



KIWANIS CLUB OF RIDGETOWN
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NEWSLETTER FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 27, 2013

The May 23 meeting - twenty-two members and five Key Clubbers welcomed guest Joanne Monden. It was a good week for pictures in the paper – two photos totaling 14 members.

Happy \$\$

KI VP Dr. John was happy to announce that Maternal Neonatal Tetanus has been eliminated from Ivory Coast in Africa.

Treasurer Alan was happy to be celebrating his 32nd anniversary and is going home to spend an evening with Shelley.

VP Brian was happy to be finished with his part of the ticket sales for the Teddy Bear Picnic and can now hand them over to co-chair Mary Ann.

Key Clubber Amanda was happy her mother celebrated her 40th birthday last Wednesday. According to Amanda Jenn "is finally at the peak of the hill".

Key Club PP Andrew was happy that he has been accepted at Conestoga College in the Arts & Science program.

PLG Allen was happy to thank Kiwanian Karolyn for her work in Kiwanis Park.

Kiwanian Jenn was happy that Dave arrived safely in Saskatchewan.

DP June was happy for Andrew's acceptance and the fact that if she is ever in a motor vehicle accident the EMS that picks her up may be Andrew.

Kiwanian Dennis was commiserating with Kiwanian Jenn. He is not over the hill – just been on top of it for awhile. He considers himself a bit of an expert on hills, but hasn't found one yet in the 3 years he has been in Ridgetown.

Happy Birthday to PP Ron – turned 85 on May 25.

Fifty years in our Kiwanis Club – PLG Peter

My involvement in Kiwanis began when I was a student – not as a Key Clubber – but as a summer job. I worked at the Ontario Stock Car Championships, at the admission gates. I joined Kiwanis in September 1961, sponsored by Cam Nelson. I was President in 1987-88 and Lt. Governor of Division 4 in 1996-97. I was certified trainer of club officers for several years and honoured by the club with a Mel Osborner Fellowship, a George F. Hixson Fellowship, recently a Walter Zeller Fellowship.

In November 1961, two months after joining the club, the project chairman put his hand on my shoulder and said, "it's time to get ready for the Santa Parade and you are in charge this year." My Kiwanis education began quickly!. That year we packed 2,000 bags of candy that included nuts, hard rock candy and handmade popcorn balls. Lee Simpson made the hard rock candy and candy canes. The candy canes were auctioned at a Kiwanis meeting. This was in the 1960's – candy canes went for \$10.00, \$15.00, \$25.00 and even \$50.00!

In my early years with the club, there was stiff competition for the perfect attendance awards. If a member missed a meeting there were several ways to "make-up" that meeting. One

of the make-ups was to attend an interclub. It was not unusual for four members to realize they needed a make-up, so off they would go to visit another club. I attended many, many interclubs, making many long time friendships and a great way to expand your Kiwanis experience. Another make-up was to attend a meeting of a sponsored leadership club – Key Club or Circle K. Many members attended Key Club meetings just as Key Clubbers attended our meetings.

In 1969 the Rondeau Pavilion was the project that earned the \$20,000 donated to the Ridgetown Swimming Pool. When the pool project came to the club it was a huge commitment for the club and a few thought it couldn't be done. Two members actually resigned from the club. Two years later the funds were raised and the pool is still used by the youth of Ridgetown.

Over the years the club has supported the town tennis courts, Ridge House Museum and delivered (in all kinds of weather) Christmas food baskets to those in need. Members, with much help from our spouses, made paper mache Sesame Street characters to be used in the Santa Claus parade. A lot of glue and "merriment" went into those costumes and many of them can still be found stored in the basement of the Royal Bank.

In 1990 yours truly proposed a project to the club – a teddy bear fair. The comments were along the lines of, "old men playing with teddy bears, but once a child always a child". Twenty-three teddy bear fairs/picnics later we are still providing the youth of our community with a special day – in all kinds of weather. In my archives of the picnics, I still have the first letter of permission from the Town of Ridgetown, signed by then Town Administrator Gerald Secord. Each year the Children's Hospital of Western Ontario chose a Miracle Child, a patient or previous patient, to be the "face of the foundation fundraising" for the year. The miracle child attended events in the city of London. Working with the Children's Hospital of Western Ontario Foundation, I invited the miracle child to our first teddy bear fair. Our fair was the first event outside of London to have the miracle child in attendance. For many, many fairs the miracle child continued to attend and participate in the parade and events. The first miracle child to attend our fair was a young girl from Chatham, Kelly Jacobsen, and she returned to our event just a few years ago!

For many years the Children's Hospital's year of fundraising ended with the Miracle Network Telethon on CFPL TV. Dale, Craig and I attended many telethon kick-off luncheons. During the years of the telethon, our club presidents made on-air cheque presentations. I remember one telethon where Jake Campbell, the Miracle Child, stole the show. The countdown to go on air, "5, 4, 3, - Mom - 2, 1 (on air) I have to pee."!

Key Club has always been the pride and joy of our club since its inception. I missed joining the Key Club, I graduated RDHS one year before the Key Club was chartered. Many chairmen and presidents relate to attending conventions with Key Club members.

Fundraising has always found its objectives to support so many needs within our community and beyond - medical equipment, playground equipment, Christmas lights, Children's Hospital, cancer, ride for heart, 4H, trees program, Chatham-Kent Health Alliance nursery, IDD and the ELIMINATE project – but a few of the many.

The list goes on and it shows a need and desire to serve - if we should lose the need and desire so will our commitment to serving the children of the world.

Personal satisfactions – fellowship, working together, making things happen, interclub, not as much as I used to, conventions district & international, community service. All companies ask their employees to become involved in community service. While working for Union Gas I was awarded the "Award of Excellence for Community Service". The award was \$1,000.00 which I split \$500.00 to Children's Hospital of Western Ontario and \$500.00 to Robarts Research Institute.

It has been a pleasure to be associated with Kiwanis, its members and especially the Ridgetown community.



Peter and Maxine at this year's teddy bear picnic. Thanks to Maxine for her support of our club for the past 50 years.



Aktion Club

Aktion Club advisor Gary reported that the Aktion Club is ready for the Big Bike Ride happening in Ridgetown on May 24.

The "K" Aktion team raised \$1,150.51 for the Heart & Stroke Foundation! Thanks to advisor Darlene for all her work in organizing the team, thanks to all who sponsored riders and a big thanks to the riders. Three Kiwanians joined the team – Dennis, Brian and Debbie.

Always ready to help us! Thanks to the Aktion Club for their help at the Teddy Bear Picnic. They tied a lot of balloons!

Key Club

The Key Club will be running a raffle and 50/50 draw at Tractor Days in two weeks. They have a "car smash" planned as a fundraiser and will be running a concession stand at Art Fest.

Kiwanian Karolyn reported that Club shirts and t-shirts will be available in early June.

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 1st through June 30th 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.kiwanisec.org
Kiwanis International Website: www.kiwanis.org

Upcoming Meetings, Events & Interclub Opportunities

May 28 St. Thomas Golden K 25th 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



Prizes at the Teddy Bear Picnic

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)



The park was full of children, parents and teddy bears. It was a great crowd for the annual event.



Kiwanians helping the Aktion Club with balloons.

Dr. Beary Good!



The Big Bike Ride for Heart & Stroke – Team “K” Aktion



WE'RE OFF AND RIDING!



Kiwanian Dennis is riding hard to the finish! Not sure what VP Brian is doing?