

**Kiwanis Club of Orillia
Club Update
October 4, 2019**

Last Few Meetings:

With Theo's undergoing renovations, we've held working meetings focusing on the auction in the Sam Brown room at Kelsey's these past couple of weeks. These have been well attended and very productive – great idea Korine. The cards are really rolling in now but let's not take our foot off the gas!!!! How about wrapping the cards up before Thanksgiving (next weekend). Then we can see where we're at and see if we've missed anything. Anyhow, as you all know the big day is Saturday November 2nd with set up and the Red-Carpet dinner on Friday November 1st. Oh, and by the way, we have reserved Bogey's, at the Couchiching G.&C.C. for our after-auction celebration (like we ever party after the auction). See you all there.

President's Night:

Last Thursday September 26th, Past Pres Peter Head carried out his last official duty as an officer of this club. Decked out in a very stylish sport coat and skinny jeans he presided over President's Night. The event took place at Hawk Ridge G.&C.C. and was very well attended as we celebrated the fantastic year of outgoing President Fred Larsen. Pete recounted the many things the club accomplished this past year and, as always, they are too numerous to list here. Speeches were made, the hardware was handed out and we were all back home in time to catch the

second half of the Packer's game (who freakin' lost). Here are just some of the highlights:

The George McVeigh Spirit Award:

The charming and effervescent Steph Hunter was this year's recipient. Her never ending enthusiasm and willingness to pitch in with whatever is going on has made her a natural choice for this award - way to go Steph!!!

The Skid Watson Award:

Dave North (me) was this year's Skid Watson Award recipient. I was not prepared receive this, so I didn't have a speech of any sort prepared (like Mike Whitwell always does). Because of the amount of respect I have for this club, it's history, it's members and the individual for whom this award is named, I am beyond honored. Big shout out to Mike Bunn (and John David Waite) for convincing me to join Kiwanis. It is one of the best things I've ever done in my life – thank you.

The “Special K” Award:

This is an annual club tradition that dates back many years. It is awarded to the member or members who have committed the biggest faux pas of the past year. When you look at the names inscribed on the trophy it reads like a veritable who's who of ineptitude and buffoonery. I think it's safe to say we've taken this to a new level this year.

Some very worthy runners up include Fred Larsen, who, thinking there nothing on the calendar, threw a get together for the board. It was actually

Lois's birthday. Then there's the dumpster diving, large hairless rodent himself, Lawrence LaFrance. I've been around for sixteen years and you simply cannot talk about the Special K award without Lawrence being part of the conversation.

This year, the award was made based on events that occurred very late in our Kiwanis year at the Orillia Fall Fair. Through P.P. Pete and Stevie Ray VK, Kiwanis has struck a great partnership with the folks at the Fairgrounds. We help out at the gates selling admission tickets and, in return we get the roller rink for free to hold our auction. Kiwanis members sign up for two-hour shifts and we cover off the whole Fair – works out great for both organizations.

The first shift on Sunday (8:00 – 10:00 a.m.) were to be covered off by Bruce Waite and Charles Kelly at gate 1 and Jerry and Marion Wink at gate 4. Jen Man and I were to relieve Bruce and Charles at gate 1 at 10:00. I will mention here, that the entrance to gate 1 is on Fairgrounds Rd. however the admission booth is back some distance and off to the right – out of sight of the gate itself. Jen and I land in at 9:45 to find gate 1 locked up with a chain and padlock. Thinking maybe traffic was slow thus they closed the gate, we proceeded to gate 4. There we found Jerry and Marion taking in a very steady stream of fairgoers. Luckily, they weren't overwhelmed, but they were busy. I mentioned to Jerry that gate 1 was locked and his response was, "Then what the hell have Bruce and Charles been doing all morning?"

The Breckles' arrived to relieve the Wink's so Jen and I ventured back to gate 1 and it was finally opened. We arrived at the admissions booth to find a very relaxed Bruce and Charles who were taking in the morning sunshine. I informed them that the gate's been closed all morning. Bruce, as only Bruce can, responded with this, "Well that would explain the low (no) sales this morning" With the gate locked, I'd like to know how you guys got back there in the first place!!!!

It goes without saying that there have been several motions put forth to rename the Special K the “Waite-Kelly Award”, complete with a new trophy. If we do, we need to leave room to etch the word “Memorial” on there. This one will stand for many decades to come – great work guys!!!!

Congratulations Fred on an outstanding year as our leader. As a past president myself, I would now like to invite Pete to take his well-deserved place and join us in the realm of knife and forking irrelevance.

Next Week:

You won't want to miss next week. We're back at Theo's for the induction of our new board, our new executive and our new president, Korine Keyzer. That's all for now, have a great weekend everyone.

Thought for the Day:

“Experience is simply the name we give to our mistakes.”
Oscar Wilde