



# Kiwanis

Eastern Canada & Caribbean District  
District de l'est du Canada et des Caraïbes

# Newsletter

March 2019

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# Governor's Message

## Melford "Mel" Clarke



We are nearing the end of our second quarter. Thanks to all Kiwanians for staying focused on accomplishing the goals of the District. We are progressing steadily and consistently in accomplishing our goals.

Congratulations to all clubs that won their Lieutenant Governor's Ribbon for the first quarter ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018. The District Governor's first Quarter Certificate was awarded to the Kiwanis Club of Central Abaco within Division 22. Congratulations Central Abaco Club!

The Signature Project winners were announced by the Impact committee under the leadership of DLGE Christine King. Congratulations to District winner The Kiwanis Club of Forest of Division 3. I extend congratulations also to Kiwanis Club of Nassau AM and Kiwanis Club of Orillia which placed second and third respectively. The winner moves on to Kiwanis International signature project contest which will be judged at the International contest in Orlando Florida.

I invite all Clubs to exercise their rights and privileges by sending three delegates to our District convention in Stratford, Ontario. There are important decisions to be made by our delegates. One such delegate is the ratification of Gary Levine as a candidate for Vice President of Kiwanis International. Currently registration is at 423 Kiwanians and guests. Further to the EC&C DCON, you are urged to attend the Kiwanis International convention in Orlando. Be there to witness our signature project being announced the winner (it is possible!!). Come, celebrate with the District when we are awarded the Kiwanis Distinguished District Award together with Governor Robert Moo Young. Just as important, come to Orlando and help elect Gary Levine as Vice President of Kiwanis International. Every vote counts. Be there to cast your club's vote for our man, Gary.

My Governor's visit to Divisions 2, 27 and 27C were all successful. We accomplished much during those visits. The Lakeshore and Sault Ste Marie Clubs were visited. While in Division 2, we attended Sault Ste. Maire's signature project of selling pancakes. While in Division 27, the highlight was the realignment of the Division into two Divisions 27 and 27A. The Division is unique as it is made up of many island nations with English and French speaking Kiwanians. The latest visit was in Division 27C which is made up of Guadeloupe (French Speaking country). We attended a charter ceremony of Kiwanis club of Nord Basse-Terre, DCM with the nine clubs and various club projects. My next visit will be to Division 24 on the March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Finally, our District has an overall membership of 7039 members which is 180 above our September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 totals. This figure surpasses our 2013-14 total of 7016 members. One of my goals is to encourage clubs to adopt the policy of deleting or adding members immediately after the Club's Board approval and not waiting until the end of the year. The process will give a true monthly figure on the growth pattern of clubs.

Fellow Kiwanians let us stay focused on the purpose for which we join the organization. Providing service to the children and less fortunate people. We must continue to be inspired to commit, serve and grow.

