



BEAVER TALES

Winter
2024-25



Canada District West
Region 5



2024-2025

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 Directors

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!



Greetings Fellow Civitans,

Here we are mid-December and well into the Christmas Season.

Your District team has been very busy. The district by-laws and policies have been rewritten and passed and now the team is working on updating all the training manuals.

Claxton Fruit Cake sales are going very well. This year the board made a decision to allow more than two cake orders providing the clubs that wanted extra cake paid the shipping and brokerage fees. This year three clubs ordered extra cake which amounted to just over 1000 pounds.

It was disappointing that only two clubs applied for awards. All the clubs do such wonderful projects and events, I'm surprised more don't apply.

Halton Civitan Club is very busy planning our Spring Convention which will be a great time and London Middlesex Civitan Club are working on the Fall Convention so next year you won't want to miss either convention.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Pat McKinney
Governor 2024-25



Holiday Punch Recipe

Ingredients

- 1 (64-ounce) container Cranberry juice cocktail
- 1 (14-ounce) container Pineapple juice
- 1 container Frozen lemonade (about 12 ounces)
- 1 can Lemon-lime soda (like Sprite or Ginger Ale)
- Fresh cranberries (for garnish)
- Orange slices (for garnish)
- Plenty of ice



Instructions

Prep the Frozen Lemonade:

Squeeze the container of frozen lemonade into a large drink dispenser or punch bowl.

Mix the Juices:

Add the cranberry juice cocktail and pineapple juice to the lemonade. Gently stir to combine.

Add Fizz:

Just before serving, add the lemon-lime soda to the mixture for a refreshing fizz.

Serve:

Serve the punch over plenty of ice and garnish with slices of orange and fresh cranberries for a festive touch.

Tips for Preparing Ahead

You can mix all the ingredients (except the soda) the night before and refrigerate. Add the soda just before serving to keep it fizzy.

Making an Ice Ring



Pour a small amount of water into a Bundt or fluted tube cake pan.

Add slices of oranges, limes, and cranberries. Freeze until set.

Layer with more water and fruit slices until the pan is full, freezing each layer as you go.

Once frozen solid, run hot water over the outside of the pan to release the ice ring.

Serving Suggestions

This punch can be enhanced with a scoop of orange sherbet in each glass for extra flavor. For a spiked version, add $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of rum or vodka.

The Rituals of Christmas

This year, many people will be putting up their Christmas decorations earlier than they have previously. So that they can capture that “Christmas Spirit” for a little longer. There’s evidence that this works. Research has shown that it can play a role in creating a sense of well-being and satisfaction. They evoke memories of other times when we underwent the same rituals. Every time we put up Christmas decorations, our brain remembers those stored festive feelings.

It is important to keep up the rituals associated with celebrations. Even if we experience them differently, they will evoke a positive response in us. The smells associated with Christmas can trigger memories from the past. Though we’re in entirely different circumstances now, our brains will make us happy by triggering happy memories.

So, if you are feeling a little down, pull out those boxes of stored decorations and work on giving yourself a lift.

Mom's Christmas Jello Balls

Ingredients:

- 1 (3 oz) box flavored gelatin (e.g., cherry or lime for festive colors)
- 1 cup shredded coconut, divided
- 1 cup graham cracker crumbs
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1/4 cup unsalted butter, melted
- 1/4 cup sweetened condensed milk
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

Instructions:

Prepare Dry Ingredients:

-In a large mixing bowl, combine the gelatin powder, 3/4 cup of the shredded coconut, graham cracker crumbs, and powdered sugar. Stir until well blended.

-Add Wet Ingredients:

-Pour in the melted butter, sweetened condensed milk, and vanilla extract. Stir until the mixture becomes thick and sticky.

Form the Balls:

-Using your hands, roll the mixture into small bite-sized balls (about 1 inch in diameter).

-Coat with Coconut:

-Spread the remaining 1/4 cup of shredded coconut on a plate. Roll each Jello ball in the coconut to coat evenly.

-Chill:

-Place the Jello balls on a baking sheet or tray and refrigerate for at least 1 hour to firm up.

