



**KIWANIS CLUB OF RIDGETOWN**  
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## **NEWSLETTER FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 20, 2013**

The May 16 meeting - twenty-four members and Circle K LG Jordan Dunlop welcomed Dave Van Kestern, MP and his wife Faye.

### **Happy \$\$**

PLG Allen was happy that Kiwanian Bill Johnston did not object to paying President Brad's fine and he was also happy to present a banner from the Kiwanis Club of Ottawa.

KI VP Dr. John was happy that following his presentation at the Ridgetown Rotary Club he received \$108.00 in donations to the Eliminate Project, he was happy to be bird watching in Rondeau Park and saw a Black Throated Green Warbler and he was happy to come home and watch a female Red Headed Woodpecker build a nest while the male watched.

Kiwanian Rebeccah was happy to be a fan of the Toronto Maple Leafs!

Kiwanian Bill Johnston was happy that four Robins hatched in the nest on his front door.

Secretary Mary Ann was happy that her daughter turned 19 but she is still 29.

PP Craig was happy to see the recent issue of Explore Ridgetown where the Teddy Bear Picnic and Downhill Derby received coverage.

PP Dale was happy to be celebrating his 38<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Kiwanian Dennis had a disappointed dollar that the rumoured rebuttal to his last week's comments was not going to be issued this week. He assumed since Sgt-at-Arms Dale was wearing his "mafia going to a funeral tie" that he must have something to say. Kiwanian Dennis referred the Sgt-at-Arms to a description he once heard about Joey Smallwood, "a self made man who worships his creator."

President Brad was happy that after 31 years he removed his beard. When he sent a copy of the club newsletter to his daughter from last week she told her father he looked older than anyone else in the picture and looked like an old Wolf Man Jack.



PP Ken introduced our guest speaker for the evening, MP Dave Van Kesteren.

Dave Van Kesteren was elected as the Member of Parliament for Chatham-Kent-Essex in January 2006 as a Conservative Government Member of Parliament, led by Prime Minister Stephen Harper. His election to office in 2006 marked the first time in 17 years that Chatham-Kent-Essex had elected a Conservative Member of Parliament.

Prior to becoming the Member of Parliament for Chatham-Kent-Essex, Dave worked in the auto industry. In 1985, Dave opened his first auto body shop, later running his own used car business and then becoming a Hyundai dealer in 1996.

Born in Chatham to Dutch parents who immigrated to Canada in the early 1950`s, he is the fifth child of ten children. Strong proponents of family values, Dave and his wife, Faye, have celebrated 34 years of marriage and have eight adult children, and have been blessed with many grandchildren.

In the 39th Parliament, as the newly elected Member of Parliament, for Chatham-Kent-Essex he was a Member of the Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics; the Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology; and the Subcommittee on Oil and Gas and other Energy Prices. In the 40th Parliament he was again a Member of the Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology; the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans; and completed his first chairmanship of the Sub-Committee on Canadian Industrial Sectors. For the second session of the 40th Parliament, he was a Member of the Standing Committee on the Status of Women and Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology. Currently, in this third session of Parliament, he continues his work as a Member of the Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology and the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development.

He is an active member on numerous Parliamentary Associations and Interparliamentary Groups. Specifically, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group, Canada-United Kingdom Interparliamentary Association, Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group, Canada-Israel Interparliamentary Group, Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association, Canada-China Legislative Association, Canada-Africa Parliamentary Association, and Canada-Taiwan Friendship Group. This does not include the several other Friendship groups he is associated with including the Canada-Netherlands Friendship Group of which he is Chair. He is also the founder and Chair of the Canadian Trucking Industry Caucus and several other Caucuses that focus on specific issues related to Canadian industry sectors.

