



# BEAVER TALES

Canada District West  
Region 5



**2024-25**

## **C.D.W. Board**

### **Governor**

Pat McKinney

### **Governor Elect**

Darrell Blackwell

### **Immediate Past Governor**

Pauline Blackwell

### **Past Governor Director**

Darrell Blackwell

**Don Mills, Halton, Kawartha  
Lakes**

### **Area Director**

Marlyne Van Exan

**Dundas, Midland, Oakville,**

Jadzia Weir

**Barrie, London**

### **District Secretary**

Cathy Dunn

### **District Treasurer**

Sue Gibson

### **Judge Advocate**

Lyle Armstrong

**People helping  
Clubs stay  
united!**

## **Governor's Message**



Hello fellow Civitans,

Here's hoping we have almost left this cold and snowy winter behind. We've had enough!!

Halton Civitan Club has been busy planning our Spring Convention and it sounds like in addition to business there is going to be a lot of fun packed into the day. With the fall convention being held in Valleyfield, Quebec last September there were not a lot in attendance from CDW so lets hope the Spring Convention has a better turn out.

District Elections will take place at the Spring Convention so please consider putting your name forward. We cannot keep depending on the same people to do the jobs.

These last few years have been a very busy time for the board with having to update the bylaws to conform with ONCA, updating the District policies and also the training manuals. Governor Elect Darrell will be using the training manuals when he host an Leadership Info session at the Fall Convention.

The London Middlesex Civitan Club is busy planning the Fall Convention and it will take place on the weekend of September 12-14. London always does such amazing conventions so I'm sure this one will be very exciting.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the spring convention and hopefully all the snow is gone.

Pat McKinney  
Governor 2024-25





# WATER FIRST -Water Internship

## Letter from the Board Chair – Water First

How do we measure growth in an organization that works foremost to co-create solutions with Indigenous communities that address complex and inequitable challenges to safe and clean environmental and drinking water? We could talk about the number of new programs Water First has delivered this year. We could talk about increasing staff and capacity to deliver those programs and the growing number of participants who have secured water-science jobs in their communities. These are all significant achievements that deserve to be celebrated, and they will be, in the pages of this report.

Where we find meaningful measurement is in the intention of this growth, and the ways in which it has served the people and communities we work with, our donor partners, and the trajectory of our organization. We are interested not only in growing; but also ensuring we're growing well.

Growing well means we measure success not only in the bars of a graph, or by following points on a map, but by a unique inner compass and charted pathway developed and informed in collaboration with the people and partners we work so closely with.

The guiding principles and shared values reflected in our work support this intention at every level. Through trust building, we cultivate the transparency, humility and integrity that result in meaningful partnerships. Through nurturing relationships, we remain dedicated to healthy collaboration and knowledge sharing. And through an unwavering commitment to lasting results, we see the sustainable and long-term benefits for those who build experience, expertise, and careers in water science — providing safe, clean water for their community members.

Each and every member of the Water First organization is committed to these principles, and learns from them every day. Water First trainers, educators, administrators and support staff are meticulous, creative, open-minded and open-hearted in their work. They accept challenges and successes with the same determination to understand the lessons and opportunities in both. And they embody a willingness to be part of a continuous learning journey to better partner with communities and each other. On the board, where we share the guiding principles of intentionality and leading with the uniqueness of Water First at heart, we embrace our commitment with accessibility and collaboration in our stewardship and support.

Although training and education comprise just one aspect of securing sustained access to safe, clean water in Indigenous communities across Canada, it is proven to be a critical piece because it works, and it works well.

So, when we talk about what it means to grow well, we express the demand for, and the increase of, our programs. And we also illustrate the learning, the listening, the creativity, the stewardship, and the guiding principles that we grow and follow. These are the best indicators of the health and impact of our organization – and there's a lot to talk about.

**Leanne O'Brien**  
Board Chair



## LOOKING TO MAKE A DONATION TO CIVITAN IN CANADA

We have an account with Canada Helps and have a donation form on their website. The link is:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/s/108346>.

Reminder: anyone who has a car that is no longer needed/running, rather than having it taken to the dump (wrecking yard), why not go to the website, [www.cifoc.org](http://www.cifoc.org) and donate it to "Donate A Car Canada" [charitycare@donatecar.ca](mailto:charitycare@donatecar.ca). They take care of getting it picked up and you will receive a tax receipt. The foundation will then get a donation for the value of the vehicle.

## Elections are open for 2025/26 Civitan Year

We need the following positions filled:

**Governor Elect**  
**Past Governor Director**  
**Area Director 2 year**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**

Please send Nominations to myself:

IPG Pauline Blackwell  
[paulineblackwell@gmail.com](mailto:paulineblackwell@gmail.com)

A list of information about the positions are available on the CDW Civitan website  
Section D1000  
Nominations forms for positions D-400

Note: If you don't have a scanner to be able to send the form, please just email the information required.

