



The Rotary Club of Wiarton
District 6330 Chartered 1938

Dinner Meetings
2nd and 4th Thursday, 6:00 PM
Royal Canadian Legion, Berford St.

May 25, 2023

The Gateway Gazette

This week was a special evening that was held at the Evergreen Resort at Red Bay.

Each year, the Rotary Club of Wiarton holds a Paul Harris Awards night when select members of the Community are recognized for the dedication for helping the local community be a better place for all of us.

This year, 6 people were recognized for their contributions to the community. Their recognitions are attached.

In addition, Wiarton Rotarian, Bill McKenzie was presented with the seventh Paul Harris pin that he has earned during his long term as a Rotarian.

Attendance: 48 Members and guests

June Birthdays:

12 Ron Balsdon
16 John Foris
26 Holly Hathaway
29 David Dean
29 Sheila Gatis

June Anniversaries:

20 Bill and Mary Lou McKenzie

Upcoming Meetings:

June 8 Sophia Hepburn and Katie
Levailois
(Outbound Rotary Exchange Students)

June 22 Change over meeting

Upcoming Events

May 29 – June 2 Wine Survivor draw

June 23-25 District Conference, Flint, Mi

Rotary Links:

[Wiarton Rotary](#)

[Wiarton Rotary Facebook](#)

[Rotary District 6330](#)

[Rotary International](#)

[Rotary Foundation](#)



(Mike Mason, Mike Richardson, Tim Plane and Bob Thompson)

**Paul Harris Awards
Mike Richardson & Tim Plane
May 25, 2023**

Volunteers are the “life blood” of communities. From helping to enhance the living experience of its members to supporting the basic needs of those less fortunate, volunteers make a community a better place for all. We are all well aware that many of the Club’s activities would not be possible without the dedication of the volunteers that support its initiatives; Village Fair & Maple Magic to name just two.

This evening, we are honouring two ***extraordinary volunteers; Mike Richardson & Tim Plane!*** Both of these Gentlemen are there when we need them, helping to make the event a success. Their availability, commitment & reliability are very much appreciated.

Kenneth Michael Richardson

Born at the OLD Wiarton Hospital, he has lived the majority of his life in the Wiarton area. Mike attended both the former Wiarton Public School & Wiarton High School. He remembers Rotarian Glenn Beacock being the principal during his time at WPS and he has many fond memories of attending the Club’s annual Village Fair throughout his childhood & young adulthood.

Allen Show Amusements were one of the original companies that the Club had partnered with for VF prior to the business transitioning to Magic Midways, our most recent amusements provider. The Allen’s were friends of Mike’s family and he worked some the rides during their ownership time.

Over the years, Mike has worked several of the Rotary VF booths/activities including:

Frog-in-the-Bog and the original Fish Pond. He recalls one of the giveaway prizes being Silly String that was dispensed from a can. It ended up covering a large area between the picnic shelter & where the more recent Crown & Anchor was located. Quite a mess, I'm sure!

For the ***past 10 years or so***, Mike has been involved in:

- Assisting with setup & teardown of Rotary's VF booths,
- Assisting in the Pie Booth & the Food Booth
- And ***most notably*** working at the Birthday Game alongside long-time Birthday Game Booth Captain Bob Thompson.

In addition, Mike has also volunteered for several years at **Maple Magic** as part of Nick Torra's transportation/parking team, helping to direct vehicles & visitors.

Timothy Plane

Tim grew up in Peterborough where he graduated from High School. He moved to Wiarton in 2004 where he met his wife, Francis, in 2005 & they married in 2006.

Tim's history includes was a member of the Army Cadets & the Air Cadets in Peterborough in the 1990s. He was also a member of the Peterborough Orange Lodge & the Peterborough Legion in the late 90s to early 2,000s.

Tim's Peterborough volunteer achievements include:

- Hospice Festival of Trees event,
- Lift Lock Action Club (President 5 years) sponsored by Peterborough Kiwanis,
- Peoples-First Advisory Group that provides support to individuals with disabilities.

In Wiarton, he started volunteering with the VF in 2004 and was active in Dunk Tank, Birthday Game, Corn Husking, Food Booth support, Garbage/Recycling both during & after VF hours. In addition, Tim is a member of the Wiarton & District Optimist Club as well as Wiarton Salvation Army.

Both Mike & Tim are truly Friends of Rotary and for that we are forever thankful!



(Pat Cavan, Nick Torra and Elaine Bell)

Elaine Bell Paul Harris Award

I have known Elaine Bell as a mother, a grandmother, a great grandmother, a work colleague and a volunteer colleague. And in all these roles, Elaine is exceptional.

When I first thought of nominating Elaine for this award I contacted one of her granddaughters to get a little more information. The very first thing Bree said was “I am so happy you are nominating her because she does do A LOT!” As you are about to hear, that is an understatement.

