

Kiwanis

KIWANIS CLUB OF RIDGETOWN

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NEWSLETTER FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 17, 2010

May 13, 2010 meeting:

Twenty five members and Key Clubbers Amanda, Andrew, Ryan and Brendan welcomed guest Tim DeActis.

Happy \$\$ - Kiwanian David was happy for John Wright's honesty – returning the \$40.00 he found on the floor that belonged to PP Ken. \$ - Kiwanian Kevin Bartlett was happy the Habs won – happy for him and happy for PLG Allen. \$ - PP Ken was happy to be home from the South. \$ - PLG Allen was happy for the cartoon in the Windsor Star regarding the Spitfires. \$ - IT Dr. John was happy twice – once for the induction of five new members into the Kiwanis Club of St. Thomas and also happy to share a story about Kiwanian Kevin Hoskins son.

Key Club – Ten members recently went on a mystery tour to North Buxton Museum. Key Clubbers are ready to hammer the Kiwanians at the annual ball game on May 27.

Aktion Club – The Aktion Club will be participating in the Heart & Stroke Big Bike Ride on June 2. They are looking for Kiwanians or Key Clubbers to join their group. President Debbie will be riding with them.



President Debbie, Tim DeActis, Kiwanian Kevin Hoskins, PP Craig Mitton

Tim DeActis

PP Craig introduced our speaker Tim DeActis. Tim is a past president of our club – 1983-84. Tim remembers our club's biggest contribution to the community during his membership was Special Olympics. He recalled many great times with the club – one in particular when he appeared before the club's "hanging judge" PP Dr. Jim Button. With his retirement nearing we hope Tim gives some thought to returning to the club. He was raised in London and moved to Ridgetown to start his teaching career. He was mentored by PLG Eb Goldhawk and on many occasions sought Eb's advice.

Tim currently oversees a program of continuing and alternative education for the Lambton-Kent District School Board. He repeatedly praised his staff – hand picked – for their work with these difficult students.

Continuing Education:

He works with adults – over 18 – in continuing education. They are often returning to complete their Grade 12 after being laid off and now seeking other employment. For many of them school was not a positive experience when they were young and they learn hands on. The first task is to assess the individual's needs and develop a program suited to them. In some cases they may receive credit for work experience, but everyone must complete at least four core courses in senior math and English. They also work with immigrants and English as a Second Language programs.

Alternative Education:

This program works with students who have been suspended or expelled from mainstream schools. In many cases they are dealing with students involved in drugs or other issues with the law. This program is "last stop shopping" and they don't win them all. A student must now stay in school until they are 18 years of age, however after the age of 17 the board really has no legal avenues to keep them there and these students know that.

Tim believes if you can keep a child engaged you have a chance of getting them back into mainstream education. Keeping them engaged is a big problem in many cases. Drugs are a big, big problem and in some cases these students don't have a place to sleep so school isn't a priority. The educators involved in this program have a close relationship with the Chatham-Kent Police Service, Ontario Works and First Nations. There is a youth worker from the YMCA involved in the program. He has a great deal of experience working with street kids – he can talk their language.

Tim's philosophy, "We don't fix kids. We give them the tools to fix themselves."

The Lambton-Kent District School Board is fortunate to have Tim, with his extensive experience in education, managing this program. He gave us a little demonstration of the way he deals with a more difficult student. I wouldn't cross him!

Kiwanian Kevin, a new graduate of teachers college, thanked Tim for his presentation.



Kiwanis Robarts Golf Day

June 9 is the annual Division 4 Kiwanis Robarts Golf Day - shotgun start at 10:00 am at Ridgetown Golf & Curling Club. Get your team together and registered with PLG Peter Guyitt. This is a fun day or a great cause.

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.

Teddy Bear Picnic

Mark your calendar for May 29. The parade forms at Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church at 10:30 for judging and proceeds down Main Street at 11:00. The parade ends at Watson Park where there will be entertainment, food, face painting and free draws. Prior to the parade help is needed in the park to set up the Kiwanis tent and set out picnic tables. Help will be needed to cook and sell hotdogs and pop. It is a fun morning so plan to attend. Keep selling your tickets on the Teddy Bears. The draw will take place at the picnic.

May meetings

LG Mark Brewer from Brampton will speak at our May 20 meeting. There will be a Board meeting following this meeting.

May 27 – annual Key Club hammers Kiwanis ball game. We will meet at the church for dinner then proceed to the game.

June 3 – Debbie Comuzzi, CEO of Children's Health Foundation will update us on the new Children's Hospital of Western Ontario. This is a partner/guest night and we will be inviting our honorary members to join us. We also have at least two interclubs joining us that evening. The Church caterers need a head count for the evening by May 27.

Please let me know at this week's meeting if you plan to attend and if you plan to bring your partner or a guest.

This will be a great finish to our membership campaign meetings.

MEETING AND EVENT SCHEDULE

May 20	Mark Brewer, Division 7 LG – Board meeting to follow
May 27	Key Club vs. Kiwanis ball game
May 29	Teddy Bear Picnic
June 3	Debbie Comuzzi – CEO Children's Health Foundation for Children's Hospital of Western Ontario
June 10	William Bossence – tour of duty in Afghanistan
June 17	Genoa visits Ridgetown – Gary & June hosting dinner
June 24 -26	Kiwanis International Convention in Las Vegas
July 1	No meeting – Statutory holiday
July 8	Summer meetings begin
July 24	Ridgetown visits Genoa
August 4 – 7	District Convention in St. John, New Brunswick

Summer meetings

It is time to think about summer meetings. We have four in July – one will be the car rally and four in August. August 26 is booked. PP June is planning a tour for one meeting.

Club website

www.ridgetownkiwanis.com

The site has past issues of our newsletter, upcoming events, application for events such as the Robarts Golf Day and the craft show and information on our club. Pass the site on to anyone asking about our club. One of our newer members found us through our website.

CLUB OFFICERS:

President: Debbie Button **Past President:** June Guyitt
President-elect: Alan Bloomfield **Vice President:** Allen Ure
Secretary: vacant **Treasurer:** Gary Guyitt

DIRECTORS:

Kevin Bartlett, Chris Arneill, Abdi Yuya, Kevin Hoskins (1 year)
Shawn Hoskins, Craig Mitton John Wright, David Vaughan (2 years)

DISTRICT & DIVISION OFFICERS:

Governor: Gary Levine
Governor Elect: Paul Toussaint
Immediate Past Governor: Sheron Cameron-Dunn
Div. 4 Lt. Gov. Jim Garey
Div. 4 Past Lt. Gov. Randy Ross