## BG's Positively Speaking

### Peace Of Mind

Most people want to achieve "Peace of Mind." Some will, but many will not. Most of those who fail don't apply the 'rules' that lead them there. Either because they are unaware of them or they don't want to apply them. Like most things in life, we need to learn how to achieve what we want. Peace of mind is that state of feeling good about ourselves, not in a smug, complacent way, but in the knowledge that we are doing the right things, that we are treating others the way we want to be treated, that we are at peace with ourselves and those around us. For those of us who struggle with achieving "Peace of Mind," here are some of the guidelines we need:

**Accept** that challenges are a part of life and are not there to frustrate you but to help you.

**Avoid** self-pity. Feeling sorry for yourself robs you of the ability to move forward.

**Be Content** with your life. That doesn't mean that you don't strive to make it better. It just means that you are thankful for what you have.

**Allow** yourself to forgive others for their wrongs and accept forgiveness from others.

**Don't** live in the past; there is nothing you can do to change it.

**Look** to the future, for there is where you will find what you seek.

**Step Out:** each day with confidence in yourself and your abilities to meet all challenges.

**Believe** that there is something larger than you in life.

If, at the end of the day, you can arrive home and sincerely say, "I did my best, I treated others with compassion and consideration, I met the challenges, I am at peace with myself."

**Then You Will Have Peace Of Mind**

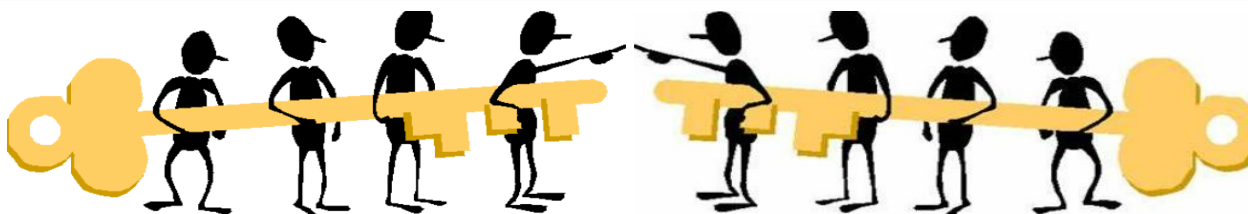
## Relying on Others

*A deep feeling of gratitude can emerge as we open to the experience of being helped.*

Most of us pride ourselves on our self-sufficiency. We like to be responsible for taking care of ourselves and pulling our own weight in the world. This is why it can be so challenging when we find ourselves in a situation in which we have to rely on someone else. This can happen as the result of an illness or an injury, or even in the case of a positive change, such as the arrival of a newborn. At times like these, it is essential that we let go of our feeling that we should be able to do it all by ourselves and accept the help of others.

The first step is accepting the situation fully as it is. Too often we make things worse either by trying to do more than we should or by lapsing into feelings of uselessness. In both cases, we run the risk of actually prolonging our dependency. In addition, we miss a valuable opportunity to practice acceptance and humility. The ego resists what is, so when we move into acceptance we move into the deeper realm of the soul. In needing others and allowing them to help us, we experience the full realization that we are not on our own in the world. While this may bring up feelings of vulnerability, a deep feeling of gratitude also may emerge as we open to the experience of being helped. This realization can enable us to be wiser in our service of others when we are called upon to help.

It takes wisdom and strength to surrender to our own helplessness and to accept that we, just like every other human being, have limitations. The gifts of surrender are numerous. We discover humility, gratitude, and a deepening understanding of the human experience that enables us to be that much more compassionate and surrendered in the world.





If mailing anything to Civitan International make sure you are using the correct address.

**CIVITAN ADDRESSES**

Physical Address   
500 Corporate Parkway  
Suite 150  
Birmingham, Alabama 35242

 Mailing Address  
PO Box 382857  
Birmingham, AL 35238 U.S.A.

**ATTENTION EVERYONE!  
THE COUNTDOWN IS ON!**

**MAY 31, 2025  
Oakville, ON  
The Holiday Inn  
590 Argus Road, Oakville, ON**

**The CDW Spring Convention!**

The Halton Civitan Club is very busy making plans to host this event and we really hope to see **YOU** there.



*Special bonus: a demonstration from the Guide Dogs of Canada*

**Book your room early - price and availability not guaranteed after  
April 25, 2025**

Please join us! **LET'S HAVE FUN** Please join us! **LET'S HAVE FUN** Please join us! **LET'S HAVE FUN**

Registration Form for the One Day District Convention  
Saturday May 31, 2025  
Holiday Inn  
590 Argus Road, Oakville, ON L6J 3J3  
905 842-5000



Host Club: Halton Civitan Club Theme: No theme this year, per Halton Club

First Person  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Civitan Y/N \_\_\_\_\_

Voting Delegate Y/N \_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_

District/Club Office \_\_\_\_\_ Past Governor Y/N \_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first Convention Y/N \_\_\_ JR Civitan Y/N \_\_\_ Home Club \_\_\_\_\_

Second Person  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Civitan Y/N \_\_\_\_\_

Voting Delegate Y/N \_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_

District/Club Office \_\_\_\_\_ Past Governor Y/N \_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first Convention Y/N \_\_\_ JR Civitan Y/N \_\_\_ Home Club \_\_\_\_\_

Early Bird Full Registration Fee is \$ **135.00** per person available for registrations post marked up to May15TH, 2025. Any registration postmarked after that date the fee will increase to **\$150.00**. All registrations must be **post marked or emailed no later than May 23, 2025** to be accepted for attendance.