Serve:

Once chilled, the Jello balls are ready to serve. Keep them stored in an airtight container in the refrigerator.



CANADIAN CIVITAN REMINDERS

"The best honour you can give to anyone is to show respect for their time."

Why not honour someone in your club with either a Century Award or a Fellow

(A tax receipt will be given to the recipient)

Contact: AWARDS TRUSTEE (CIFOC)
Darlene Lambert
95 Spruce Street West
Pembroke ON K8A 7S2
(613) 735-6069
Email: civitandarlene@live.ca



Send Your New Member Info

name, address, phone number & email address to the District Treasurer and Communications so that District and Foundation lists are up to date and communications can keep you updated on District matters.

SUE GIBSON: susan_gibson@rogers.com
LYLE ARMSTRONG: wekndr@rogers.com

INSURANCE CONTACT: The Merit Group commercial@meritgroup.ca

You don't have to have been a Governor to join the Civitan International Foundation of Canada Governors Council.

For only \$100.00 a year you can join the CIFOC Governors Council and receive a pin identifying you as a member of the ***CIFOC Governors Council.***

CANADIAN CIVITAN CLUBS CONVENTION

Valleyfield, Quebec
September 13, 14 & 15

Friday Dinner



The Cast in the Murder Mystery



Saturday Morning Meetings



Canadian District West made a decision to join the East for the **CIVITAN CREED.**

Both Governors agreed it was a very good idea and everyone was happy to be together for at least a short time.

The joint meeting that always took place at the Region 5 was certainly missed, but we all agreed that saying the CIVITAN CREED together was important.



Canadian District West Board Meeting



Governor Pat thanked the District Team for all their hard work during the 2024-24 Civitan Year. Missing from the picture are Tracy Beck, Don Caldwell & John Veals.

LOL -Were some new habits taken up on the weekend????



Past International President Bill Hiscott Installed the 2024-2025 C.D.W. Board



Fruit Cake 7-Layer Bars

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, melted
- 1 (14 oz) can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 cup candied mixed fruit (such as cherries and pineapple)
- 1 cup shredded coconut
- 1 cup chopped pecans or walnuts
- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup white chocolate chips



Instructions

Step 1: Prepare the Crust

Preheat your oven to 350°F (175°C). In a medium mixing bowl, combine the graham cracker crumbs and melted butter, stirring until the crumbs are evenly coated. Press this mixture into the bottom of a 9×13-inch baking pan, creating an even crust layer.

Step 2: Add the Sweetened Condensed Milk

Pour the sweetened condensed milk evenly over the graham cracker crust, spreading it with a spatula if needed to cover the entire base.

Step 3: Layer the Toppings

Sprinkle the candied mixed fruit, shredded coconut, chopped nuts, semi-sweet chocolate chips, and white chocolate chips evenly over the condensed milk layer. Gently press down the toppings to ensure they stick to the milk and crust.

Step 4: Bake the Bars

Bake for 25-30 minutes, or until the edges are golden and the top is lightly browned. Remove from the oven and allow the bars to cool completely in the pan.



Step 5: Slice and Serve

Once cooled, cut into squares and serve. Enjoy these deliciously layered treats as a festive holiday dessert or a sweet snack!



“Look at the world as a big fruitcake. It wouldn’t be complete without a few nuts in it.”

Save the date



Save the date...

so you can attend the "Spring Convention" hosted by the Halton Civitan Club.

Saturday, May 31, 2025

The Holiday Inn, Oakville

watch for a registration package from the District in the coming months.

we hope you can join us for some Civitan bonding, business, food, fun, merriment, hoopla, joviality and other sundry words for "you don't want to miss it".

For out-of-towners who arrive Friday we will organize an optional dinner off-site.

we can't wait to see you! There will be a meeting 3 meals, some optional afternoon activities, entertainment at night and of course, "the hospitality room". There might be a few other surprises...

Email Civitan Karen, from HCC with any host club questions:
fortheLoveofmusic575@gmail.com

August 6-9, 2025



CONVENTION REGISTRATION & TICKETS

Click the package of your choice below to register for the 2025 International Convention, in-person or virtual.

Interested in volunteering behind the scenes at convention?