Melford Clarke  
District Governor

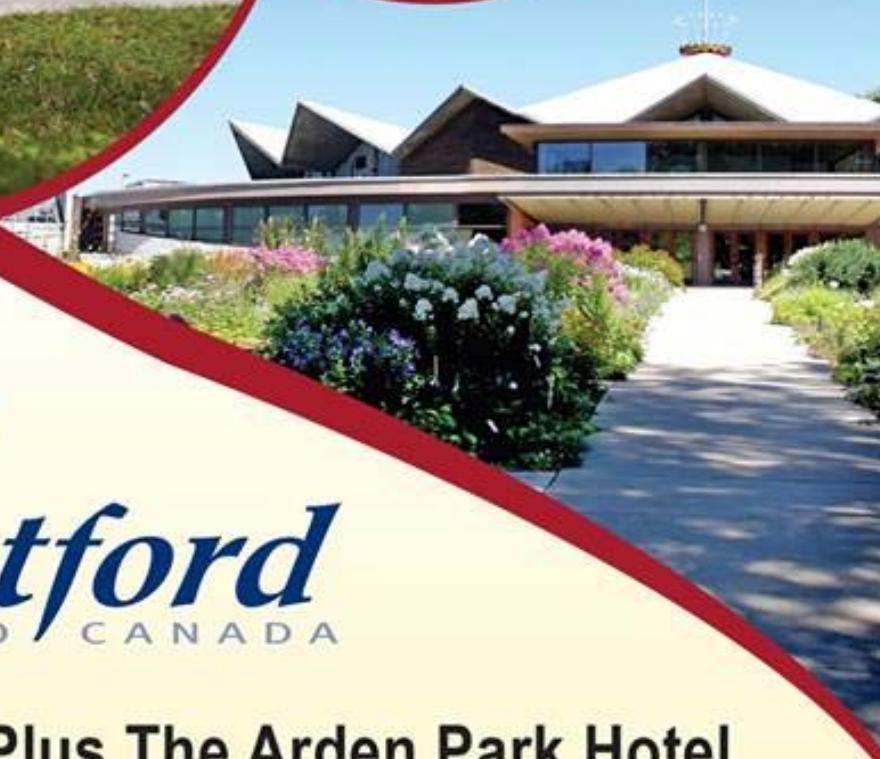
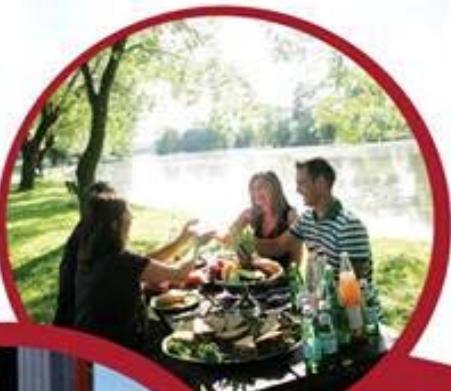
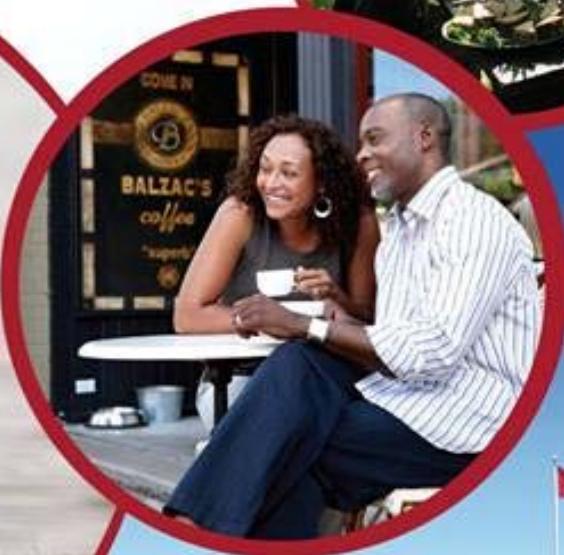
#InspiretoCommitServeGrow.





# Kiwanis

EASTERN CANADA & THE CARIBBEAN  
DISTRICT CONVENTION



**Best Western Plus The Arden Park Hotel**  
**May 16-18, 2019**

**Stay with us • Play with us • Meet with us**

## Editor's Note

I remember some years ago, my god daughter wanting a house with a yard to run around and play. To facilitate this request her mother sold the townhouse and bought a house with a beautiful yard space, but by then technology and the internet had taken root and you could not get her out of her room or away from the computer.



In my days we had to walk miles to and from school, we had big play fields at school and every opportunity was spent playfully and physically, hence we were fitter and more sociable. It is said that play is an essential activity of early childhood as it contributes to the cognitive, social and emotional development of children.

It is for this reason, I laud Kiwanis International's effort in teaming up with Kiwanis partner Landscape Structures to give one Kiwanis club US\$25,000 of playground equipment. The Legacy of Play Contest celebrates our shared beliefs that investing in communities through legacy signature projects is important to the success of a Kiwanis club. Plus, Landscape Structures' emphasis on inclusive play is also important to Kiwanis because it highlights our goal to bring play to all children.

Each Kiwanis club has an opportunity to assist our children in helping to develop their imagination, self-confidence and sociability skills. See link below of how you can win (US\$25,000 for play equipment. Let's do it!

