Canadian John Button brings a casual, fun approach to his term as Kiwanis president.
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Cover photo by Frank Espich
VOICES

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
JOHN BUTTON | KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

THE WAY AHEAD
Scattered across Canada’s north are primitive stone markers, Inukshuks, erected by the Inuit people to show the way ahead in the harsh desolate Arctic. Inukshuks symbolize cooperation, balance and the idea that teaching and group effort are greater than individual effort. The Inukshuk’s strength is in its unity.

For Kiwanis, the message of the Inukshuk is about our dependence on one another and the value of strong relationships. It reminds us of our responsibility to invest in our effort today and to direct a better way ahead for all of us tomorrow as we strive to reach our goals and attain our vision.

In our centennial year, while we reflect on our past, it’s more important to focus on our future. That’s what this year is all about: The Way Ahead. And the Inukshuk—that beacon of hope—is our symbol.

The Eliminate Project and The Formula are vital components of our way ahead. The two initiatives have a unique synergy. When one succeeds, they both succeed. The continuing success of our Eliminate Project is growing and expanding Kiwanis, and membership strength drives our service to new heights.

The elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus will be the finest achievement of our first 100 years. Yet, there’s much to do. And it will be done. No baby should be allowed to die when we have the power to save. No woman should die because she has given life. We are showing mothers, their children and the world the way ahead to a healthier future. Let’s get the job done!

The Formula is all about the way ahead. Love Kiwanis. Share Kiwanis. Live Kiwanis. I fully expect the early success of this campaign to multiply in its first full year.

As we mark 100 years, 2014–15 will be a year to celebrate our members who have made this milestone possible. The party will begin with a celebration-themed Rose Parade float and continue with a number of stops around the Kiwanis world. I’m particularly excited about our stop in Detroit in January to celebrate the Detroit Kiwanis Club No. 1’s 100th birthday. It will be a party you won’t want to miss. Join me this year as we complete our promise to eliminate MNT, strengthen our membership, expand our reach and celebrate Kiwanis like never before as together we travel The Way Ahead.

EXECUTIVE PERSPECTIVE
STAN SODERSTRÖM | KIWANIS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SHARE THE PRIDE
It’s a new Kiwanis year, and as I was reviewing financial and service statistics of the previous year, I was struck by our very impressive numbers.

And I realized these numbers should be a great source of pride for Kiwanis members everywhere. Allow me to share just five reasons why.

First, I am excited to know we have crossed the two-thirds benchmark for The Eliminate Project (that means we’ve generated more than US$70 million from all sources). We are in the process of making a significant contribution to the global health community and communities all around the world. And we’re saving millions of mothers and children.

Second, and as an important add-on for my first point, our first global service initiative—to virtually eliminate iodine deficiency disorders—officially ended in 2005 with US$105 million raised. Continued work in partnership with UNICEF and the US Agency for International Development has brought more than US$23 million to the global community-service and communities around the world, and neonatal tetanus will be a great source of pride for Kiwanis members every year.

Fourth, our clubs, in communities around the world, raise and spend more than US$100 million for local community service every year.

Fifth, Kiwanis-family clubs devote more than 20 million hours to community-service programs and activities in Kiwanis communities every year.

Since 1995, when we launched our first global service initiative, our Kiwanis-family clubs have contributed nearly $2.5 billion to their local and global communities.

And, our hands-on impact is somewhere in excess of 400 million service hours.

As I see it, this is all community impact. We’re making a difference—a huge difference. It doesn’t get any better than that.

As we celebrate Kiwanis’ centennial year, I invite you to make a copy of this page and pass it around at your next meeting. Collectively, we’re making a difference—a huge difference. This is a great time to be a part of something big and impactful, like Kiwanis.

Thanks for serving.
Celebrate Kiwanis’ 100th anniversary by making a gift to The Eliminate Project. For a limited time, we’ll honor your gift of US$1,500 with the Centennial Award—complete with a custom-framed medallion and other exclusive recognition items. Help eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus, and celebrate our centennial. Claim your place in our history today.

Your opportunity is here!  www.TheEliminateProject.org/recognition
VOICES

LETTERS
KIWANIS MAGAZINE READERS RESPOND

FAN MAIL

Please consider this letter as “fan mail.” I have been a member of Kiwanis since 1984. I am a past lieutenant governor, past member of a Kiwanis International committee, etc. I mention this just to let you know that I believe I have a real appreciation of the wonderful Kiwanis worldwide organization, how it functions and what it means. I also have a long track record with Kiwanis.

The foregoing having been said, I believe I have some degree of competence in being able to say that our current Kiwanis magazine is, by far and away, an order of magnitude better than past versions. From my perspective, the current magazine is an absolutely outstanding publication both as an instrument of Kiwanis communication within the Kiwanis family, and, beyond that, on account of its layout, presentation and overall superior journalistic content.

JAMES V. JONES | KIWANIS CLUB OF NAPA, CALIFORNIA

We welcome your comments on Kiwanis magazine content; email your letter to magazine@kiwanis.org.
Make sure your club has a voice in Kiwanis’ future. Make a place in your club’s budget for representatives to attend the 100th Annual Kiwanis International Convention. As we celebrate our first 100 years, your club’s delegates will also cast votes that shape our next 100 years. And they’ll return better equipped to help your club serve your community.

