Farkouh, Gary Keller,
Mike Wolf, Greg & Michelle Wood, Roy
Weber

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

Music Festival

Charter: Continue to refine and improve all
aspects of the renowned K-W Kiwanis
Music Festival. Undertake fundraising,
volunteer coordination, and sponsorship.

Chair: Ashley Close
Members: Danielle Beck (Festival
Coordinator), Jaime Downey, Ian Inglis,
Angela Vieth, Mike Wolf, Rosalind Keith
(Volunteer Coordinator), Martin Lacoste
Maxine Metzger (Social Media &
Marketing), Fiona Stante, Angela Veith
(Fundraising Coordinator), Roy Weber
(Sponsorship Coordinator), Mike Wolf
(Treasurer)

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 Club and Circle K 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: 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