

KIWANIS CLUB OF RIDGETOWN

P.O. BOX 1642, RIDGETOWN, ONTARIO N0P 2C0

www.ridgetownkiwanis.com

NEWSLETTER FOR THE WEEK OF 13 JULY 2009

Prepared by: Debbie Button email: admin@ridgetownkiwanis.com

JULY 9, 2009

Eighteen members welcomed guest Rebeccah Malott to a barbeque in Kiwanis Park. Thanks to the members who helped with the food. Kiwanis Park is looking great again this summer. Thanks to PLG Allen and members for their work in the park. It is so great to be able to open up our Kiwanis trailer and have everything we need for a barbeque there to unload and use.

It is good to have some members we haven't seen for a while out – Randy Campbell and Grant Long.

PLG Allen has spoken to Jim Firestone from the Kiwanis Club of Genoa. The Genoa club is looking for an indication of the number of Ridgetown Kiwanians and guests making the trip to Genoa on August 22. It seems they are having trouble finding a golf course to accommodate our golfers that day. It may be a day of touring in Genoa. Whatever they plan, the day will be a great time and well worth the drive. At this week's meeting PLG Allen will be looking for the number of members attending.

August 15 is our annual Downhill Derby. We work with Chatham-Kent Big Brothers to give local children a fun day of racing. Lots of help is needed that day – mark your calendars. Co-chairs John and Dave will have more information as the day gets closer.

Our July 16 meeting is at the home of Kiwanian Greg Roberts – 109 Main Street East, Ridgetown. DON'T FORGET YOUR LAWN CHAIR.



KIWANIS is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time.

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Club Website: <http://www.ridgetownkiwanis.com>

E.C.& C. District Website: www.kiwanisecc.org

Kiwanis International Website: www.kiwanis.org



A LITTLE HISTORY OF OUR CLUB

The Kiwanis Club of Ridgetown was chartered on October 10, 1947. It was sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Blenheim. Oddly enough, the organizational meetings were held in a back room of what was then called the Brewers' Warehouse, now formally known as the Beer Store. During the intervening 62 years our club's activities have revolved around service, fund raising, fellowship and always fun.

One of our first service projects was the sponsorship of 4-H which continues to this day. We have been deeply committed to children's recreational programmes – we developed the town's first recreation programme, hired the first Recreation Director, provided the first organized swimming lessons, supported minor hockey, baseball, basketball and soccer. Our club spearheaded the campaign to build a swimming pool in Ridgetown and later the tennis courts.

Our annual events include the Santa Claus Parade, the Easter Egg Hunt, the Teddy Bear Picnic with proceeds to the Children's Hospital of Western Ontario, Quiz Nights and the Downhill Derby.

We have painted houses, fences, apartments and gazebos. We numbered the houses on Ridgetown's streets and one year we built a house that I am told has more nails per square foot than any other house on the planet.

Throughout the years our club has been strongly committed to literacy. We were very involved in the construction of Ridgetown's Public Library and continue our support with literacy programmes and donations of books. Our four local schools annually receive hundreds of Kiwanis dollars for library books as well as computer hardware and software.

Farther afield, we were a partner in the building and equipping the Kiwanis Nursery at the Chatham-Kent Health Alliance. We completed an \$85,000 donation to the Kiwanis Kid's Care Centre at the Children's Hospital of Western Ontario in London. In the late nineties and early years of this decade we raised and donated \$186,000 to the Kiwanis Worldwide Service Project to eliminate iodine deficiency, the world's leading cause of preventable mental retardation, thus saving the lives of 4 million children and all those to come after.

Despite all the service and much more the jewel in our crown has to be our sponsored programmes – the Key Club chartered in 1955, and the Aktion Club chartered in 2008. Our relationship with these amazing people has been the source of much joy and satisfaction over the years.

How have we paid for it all? We've sold light bulbs, flower bulbs, fertilizer and flowers, tickets on shopping sprees, cars, trips to Mexico and gourmet dinners. During the heyday of the Rondeau Dance Pavillion, the proceeds from the sale of ice were second only to the proceeds from admission. We've held minstrel shows, variety shows and now we've entered into the craft show business. As with most service groups, we have embraced the highs and suffered the lows of bingo. The sale of Nevada tickets continues at our local Mac's Store.

Our club is recognized as one of the best throughout the Kiwanis world. We have provided leadership at the division, district and international levels.

Throughout our history we have enjoyed tremendous support from the citizens of Ridgetown. We can say with pride that our club has had a profound impact on Ridgetown's history and appearance and the health of its citizens, young and old. Our influence extends around the world and we truly are changing the world one child and one community at a time.

And through it all, there have been a lot of laughs and a lot of fun.

I realize members have heard this history presented at our new member inductions. Club history isn't just for new members. I think it is a good thing to remind ourselves of our proud history and the tremendous service members have provided over the past 63 years.

Thanks to each of you for all that you do.

“ONE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE”

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The Kiwanis Club of Ridgetown meets weekly at 6:30 pm in the basement of the 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.

KIWANIS RECOGNIZED BY FOUNDATION OF CKHA

At the Foundation of Chatham-Kent Health Alliance's annual general meeting and donor appreciation night, our club was recognized for our continuing support of hospital projects. We have contributed to the Kiwanis Nursery, the Every Life Counts campaign for doctor recruitment and most recently the Making the Right Investment Campaign to purchase the new MRI at the hospital.

PP Ken accepted the award from Foundation Board chair Joe Mares and MRI Co-chair Dr. John.



You may not have saved a lot of money in your life, but if you have saved a lot of heartaches for other folks, you are a pretty rich man. ~Seth Parker

MEETING AND EVENT SCHEDULE

July 16	Greg Roberts
July 23	Allen Ure – board meeting
July 30	Rondeau Joe's restaurant
August 5 – 8	E.C.&C. District Convention
August 6	Kevin Hoskins
August 13	Dave Vaughan & John Wright
August 15	Downhill Derby
August 20	Brad Carnie & Mike Mervin
August 22	INTERCLUB TO GENOA
August 27	Debbie & Dr. John
September 3	return to meetings at the Church
October 29	Quiz Night
2010	
February 11	Quiz Night

JUST A REMINDER

Our meetings our more relaxed in the summer, but our monthly dues continue. If you haven't made a payment recently, please see Treasurer Gary. If you can't make it out to a meeting you can mail payment to Treasurer Gary's attention to the Club at P.O. Box 1642, Ridgetown, ON N0P 2C0. Thanks!



CLUB OFFICERS:

President: Debbie Button Past President: June Guyitt
Vice-President: Alan Bloomfield
Secretary: Barb Doxtater Treasurer: Gary Guyitt

DIRECTORS:

Dale Smith, John Button, Brad Carnie, John Case, (1 year)
Kevin Bartlett, Chris Arneill, Abdi Yuya, Kevin Hoskins (2 year)

DISTRICT & DIVISION OFFICERS:

Governor: Sheron Cameron-Dunn
Governor Elect: Gary Levine
Immediate Past Governor: Chuck McIlravey

Div. 4 Lt. Gov. Jim Garey
Div. 4 Past Lt. Gov. Randy Ross