2015  Indianapolis, Indiana, USA
Kiwanis celebrates 100 years

2016  Toronto, Ontario, Canada

2017  Paris, France

It’s more than a line item.

It’s your club’s VOICE.
NEWS

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
TRENDS, TIPS, FACTS AND FIGURES FROM KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Kiwanis Club of Atascadero
on Facebook

Thank you to the public for supporting the Atascadero Kiwanis Club food booth at the Mid State Fair in Paso Robles, California. If it wasn’t for the public’s help, we wouldn’t be able to feed the homeless and other services in our community. Thank YOU!!!!!!

BUDGET FOR INDY

Be sure your club has a voice at the 100th anniversary celebration in Indianapolis, Indiana, June 25–28, 2015.

Keep a place in your club’s budget for funds to send two club delegates to the 2015 Kiwanis International convention.

Need help budgeting? Go to http://kwn.is/kiconvbudget.

TRICK-OR-TREAT FOR UNICEF

Will you Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF this year to benefit The Eliminate Project?
Let’s try to raise more than last year’s US$565,000! Learn more at http://www.TheEliminateProject.org/TrickorTreat.

A HEALTHY PARTNERSHIP

“A healthy partnership is vital to the success of both of our organizations.”

Maria Palazzolo Key Club International president
Read more at http://kwn.is/kpalazzolo1014.

A STRONG FOUNDATION

“This year, CKI will focus in two areas: strengthening our foundation for internal growth through brand development and resources and exploring international outreach and support for expansion.”

Kathy Le Circle K International president
Read more at http://kwn.is/kile1014.
SHARED VISION

As a 2014 Vision Partner, the U.S. Army works closely with local Kiwanis leadership to help facilitate Key Leader weekends, in which Army soldiers help youth attendees develop service leadership skills.

Read more at http://kwn.is/ki2014army.

AKTION WEAR

Spread the word about Aktion Club by wearing a T-shirt designed by Courtney Gideon, member of the Aktion Club of Atlantic City, New Jersey. Courtney submitted the winning design for the AC Tee contest, which annually gives members a chance to provide their ideas.

Get your shirt today at https://store.kiwanis.org/AktionClub/.

MOUNTAIN HIGH CLUB

Five Pikes Peak Kiwanis Club members made it all the way to the summit of Mt. Sherman (14,036 feet). Their hike supported Griffith Centers for Children Chins Up’s Peak Challenge 2014! At the summit, a brief but official Kiwanis meeting was held. A world record? Perhaps. Pikes Peak Kiwanians claim the “World’s Highest Kiwanis meeting where members climbed to the peak.”
CELEBRATE IN DETROIT

Celebrate 100 years of Kiwanis where it all began: Detroit, Michigan. Kiwanis International and the Detroit No. 1 Club invite you to an exclusive celebration with dinner, dessert and history. Make your reservations now to take advantage of discounted rates. Get details and register now at www.kiwanis.org/detroit.

See you in the Motor City!

CENTENNIAL LEGACY

Honor your commitment to Kiwanis and our 100 years of history through a special centennial gift to The Eliminate Project. You’ll save lives and leave a lasting legacy for generations of children and Kiwanis members. This exclusive opportunity will only be available for a limited time. Visit www.TheEliminateProject.org/recognition for details.

ON TOUR

The Kiwanis Centennial Tour, led by Kiwanis International President John R. Button, will visit 12 communities to celebrate Kiwanis’ 100th anniversary and, at most locations, leave a legacy of service to children through special playground builds.

Currently, planned stops in 2015 include:
- Seattle, Washington: February 12–15
- Atlanta, Georgia: February 19–22
- Orlando, Florida: February 26–March 1
- Los Angeles/Anaheim, California: March 12–15
- Taipei, Taiwan: March 19–22
- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: March 26–29
- St. Louis, Missouri: April 9–12
- New York, New York: April 23–26
- Chicago, Illinois: April 30–May 3
- Milan, Italy: May 28–31
- Luxembourg City, Luxembourg: June 4–7
- Indianapolis, Indiana: June 25–28

Watch for more district news about the exciting events taking place near you at www.kiwanis.org/kiwanis100.

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Fistula Foundation on Twitter

“Thank you San Jose Kiwanis for inviting us to speak about obstetric fistula at yesterday’s meeting!”
Celebrate 100 years
Show your Kiwanis pride

See what’s new at www.kiwanis.org/store.
The Formula assists clubs in becoming healthy and strong to make our second century of service stronger than the first. That’s why we’ve developed a special recognition program to celebrate the efforts of anyone who shares what they love about their club. Until April 30, 2015, we’re offering a centennial edition of each award to honor our history—while acknowledging your importance to our future.

**The Gift of Kiwanis [for member sponsors]:** Give the gift of service to children by sponsoring a new member—giving that member the gift of the Kiwanis experience.

**Impact Circle [for clubs]:** A thriving Kiwanis club is a collaborative achievement. And stronger Kiwanis clubs with an increased number of members can make a bigger difference in their communities in the long run.

**Mentors’ Circle [for club counselors]:** Counselors help new—and existing—clubs increase their potential. The Formula honors their efforts to guide clubs to increased membership.

