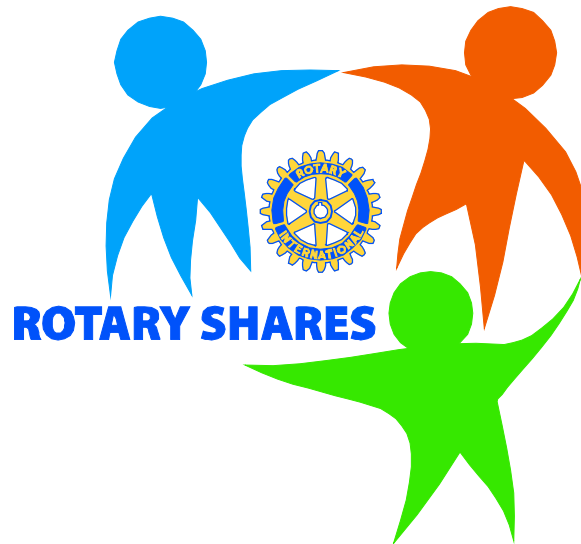


ROTARY CLUB OF KITCHENER GRAND RIVER



MISSION STATEMENT

We are community leaders who provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations & help build good will & peace in our community and internationally.

*Our focus is making a difference 'with Youth',
Fellowship and the good feeling of being part of a good cause.*

PRINCIPLES OF OPERATION

4 Way Test

Is it the truth?

Is it fair to all concerned?

Will it build good will & better friendships?

Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

MOTTO

“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”

ROTARY CLUB OF KITCHENER-GRAND RIVER BULLETIN

January 22, 2008

Offsite Meeting at Kidsability.

Today

January 29

February 5

Sgt. At Arms	January Resolutions
50/50 Draw	Leader: Tony Maruna
Greeter	Members: Deanna
Blessing	Brenneman, Tom
Introduction	Burns, Darryl
Thank-You	Dalke, Sharon
	McMorran, Dave
	Moser, Martin Ward

Elizabeth Witmer M.P.P.

Elizabeth Witmer shared some of her insights about the province, the provincial government and where we are going.



Elizabeth started her career as a secondary school teacher. Her first thoughts of jumping into politics came in her late teens. She decided at the age of 18 that she wanted to be a politician. She also thought she wanted to be the first woman to be Premier of the Province of Ontario (a goal she came very close to achieving). Elizabeth began her career as a school board trustee for the Waterloo Public school board where she held the role of chairperson for an unprecedented five years.

Elizabeth expressed her gratitude for the incredible support that she received in the recent provincial election.

Elizabeth addressed the upcoming Conservative leadership review and expressed some confidence that John Tory will get a majority of support in February. His next task will be to win a seat in the house. One of Elizabeth's colleagues is prepared to sacrifice his seat so that John can run and win in a by-election. Elizabeth stated that the support for funding religious schools was a dead issue for the party.

Elizabeth is currently serving as Opposition critic for Health and Long Term Care, deputy leader of the party and most recently has become the house leader. This new position of House Leader is one that she is enjoying a great deal. The role is to negotiate with the Liberals and NDP. Her role allows her to work with Michael Bryant and Peter Kormos. To date, the Liberals have been fair and honest and the NDP have been playing games. The objective with the PCs is to try to encourage the Liberals to focus on the economy. They are trying to encourage Premier McGuinty to focus on taking more action. Ontario's growth has fallen behind all of the other provinces. Since 2005, we have lost 153,000 manufacturing jobs in the province. The predictions are that Ontario will place 10th in economic growth again in 2008. Half of all job growth has been in the public sector. 15.2% growth in jobs in the public

sector compared to 3.2% in the private sector..



The budget proposals will move the provincial debt from the current 160 billion dollars to 163 billion by March '08. The new Family Day holiday will cost business approximately 2 billion dollars in lost production and overtime. The government quietly reduced the legislated number of teaching days by one just before the Christmas break. The costs for this new holiday will be incurred by the taxpayers and businesses not the government.

This year, most public sector contracts are up – public servants, teachers, nurses and doctors – there is a strong possibility of at least one strike.

Elizabeth entertained a number of questions that lead to some great discussion.

Attendance & 50/50

We had 34 members in attendance and 6 guests.

Big News

After 17 years, Jon Kinghan finally won the 50/50 draw!! Unfortunately, your bulletin editor was talking at the time and missed what he won!! Congratulations Jon.

Announcements

Did You Know? That our Rotary Club has a website which can be accessed at: www.rotary7080.org/kitchenergrandriver.

The first time you access the site, you will need to login with your FirstName.LastName and 123 as the password (change your password to something that you will remember).

Membership:

Jim McIntyre reminded us to “get our ask in gear” and invite friends, colleagues and relatives to join us at a Rotary meeting. Remember that we have a goal of adding 10 new members this year. Jim has again generously offered a \$1000 contribution to the Rotary Foundation (\$100 per new member).



Skate 48

Keep February 23 open on your calendar!! You will be asked to give a half day to this fun fund raising event. More details are coming soon! Do not plan other events for February 23 as this is our most important fund raiser of the year and all members are required to make it a success!

Rotary Foundation Contributions

When our club or club members donate to the Rotary Foundation in three years, that amount will be available to our club for matching grants for that amount as long as we match the amount that we access. That amount can in turn be matched by CCRID and CIDA

The Bulletin (& speaker ideas)

Please forward any information for publication to Kathi Smith at smithkathi@sympatico.ca

Coming Soon to Your Rotary Club:

- January 29 Fran Shannon, Mgr. of Community Outreach of Hopespring
- February 5 Meet at Beth Jacob Synagogue
- Feb 23 Skate 48
- Feb. 26 No meeting today
- May 4 Mudpuppy Chase
- May 6 No meeting today