Click "Yes" on your in-person registration form and you will be contacted by the Convention Volunteer Chairs about specific roles and shifts.

Registration Type	Includes	Price BEFORE June 20, 2025
In-Person Full Event Package	All General Sessions, Educational Workshops, Voting, Welcome Reception, Closing Ceremonies & Installation Banquet	\$299.00
In-Person Convention Only	All General Sessions, Educational Workshops, Voting	\$199.00
Special Event Individual Tickets	Welcome Reception and/or Closing Banquet Individual Tickets	\$50.00 (Welcome) \$75.00 (Closing)
Virtual Participant - Full Package	Opening Ceremonies, First Business Session, Philanthropy Session, Membership Extravaganza, Closing Banquet & Installation Ceremony Livestreams, Voting, Election Results	\$80.00
Virtual Participant - Partial Package	First Business Session Livestream, Elections Results, Voting	\$50.00

Dundas Civitan Club - #3212 President Kelsey George Gaudex

On November 29, our Club 95 held a "Winter Wonderland" dance at St. Mark's Church Hall. It was a great success. Our thanks go to Civitan Jean Griffin, and fellow volunteers for organizing the evening's event.

Earlier in November, we hosted another "Closet Clean-out" fund raiser at the University Plaza lot. We invited donations of used clothing and other textiles.

We have also been busy with sales of Claxton fruit cake. Among the businesses that have kindly agreed to sell this cake is Lee's Pharmacy in downtown Dundas.

In September, our Alley Cats Special Olympics Bowling League began what will be its thirty-fifth season.



We wish all our fellow Civitans
and their families throughout
the district all the best for
Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

- "Christmas is the day that holds all time together." —Alexander Smith
- "I wish we could put up some of the Christmas spirit in jars and open a jar of it every month." —Harlan Miller
- "The thing about Christmas is that it almost doesn't matter what mood you're in or what kind of a year you've had – it's a fresh start" – Kelly Clarkson

Halton Civitan Club - #3526 President Marlyne Van Exan

The Oak Park Neighbourhood Centre Fall Fair

The Halton Civitan Club is proud to have played a supporting role in the recent Fall Festival hosted by the Oak Park Neighbourhood Centre. Our dedicated members were actively involved, serving up delicious meals, helping with setup, and managing ticket sales throughout the event. Thanks to the collective efforts of everyone involved, the festival was a tremendous success. We helped welcome 4,000 guests, supported 50 exhibitors, and provided nearly 1,000 meals. The festivities included inflatables, entertainers, an outdoor movie, and 138 items in the Silent Auction. This event raised an impressive \$60,000. This vital funding will support the Centre in delivering essential services to those in need within our community. It was a privilege to contribute to such a meaningful cause and to help make a difference for those working to get back on their feet. Thank you to all who attended and supported this remarkable event!

Canadian Friends of HAS Fashion Show



The Halton Civitan Club supported the Canadian Friends of Hospital Albert Schweitzer (HAS) in their recent fundraising efforts. This hospital, located in Haiti, is a vital resource for the community, and our very own Civitan Marlyne participated in the HAS Fashion Show to help raise funds. The event was a great success, and participants had a fantastic time. Additionally, our club assembles and donates birthing kits, which are distributed to women in Haiti before labor. It's always a rewarding experience to contribute to this life-changing cause.

Special Olympics Oakville Bowling Tournament

On October 20th, the Halton Civitan Club proudly sponsored the pizza dinner at the Special Olympics Oakville Bowling Tournament. We also sponsored two bowlers for the year, and Civitans Cathy, Margaret, Linda, and Denise were on hand to volunteer. The tournament was a tremendous success, and everyone involved had a fantastic time. It's always a pleasure to support such a wonderful event and celebrate the achievements of these incredible athletes.

Christmas Bags for CWSDS

The Halton Civitan Club assembled 70 Christmas Bags filled with small gifts for the residents of CWSDS. This annual tradition is always a fun and heartfelt project, and it's a joy to see the smiles it brings to the residents. We're grateful for the opportunity to share some holiday cheer with our neighbors.