Registration fee includes Saturday morning continental breakfast (08:00 to 9:00 hours), buffet lunch and buffet banquet Saturday evening. Saturday evening dress code: business casual. Dinner only Saturday is \$65.00 per person

Dietary Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

All hotel reservations must be made directly with the Holiday Inn, 590 Argus Rd, Oakville L6J 3J3. The hotel phone numbers is: 905-842-5000. Room Rates 2 double beds: \$ 175.00 + Tax per night for single/double; \$10 additional charge if more than 2 in a room. State that you are with Civitan, booking code HCC. Room rate is not guaranteed **after April 25, 2025**.

Please make your cheque payable to: Civitan, Canadian District West  
Mail your completed registration to: Treasurer Sue Gibson  
52 Boullee St.  
London, Ont. N5Y 1T6

You are invited to

LONDON MIDDLESEX  
CIVITAN CLUB  
CASINO ROYALE

SEPTEMBER

13

8:00PM

Best Western Plus/Stoneridge Inn Conference Center  
6675 Burtwistle Lane, London  
Townsend Ballroom  
519-652-6022

EACH GUEST RECEIVES 500 CASINO DOLLARS

FORMAL ATTIRE REQUIRED



**Registration Form for Fall Convention, Sept 12/13, 2025**  
**Best Western Plus-Stoneridge Inn**  
**6675 Burtwistle Lane (off Colonel Talbot Rd.) London, N6L 1H5**  
**Hosted by London Middlesex Civitan Club**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Civitan **Y/N** \_\_\_\_\_ Voting Delegate: **Y/N** \_\_\_\_\_  
Club \_\_\_\_\_ District Board/Club Office \_\_\_\_\_ PG **Y/N** \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Convention: **Y/N** \_\_\_\_\_ Jr Civitan? **Y/N** \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_ Sat. dinner: beef/chicken (circle)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Civitan **Y/N** \_\_\_\_\_ Voting Delegate: **Y/N** \_\_\_\_\_  
Club \_\_\_\_\_ District Board/Club Office \_\_\_\_\_ PG **Y/N** \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Convention: **Y/N** \_\_\_\_\_ Jr Civitan? **Y/N** \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_ Sat. dinner: beef/chicken (circle)

**Registration fee:** \$175pp Early Bird date: Aug 28; \$185 after.      Registration Deadline Sept. 5, 2025

**Registration includes:**

Friday Night Buffet: Tossed salad, Caesar salad, Lemon oregano chicken kabobs with tzatziki sauce,

Garden penne in tomato sauce, Medley of seasonal vegetables, Herb roasted potatoes. Buns & butter. Assorted dessert squares, mini donuts and churros, coffee & teas

Breakfast Buffet: continental: Mini pastries, butter, preserves, sliced fruit, bottles of juice, coffee & assorted teas.

Saturday Dinner: **Choose 1 entre and circle above:** Red wine braised beef short rib roast; OR Chicken breast in cremini mushroom sauce. Entrees also include: a Medley of seasonal vegetables, Roasted potatoes, Salad appetizer, Buns & butter. Dessert: Lemon Chiffon (with toasted almonds), coffee & teas. Dinner only Saturday \$90.00

**\*\*\* Anyone with a dietary restriction please contact the hotel directly**

**Room rates:** \$216 Friday, \$225 Saturday (plus taxes)- Includes full hot breakfast both Sat and Sun morning

Call hotel direct to book: **519-652-6022**, “state Civitan when booking”    OR

go to:    <https://stoneridgeinn.com/> to book online    OR    Toll-free Registration#:    1(888)471-2378

**\*\*\* Reservations by attendees must be received on or before the Aug 29, 2025 cut off room rate and guarantee availability date. (25 rooms held in total)**

**Make Cheque Payable to:** Civitan Canadian District West

**Mail Registration and fee to:** District Treasurer Sue Gibson 52 Boullee St. London, ON N5Y 1T6



## Dundas Civitan Club - #3212 President Kelsey George Gaudet

This year marks the thirty-fifth anniversary of our club's charter. In November of 1990, eighteen new members gathered at a banquet room at University Plaza in Dundas for the ceremony. Earlier that year, even before our club was formally chartered, we had taken on some fund-raising projects to raise our profile in the community. The first one was the "C.H.I.L.D.I.D." finger-printing we carried out at the Cactus Festival. Another was the sale of pumpkins. We also launched the "Alleycats" Special Olympics Bowling League.

