

Kiwanis

KIWANIS CLUB OF RIDGETOWN

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NEWSLETTER FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 14, 2011

Nineteen members and seven Key Clubbers welcomed eighteen guests to our Valentine's meeting. Guests: Shannon Hoskins, Lynnly Hoskins, Rosemary Mitton, Shelley Bloomfield, Margaret Johnston, Cheryl Zvaniga, Mary Helen Wilson, Janice Wright, Jen and Amanda Vaughan, Karen and Jen Dunlop, Lynn Beavis, Darlene Joyce, Irene Stepniak, Shirley Kennedy and Andrea and AJ Fordham. Thanks to all the partners/guests for taking the time to be with us.

Happy \$\$ - Secretary John was happy for all the help at the successful quiz night. \$ - Kiwanian Bill Verlaan was happy to have received the one cent interest on his loan to Kiwanian Bill Johnston. \$ - PP Debbie was happy to have attended the Aktion Club meeting and for all the service work performed by the Aktion Club members.

Key Club report - President Jordan reported that the Key Club will be donating some of the blankets they are making to Victim Services on February 22. They are operating coat check and concession stand at all performances of Ridge Players. Ridgetown will be hosting the Divisional Winter Rally on March 5 where the Lt. Governor will be elected.

Aktion Club - Treasurer Gary reported on the Aktion Club meeting held February 9 at the Legion. Local Salvation Army representatives gave a very informative presentation on what the Salvation Army does for the residents of Chatham-Kent. Two members of the Legion Ladies Auxiliary were guests at the meeting. It was great to have our Community Living Advisor to Aktion Club, Darlene Joyce at our meeting. Darlene is very busy with the Aktion Club, attending their meetings and projects.



IT Dr. John, President Alan, AJ and Andrea Fordham, Key Club President Jordan

AJ Fordham

Key Club President Jordan introduced our speaker for the evening, AJ Fordham. AJ gave a very moving account of his journey of recovery from a traumatic brain injury sustained in a car accident.

On January 20, 2007 AJ's life changed forever. Prior to that time he was a normal teenager attending school, playing in a band, working at his father's car dealership and young driver of stock cars at a local racetrack. The accident changed that. He spent 14 days in a coma on life support. He needed the same level of care as a newborn baby. He spent a total of 103 days in hospitals – Children's Hospital of Western Ontario and then Parkwood Hospital for rehabilitation.

AJ showed a video of what his life was like before the accident and then what he went through following the accident.

AJ credits Dr. Doug Fraser and the staff of the Pediatric Critical Care Unit of the Children's Hospital with giving his life back to him. They are his angels and miracle workers.

He had a long road back to recovery – he had to learn to talk, to feed himself, to dress himself and to walk again. He spent 63 days at Parkwood Hospital to learn these basic life skills.

His determination paid off – today he shares his story for the Children's Hospital of Western Ontario as they are a major trauma centre for children from Windsor to Owen Sound. He tells how he thought he had experience with vehicles – working in a car dealership and racing – but one choice changed his life. He gives back to the Children's Hospital by raising funds through speaking engagements and fundraising. He is currently involved in their Change Bandits campaign and Kiwanians were happy to help him out with a large bag of change presented to him at the end of his presentation.

AJ left us with his philosophy on life – Be the best you can be and never give up.

Interclub Opportunities

The Kiwanis Club of Brantford extends an invitation to the clubs of Division 3, 4, 5 & 6 to attend their lunch meeting on March 17. The program will be presentations by the candidates running for Trustee for Region A of the Eastern Canada & Caribbean District of Kiwanis International. The meeting starts at 11:50 am at the Best Western Brant Park Inn in Brantford. Lunch cost is \$16.00 and the meeting will end at 1:30 pm.

PE Allen is running for the position and will be one of the candidates presenting. It is important we have a least an interclub or more to support PE Allen. Anyone that can attend please contact PE Allen.

The Kiwanis Cub of Rodney is holding their annual quiz night on Friday, March 4. Quiz starts at 7:00 pm at the Rodney Legion. Teams of four and cost is \$15.00 per person.

The Kiwanis Club of Rodney is holding their annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Dinner on Tuesday, March 8. Dinner at 5:00 pm and entertainment starts at 5:30 pm. Cost is only \$7.00 per person, children 5 and under are free.

What is an interclub?

An interclub happens when at least four members of a club attend a meeting or event held by another club.

Attending an interclub enables members to experience other club's traditions and meeting practices. It is also a great way to meet other Kiwanians.

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.



March 3 – this is the trophy up for grabs. Get your recipes ready! It is our annual chili cook-off. It will be held at the Highgate Legion. Each year the crowds get bigger! Plan to attend – enter your award winning chili or just come out for a fun night and all the chili you can handle.



MEETING AND EVENT SCHEDULE

Feb 17	Peter Jones – Canadian Diabetes Association
Feb 24	World Service Project – Eliminate Project – IT Dr. John
Mar 3	Annual Chili Cookoff
Mar 10	Greg Hetherington
March 17	Ken Richmond update on medical clinic
March 24	LG Jim Scott
March 31	Nominations for 2011-2012 Board
April 7	Business & Board meeting
April 14	Election of club officers for 2011-2012
April 21	Highway cleanup and barbeque
April 23	Easter Egg Hunt
April 28	Key Club chairs the meeting
May 26	Key Club vs Kiwanis ball game
May 28	Teddy Bear Picnic
June 8	Robarts Golf tournament
June 16	Car Rally

Youth Services & Medical Needs Committee

There will be a meeting of this committee following the February 17 meeting.

CLUB OFFICERS:

President: Alan Bloomfield

President-elect: Allen Ure

Secretary: John Henderson

DIRECTORS:

Shawn Hoskins, Craig Mitton, John Wright, David Vaughan (1 year)

Brian Hoskins, Greg Roberts, Gary Wake, Bill Johnston (2 years)

Past President: Debbie Button

Vice President: Brad Carnie

Treasurer: Gary Guyitt

DISTRICT & DIVISION OFFICERS:

Governor: Paul Toussaint

Governor Elect: Janet Atkinson

Immediate Past Governor: Gary Levine

Division 4 Lt. Governor: Jim Scott

Division 4 Past Lt. Governor: Jim Garey