Elaine has volunteered with Bruce Peninsula Hospice for the past 18 years. During that time, she has sat on committees, assisted with fundraisers, and managed the Social Media pages for the organization. Far more importantly she has held countless hands as she has sat at the bedsides of people nearing the end of life. That job is not for everyone; but it is one that Elaine excels at. She considers it an honour to be able to share the end-of-life journey with others. That often includes many hours of listening as people share their thoughts and feelings. Her humour, her compassion, her empathy and her calmness all create a relaxed environment for the client and their loved ones. Elaine has also been a Client Care Coordinator ensuring that all who are wishing the services of hospice are matched with an appropriate volunteer. Combined those tasks have taken many hours, every week for 18 years.

One of Elaine’s greatest qualities, and one that I have witnessed time and again, is her strength of character and her determination to ensure that all people are treated with respect, and that they receive the support that they may require. I have witnessed Elaine speak up and say what needs to be said to ensure that others get what they need. Interestingly, I have never heard Elaine speak up when she needs something.....only if it benefits others.

Nick....will speak about Elaine as a Rotary volunteer....she walked Shore to Shore in 2021 and was a water station volunteer in 2022.....and, of course, bingo....and participating in Wine Survivor....

Now I know you are thinkingthis woman could not possibly do any more volunteer work. Well....as her granddaughter said...Elaine has done a LOT.

In addition to the hours that she has volunteered with hospice each week for 18 years AND the 13 years that she has been a Rotary volunteer, Elaine has volunteered at the Breakfast Club at our local school, PSDS. She has volunteered as a road marshal at the local Canadian Mental Health Ride Don’t Hide fundraiser AND she has assisted during the summer months

with the Salvation Army's Grub Hub ensuring that children have access to a good lunch and some fun activities during the summer months.

In 2017, Elaine Bell was recognized as an Outstanding Volunteer by the Town of South Bruce Peninsula. Tonight, The Rotary Club of Wiarton is very proud to recognize Elaine with the highest award that we have to offer. In appreciation of the tangible and significant assistance that Elaine has given to others, I am extremely honoured to recognize her as a Paul Harris Fellow.



(George Gordon, Ed Laksmanis and John Foris)

Rev Ed Laksmanis

Warton Rotary club would like to present Rev Ed Laksmanis of Oliphant with a Paul Harris Fellowship from the Rotary Club of Warton.

Ed, who has recently retired, has been the Minister at St John's United in Warton, since February of 1999. During that time, he also was the Minister at Clavering United Church and later at Shallow Lake.

Ed was instrumental in the founding of the Peninsula United Church Cluster so that local United Churches could work together and share resources.

Ed has been on the Board of our local Community Living group here in the Warton area for a number of years.

He and his wife Linda have volunteered at the food booth at our Village Fair for a number of Years.

Ed has been a Chaplin at The Warton and Owen Sound Hospitals for many years giving comfort to the patients.

A lover of our local environment Ed loves to walk, hike, sail and bike around our area.

It gives me pleasure along with Rotarian John Foris to present Rev Ed Laksmanis with a Paul Harris Fellow from our community.



(Kathy Christie, Stephanie and Tom Jellicoe)

Tom and Stephanie Jellicoe

Paul Harris Award

Tom and Stephanie Jellicoe became the owners of Wiarton Foodland in 2019 and, I think it is also fair to say, operators, since it is a rare day that you cannot find one or both of them actively working in the store.

Their commitment to Wiarton Rotary has been steadfast. From supporting the Shore to Shore Road Race by providing fruit to the runners and walkers at the end of the race, to having a till day when our means of fund raising was halted by Covid, to producing special treats of cupcakes and cookies for Rotary to deliver on Mother's Day and Christmas Day to Gateway Haven, to distributing Rotary Logo cloth shopping bags and even to hosting the spring colouring contest for children during the pandemic.

But there are other examples of their work in Wiarton. Just as important, if not more so, are the many additional examples of their commitment to the general community- consider the number of times you have seen a police cruiser or a fire truck or even a canoe parked in front of the store accepting donations for the food bank or other community organizations. They have welcomed the Salvation Army Kettle at Christmas and provided a sales space for Girl Guide Cookies. This year a December till day helped to support the hamper program for Wiarton residents through the Salvation Army. They have also supported the Wiarton Legion and the Hospital Women's Auxiliary as well as many other local organizations. They rarely if ever say no but rather listen to the needs of the community and do their best to help meet those needs. Many of us will remember the early opening hours for seniors during the pandemic as well as the care they took to keep the store open and safe for everyone.

Tom and Stephanie are truly good friends of Wiarton Rotary, good corporate citizens and employers of many in Wiarton. I am pleased to tell you that they have just renewed their affiliation with Sobeys for another 5 years.

It is a pleasure to present Paul Harris awards to Tom and Stephanie Jellicoe.



Bill McKenzie receives his Paul Harris plus Six Award from
President Pat Cavan