[Read the official contest rules.](#)

**Entry period:** April 12, 2019 through 11:59:59 p.m. EDT on May 10, 2019

**Voting period:** 12:00 p.m. EDT on May 15, 2019 through 11:59:59 a.m. EDT on May 29, 2019

**Winner announced:** On or around June 7, 2019

<https://www.kiwanis.org/clubs/member-resources/events/legacy-of-play>

## Win US\$25,000 in playground equipment!

### Legacy of Play Contest



## DID YOU KNOW?

Kiwanis International offers different types of clubs to meet the needs of a diverse world. These club types were created to attract potential members who share common lifestyles — and to offer service opportunities to more people.

### CLASSIC KIWANIS CLUBS

The traditional club found in most communities today, the "classic" type fits many communities and can be adapted to diverse groups, corporations or specific professional societies.

### INTERNET-BASED CLUBS

Offering flexibility for those who travel often or cannot attend traditional meetings, Internet-based clubs operate in much the same way as classic clubs. However, meetings are generally held in chat rooms, and officers use technology extensively to keep members informed and connected.

### YOUNG PROFESSIONALS CLUBS

These clubs meet the needs of younger members with busy lifestyles, generally offering more flexible meeting schedules and hands-on service projects. In addition, young professionals clubs conduct social activities for members and families, and they use technology in club operations and administration.

### 3-2-1 CLUB

Inspired by feedback from current and past members, this club type reflects a desire to meet less and do more. A 3-2-1 club represents three hours of service, two hours of social activity, and a one hour meeting each month.

To learn more visit: <https://www.kiwanis.org/clubs/membership/types-of-kiwanis-clubs>



The Board of Trustees & the Executive team of  
Kiwanis' Eastern Canada and Caribbean District,  
would like to congratulate  
The Kiwanis Club of Brantford  
and its members on  
**one hundred years**  
of dedicated service.



2018 2019 Governor Melford Clarke



## Governor's Quarterly Award

THIS FIRST QUARTER AWARD IS PROUDLY PRESENTED TO  
**THE KIWANIS CLUB OF**

*Central Abaco*

Sunshine Division 22

For

Achieving the 'Most Outstanding Club' status based on the criteria for the 1st quarter of the 2018-2019 administrative year in the Eastern Canada and Caribbean District of Kiwanis International.



**Inspire**  
To Commit, Serve, Grow

*Mel Clarke*  
MELFORD CLARKE  
DISTRICT GOVERNOR (2018-2019)

# Bed Race



**O**n the morning of February 16th, persons gathered at the intersection of York and Dalhousie in Ottawa for the 39th annual Bed Race. This friendly competition is one of the highlights of the Winterlude celebrations. Every year, teams from different organizations come together, decorate a bed, then race them. Leading up to the race are weeks of fundraising. This year the funds went towards the Queensway Carleton Hospital Foundation, the Direct Assist Committee from Kiwanis, and other Kiwanis Club of Ottawa's projects. Bed Race 2019 was a KEY Club/Kiwanis Club of Ottawa Joint Initiative.

Bed Race touches the community in more ways than one. According to Jamie Johnson, a long time member of the Kiwanis Club of Ottawa Bed Race committee and past chair, there are three main goals for this event. The first is fundraising. The fundraising target this year was \$35,000. The participants were very successful. During his interview, Jamie Johnson said the amount of money raised this year was around \$44,000. That makes a total of \$600,000 dollars that have been donated over the years.

The second goal was to create a certain awareness for Kiwanis and Key Clubs. On the day of the race, a crowd filled the sidewalk around the race area. These people witnessed the care Kiwanis has for their projects. The amount of work that was put into making this event happen and the enthusiasm that came from each of the racers was a testament to Kiwanis and their dedication to community.

service. Though it is easy to look at this event as a Winterlude celebration and nothing more, people never lost sight of the deeper meaning behind Bed Race, one of care and community. Bed race inspires people to give back to those in need.

The Kiwanis Club of Ottawa helped 7 key clubs participate in this event and it gave them an opportunity to better understand Kiwanis. Mansi Sethi, a co-president of the Sir Robert Borden High School Key Club, said, "What interested me about Bed Race more than any other event was to meet Kiwanians and see more of Kiwanis."