Over the years, we went on to provide a permanent home for the Dundas Learning Centre, and sponsor "Nativic", our junior Civitan Club.

As spring approaches, and the snow slowly melts, we are planning some important events. On Saturday April 5, from 9 am until 12 pm, we'll host another "ClosetClean-Out" fundraiser at the University Plaza lot in Dundas. We will invite donations of used clothing and textiles.

We are currently making tentative plans to host community crafts show on March 24 at Civitan Place. Stay tuned for more information on this event.

On March 8, our Club 95 group is planning a "Mardi Gras" dance.



**Saturday  
April 5**

**University Plaza  
Dundas**

**CIVITAN  
CLOSET  
CLEANOUT**



**9am - 12pm**

**Accepting**

**donations of clothing and  
textiles in clear plastic bags  
please**

**(bedding, towels, curtains, etc)**

**The Dundas District Civitan Club,  
supporting our community through  
Special Olympics, The Dundas  
Learning Centre, and other  
initiatives.**



# Halton Civitan Club - #3526 President Marlyne Van Exan

## Christmas Party

The Halton Civitan Club would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Civitan Denise for hosting our annual Christmas Party. It was a festive gathering filled with delicious food, all prepared by our talented members. The evening was full of laughter, storytelling, and meaningful connections, reminding us of the wonderful community we've built together.



*Christmas Dinner*

## Purse Project

During the Christmas party, Civitan Denise led a special initiative where the club assembled 50 purses packed with essential items like pads, tampons, pens, paper, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, Chapstick, hand cream, and other thoughtful goodies. These purses will be donated to the Churchill Neighbourhood Centre, spreading kindness and support to those in need.



## Kindness Bags

Civitan Sharon once again spearheaded another successful Kindness Bag project for the Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital. Together, we filled gift bags with essential items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, activity books, tissues, glasses cleaner, hand cream, pens, paper, nail files, and lip gloss. Additionally, at the request of the nurses on the long-term care ward, we included stuffed animals and nonslip socks. The stuffed animals provide comfort to many patients, offering a sense of warmth and companionship.

## Oakville Women's Centre

We continue to support the Oakville Women's Centre with gift cards to enable them to buy coffee and cookies for their Monday and Wednesday drop-in sessions.

## Food For Kids

The Halton Civitan made a generous \$1000 donation to *Food For Kids*, an initiative supporting children facing food insecurity. This contribution will go a long way in ensuring that more children have access to the nourishment they need.





## Ian Anderson House

The Halton Civitan continues to support the Ian Anderson House, donating items such as cleaning supplies and paper products on a monthly basis. In addition to these ongoing donations, we've made a \$500 contribution to further support this palliative care home and the invaluable services they provide.

## Milk Bag Mats

Members of the Halton Civitan Club came together to cut milk bags into strips, which will be crocheted into sleeping mats for those experiencing homelessness. These mats are an important resource, offering both comfort and protection, keeping people and their belongings dry in difficult conditions.

Thank you to all the Civitans who have contributed their time, effort, and generosity to make these projects possible. Together, we continue to make a positive impact in our community.

**Together  
Everyone  
Achieves  
More**

☆ 'WE CARE, ☆  
WE AIM HIGH,  
WE LEARN  
AND ACHIEVE  
TOGETHER' ☆

## London-Middlesex Civitan Club - #2383 President Darrell Blackwell

The London club has been quite busy this winter starting with a movie night in November for CLL. The London Middlesex Civitan Club have a big blow-up screen and a projector and we played a nightmare before Christmas as the CLL members enjoyed Halloween candies and chips and pop with a short intermission half way through the movie. it was the clubs first and was well received.

For our Christmas dinner we had dinner and bowling and our area director Jadzia and her husband joined us for a fun night and a tacky gift exchange.

We have also put on two dances for CLL, in December a Christmas dance where Santa and miss Claus showed up and then in February, we held a valentine's dance that was attended by just over 150.



# Midland Civitan Club - #1959 President Mike Timney

The fall months are typically very busy for the Midland Civitan Club and this past fall was no different. We were able to complete another successful Claxton fruitcake campaign and sold slightly more than last year.

The Midland Club also organized, hosted, and put our own floats and costumed characters in the 48th annual Midland Civitan Santa Claus parade.

The club continue to volunteer at our weekly bingo event which is our biggest fundraiser.

In November we provided and served food to the participants in a Community Living Huronia curling bonspiel and did the same in Dec. for an Ontario special Olympic curling qualifier.

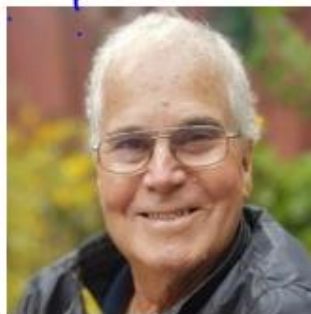
Our annual Christmas breakfast was a well attended social event. Our donations included the “bridging the gap” program for CLH, Annual Christmas donations to the Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul, and other local food banks.