Dave has had several opportunities to travel internationally on behalf of the Government of Canada. He traveled to Taiwan in 2006 with the Chinese International Economic Cooperation Association to further Canada's diplomatic trade relations in the region, to China in 2007 and again to Taiwan in 2008 with other government Members to Celebrate the Presidential Inauguration. He and Faye had the honour of traveling to Israel in July of 2007 with the Canada-Israel Committee. In August 2008 he attended the Southern Governors Association Annual General Meeting in Greenbrier, West Virginia. In February of 2010 he and Faye had the honour of traveling to Turkey along with other Members of Parliament from all Parties.

Dave continues to represent the people of Chatham-Kent-Essex and their interests at the Federal level. He is very proud of the riding and works hard every day to keep Canada a strong and prosperous nation, not only for our generation but for those generations to come.

Dave spoke to our club about his travels throughout the world. He feels Canadians are the most fortunate people in the world and it is an honour for him to act as an ambassador for Canada as he travels. He visited Ukraine two years ago with the ministry of foreign affairs. In Ukraine 47% of the land is farmland yet so much is not used. The country does not value the concept of private land ownership and so the citizens continue to be very poor. Canadians are the best farmers in the world and could teach citizens in poorer countries so much.

Dave travelled with an organization Engineers Without Borders to South Sudan and Ghana. Both these countries have the capacity to feed themselves and be the bread basket of that area of

Africa. When they visited rural villages of South Sudan, they were welcomed by the elders when they made it known they were there to learn from them and to help them. Engineers Without Borders go into villages and offer them equipment to enable them to farm more land. They also help build storage bins, allowing them to store then sell their corn when prices are higher. We now have a way to help these people.

Canada can help by working hand in hand with industry. Canadians are the best miners in the world so by partnering with mining companies they can help these developing countries. If we are able to help these countries to start working and trading with each other, perhaps it will give them less reason to fight with their neighbours.

There are organizations on the ground in these developing countries that need our help. By supporting these organizations we can help the citizens of these countries.

Dave spoke about the importance of working with Turkey and encouraging the country to keep progressing. Turkey is an important country in the world – it is the door way to the Islamic World. It is hoped by some that a strong Turkey could help solve the conflict between the West and the Islamic world.

Following his presentation, Dave presented KI VP Dr. John with a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

### **Walter Zeller Fellowship Award**

The Walter Zeller Fellowship Award was created to recognize clubs or individuals for protecting and saving the lives of 690 young women and their future babies, through a contribution to the Global Campaign for Children, the Eliminate Project.

In 1940, one year after the Kiwanis International Foundation was established as a legal entity, Walter Zeller made the first donation: 25 Canadian silver dollars that he hoped would turn into the foundation's nest egg.

This donor's dream came true. The coins were used to create a cake which was auctioned for US\$625. His coins launched the Kiwanis International Foundation's worldwide service efforts. A native of Waterloo County (near the city of Kitchener, Ontario), Zeller was the founder of Zellers chain of thrift stores. He began his business career in 1912 with a job as a stock boy with the F.W. Woolworth Company, and was later the General Sales Manager for the Metropolitan chain of stores for New York. He was considered by co-workers to be energetic, forthright, and magnetic, and served as director-at-large of the National War Savings Committee and a special advisor to the chairman of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board.

Zeller gave much of his life to philanthropy, serving as the Montreal Director of the YMCA and staying involved in many capacities with his Kiwanis club. He served as the Montreal President and Governor of the Ontario-Quebec-Maritime District.

Presentations of Walter Zeller Fellowship awards were made to:

PLG Peter Guyitt

PP Ken Richmond

Past Treasurer Gary Guyitt

PP Dale Smith

I asked the three members of our club, recognized for their many years of service to our club, to give their thoughts on Kiwanis membership. I would encourage members to talk to PP Craig, PP Ken and PLG Peter. They have so much Kiwanis history to share. I think you will agree that the common thought shared – the fun our club enjoys, at meetings and at projects.

### **Thirty-five years in our Kiwanis Club – PP Craig**

As one of the younger members when I joined, it was a privilege to know many of our Charter members, to attend Kiwanis with my Dad and to hear original members talk about the 'infant' days of our club and many of their accomplishments and escapades .