The third goal for this event was to have fun and strengthen the sense of community within Kiwanis and its sister clubs. "It's fellowship amongst the Kiwanians and it was nice to have Key Clubbers out to share that with," said Jamie Johnson. Kiwanis and Key Club are dedicated to the community. Therefore, strengthening the sense of community within the club makes its impact stronger.

Over a period of five years, the number of Kiwanis related Bed Race teams has gone from 1 to 7 teams. "It has done a huge amount for making Kiwanians aware of who Key Clubbers are," said Ross Christensen, Kiwanis advisor for Canterbury Key Club. "This is helping communicate, 'This is the young people we've been spending time and resources on.' It's improved the awareness within the club."





## Bed Race cont'd

Fellow Kiwanian,

Now that the deep freeze of the polar vortex is hopefully behind us, I wanted to write you with an answer to the question I keep being asked by Kiwanians.

"Gary, will you be running for Kiwanis International Vice President in Orlando?"



Our Eastern Canada and Caribbean Board of Trustees recently unanimously endorsed my running, again, after a three vote loss in Las Vegas.

However, it will not be "official" until our District convention endorses my candidacy at our May convention in Stratford. That is why I am not currently listed on the KI website.

In the meantime, I continue to volunteer my time helping Kiwanians open new clubs on behalf of the greatest service club in the world today. Kids need Kiwanis and Kiwanis needs Kiwanians.

Please register to attend our KI convention in Orlando ([Register Today](#)).

It will not be a Mickey Mouse affair!

Regards,

Gary Levine  
Past Kiwanis International Trustee  
Past Governor, Eastern Canada and the Caribbean District

Kiwanis went above and beyond this year in the support they gave to Key Clubs for Bed Race. As with every year before, they encouraged Key Clubs to take part in this event. However, they took it a step further this year. Steve Georgopoulos, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Ottawa, put together a list of businesses who could potentially sponsor the Key Clubs. The businesses on the list were, Athens Rugs, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP, CIBC, Emond Harnden LLP, Hendry Warren LLP, Hulse, Playfair & McGarry Funeral and Cremation Services, Roderick Lahey Architect Inc. The money from the sponsors helped Key Club teams attend Bed Race. Steve Georgopoulos then guided the Key Clubbers in reaching out to these businesses and establishing a connection with them. Key Clubs then set up a meeting where the Key Clubbers could make a pitch about why these businesses should sponsor them.

This is a process most of the Key Club students had never experienced before. Ross Christensen said, "We think it [Bed Race] is beneficial because communication about what you want to do and how you're going to do it, when you're going to do it, are all very important. Each time you have a chance to advocate you'll improve through it, that's what this is providing."

For most of the students, this was an unique opportunity to develop their professional and leadership skills. "I was nervous about it [the pitch]," Mansi Sethi said. "I hadn't really done a presentation in a formal environment... Now I know what to expect if I go into an interview. It gives me some experience."

Hearing the laughter and celebrations at the Bed Race after party, it is fair to say that this event successfully reached all its goals. It left the racers with a sense of accomplishment. These new connections between Kiwanis and Key Club helped to inspire the youth. Mansi Sethi described this event as one that evokes hope. She said, "Seeing what Kiwanis can do, making bonds, helping people out. Thinking you can dedicate your life to that. It's pretty cool."



# Special Feature



## Marie-Luise Francis Kiwanis Unsung Heroine

butter, salads, buns, pics crackers etc. to be available for the event. This takes an enormous amount of time, effort and co-ordination during the days leading up to the event and on the day itself.

One of Kiwanis' Service Leadership Programs is Aktion Club. This club, which numbers about 80 developmentally delayed persons in Ottawa, meets each week at a local Royal Canadian Legion Hall. Various Kiwanis clubs, and others, take turns on a rotating basis helping out with serving the members a hot meal and organizing an activity for the evening's entertainment. Marie was instrumental in setting up this club in Ottawa and championed Aktion Club in excess of ten years. Over the years she has been involved with all aspects including serving, arranging for the entertainment and prizes plus ensuring our club has volunteers for the evenings where we are on duty.