**The Legacy Circle [for club openers]:** Clubs in new communities are vital for strengthening Kiwanis. The Formula celebrates the legacy you leave.

* For qualifications for receiving each award, please visit www.kiwanis.org/formularecognition.
Stale is good
(if you’re croutons)

Hard time keeping your club website fresh?

Portalbuzz Club Management System web tools make it simple. No tech skills needed to build a pro site. Updates are easy. See the example at www.KiwanisOne.org/idealsite.

A VERY SPECIAL LITTLE GIRL AND HER FAMILY BATTLE RETT SYNDROME WITH SOME HELP FROM THEIR FRIENDS AT KIWANIS.

STORY BY JACK BROCKLEY | PHOTOS BY CURTIS BILLUE
“I thought I would teach my daughter about the world. It turns out I need to teach the world about my daughter. They see a little girl who can’t talk. I see a miracle who does not need words.” — Unknown

“Have you ever heard of Rett syndrome?”
No. Bill and Jackie Babiarz had never heard of Rett, but the word syndrome held plenty of meaning for the young Wheaton, Illinois, couple. In the time it took for a doctor to ask that seven-word question, they knew their lives had suddenly, permanently changed.

Their first child, Cameron, was born March 10, 2009. She weighed 8 pounds and was 19 inches tall with 10 toes and 10 fingers.

“She was a typical child,” Jackie says. “Rolled over on time. Sat up on time. Knew some words very well. Life as a new mom was great for the first six months.”

That’s about the time Jackie and Bill began to notice little things. Cammy wasn’t crawling. She toppled over after sitting up for just a few seconds. And she stopped talking.

Wait and see, doctors advised.

At 20 months of age, Cammy and her parents had waited long enough. It was time to schedule another doctor’s appointment.

“At that time, her hand was constantly in her mouth,” Jackie remembers. “The pediatrician walked in and said, ‘Are her hands always like that?’”

A pamphlet listed Rett’s symptoms: hands held at the mouth, slowed growth, loss of coordination, loss of communication, possible breathing problems, possible seizures, irritability, scoliosis and a life-threatening irregular heartbeat.

Though Mom has told the story time and time again, she still cries at this part.

“I knew in my heart this was it. It just fit.”

What Jackie and Bill did not know is that their beautiful child with a rare syndrome would lead the family into a new life filled with love and support from their local community, the world. And the Kiwanis Club of Evanston, Illinois.

“She’s such a joy,” mother says of Cammy’s younger sister, Ryan, standing, far left. “She just makes Cameron better. She makes all of us better.”

People ask the Babiarzs if Cammy is ever not smiling. “There are bad days,” Jackie says. “One of our mottos is, ‘Cammy has Rett syndrome. Some days, Rett syndrome has Cammy.’

“OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2014 17
Home from school ...

Cammy sits at the kitchen table. Jackie feeds her spoonfuls of macaroni and cheese, with sips of milk from a “Monsters Inc.” mug. Her sister, three-year-old Ryan, is the first to respond to the doorbell, hopping down from the table to investigate. Mom’s call beats her to the door: “Come on in, Jim.”

Cammy recognizes the man in the blue shirt and wire-framed glasses. Her sparkling eyes and a broad, open smile greet Evanston Kiwanian James Wolinski as he sweeps around the table, leans over and kisses her forehead.

“They’re best friends,” Jackie says.

Cammy has introduced many such friends to her family since January 7, 2011. That’s the day Drs. Kendra Farabee and Mary Keen called with blood test results: positive for Rett.

“I know it sounds strange,” Jackie says, “but we were relieved to get the diagnosis, because we knew what we were up against. … The only thing we had control over was spreading awareness and raising money so Rett syndrome would go in the direction we wanted it to. My husband and I have never been the kind of people to sit on the sidelines.”

Under the banner “Cammy Can Reverse Rett,” the family has led a fundraising/awareness-raising campaign that has included strollerathons, website promotions and Facebook campaigns. Bill ran across the state of Illinois and raised more than US$200,000 for the Rett Syndrome Awareness Foundation. Elementary school students in California recorded a YouTube video cheering for the “bravest little fighter you’ll ever know.” Because of Cammy, the family has touched the National Hockey League’s Stanley Cup after her favorite team, the Chicago Blackhawks, won the National Hockey League championship in 2013.

The family, Jackie says, will go anywhere to talk about Rett.
That’s why a friend suggested they meet the Evanston Kiwanis Club.

“It was an instant love affair,” Wolinski remembers.

At that time, Cammy was a candidate in an online contest to win a handicapped-accessible van. Having watched Jackie haul a 50-pound wheelchair in and out of her car, the Kiwanians took up the campaign and swept their new “honor-ary member” to the front of the pack. Despite the boost, it just wasn’t enough.

“She didn’t win,” Wolinski says.

Disappointed but determined, the Kiwanians chose a new strategy. They set a goal to raise about US$50,000 to buy a van, with hopes to present the vehicle as a 2013 Christmas present. The members were the first to donate. The club’s foundation pitched in $2,500. Neighboring Kiwanis clubs added to the fund. Using Facebook, Twitter, email and EverRibbon.com, the Cammy Can Van cause went viral.