In January we passed a motion to help with travelling expenses for our 2 Special Olympic curling teams competing in all the Ontario competitions.

On a very sad note, we lost our beloved Civitan Bill Knicely unexpectedly in Jan. Bill was a longtime and devoted member who was a club honour key holder. He will be forever missed and lovingly remembered by all of us.



**They won! Special Olympics Huronia are Provincial Champions**  
Congratulations Coaches: Bryan Wilson Leslie Horn and Carroll Wilson



Bill Knicely



**CLUB ELECTIONS**

**CLUB SECRETARIES: "LETS TRY FOR PERFECT"**

Each year there are always some mistakes in the District Directory.  
**LETS ELIMINATE THE MISTAKES!**

- 1) Please print neatly or type when you are filling out the "REPORT OF CIVITAN CLUB OFFICERS"
- 2) Have each officer verify their information.
- 3) Deadline is July 1st but the sooner the information is received by Civitan International and your Directory Editor the sooner they can begin their jobs.

Together ...



... We Can



YES WE CAN

**PLEASE REMEMBER: to send your add & deletions to the District Treasurer when you send to Civitan International.**

**“The best honour you can give to anyone  
Is to show respect for their time.”**

Why not honour someone in you club  
with either a Century Award or a Fellow  
(A tax receipt will be given to the recipient)

Contact: AWARDS TRUSTEE (CIFOC)  
Darlene Lambert  
380 Mackay St #118  
Pembroke ON K8A 1C9  
(613) 735-6069  
Email: darlenelambert377@gmail.com

# Obituaries

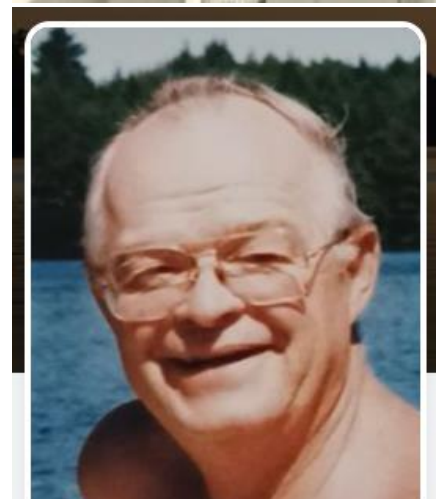
## **Bruce Walter Battram** March 17, 1931-December 30, 2024 (93 years old)

Bruce was an energetic member of the Oakville Civitan Club for many years.

It is always difficult saying goodbye to someone we love and cherish. Family and friends must say goodbye to their beloved Bruce Walter Battram (Huntsville, Ontario), who passed away at the age of 93, on December 30, 2024.

Though Bruce Walter has departed this earthly realm, his legacy endures — a legacy of love that will continue to illuminate the lives of family and friends in the darkest of hours. May his spirit soar on wings of eternal peace, forever cherished in the tender embrace of memory.

Visitation was held on Saturday, January 4th 2025 from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the Billingsley Funeral Home (430 Ravenscliffe Rd, Huntsville, ON P1H1L7). A memorial service was held on Saturday, January 4th 2025 from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the same location.





Husband of Liz Matthews (BOTH members of the Dundas Civitan Club)

## **John Matthews** August 21, 1948 - December 8, 2024 (76 years old)

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of John Matthews, in his 77th year, on December 8, 2024. John was a man whose life was marked by dedication to his family, unwavering work ethic, and a generous spirit. He was a beloved husband, father, and proud papa who will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

John was the cherished husband of Elizabeth for 55 years. Together, they built a life full of love, laughter, and shared memories. He was a devoted father to his daughter Tonya (Jeremy), and his son Aaron. John is survived by his brother, David (Rose-Marie); and nephews, Clifford (Jamie), and Rene (Carla). He will be missed by his treasured grandchildren, John, Ryan, and Avril—whom he adored with all his heart.

Known for his remarkable skill as a woodworker, mechanic, and master welder, John took pride in his craft and had a deep respect for hard work. But it was his unwavering commitment to his family and his willingness to help a friend that defined him. Whether it was offering a hand to a neighbour or sharing his wisdom and expertise, John was always there when needed.

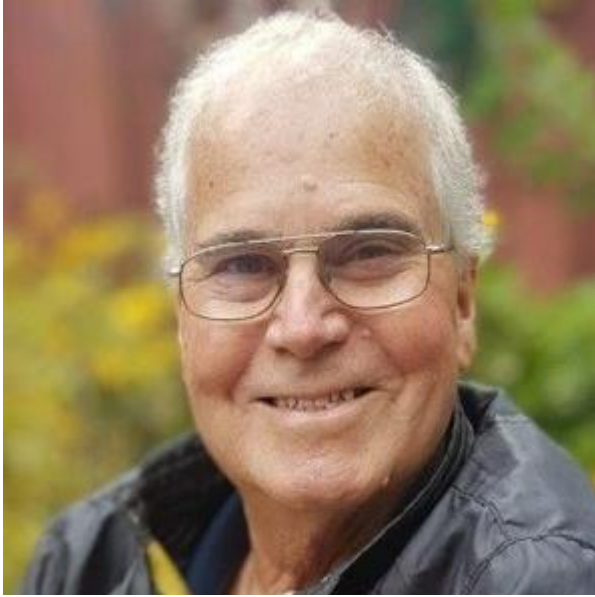
A celebration of John's life has taken place at Circle of Life Cremation and Burial Centre, 100 King Street East, Dundas, on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. All who knew John were invited to join his family in honouring his memory and sharing stories of the man whose heart and hands were dedicated to all those he loved.