While the 'old pavilion' at Rondeau Park burned a couple of years before I joined, the 'Kiwanis' summer dances were very popular and a great fund raiser for our club. We ran the canteen and helped with building maintenance. Alcohol was prohibited but Kiwanis could be counted on for an ample supply of ice and tonic water!

Each spring our annual Flower Day sale was held. Past President Stan Eskritt operated a business where Kettle's is located. Roses were the flowers for many years until cost forced us to carnations. We boxed and delivered the flowers from Stan's. Our partners always helped and I have to believe flower day got more than one member out of the dog house!

Monthly, our directors handled requests for assistance from the community. Often it was for dental, optical, financial or special medical needs. With educators and doctors in the club the needs were known and we quietly helped many young people particularly before so many social services were available. We canvassed the town with Vial of Life medical info kits for every home and provided the fire department with Jaws of Life equipment.

A highlight to all members involved was partnering with Ontario Special Olympics to host a weekend long indoor soccer tournament. We billeted the players and coaches at the college and fed everyone [200 in attendance one year]. This was one of the most rewarding and fun projects ever for our club!

Early days of our Teddy Bear Picnic [known then as Teddy Bear Fair] were exciting. The 'Miracle Child' and family, as well as reps from Children's Hospital, usually attended. The fair was held in Mickle Park with food, the bear hospital, the parade, contests, music, fresh pop corn and more. Sweat shirts and t-shirts from Children's Hospital, by way of chairs Peter and Dale, were sold over the years. Many of our members participated 'on air' at the telethon in London that followed and the Ridgetown Club has received accolades from Children's for our support.

It was always a treat to hear charter members talk about the Santa Clause parade. The community identifies this annual event with our Club. Early parades were modest and continued to grow to one of the best and biggest in the area. Float decoration before and after parade parties are a long tradition; one I sadly usually missed with the store open Friday nights and Saturdays. We enjoyed making pop corn balls with Elliott Pinnell and packing up to 1000 bags of candy to accommodate the end of baby boomers and the echo generation. We've been blessed with some great Santa's [present one included!] including one who promised a member's child a pony. Past President [local pharmacist] Cam Nelson had to deliver!

Robarts Golf, now the Eb Goldhawk Memorial, began a twenty three year tie with the Robarts Research Institute in London. That has seen our division raise over \$400,000.00 We've had a lot of fun on the golf course and overwhelmed Robarts with our support. Eb's travels to promote the tournament, his organizing skills and constant follow up with committee members was legendary and produced results. 'Kudos to those who carried on and have done a great job with the tournament, despite economic challenges and an over abundance of charity tournaments today. When our IDD co-chairs, Eb and John, challenged the club to raise \$50,000.00 it seemed out of reach. They skillfully brought the club and entire community on board. Trivia nights began in support of IDD. As success continued momentum and financial goals grew. You know the end result. IDD was a great success. Our club was recognized as a world leader. Our International President Bo visited Ridgetown [see the plaque at Kiwanis Park] and I believe this was one of the

many accomplishments that drew attention to and started our current International Vice President on the road to Indianapolis.

I've probably already written twice what our Editor expected or wanted. Haven't touched on so many good memories including Genoa inter-clubs with weekend stays in Ohio; Past President Ken's famous mystery tours [ probably shouldn't be in print anyway!]; a club boat excursion across Rondeau Bay to Erieau for dinner and our almost safe return; all the fun at our meetings from fines to court cases; an after dinner joke from Bob McHardy; political banter between Dr. Jim and Eb; Peter and Dale marshalling yet another parade; how blessed we've been to have secretaries and treasurers who served for years and years; inter-clubs and conventions and how rewarding and educational they are; the importance of a service club to the community and the esteem I believe this club holds here and in the Kiwanis World.

It's been a great privilege to be part of the Kiwanis Club of Ridgetown ! See you Thursday.....