By December, the campaign had $30,000 in the bank. “That’s great,” Wolinski says, “but we were $15- to $20,000 short.”

The Kiwanians, Jackie remembers, had tried so hard to give her family that Christmas present.

“On Christmas eve, I got an email,” Jackie says. “A family pooled their money and raised the last $18,000 for us. They didn’t want us to wait any longer. … That was the best Christmas we’d had in a while.

Bill and Jackie Babiarz watch carefully the progress of Rett clinical trials around the world. One program interests them most. Boston Children’s Hospital is in phase two of research that has produced promising results for alleviating some symptoms.

“We know it’s possible,” Jackie says. “We know that in Cameron’s lifetime, she will be cured.” Shortly after Kiwanis magazine’s visit to the Babiarz’s home, Jackie reported that Cameron has been selected as a participant in the Boston trials.
FINDING A GOOD FIT

There’s no denying that Bozeman, Montana—nestled in the northern Rocky Mountains—is a destination for world-class fly fishing and snow skiing. Take a walk downtown and you’ll see boutiques, shops selling snowboarding equipment and restaurants bustling with hungry tourists.

On a quieter street one block south of Main Street is an unassuming white church with little piles of snow still clinging to the last days of winter. Between cold grey clouds, the sun pops out to warm early morning guests at the door. A young woman greets them with a confident, warm smile.

“Hi, I’m Amber,” she says. All around her, clothing, shoes, boxes and bags burst from every room and into the hall. “Welcome to the Kiwanis Closet.”

“It started as a clothing drive,” Guth says of her Bozeman Kiwanis Club’s program to help the homeless and needy.

It was at a Kiwanis club meeting that she heard about schoolchildren wearing flip flops and no coats during recess … in January in Bozeman, when and where temperatures dip into the mid-teens (Fahrenheit).

“The first thing that stuck out to me was, ‘Who are these kids without shoes?’ And that tugged at my heart.”

That’s when Bozeman Kiwanians decided to make a change. Their periodic clothing collections became a daily operation, the Kiwanis Closet.

Amber Guth packs donated clothes from nearby consignment shops into her small car. It’s physical work, loading and unloading donations. “There are days I go home with a sore back or just absolutely wore out, but if I made a difference for one, then it was worth it.”
A teenage girl digs through a box of baby clothes, holding up outfits to imagine what her baby might look like in them. Another woman is looking for shoes.

“It definitely helps, because me and my husband are expecting our first so finances are really tight,” the shoe shopper explains. “It’s truly a blessing to be able to come somewhere and be able to choose through stuff that it doesn’t matter if it’s hand me down or not. Like it’s always a blessing whether it’s. . . .” She pauses as her eyes start tearing up. It’s a tender moment where the emotions of hardship and joy of a new life come to the surface. She recomposes and moves on happily to her mission of finding the right pair of shoes.

Guth sees a part of herself in that new mother-to-be and other Kiwanis Closet customers. When her parents went through a divorce, her family struggled through hard times. She was less than three years old, her parents had no money. There was no food. Beatings. Neglect. Sometimes living in their car.

“It became homeless again at 19 years old,” she says. “I was pregnant with my daughter and lived in my car for five months that time. That was a pretty rough wake-up call for me, and I started to work pretty diligently toward change. I knew that I didn’t want the same type of life that I had grown up in for my daughter.”

Driving through the outskirts of town, you’ll see picture-perfect houses rising against a backdrop of the mountains. Guth points to a large house the size of a country club. “We definitely see a difference between the haves and the have-nots,” she says. “Unfortunately, we have a lot more homeless than people realize. I think we have this misconstrued conception of what homeless looks like.”

Being homeless goes beyond a man holding a sign begging for change in a crowded traffic median. It is families living in cars and vans, multiple families sharing one small home, living in a basement or a garage.
“I’ve heard of teenagers living in garden sheds or cars or multiple homeless teenagers renting hotel rooms one night at a time just for a place to sleep,” Guth says. “That’s a realistic view of homeless.”

Heading back to the center of Bozeman, Guth detours past the budget motels and trailer parks. Here, she points out, the have-nots are invisible. “They don’t want to stand up and say, ‘This is me. I need help.’ It’s very difficult, having been in that position myself, and I know how hard it is to ask for help when you really need it.”

Though Bozeman, like the rest of the Gallatin Valley, has a 20 percent poverty rate, it is a community that cares, which is reflected in the hundreds of non-profit organizations, especially Kiwanis.

“I saw these people that had this passion and this focus on making change for kids, and thought, what a great opportunity,” Guth says of her decision to join Kiwanis. “That’s kind of where my heart is. I wanted to somehow make change for those kids that didn’t have the opportunity that I wasn’t given either.”

A Bozeman Kiwanis Club meeting is a family reunion of sorts, full of good-natured ribbing. It’s a fun and active group, busy with many diverse projects like supporting therapy for wounded veterans and their families and building 100 sandboxes to give away every year.

When asked about the Kiwanis Closet, members puff up their chest. The program, they’ll proudly explain, has served 8,000 people in its five years. “The Kiwanis Closet has come along and now it’s just going really well,” says Past President Sharon Tudor Isler. “I think it’s great to have someplace where people can just go get something and they don’t even have to pay for it at all ... this one is kind of special.”