In lieu of flowers the family requested donations be made in John's memory to the Dundas Learning Centre (15 Baldwin St, Dundas) or Cystic Fibrosis Canada.

His family takes comfort in knowing that his memory will live on in the hearts of his loved ones.



**KNICELY, William "Bill" George** September 27, 1947- January 4, 2025



On January 4th, 2025, Bill Knicely left this world suddenly, surrounded by love in the arms of his soulmate, Sally Wasilkousky.

He was a beloved son of Jim and Dora Knicely, a brother to Pat (Ian) and David (Paulette), a soulmate to Sally Wasilkousky, a loving Father to Andrea (Rob) and Michelle (Dave), treasured Bapa to Travis, Jacob (Lindsay), Casseo and Adriano and a wonderful uncle to Steven and Kevin.

His life was full and active, never wasting a minute. He gave his time and energy proudly to support his town and the people in it, whether it was painting a local church or helping someone in need. He was a Big Brother, a Civitan, Georgian Bay District Hospital volunteer, drummer for the Villa Care Centre "Pub Night" and recently joined the Penetang Legion.

This small-town boy, Midland born and raised, found ways to climb mountains and conquer great things.

Bill and Jo-Ann (Pudifin), predeceased in 2024, were married and blessed with 2 beautiful girls. Their days were filled with many family events: snowmobiling to the cabin with the girls in the sidecar to enjoy Bill's beans and wieners cooked over the old wood stove, skating on Little Lake Park, tobogganing on Campbell's Hill, fishing off the town docks, swimming at the YMCA and cottaging on the shores of Georgian Bay every summer with extended families. Friends and family were truly Bill's food for his soul.

There were many ups and downs over the years, Bill's smile and outgoing personality helped him through the tough times to rise and move forward.

Since Bill's passing, the family has received an outpouring of love and support. Here are a few comments:

"His smile felt like a hug, warm and inviting."

"He had a genuine gentle soul with an infectious smile"

"I was having a bad day at work, struggling emotionally. Your Dad pops up with a pretty flower and hands it to me with a smile. I hadn't said a word. He just knew I could use a pick me up."

Bill Knicely will be remembered and missed by many, especially his furry companion, Frankie.

Cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will occur at a later date.

Brother-in Law of Pat McKinney

## Wademan, Michael Charles October 15, 1955- January 17, 2025

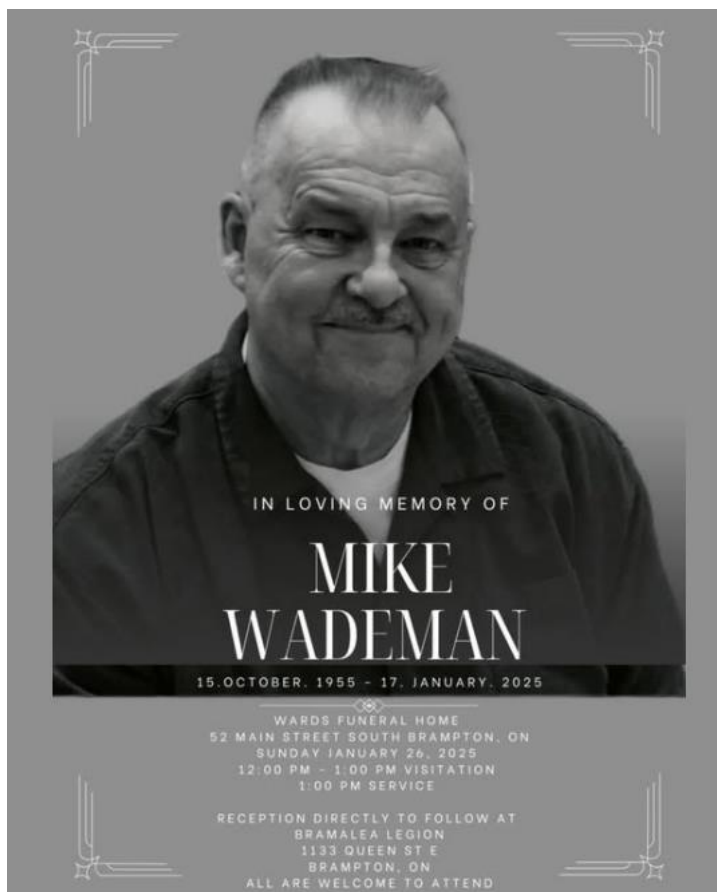
It is with extreme sadness and surprise that we announce the passing of Michael Charles Wademan (Maui Mike, Big Guy, Coach Mike and his favourite title Papa). He was born on October 15, 1955, and passed peacefully in his sleep on January 17, 2025, following an Eastern Caribbean Cruise with his devoted and loving wife Mary.

