

# Kiwanis

KIWANIS CLUB OF RIDGETOWN

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## NEWSLETTER FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 21, 2011

### November 17, 2011 meeting:

Eighteen members welcomed the interclub from the Kiwanis Club of West Lorne – PLG Bill Graham, Secretary Win Liepman and Kiwanian Harley Lashbrook. Thanks to DPP Debbie for the notes.

#### **Happy Dollars:**

\$\$ Kiwanian Larry was happy for the new Children's Hospital of Western Ontario

\$ Kiwanian Dave was happy that Brandon won 2 gold and 2 silver medals at a Karate tournament the weekend of the craft show.

\$\$ PLG Bill Graham was happy for the hospitality and for his grandson's football team

\$ DPP June was happy for the Children's Hospital and happy for another successful Craft Show – but glad it was over.

**Aktion Club Report:** Treasurer Gary reported that the Aktion Club continues to be busy. They are planning to enter a float in the Santa Claus Parade and are making plans for their annual Christmas party to be held December 14 at the Legion.

**Key Club Report:** DP June reported that they are considering entering a float in the Santa Claus Parade. They are operating the concession stand at the semi-formal dance and will be sending members to a training session in London.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Our guest speaker for the evening was Scott Taylor. Scott holds a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Biology from the University of Guelph and a PhD in Biology from Queen's University studying seabirds in South America. He worked at Rondeau Park for several summers and is currently covering a maternity leave as the naturalist at Rondeau Park. Following this position he will be starting a Postdoctoral Fellowship at Cornell University in the Lab of Ornithology. Scott grew up in Inverhuron and has always loved being outdoors and studying nature.

Scott gave a very interesting presentation on the various eco-systems within Rondeau Park. Formed by the erosion and deposition of sand and gravel, the Rondeau peninsula constitutes one of North America's best examples of a Cuspate Sandspit. The resulting peninsula is now a 3254 ha Natural Environment park, and extends almost 8 km out into Lake Erie, forming a protected bay. Rondeau Park is in the heart of Carolinian Canada, which is the relatively small portion of Southwestern Ontario that possesses this type of forest region. It is Ontario's second largest Provincial Park with one of the largest fresh water marshes.



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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.

Scott showed us examples of the habitants of each of the eco-systems within the park:

- Lake Erie and the shore – many types of fish within the lake such as yellow perch. On the shore you may find wolf spiders or Map turtles. At the nature centre in the park they are raising Map turtles and this year they released over 800 turtles into their natural habitat.
- Oak Savannah Habitat – red headed woodpeckers and eastern hognose snakes. The snakes are becoming an endangered species so roads within the park may be closed to decrease snake mortality. During Thanksgiving weekend over 80 snakes were killed on the roads with the park in one day.
- Older Forest Habitat – Some of the oldest trees in the park are the Tulip Trees.
- Within the park 100 – 150 deer can be found.
- Wetlands within the forest – home to many species of ducks and the favourite nesting area of Prothonotary warblers.
- Marshes – home to the swamp rose which is very rare in Canada.



## **MEETING AND EVENT SCHEDULE**

- Dec 8 Candy Pack
- Dec 10 Santa Claus Parade**
- Dec 15 Children's Christmas party
- Dec 22 Christmas dinner
- Dec 29 Social evening

## **INTERCLUBS**

- December 8 -St. Thomas Golden K Christmas party
- December 12<sup>th</sup> at Forest City in London, where the 4H Awards are being given out
- December 15 -Rodney-West Lorne Christmas party



### **CLUB OFFICERS:**

President: Alan Bloomfield  
 President-elect: Brad Carnie  
 Secretary: John Henderson  
 DIRECTORS:  
 Brian Dunlop, June Guyitt, Wendy Millyard, Dale Smith (2 years)  
 Brian Hoskins, Bill Johnston, Greg Roberts, Gary Wake (1 years)

Past President: Debbie Button  
 Vice President: Kevin Hoskins  
 Treasurer: Gary Guyitt

### **DISTRICT & DIVISION OFFICERS:**

Governor: Janet Atkinson  
 Governor Elect: Peter Tudisco  
 Immediate Past Governor: Paul Toussaint  
 Division 4 Lt. Governor: Jim Scott  
 Division 4 Past Lt. Governor: Jim Garey