Guth credits the club and its courage to change, as well as support from the Bozeman community. In the end, she says, it’s about helping people who need it the most.

“Probably 80 percent of the families that come and utilize this program donate either the clothing that their children have grown out of or they come back and volunteer,” Guth says. “That, to me, says that we see a lot of folks who don’t see this as a handout but a hand up.”

A great characteristic of any club is how welcome one feels. Attending a Bozeman Kiwanis Club meeting is like going to a family reunion. It is full of good-natured joking, food, singing and funny stories.
NATURAL LEADER

CANADIAN JOHN BUTTON BRINGS A CASUAL, FUN APPROACH TO HIS TERM AS KIWANIS PRESIDENT.

STORY BY JACK BROCKLEY
PHOTOS BY FRANK ESPICH AND JACK BROCKLEY
John R. Button, MD—only a few months away from his term as our 2014-15 Kiwanis International president—stood in the grassy, rutted triangle inside a three-way intersection of rural Chatham-Kent, Ontario. A distant trail of dust announced the approach of two vehicles, which set the distinguished physician to waving his arms. Wildly. A convertible took the right fork, and a SUV went left. But both drivers, confused and dissuaded by those Wizard of Oz scarecrow antics, stopped and turned around, laughing as they headed off in opposite directions.

Button beamed with pride for orchestrating another classic tale of muddling fun that certainly will be added to the humorously rich annals of the Ridgetown Kiwanis Club.

For the past 20 years, Button and his wife, Debbie, have been organizing road rallies as a social activity for fellow Kiwanians. Mapping, timing and composing tricky directions is one of many roles John has enjoyed since joining the club in 1978. But his life in Kiwanis began decades before—on September 19, 1951, when he was born. His father, Jim, was a rural family doctor, community leader and passionate Kiwanian. His mother, Nancy, was a passionate community volunteer with a knack for having fun. Like mom and dad, like son. Ridgetown is a picturesque community of brick mansions and cottage-like homes, surrounded by dairy farms, orchards and massive wind turbines. Downtown, at the corner of Main and Victoria, Button checks off landmarks of his life.

“That duplex,” he points out. “That’s where dad set up his office on one side and our home on the other. I can still remember people knocking at our front door at all hours of the day and night, asking to see the doctor.”

“There’s the Presbyterian church. And that window just to the right of the front doors, that’s where, as young boys, my friend and I kicked out the stained glass.

“Behind us, it’s a bed and breakfast now, but that’s where Dad and I practiced medicine together for 20 years. And in those 20 years, we never had one argument.”

Within walking distances of that downtown corner are other settings for Button-family stories. The Ridge House Museum, where his 43-year-old mother, Nancy, reportedly stepped to the curb, lifted her skirt to show a bit of ankle and attracted a few men to help move furniture. The community pool, an award-winning facility built by Kiwanis with Jim as chairman. The tennis courts. The Kiwanis apartments for seniors. The high school gymnasium/auditorium, which is named in honor of Jim’s years of service on the school board.

Ridgetown District High School is also where John’s interests in science and service bloomed into lifelong pursuits. In 1966, he was admitted into Key Club. One of his favorite activities was an evening party called Teen Town. Occasionally, the Kiwanis chaperones were needed to maintain order.

“I remember being called before the school board—with my father sitting across from me as chairman—to justify why Key Club should be allowed to continue Teen Town,” Button remembers. “I must have made my point, because we were allowed to have Teen Town the next year.”

Those high school years yielded quickly to years away from home to attend the University of Western Ontario, then the University of Toronto for his medical degree and back to Western for his internship. In June 1978, he returned to Ridgetown, joined his father’s practice and joined his father’s Kiwanis club.

Fun is a key ingredient in John and Debbie Button’s life and Kiwanis club. The couple annually plot a mad, mad road rally for fellow Kiwanians (opposite page). Another favorite Button pastime is cooking—but at different stations, with John preferring to prepare entrees and Debbie, desserts. They follow the same path through Rondeau Provincial Park (above), where they enjoy walks, bird-watching and photography.
It’s the Kiwanis Teddy Bear Picnic. Children march down Main Street with decorated bears or other favorite plush toy animals. The procession leads into a tree-shaded park, where the Kiwanis club treats families to music, face painting, hot dogs, drinks and prizes. Most families spread blankets for picnic lunches. Debbie Button sells her popular teddy-bear-shaped molasses-and-cereal treats.

“Kiwanis is all about three things,” John says. “Fun, fellowship and service. And one of our most fun events—for the children as well as our club members—is the Teddy Bear Picnic.”

The club also organizes the Santa Claus Parade and a downhill derby. It sponsors a Key Club and an Action Club, supports youth sports and has plans to build a splash pad. During Kiwanis’ first global campaign for children to eliminate iodine deficiency disorders, trivia nights helped the club contribute more than CAD$186,000 to the cause. Now the club is doing its part for The Eliminate Project to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus.

It has been fun, John says. But in 1994, he discovered how important Kiwanis can be. His wife, Jody, died in an automobile accident. On his return home from the hospital three days later with a broken arm, leg and breastbone, he was met at his front door by his Kiwanis friends.