Michael is survived by his wife of almost 25 years Mary, his children Michelle, Holly (Kurtis), Adam (Terri), Jennifer (Tyler) and his fur baby Mollie. This blended family shared the excitement of 12 grandchildren! Carter, Dylan, Logan, Aubree, Callan, Jovie, Zachary, Brandon, Taylor, Dylan, Caius, and Willow. He was a loving brother to Diane (Murray), Penny (Joe), brother-in-law to Patricia, Ellen, Richard (Vera) and an uncle to many nieces and nephews. Mike also leaves behind his BFFs Kim and Gordana.

Mike worked at Chrysler for over 28 years during which he held multiple titles with the longest being a forklift operator. He loved the Toronto Maple Leafs, the Blue Jays, collecting ball caps, sunglasses, Hawaiian shirts, watches but most of all his prize possessions - his grandkids!

You could usually find Mike in an arena whether it be playing or coaching (Chinguacousy Blues, Brampton Maroons, Etobicoke Canucks, Brampton Canadettes and Scarborough Stings), the baseball diamond or eyes glued to the Nascar races on tv. Mike and Mary also found a new passion for travelling the world on Royal Caribbean cruise ships and were planning another cruise in November to celebrate their 25th anniversary.

Mike will live on in the memories of his family and friends and we are eternally grateful for the time each of us had with him.



## Haralson, Betty Jo March 22, 1936- February 2, 2025

**B**etty Jo Haralson, 88, a resident of Cleveland, passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by her loving family on Sunday, February 2, 2025. She was born on March 22, 1936 in Chattanooga, Tennessee and she was the daughter of the late Frank and Opal Conley. Her loving and faithful husband of 60 years, Ted M. Haralson and her grandparents, Baxter and Courtna Shipley also preceded her in death. Betty graduated high school from Girls Preparatory School in Chattanooga and attended the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and after returning home she attended McKenzie College. Betty was a long-time realtor/affiliate broker with over 30 years of service. She retired from Prudential Botts Realty and Associates and was a member of the Cleveland and Chattanooga Board of Realtors. Betty volunteered and spent many years of her life devoted to the Civitan Clubs helping others in need including Special Olympics. She was a charter member of the Athens Civitan Club and the Bradley County Civitan Club. She served as president of the Bradley Civitan Club, 1996-1997 and the Nocatula Civitan Club, 2003-2004. She served on several committees and Board of Directors. She received many District Service Awards and International Honors from countries across the world. She was elected in July, 2005 to serve as President of International from 2006-2007. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother and she spent a lot of time and many nights and weekends at a ball field some where. Her many interests and hobbies include painting, U. T. Football, reading and in the summer, canning fresh produce for her family and camping with her family. Betty served as the Adult Ladies Sunday School Teacher at Meadowview Baptist Church and at Calhoun Baptist Church for over 50 years. Left to cherish her memory are her children, Tim Haralson (Marlene), Ooltewah, Tennessee, Mary Haralson, Knoxville, Tennessee, Mark Haralson (Robin), Birchwood, Tennessee, Courtney Holloway (Condredge), Knoxville, Tennessee, grandchildren, Seth Haralson (Emily), Haley Heathcoe (Jason), Kinsey Hixson (Austin), Alex Haralson, Condredge Holloway III and 7 great grandchildren.

The Remembrance of Life Service was conducted on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 6 P. M. at Jim Rush Funeral and Cremation Services North Ocoee Chapel with Reverend Bill Mason officiating. Graveside Services and Interment was conducted on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 11 A. M. at Chattanooga National Cemetery.