### **Forty years in our Kiwanis Club – PP Ken Richmond:**

I joined the Kiwanis Club of Ridgetown in March of 1971.

Distinguished President - 1976

Distinguished Secretary

Director of "Nuts and Bolts" Variety Show

Past Santa Clause Parade Chairman

Past member of the Board of Directors

Projects of note: -

Building the fence at the Museum (We painted the shoes of the late Doug Richardson)

Kiwanis Apartments - painting the rooms - great fun!

Annual Teddy Bear Picnic - Balloon Man with the late Eberle Goldhawk and the Action Club

Building the new Gazebo at the Village on the Ridge (Under my mother's supervision)

Key Club Advisor- conventions, workshops, events and overnights on the beach at P.P. Craig's home.

Mystery Tour Planner - (it didn't help my reputation any)

Eberle Golhawk's retirement dinner- planned and co-hosted by the late Dr. Jim Button -( this ended my acting career)

The Objects of Kiwanis put my faith into action - into improving our community and the world through Kiwanis International. Most especially our focus in "Serving the needs children" and to socialize with fellow members makes my life more fulfilling. It is a great organization to belong to!

Yours in Service,  
Ken Richmond

### **Fifty years in our Kiwanis Cub – PLG Peter Guyitt:**

Watch for Peter's thoughts in next week's newsletter.

**The Kiwanis Club of Ridgetown meets weekly at 6:30 pm in the basement of Mount Zion Presbyterian Church, 59 Main St. E., Ridgetown, every Thursday, from September 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup> each year. Summer meetings are hosted by members at various local addresses.**

**ELIMINATE**  
maternal/neonatal tetanus

Club Website: <http://www.ridgetownkiwanis.com>  
E.C.& C. District Website: [www.kiwanisecc.org](http://www.kiwanisecc.org)  
Kiwanis International Website: [www.kiwanis.org](http://www.kiwanis.org)

## **Upcoming Meetings, Events & Interclub Opportunities**

May 23 Club meeting scavenger hunt  
May 25 Teddy Bear Picnic  
May 28 St. Thomas Golden K 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – interclub opportunity  
May 30 Club meeting mystery tour  
June 6 Club meeting business & board meeting  
June 8 Division 4 Robarts Golf Tournament  
June 13 Club meeting - car rally  
June 20 Kiwanis Club of Riverdale golf tournament  
June 22 Division 4 President & secretary training – London  
June 26-29 Kiwanis International Convention in Vancouver  
July 4 Summer meetings start – contact secretary Mary Ann if you wish to host a meeting  
July 27 Kiwanis Club of Genoa visits – VP Brian Dunlop will be hosting the dinner  
Aug 15-17 District Convention in Peterborough – plan to attend to support PLG Allen's election for District Vice-Governor

## **AKTION CLUB**

Kiwanian Gary, Aktion Club advisor, reported that the Aktion Club members are looking forward to the Big Bike Ride on May 24. DP Debbie will be joining the Aktion Club on the Big Bike Ride – if anyone wishes to sponsor a rider!

## **Teddy Bear Picnic**

Saturday, May 25 is the annual Teddy Bear Picnic. All funds raised are in support of the Children's Hospital of Western Ontario. The parade of teddy bears starts at Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church, judging at 10:30 am and parade at 11:00. VP Brian has tickets on the bears – keep selling. Please return money and sold tickets to Brian. It is a fun day in Watson Grove Park with balloons, face painting, music, prizes, popcorn and hotdogs and pop. Plan to help out that day.

### **CLUB OFFICERS & Directors**

President: Brad Carnie  
Past President: Alan Bloomfeild  
Secretary: Mary Ann Hawthorne

President-elect: Kevin Hoskins  
Vice-President: Brian Dunlop  
Treasurer: Alan Bloomfield

#### **DIRECTORS:**

June Guyitt, Wendy Millyard, Dale Smith, Greg Roberts (1 Year)  
Marian Visser, Brian Hoskins, David Vaughan, and Karolyn Ure (2 Years)