“Over the next weeks and months, my family and my Kiwanis club nursed me back to health,” he says.

In 1995, John was introduced to Debbie Acton. He suggested they meet again for a walk through Rondeau Provincial Park.

Beneath the dense green canopy of the old-growth Carolinian forest—a world-renowned bird-watching destination—John and Debbie talked and discovered many mutual interests, including walking, birds, books, cooking.

The marriage in 1997 blended Debbie (and her cat) into John’s family: Claire and her husband, Geoff; Tim and his wife, Gillian; and three grandchildren. The ceremony took place in their home, which a designer once dubbed Windows 96 because of its many views overlooking Lake Erie, with deer grazing in the yard and bald eagles patrolling the shoreline.

“I’m often asked, ‘Where do you go for vacations?’” John chuckles. “I go home. This is where other people come for their summers. We’re here year-round.”

This year, John Button is taking some time off from vacation to take on a few new Kiwanis roles in his life: president. 100th anniversary celebrant. The Eliminate Project promoter. The Formula advocate.

Yet still and always, fun-loving Ridgetown Kiwanian.
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PAST KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENTS

Stanley E. “Stan” Schneider, Crestline, Ohio, 1976–77
Raymond W. “Ray” Lansford, Columbia, Missouri, 1984–85
Donald E. “Don” Williams, North Ridgeville, Ohio, 1985–86
Frank J. DiNoto, Newport Beach, California, 1986–87
Gene R. Overholt, Plymouth, Michigan, 1988–89
Noris A. Lusche, Lakewood, Colorado, 1989–90
Wil Blechman, MD, Miami, Florida, 1990–91
Ian Perdriau AM, Brighton, Australia, 1994–95
Eyjólfur “Eddie” Sigurðsson, Garðabæ, Iceland, 1995–96
Gerald P. “Jerry” Christiano, Geneseo, New York, 1996–97
Nettles Brown, Natchitoches, Louisiana, 1999–00
Alex A. “Bo” Shafer, Knoxville, Tennessee, 2000–01
Brian G. Cunat, McHenry, Illinois, 2001–02
Juan F. “Ito” Torres Jr., MD, Quezon City, the Philippines, 2002–03
Case Van Kleef, Bonita Springs, Florida, 2004–05
Stephen K. “Steve” Siemens, Des Moines, Iowa, 2005–06
Nelson Tucker, Simi Valley, California, 2006–07
David A. “Dave” Curry, Butte, Montana, 2007–08
Donald R. “Don” Canaday, Fishers, Indiana, 2008–09
Paul G. Palazzolo, Springfield, Illinois, 2009–10
Sylvester “Syl” Neal, Auburn, Washington, 2010–11
Alan Penn, Medina, Ohio, 2011–12
Thomas E. “Tom” DeJulio, Bronxville, New York, 2012–13
The Kiwanians of Michigan can be forgiven for feeling somewhat proprietary about the club’s 100th anniversary. After all, this is pretty much where everything began.

“I can tell you that Michigan is very proud that this is where it all started,” says Susan A. Petrisin, Michigan native and Kiwanis International president-elect.

The saga commenced in 1914 with Allen S. Browne. He was a Detroit native who graduated from the Detroit School of Law in 1905 but seemed destined from the start to go into sales. Brown was interested in fraternal and service clubs, which were all the rage at the dawn of the 20th century. One of the few remaining living connections to Browne is his grandson, David, a San Antonio-Bexar, Texas, Kiwanian.

“My own dad (Allen S. Browne’s son) always said that his dad was an attorney, but he didn’t practice law,” he recalls. “Apparently he was a pretty good promoter. His original idea was always to have a gentleman’s club where professionals could get together and possibly help each other out. And then it kind of morphed into more of a charitable organization.”

Service clubs were big back then. America’s middle class was coming into its own, and all those self-made businessmen needed a place to gather and—in today’s bizspeak—network.

Browne certainly saw it that way. He worked for both the Loyal Order of Moose and the Loyal Home Fraternity before, in
THE FIRST KIWANIS CLUB WAS FOUNDED ON THIS SITE JANUARY 21, 1915
ERECTED JANUARY 21, 1940 BY KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL
A QUARTER CENTURY OF KIWANIS PROGRESS
1914, starting his own outfit, when he called the Benevolent Order of Brothers. He saw it as less of a service club and more of a mutual back-scratching society where moguls could talk business—and little else. The mercantile angle was so firmly entrenched that Browne originally planned to target a long list of specific industries for members, but admit only four candidates from each classification.

In August of 1914, Browne pitched his idea to a tailor named Joseph G. Prance and asked for his help with starting his Detroit-based business club. Prance got onboard, and over the next few weeks more potential members were enlisted. The group held its inaugural meeting in November at Detroit’s Edelweiss Cafe. First on the agenda: a name change.

Not surprisingly, the roughly 35 meeting participants worried that members of the Benevolent Order of Brothers would inevitably come to be known as the BOBs. They approached Detroit’s official historian, Clarence M. Burton, about finding a more appropriate, perhaps Native American-inspired moniker. Burton was less than enthusiastic, having already been asked for the very same thing by numerous other clubs. Finally, after a great deal of cajoling, he offered the phrase *Nunc Kee-wan-nis*, which, he asserted, roughly means “we trade.”

