

**Kiwanis Club of Orillia**  
**Weekly Meeting Monday January 13th, 2020**  
**Theo's Restaurant**

**Present:**

Korine Keyzer  
Heather Breckles  
Steph Worthington  
Maria McConnell  
Ben Cole  
Steph Hunter  
Fred Larsen  
Lawrence LaFrance

Mark Riczu  
John Parker  
Carol Ivey  
Paul Ross  
Mark Burns  
Jen Man  
Rob Town

Dave North  
Jim Wenger  
Matt Dixon  
Mike Bunn  
Charles Kelly  
John Mayo  
Bruce Waite

**Guests:**

Ken Walker – Costco

**Oh Canada:**

A little off-key today Gang. I think we were trying too hard.

**The Blessing:**

Pres Korine has been spot on with the blessings since seizing the gavel – nicely done again today Madam President!!!!

**Happy Loonies:**

Steph H's daughter Riley just celebrated her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Steph, you don't look old enough to have an 18-year old daughter!!! Congrats to you both!!!

Paul Ross recently attended a celebration of life where he was able to reconnect with some longtime friends.

Lawrence is happy about his ski lessons with his alpine buddies Rob Town and Dave North (me). You're skiing like an Olympian Lawrence!!!!

**Kiwanis Ski Day 2020:**

We've talked about it for years and now the ski boot is about to hit the binding!!!! Friday February 7<sup>th</sup> will be our 2020 ski day. Mount St. Louis will be the destination. For anyone who's never been to Louis, it is without question the best public hill in Ontario. The terrain is quite forgiving and is perfect for skiers of all abilities. Their highspeed lifts can disperse skiers quickly and efficiently. Their snowmaking is state of the art and conditions have been excellent for much of the winter.

The plan is to meet by the clocktower at the bottom of the Louis Express six-person high speed at 8:45 am. Anyone needing rentals should try to arrive around 8:00 am so that you can get suited and booted. I'll be upstairs having coffee so text me if you need any directions (705 330 6739). We'll be stopping for a break every hour on the hour and gather in the cafeteria on the Louis side to meet up with anyone who might land in later in the day. We'll break for lunch shortly before noon to beat the rush, then head back out around 1:00. Skiing will wrap up at around 3:00 and we'll all be meeting for a potluck après at our house at 4:00 – 1616 Opsrey Lane. We're going to finish off the leftover auction wine and beer. Good chance we might even have a wee dram of some fine single malt scotch compliments of Fred Larsen (he brought a bottle over before Christmas and I promised I would save it for Kiwanis only).

Anyone is welcome to join us for this event – spouses, kids, grandkids, guests etc. Invite any potential members as well. It will be a great intro to the club.

This is a great opportunity to test your downhill mettle along side alpine legends Rocket Rob Town and Limber Limbs LaFrance. Of course, anyone not wishing to ski is more than welcome at the après!!! I'll be sending around a separate email to get an idea of numbers. Okay, now I'm getting excited!!!!

## **Today's Guest Speaker:**

Ken Walker, manager from Costco Wholesale was our guest speaker today. Ken talked about his career with Costco which began in the Barrie store when it opened back in 1994. He has since worked at locations in Ajax, Ancaster, Kitchener, Guelph as well as in store in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

He touched on the history of Costco which began in the US in an airplane hanger owned by Howard Hughes. Costco now employs 55,000 employees worldwide and has over 100 stores in Canada alone.

A typical store would employ approx. 320 full and part time workers. They are known for providing good wages, benefits and pensions. Costco stores also tend to stimulate spin off businesses such as restaurants and other retailers. They also share their values with the greater community by donating any unsold food items to local food banks and shelters. Now that's awesome!!!

Thank you for joining us today Ken. I think we can all agree that Costco is a welcome addition and a game changer for our community.

## **Song of the Week:**

Some very sad news came out of the Canadian music world with the passing of Rush drummer Neil Peart earlier this month. Neil was not just good; he was considered by many to be the greatest rock drummer of all time. His drum kit consisted of snares, symbols, high hats, power toms, basses, triangles, chimes, cowbells etc., etc. and he played them like a lead instrument. Offstage, he and fellow bandmates Geddy Lee and Alex Lifeson carried themselves with class and a modest confidence that I would describe as very Canadian. I spent much of last weekend going

through all my old Rush favorites and I came to a bit of a revelation. I've been listening to and loving these guys since I was ten years old.

Narrowing down something to play to honor Neil Peart wasn't easy. To really highlight his incredible talent, I would need to play something like YYZ or Xanadu however these are rather lengthy instrumental for headphones only type stuff. Instead, I've decided on this from the 1979 album Permanent Waves. It was written at a farm in Flesherton Ontario and was the inspiration for one CFNY FM 102 – one of Toronto's coolest radio stations. Remembering you Neil.....

<https://youtu.be/F179XHVn8S8>

### **Next Week:**

We're all back at Theo's next week for the induction of new club members Paul Ross and Rick O'Neal. We will continue our member introductions with Maria McConnell and Charles Kelly. That's all for now, have great week everyone!!!

### **Thought for the Day:**

**“Cherish your friends”.**

**Kiwanis member Paul Ross**



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