2006-2007  
Civitan International  
President  
Betty Haralson



# A TRIBUTE GIVEN IN MEMORY OF DOUG GUTHRIE

Good afternoon; Civitan, Oakville Community Living, Distress Centre Halton, dear guests. It is a privilege for our family to be with you today. How is kindness measured? To me it is born and nurtured deep within one's soul. It emerges into the world, shines and is personified through that person's everyday actions. It's reflected in the intention of their heart and their thoughts. It is purity. Physically, it's illuminated through one's eyes and with their presence when someone is speaking to them. My father-in-law, Doug Guthrie was the complete and unconditional embodiment of the expression of human kindness. Another word might be selflessness; Doug's thoughtful nature toward others. And his compassion and empathy to those that needed a leg up was always on Doug's mind. I am speaking with you today about my life with Doug not as my father-in-law, although that was the most profound aspect of our relationship - but rather Doug's life as a member of Civitan - behind the scenes; in his home when we would visit. At our house for dinner and other family get togethers. When Doug and Jeannine were at our home for dinner Doug always sat to my left. Me being right-handed, I reasoned it was easier for me to keep his wine glass topped up. I'm kidding. Sort of. I wanted to speak with him and learn from him, what was going on and what was new. Mostly, I loved chatting with him. We would speak about a range of current events and other topics just like anyone would. But what struck me on every occasion was his deep respect for Civitan, its mission and purpose. He loved his fellow members. Doug was completely dedicated to the support and health of community organizations like Community Living Oakville, Distress Centre Halton and other entities that Civitan supports - and to the invaluable volunteers who work tirelessly to keep these organizations thriving with the important work they do and the people they serve. Mostly, though, Doug thought of the people with whom your organizations serve; their lives, challenges and vulnerability. He spoke frequently about how he had hoped that in some small way the work that Civitan did made a difference. That it eased someone's pain, made their day a bit brighter, offered them hope - and a place at the table, where every human being deserves to be. Of all the roles Doug took on at Civitan from way back at the old fishing Derby each Spring at the now long-gone Holiday Inn near Oakville Place, to the weekly Bingos at Delta Bingo to, admittedly his baby, the Farmer's Market, Doug was constant in his commitment to the success and well being of every person who on any level was touched by Civitan; fellow members, family, organizations, and the community as a whole. From the farmers market years ago at Hopedale Mall Doug was a fixture every Saturday. He'd wander around speaking with the vendors and customers. In those days he'd leave the market mid-morning to drive back home to pick up his wife, Jeannine. They'd return and go inside the mall for breakfast at El Spero and then back outside to the market. When the market moved to its current location at Dorval Crossing there was Doug again. That one pillar every week; speaking with and enjoying everyone; totally present with each conversation. He'd take a break inside of McDonald's and be back out again. And on it went, week after week, season after season. But if I were to illustrate the depth of Doug's character, grit, his sense of service and deep moral obligation to a mission larger than himself, it would be when the pandemic fell upon us in March of 2020. That was a time in our lives that no one will forget. While many people came through the pandemic relatively unscathed, many more did not. And many more than that still bear the emotional scars that that time of isolation and the loss of hope gripped them with. With the world and everything we held dear to it on hold, I remember a conversation I had with Doug at his home. His primary concern was what would happen

to the Community organizations if Civitan didn't have the financial resources to support them with. Doug pondered that without a market that year, how would the vendors, the farmers and merchants, how would they survive if they didn't have a place to come to each week to sell their goods and earn an income to feed their own families with. And what about the loyal customers who had supported the market over the years. What about them? Doug had always viewed the farmer's market as a social hub. A physical place to gather. But in 2020 this was amplified in Doug's mind. The market, to him, became a destination where people could emerge from their homes and shed their isolation. To have even a short time to actually speak with another human being, buy some goods and feel semi-normal again - even if it was all at six feet apart and masked up. And so, in March of 2020, Doug's mantra became - whatever it took; government regulations, hand sanitizers, distance markers and other precautions - the market would happen. It took a lot out of Doug in terms of sourcing supplies such as ropes, pylons, distance stickers on the ground and other necessities to get the market up and running. He recruited his Civitan family and others. Everyone happily pitched in. Doug spent countless hours on the phone and on email ensuring that the vendors felt comfortable in attending. With everything finally in place, the market opened the first weekend of July. Doug and his small crew of helpers arrived to the market location in the pre-dawn darkness to set everything up. It was labour-intensive and at times inconvenient as to what he could and couldn't do. But there Doug was, greeting the vendors as they arrived. Thanking the customers and asking them how were they managing, day-to-day. As he always did, Doug walked around from stall to stall, masked, to ensure everyone had everything they needed to be successful. The Civitan Farmer's Market of 2020 was a success; all from six feet apart. But what everyone didn't know about Doug was that in 2020 he was at the very beginning of the abyss of dementia. Dementia as many of us know is an insidious and indiscriminate brute. But Doug soldiered on week-after-week with his market and other social activities. Not once did he allow his growing confusion to impede his joy, sense of service and the person we knew Doug to be. The rest of our family pitched in to help with emails, organizing the market details and logistics - as did Doug's Civitan family. In the winter of 2022 Doug realized, reluctantly, that it was time to pass the torch of the 2023 farmer's market to his Civitan cohort. With the grace and dignity with which he'd conducted his life, Doug was appointed Honorary Mayor of the Civitan Farmer's Market. I watched as he was received by absolutely everyone at the market with the same kindness, patience, gentleness, compassion and love that he'd shown so many others for so many years. We lost Doug last February 1st. When Al and George spoke with the family about establishing the Douglas Guthrie Legacy Fund to recognize Doug's life and contributions to Civitan and to the organizations it serves, our hearts were full with gratitude and deep appreciation. I speak for our family when I say that I believe all of our lives are blessed for having been touched by Doug's soul. **Douglas Guthrie was Civitan.**

*You will  be missed.*

*— You —  
Will Never Be  
Forgotten*