That sounded acceptable to the BOBs, who shortened it to Kiwanis. But that wasn’t the end of it. Later research raised the possibility that Burton, annoyed at being bothered, might have played a joke on the club. An examination of the Otchipwe language, from which *Kee-wan-nis* could have been taken, turned up the phrase “nin kiwanis,” which meant something akin to “I make a foolish noise.”

No matter, the name stuck. On January 21, 1915, the club received its charter from the state of Michigan, and Kiwanis was born.

The direct descendant of that first gathering is the Detroit Kiwanis Club No. 1, which meets these days at the Detroit Athletic Club. Its oldest member, and the one with the longest institutional memory, is undoubtedly 93-year-old Charles Sprau. His father, William C. Sprau, joined Detroit No. 1 in 1915. The junior Sprau remembers the glory days of the club, when
its membership approached 300 and included everyone from government leaders to representatives from pretty much all of Detroit’s major industries.

“They were all businessmen, and prominent in the community,” says Sprau. “All the banks had representatives there. Detroit Edison had representatives there. The governor was there.”

The very young Sprau was there too, regularly accompanying his father to meetings, which for decades were held at downtown Detroit’s Griswold House. They’d even bring Kiwanians to their home for sauerkraut dinners.

“It was kind of funny, because a lot of them didn’t like sauerkraut,” he says. His father was around for what was arguably his club’s most momentous change. When first established, the group held closely to Browne’s original vision of a business group that fostered connections and deal making. The membership fee was set at US$5, with the very first receipt for payment issued on December 7, 1914, to Prance, known forever after as “The First Kiwanian.”

Things moved quickly after that. Membership shot past 200. Browne, who made his livelihood by keeping the $5 (soon raised to $10) membership fees, asked and was granted the right to form new clubs—a pursuit at first viewed humorously by the original Detroit group. Interestingly, new members were promised one share of stock in a national Kiwanis Corporation. The stated value of those certificates was $25.

Browne hewed very closely to his idea of a business-only club. Indeed, he reportedly marketed new memberships by emphasizing the potential to forge contacts and transact business—so much so that some newcomers grew disappointed when this angle didn’t immediately pan out. At the same time, this strictly mercenary view grated on members who wanted the club to become involved in community service.

The turmoil came to a head during a July 1915 gathering at the roof garden of the Tuller Hotel. A segment of the Detroit Kiwanis club staged a palace coup of sorts and turned the group, against Browne’s wishes, into an organization focused on community service. Browne, incensed, washed his hands of the project. As did many others.

“The membership dropped from 250 to about 40 members,” says longtime...
Detroit No. 1 member (and the club’s unofficial historian) Jim Heymes.

But almost immediately the revamped club started attracting recruits. The timing couldn’t have been better, because service clubs were a phenomenon. During the 1920s they became as much a cultural icon as flagpole sitting or dancing the Charleston. By 1916 there were 24 Kiwanis clubs with 500 members. By 1920 there were 267 clubs and 20,000 members. And by 1929, the organization boasted 1,811 clubs and 101,465 members.

John P. “Jack” Ray, a long-standing Detroit No. 1 member and president of the Kiwanis No. 1 Foundation, which provides funds to various Detroit-area charitable efforts, is helping to commemorate those heady days. A retired banker, he assisted with a Kiwanis centennial exhibit currently on display at the Detroit Historical Museum—an organization founded by the same Clarence M. Burton who gave the club its problematic name.

Ray’s roots are deeply planted in Kiwanis history. In 1953–54 his father, Walter J. L. Ray, served as Kiwanis International president—one of two men from Detroit No. 1 who have held that honor.

“I was a Kiwanis brat,” Ray says. “When I was five and six and seven, I was taken to a lot of Kiwanis functions.”

After the palace coup that shook up the Detroit club’s organizational structure and shifted its emphasis to community service, great things happened. Other Kiwanis clubs opened in Cleveland, Akron and Toledo, Ohio; Chicago, Illinois, New York City and numerous other metropolises. In May of 1916 a meeting was called to change Kiwanis into a national organization. Also in that year, a club was formed in Hamilton, Ontario, prompting the group to alter its name from National Kiwanis to Kiwanis International. A year later, when Kiwanians everywhere were invited to a convention, there were already some 80 clubs in 15 states.

But amidst the growth, controversy still roiled. Allen S. Browne might have left the Detroit club to its own devices, but he was still in charge of vital aspects of Kiwanis in general. In 1915, he’d
decamped to Ohio, where he quickly formed a Cleveland club. Of even greater import, he incorporated a “parent organization” under Ohio law to control Kiwanis’ name and emblem. Then he obtained a memorandum of understanding with the new corporation, essentially granting him control over new-club formation and the fees paid to him.

There was still tension between those who wanted to emphasize service and the faction led by Browne who wanted to focus on developing business contacts and rapid expansion. Matters came to a head at the May 1919 convention in Birmingham, Alabama. The Kiwanis Club International Board—as it was then called—decided to make Browne an offer he couldn’t refuse: a lump sum of money to purchase his memorandum of agreement and end his influence over the organization.