Marie has also been instrumental in securing our club's support for the Ottawa Valley Ambassadors, a hockey team comprised of handicapped players. Over the years Marie has also made time in her busy schedule to help in a number of Kiwanis projects and events such as Santa Souper Singers where she lends her singing talent to this annual Christmas fundraiser, Fashion FunRaiser, another of our signature projects, Trivia Night and "In From the Cold" serving hot meals to over 125 underprivileged persons.

With a can do attitude, Marie-Luise has consistently demonstrated the spirit of Kiwanis by going beyond and above the call to duty in her over 20 plus years of service to our club. We are pleased to present Marie-Luise Francis as our club's unsung heroine.

Kiwanis clubs are made up of members who want to make a difference, give back to the community or simply help to make this world a better place, one child and one community at a time. Although clubs are populated with these types of people, there are always a few members who go far and above in their desire to help others. One such member in the Kiwanis Club of Ottawa West is Marie-Luise Francis.

Marie graduated from the University of Toronto on June 3, 1967 and promptly married her sweetheart, Paul Francis on June 10<sup>th</sup>. She was called to the Bar in 1988 and has been practicing law for 30 years. She is the mother of three.

Marie joined the Kiwanis Club of Ottawa West on April 2, 1997 where she immediately dove into the workings of the club, getting involved in a number of committees, eventually leading her to serve as President for the Kiwanis Year 2011 – 2012.

Lobsterfest, an annual event, is our club's largest fundraiser bringing in \$10 - \$15,000 annually. Each year in May our club hosts 500 or so guests to a lobster dinner with all the trimmings including bibs, pics, and crackers to assist with eating. For nearly 8 years Marie took on the task of arranging for all the accompanying food and table items such as

# A NEW KIWANIS CLUB IN GUADELOUPE: THE CLUB NORD BASSE-TERRE

**A**t the Salle Récept + in Lamentin, the Charter Ceremony of the Kiwanis North Basse-Terre club was held in February 2019 before a large assembly of personalities - Kiwanians, relatives and friends. The banner of the Kiwanis North Basse-Terre club was presented to the president, Jean-Paul Triviaux Frénet.

The 18 new members of the club received their Kiwanis badge and pledge to commit themselves to serving the children and the people in difficulty of the World and specifically of Guadeloupe.

The ceremony was held under the auspices of Governor of Eastern District Canada and Caribbean Melford Clarke of Bahamas visiting Guadeloupe and Lieutenant Governor Georges-Henri Guiougou of Division 27C. Four (4) new members were also inducted during the evening.

The ceremony ended with an auction of paintings by Liliane Jabot, one of the inductees. This new club was formed on August 21, 2018, by Lieutenant-Governor 2017/2018, Eliane André-Lubin and covers the cities of Sainte-Rose, Lamentin and Deshaies.

The funds raised during the ceremony is expected to reward the winners of the spelling championship set up in partnership with the riding of Sainte-Rose.



## WANTED

### Public Relations Coordinator Wanted for Three (3) year appointment

This is a volunteer position with the Eastern Canada District of Kiwanis International

#### Kiwanis District PR Coordinator

In alignment with Kiwanis' strategic plan, and as Kiwanis International seeks to raise public awareness about its service to children, broaden its name recognition and provide information about leadership opportunities for youth, it has become important to add the role of District Public Relations Coordinator to the district level leadership roles.

The District Public Relations Coordinator directly impacts the "Image" priority area in Kiwanis International's I-Plan. The goal of that priority area is "to enhance the Kiwanis image worldwide," and strategies include:

- Increase name recognition worldwide
- Increase knowledge of our mission, both internally and externally
- Unify all Kiwanis brands
- Promote the Kiwanis vision and vivid description as supported by The Objects of Kiwanis
- Promote signature projects

If this is of interest, please contact the District Office for full description. [district@kiwanisecc.org](mailto:district@kiwanisecc.org)

# The Building Blocks of Leadership



Under the theme “The Building Blocks of Leadership... Equipping the Present, Shaping the Future” and led by Veviene McDonald-Calder, its Education Chairman, Division 25 (Cornwall) conducted its leadership retreat geared at empowering and motivating leaders in the division.