Coat Drive

Throughout September, Halton Civitan members generously donated gently used coats during the Coat Drive at St. Dominic's Church. Civitan Denise ensured that the coats were delivered and distributed to community members in need. We're proud to support those in our community who may need a little extra help to stay warm this winter.

Dorval Market During October and November, the Halton Civitan Club had the pleasure of selling Claxton Fruitcake at the Dorval Farmers' Market. A special thank you to the Oakville Civitan Club for hosting such a successful market and for allowing us to be a part of it. **Our fruitcakes were** a hit, and the proceeds will support our ongoing charitable efforts.

Ian Anderson House

The Halton Civitan Club continues to support Ian Anderson House, a local hospice, with monthly donations of essential items. Civitan Linda ensures that the donations are delivered each month. The hospice is always grateful for these contributions, which help with their operational costs and support the comfort of their residents and families.

New Member Welcome

In November, we were delighted to welcome a new member, Lesley, to the Halton Civitan Club. Governor Pat McKinney was on hand to officiate at the installation ceremony. We're excited to have Leslie join our team, and we look forward to working together to make a positive impact in our community.



Kindness Bags for Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital

The Halton Civitan Club has been collecting items for our annual Kindness Bags, which will be distributed to long-term patients or those in need at Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital. The bags include toothbrushes, toothpaste, emery boards, hand cream, eyeglass cleaners, and Lysol. We will assemble the bags in February. Additionally, we've purchased three dozen Posey Socks to help keep patients safe from slips and falls. This year, we also added 48 stuffed animals to our donation, after learning that patients, particularly those with Alzheimer's disease, often request them. The nurses have shared that these stuffed animals help alleviate loneliness, and we're truly touched by how such a simple gesture can make a significant difference in a patient's well-being.

Thank you to all of our members, volunteers, and supporters who make these initiatives possible. Your ongoing dedication and generosity help us continue our mission to serve those in need in our community. Wishing everyone a joyful and peaceful holiday season!

Congratulations to Our Exceptional Civitan Members!

The Halton Civitan Club is proud to celebrate two outstanding members for their remarkable contributions.

First, we would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Civitan Cathy, who has been honored with the *Ray Hergert Outstanding Chairperson Award*. This prestigious recognition highlights her exceptional leadership and dedication as the past Cake Chair.

Additionally, we are thrilled to congratulate Civitan Marlyne on receiving both the *Peter Street Outstanding Club President Award* and the *Outstanding Area Director Award*. These accolades are a testament to her unwavering commitment, passion, and outstanding service to the Civitan organization.

Please join us in celebrating Civitans Cathy and Marlyne for their exceptional achievements and contributions to our club and the wider Civitan community!



Kawartha Lakes Civitan Club - #2721 President Ken Luff

'Tis the season for giving.

The Kawartha Lakes Civitan Club is certainly living up to this old and generous adage.

At our recent November meeting the members voted unanimously to donate financial assistance to the following organizations:

Kinmount Food Bank \$1,000

Coboconk and Area Food Bank \$500

Coboconk Santa Claus Parade \$500

Lady Mackenzie Public School \$1,000



Club members are also freely giving of their time in support of the Salvation Army Kettle campaign. Members will be sharing Christmas greetings and seeking kettle donations at the local Foodland and LCBO.

"The Civitan Club has always been a big part of the success of our campaign," said Salvation Army Kettle Co-ordinator Kim Garreffa. "Assuredly I have never taken for granted all the volunteer hours your members have given us in the past years. It makes such a difference."

During the holiday season, we turn our thoughts to longtime former members who are no longer with us.

In particular, Dave Reid, one of the founding members of our club who passed away this summer. We miss Dave for not only his devotion to the club but for his memories of the club's origins.

Dave would always have a twinkle in his eye when sharing stories of past Civitan days in the Kawartha Lakes.



The Kawartha Lakes Civitan Club wishes you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



everyone, welcome to winter.

The London club has been very busy this fall. We have finished up the year with donations to the Basket brigade to help out with Christmas hampers. The club also donated to Rotholme family shelter for their Christmas dinner and also to the church of the Epiphany to help out with their food cupboard.

