

**Kiwanis Club of Orillia**  
**Weekly Meeting Monday June 19th, 2017**  
**Theo's Restaurant, Orillia**

**Present:**

Joanne Watson	Peter Head	Steph Worthington
Mark Burns	Lawrence LaFrance	Ben Cole
John Pritchard	Matt Dixon	Bob MacDonald
Mike Bunn	Mitch Shaw	Jerry Wink
Korine Keyzer	Bob Robinson	Doug Downey
Tim Timpano	Mark Goode	Charles Kelly
James Maxwell	Bruce McRae	Adam Borutski
John Parker	Bob Wink	Carol Ivey
Marnie Bosco	Jen Man	Robert Marck
John Mayo	Dan Becher	Dave North

**Oh Canada:**

We may have fumbled the snap but we ended up with a touchdown!!!  
Great recovery Gang!!!!

**The Blessing:**

An uplifting and bubbly blessing was delivered today by the effervescent James Maxwell – thank you James.

## **Happy Loonies:**

Carol Ivey has far too much good news to list here but I will mention that she did get married recently. Congrats to you both!!!

Mitch Shaw is happy that Tee Ball wraps up this week with the usual formalities. Thanks to Mitch, and all the Tee Ball coaches for putting in yet another year with the little sluggers!!!

Bruce McRae is happy that a Ben Cole asked him to join us at this week's meeting. He is also happy to have his children back home from all parts of the globe. Great stuff Bruce!!!

Steph is happy that Carol Ivey will be her secretary when she becomes LG of the district. That's really outta sight!!!!

Ben Cole chipped in a loonie last week for the Kenny Chesney song "She Thinks My Tractor's Sexy". Turns out Ben owns a John Deere lawn tractor. We were hoping that Cathy might have weighed in on this. We're still waiting...

## **Where Angels Play:**

Special congrats to both Mark Goode and Peter Head for donating their time and personal resources to make the "Where Angels Play" playground a reality. The playground will honor the memory of memory of Jacob Noble. It is the first of hopefully many more in Canada and it was great project for Kiwanis to support. Thanks for all your effort Guys!!!

### **Today's Honorary Host:**

Back in 2002, Mario Lemieux came out of retirement, laced up and led the Canadian men's hockey team to Olympic gold in Salt Lake City. In similar heroic fashion, P.P. B.T. Cole threw himself back up at the front of the room, seized the gavel and hosted this week's meeting. Awesome job Ben, can I have your autograph?

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

Norbert Kondracki was our guest speaker today. Norbert recalled what life was like for his family in Eastern Europe during the first half of the twentieth century. He talked about how his Polish grandfather from the Ukraine ended up settling in the Balkans. Through twists of fate he found himself in Russia serving with the Czarist army in WWI only to flee after the 1917 Bolshevik revolution. He talked about the meagre life between the wars in the then, newly formed Yugoslavia. He recounted how his father was forced to fight with the Wehrmacht on the Soviet front during WWII only to be taken prisoner and sent to a Russian POW camp. He explained that probably the only reason he survived was because he could speak Russian. He talked about how after the war, his father was separated from the rest of his family with no job, no money and no place to go. It was then that his father gathered his family and moved to Canada.

Many of us have relatives who served in the two world wars. Some of us have lost relatives either in combat or during civilian bombardments such as the blitz. Not having a home would be more than awful. Not having a

country would be worse and something that few of us have ever had to think about let alone experience. Fascinating talk today and thank you for being with us Norbert, I hope you will join us again.

### **Next Week:**

We're all back at Theo's next week when our guest speaker will be former NHL announcer Jiggs McDonald. That's all for now, have a great week everyone.

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

**“In peace, sons bury their fathers. In war, fathers bury their sons.”**  
**Anon.**