A total of 45 presidents, president elects, vice presidents aspiring presidents, administrators of the division and presenters from all fifteen (15) clubs of Division 25 (Cornwall) converged at The Tryall Club in support of this empowerment exercise.

Presenters who were drawn from a plethora of knowledgeable and resourceful professionals in the west and the east of the Island, had the participants engaged in the different sessions geared at improving their outlook of management and leadership.

Presentations were made on the following topics, Public Speaking and Effective Communication - Joy Clarke, CEO of Enjoy the Journey; “Leadership and Succession Plan-

ning – Distinguished Lieutenant Governor Lisa Blake-Golding; “Balancing Volunteerism and the Work Life” Distinguished Lieutenant Governor of Excellence Leighton McKnight and “Beyond the Club Presidency” – Immediate Past Lieutenant Governor Sharon Williams.

The Evaluation of the day's activities revealed that the leaders were inspired and ready to apply all the tools they were given to

lead effectively in their present roles and beyond. Each participant received a Certificate of Participation which was a credit to some persons in their respective careers.

The event was made possible through partnership and endorsement of British Caribbean Insurance Company and The Tryall Club.





In keeping with one of Kiwanis International's mandate and advocacy to provide green areas for our children to play, Division 25 (Cornwall) completed its first partnered with Early Childhood Commission (ECC) to construct playgrounds in the Division. The Playground Effect is a joint project between Division 25, Key Club Jamaica - Division 5 and Kiwanis Club of New Falmouth will benefit 6 schools in St. James, St. Elizabeth, Hanover, Trelawny and Westmoreland.



A playful Governor Mel (centre) tests out the swing with the children. Lieutenant Governor Glenda and the principal look on.

From left, Ainsworth Palmer, president Kiwanis Club of Montego Bay, Roma Rajwanj of Key Club, Governor Melford Clarke, Maureen Thompson, school supervisor, Lieutenant Governor Glenda Miller, principal of Hague Primary and Infant Damien Elvin, Delroy Williams of Ministry of Education and Veneisha Morgridge of Ministry of Education participate in the presentation to the Hague Primary and Infant School; the *first* of 6 play grounds being constructed under the Playground Effect project.



It is see saw time - Governor Mel and a student from the Hague Primary and Infant School. Lieutenant Governor Glenda Looks on.



# Kiwanis Club of Orillia's Annual Mammoth Auction

**Signature Project 3rd Place Winner**

The Kiwanis Mammoth Auction is an annual fundraising event that brings together business people, artists, volunteers, restaurant owners, outdoors people, school kids, teenagers, and hundreds of people hungry for a good deal.

Over the past three years alone, the Auction has raised over \$250,000 which has funded the Kiwanis Club's annual programs - the Kiwanis Music Festival (now in its 61<sup>st</sup> year!), a spring T-ball league, the Terrific Kids program, the Back to School Program, and educational programs like the Kiwanis Children's Safety Village, the Fire Safety Trailer—to name just a few. In addition, Kiwanis support has gone to our neonatal ward in our local hospital, to our Big Brothers Big Sisters organization, and a long list of other organizations that serve children and youth in our community.

The degree of members participation for this signature project is astounding. An Auction Committee of 12-15 persons starts preparing for the November auction in early spring. By late August or early September, all club members receive forms listing donations received from their efforts in previous auction years. Formed into four teams, each of which has a team Captain, the members go out into the community to call upon the owners of local restaurants, a variety of stores, construction companies, building suppliers (a total of 600 businesses in 2018), that make donations, large and small (850 in total this past year), to the Auction.

The local politicians - MP, MPP, and members of the City Council - are all involved. Orillia's best-known son, singer Gordon Lightfoot, has donated a signed guitar for each of the last two auctions. (*Incidentally,*



as a young boy, he also participated in the Kiwanis Music Festival here in Orillia - not the only world-class performer to get his start courtesy of a Kiwanis club, we're sure.)