The club also held their annual Halloween Dance for CLL where about 100 guests showed up in their scariest costumes while DJ J kept them dancing for the evening. We also did a movie night for CLL and finally used our 20 foot blow up screen, people brought their lawn chairs and we supplied snacks while they all watched the nightmare before Christmas.

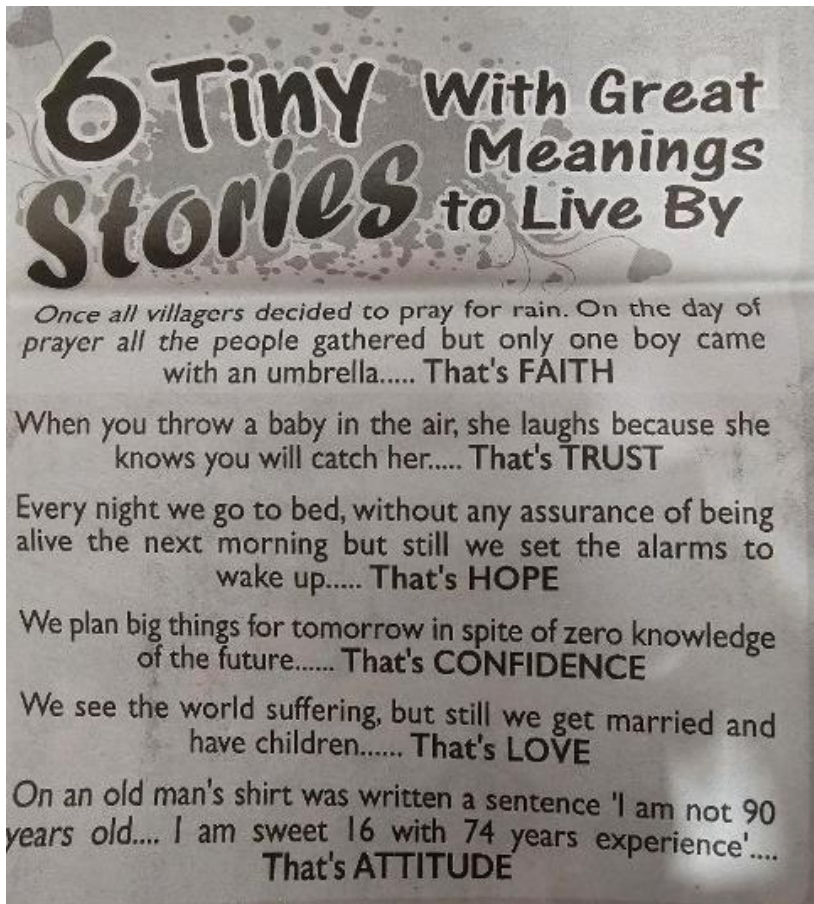
Sue Gibson introduced new fundraiser recipes in a jar to the club and Pauline looked after all the details and the club raised approximately \$250.00 which was great for our first time.

We hope everybody has a great Christmas and a Happy New Year

Stay safe

Darrell Blackwell

London Middle sex Civitan club



Midland Civitan Club - #1959 President Mike Tinney

The Midland Civitan Club held our annual Inaugural dinner and Award Evening on September 28th at the Midland Curing Club. Governor Pat McKinney and Area Director Marlyne Van Exan installed the incoming executive for 2024-25. The club presented long time member Tom Barber with a club honour key and Past International President Bill Hiscott presented Carroll Wilson with the Civitan of the Year award. A Fellow Award was presented posthumous to Norma Johnson which her son Kirk gratefully accepted. It was a great evening enjoyed by all.

The Midland Civitan Club continues with weekly bingos and the club have made several donations to local causes including, Wendat Community programs, Girls Hockey, Silver Stick Hockey, Sistema Childrens choir and seven local Legion Poppy Campaigns.

We have hit the road running with our Claxton Cake Sales well under way and our 48th Annual Santa parade took place November 30th.

Midland Civitan Club wishes you all a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.





Civitan Members

To a joyful present
and a well remembered past.
Best wishes for a Merry Christmas
and a magnificent New Year.

C.I.F.O.C.



Canadian District West
May the Christmas season
fill your home with joy,
your heart with love
and your life with laughter.

C.D.W. Board