By October, storage space in a club member's place of business is filling up with everything from gift baskets to golf bags, from paintings to planters, from hockey sweaters to home decorations. In the meantime, one of our members is tabulating the hundreds of gift certificates donated by restaurants, fast food outlets and individual donors.

The Kiwanis Club's website features the Auction and some of its items, Facebook site is showing off many of the large items that will be up for bids, Twitter feed is going out daily telling people what they will find at



Cont'd

## Mammoth Auction cont'd

the Auction and posters are placed in the downtown businesses. Advertisements are also placed in the local media and on the Sunday before the Auction itself, 400 road signs are erected throughout the entire city and on rural roads and highways.

On Saturday, November 3, 2018, club members are in place by 7:30 a.m. at the Roller Rink at the local Orillia Fairgrounds, the only building large enough to host the auction. Over 450 bidders registered that day (up from 350 in 2016) and chairs in front of the auction stage filled as the live auction got underway. Before the day ended, over 600 people had passed through the gates of the building.

When the auction ended receipts for the day totaled \$137,000. The auction has a huge impact on the Orillia community as the proceeds serve thousands of children within the community. It attracts people from other cities, who travel distances to attend the event each fall. By funding the majority of the Orillia Club's projects and programs, proceeds from the auction serve literally thousands of children within the Orillia area.

The auction which attracts people from other cities, who travel distances to attend the event each fall, not only enables the club's programmes and projects, but also strengthens the membership, with virtually all of its members and their families participating actively in the two-day activities as well as representation from the local 4-H Club, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Champlain Seniors, and Georgian College and Lakehead University students.

Each year, a reporter from the Orillia media attends the auction to advertise the success of the day. Two Orillia radio stations provide on-air advertising along with on-site broadcasting on Auction Day itself.

The excitement of the Auction is a large part of what draws potential members to our club, as they can see and feel the positive energy and cohesiveness of an incredible group of people doing great things. Once they receive more knowledge of the impressive work being done by the Kiwanis Club of Orillia, they want to get involved and help make a difference. Each year, we have gained new members through the auction.



To sum up, the Orillia Kiwanis Club's Annual Auction is a project which demonstrates the synergy that is created when a community, its businesses, and its Kiwanis Club come together. The total effect of this one-day auction is far greater than the sum of its individual parts - and the beneficiaries of that synergy are the children and the young people of our community.

# Law enforcement officers honoured with Kiwanis' Morris Kaplan awards



The Kiwanis Club of Hendersonville recognized five law enforcement personnel from five county agencies Thursday, awarding them the Morris Kaplan Caring and Sharing Award. From left are Trooper William Hemphill of the N.C. Highway Patrol, Officer Jennifer Drake of the Hendersonville Police Department, Evidence Custodian Nicholas Zecher of the Henderson County Sheriff's Office, Officer John Pace of the Laurel Park Police Department and Officer Zachary Ritter of the Fletcher Police Department.

Five members of local law enforcement were recognized for their service to the community Thursday during the Kiwanis Club of Hendersonville's 2019 Morris Kaplan Caring & Sharing award ceremony.

Club members and law enforcement personnel gathered at The Chariot on North Church Street for the ceremony, which began in 1996 to recognize an individual from each Henderson County law enforcement agency and the N.C. Highway Patrol. Recipients were chosen by peers from their respective departments.

Program emcee Doug Dunlap presented awards to the five officers and thanked each of them for their service. "It's not just a nine-to-five job, the ongoing training and personal commitment by all involved, including family members who support and encourage your efforts," Dunlap said. "As we present today's awards, we hope you will display it somewhere prominent, and let it serve as a reminder every day of your accomplishment and recognition."

## **Patrol Officer Zachary Ritter, Fletcher Police Department**

Ritter has served nearly five years with the Fletcher Police Department and has volunteered for the past 12 years at Etowah-Horse Shoe Fire and Rescue.

Capt. Jose Gutierrez said Ritter has done an excellent job for the department. He was selected by the short-handed department due to his willingness to work long shifts, sometimes on short notice.

"He's an asset to the department," said Gutierrez. "Not only is he an asset to our community in Fletcher, but also in Etowah."

## **K-9 Officer Jennifer Drake, Hendersonville Police Department**

Drake is the top dog for the k-9 program at the Hendersonville Police Department, where she has served for the

## Law enforcement officers honoured cont'd

last 14-plus years. She also has two daughters who work for the Henderson County Sheriff's Office and Laurel Park Police Department.

Chief Herbert Blake said Drake is committed, disciplined and represents the city in a professional way. When thinking of an award like this, Blake said it's easy to come up with a name like Drake's.

"Jennifer is the same compassionate, dedicated, committed person that she was when I got here 11 years ago," said Blake. "She has a profile and compassion for K-9s, that's been passed on to her kids."

### **Patrol Officer John Pace, Laurel Park Police Department**

A retired member of the N.C. Alcohol Law Enforcement branch, Pace joined Laurel Park two years ago and has amassed 1,000 hours of training in his career.

Chief Bobbie Trotter said while many people may not know what ALE does, Pace assisted with major operations in Henderson County during his career to enforce alcohol, tobacco, gambling, lottery and drug laws.

Trotter said Pace has been a strong addition to Laurel Park because of his big heart, wisdom and mentoring of younger officers.

"In leadership, it's great to know you can rely on your staff, but it's a blessing to have someone like John beside you," said Trotter. "He's done a lot for me, he's made me a better person and a better leader."

### **Evidence Custodian Nicholas Zecher, Sheriff's Office**

Zecher has served more than 13 years with the Sheriff's Office, starting as a telecommunicator before stepping out of his comfort zone to become an evidence custodian. He has also volunteered with Mountain Home Fire and Rescue for more than 20 years.

Sheriff Lowell Griffin said Zecher has the mentality to manage, log and organize more than 12,000 pieces of inventory. Evidence inventory, Griffin said, is one of the highest liability areas of any law enforcement agency. Zecher recently received a compliment from District Attorney Greg Newman's office about the condition of the evidence room, which allows little to no argument from defense attorneys.

Zecher also oversees the Sheriff's Office pill collection events and in the planning stage to teach the entire department on best practices for evidence handling.

"Nick seems never to have a bad day," Griffin said. "His demeanor is something that should be admired. And if everyone in this world was like Nick, it would be a much better place to be. He is the type of person that lifts everyone's spirits up when he is in contact with them, whether it's on the phone or in person."

### **Trooper William Hemphill, Highway Patrol**

Hemphill has been a fixture in the community, serving 27 years with the Highway Patrol.

In 2016, Hemphill responded to a collision involving a boy who riding a bicycle without a helmet. Hemphill purchased 40 helmets with his own money and delivered them to students in need at each elementary school in Transylvania County.

Now his superior, Sgt. Brent Hipp remembered as a high school senior dreaming to become a trooper. Hipp approached Hemphill and during breakfast at McDonald's, the trooper gave the student encouraging words to pursue that dream.

"Whenever I stepped into the Highway Patrol Academy, one of the things plastered all across the walls are loyalty, integrity and professionalism," said Hipp. "When I read those signs the first things that came to my mind is Trooper William Hemphill. If any of you have been around him, his personality, he's charismatic and he cares. He truly cares about his community."

"When someone throws a rock into pond and you see the ripple effect," Hipp added. "William Hemphill is that. His lasting effect on the Highway Patrol and his community is continuing to carry on."

In turn, Hemphill and the Highway Patrol presented a plaque to Dunlap and Kiwanis, thanking the club for their many years of honouring Highway Patrol troopers.

**By Andrew Mundhenk  
Times-News Staff Writer**



# WHERE FAMILY MEETS FELLOWSHIP.

Register today for the 2019 Kiwanis International convention at *Walt Disney World® Resort* in Florida. And bring your loved ones! It's the perfect place to add family to a tradition of fun and fellowship.

Learn more at [kiwanis.org/convention](http://kiwanis.org/convention).

Kiwanis<sup>2019</sup>  
convention  
Walt Disney World® Resort, Florida

JUNE 27-30