Negotiations were lengthy and acrimonious. Browne stated that he might consider selling his contract for $20,000—and launching a lawsuit if his terms weren’t met. For his part, negotiator Louis Hammerschmidt told Browne that if he didn’t make a deal Kiwanis would simply disband and reorganize under a new name.

Finally, at 2 a.m. on Wednesday morning, the two parties came to terms. Browne agreed to sell his contract for $17,500, to be “turned over to me by Thursday noon and in cold cash.”

The terms of the deal—that Browne relinquished all claim to the word “Kiwanis” and severed all relations with the club—were read to the convention delegates the next day. The hat was then passed to gather the requisite $17,500. A great number of checks were written, and in no time the funds were raised. And so, by the strokes of a great many pens, Kiwanis finally belonged to Kiwanians.

Quite a bit of excitement for a group that was, at the time, just over five years old. ©
POOL RESCUE

A SHORTAGE OF FUNDRAISING REVENUES CAN’T PULL THE PLUG ON THIS POPULAR COMMUNITY PROJECT. A KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION GRANT HELPS SAVE THE SUMMER.

STORY BY ELIZABETH REA | PHOTOGRAPHY BY KAREN BOBOTAS

For 70 years, the Kiwanis Swimming Pool in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, has been a source of summer fun for residents of St. Johnsbury and many surrounding towns. When fundraisers fell short of operational needs, the Kiwanis Club of St. Johnsbury partnered with the Kiwanis International Foundation for a grant to keep the pool open.

The club’s fundraising support allows the pool to offer open swim hours for families with no admission fees. Each year, more than 700 children learn to swim and develop water safety skills under the instruction of Red Cross-certified instructors, many of whom learned to swim at the Kiwanis Pool themselves as children. They’re part of a history that began in 1944, when the Kiwanis Club of St. Johnsbury opened the Kiwanis Swimming Pool in response to local drowning deaths that brought to light a critical need for water safety and swimming instruction for children in the community.

Over the course of a summer season, the Kiwanis Swimming Pool in St. Johns-

St. Johnsbury welcomes around 6,000 visitors.

In 2013, the Kiwanians’ fundraisers fell short of their goal, and they faced the prospect of closing the pool two weeks early and cutting back on free swim lessons. With a grant from the Kiwanis International Foundation, however, the club was able to continue full operations of the pool, a full schedule of swim lessons, open swim afternoons, and family swim evenings—for the entire summer.

“The announcement of your grant award revitalized our membership and pointed out the need for their continued involvement in all of the club activities,” reports club Treasurer Fred Saar. “The Kiwanis International Foundation truly made a difference for the St. Johnsbury Kiwanis Club and for the residents of the 18 local towns who use the pool.”

As the Kiwanis Swimming Pool marks its 70th anniversary this summer, the club looks forward to serving and educating the children of their community through pool operations and free swim lessons for many years to come.
REVIVAL MODE

IT REQUIRED COMMITMENT AND HARD WORK, BUT IN LESS THAN THREE YEARS, THE DOWN-BUT-NOT-OUT KIWANIS CLUB OF PARIS-BRANT IS BETTER THAN EVER.

STORY BY EILEEN DENNIE

In 2011, the Kiwanis Club of Paris-Brant, Ontario, had 10 members and no name recognition in a town of 11,000. "If we'd quit, no one would've felt it," says 2013–14 President Stan Hutchinson.

But seven self-proclaimed "stubborn" members chose survival over surrender. Today, after countless hours devoted to the cause, the club is in full-scale revival mode. Here’s how they did it.

Start with a strategy
Members decided to fix the club before looking to strengthen membership. Their first fix? Name recognition.

Make some noise
To proclaim the name of Kiwanis, the club took every chance to be visible in their town. When the Optimist Club held a chili cook-off, for example, the Kiwanians entered a recipe.

By switching the club’s website to the Kiwanis International/Portalbuzz template, their online presence took on a branded, professional look. Updated photos and calendars keep the site fresh.

And people noticed. More and more volunteers use the online registry to sign up for Kiwanis projects.

Find a signature project
In 2012, the Paris-Brant Kiwanis Club launched its Teddy Bear Clinic with a goal of making doctor and dentist visits a little less stressful on kids. The project proved so popular with parents, the club is taking a miniature clinic to area library branches.

3-2-1 and much more
Service is so important to the revitalized club that members adopted the 3-2-1 club format, allotting three hours each month to service, two hours to fellowship and one hour to meetings.

There’s much more to this story of revival. Learn about the club’s recruiting and mentoring efforts, as well as their club-renewal advice at http://kwn.is/kiparisbrant.

IN ADDITION TO ITS TEDDY BEAR CLINICS (LEFT), THE 3-2-1 PARIS-BRANT KIWANIS CLUB HAS INITIATED A CHILDREN’S ART CONTEST AND A STORYTELLING FESTIVAL.
It’s human nature: When you love something—when something really matters to you—you want to share it. You want other people to love it with you. And you want it to be more than something you “do.” You want it to be part of your life. That’s The Formula: Take something you love. Share it with others. Make it a part of your life. It’s Kiwanis. Love it. Share it. Live it.
A SLIPPERY SLOPE
WHAT’S BRIGHT, YELLOW, BUMPY AND A 40-YEAR EDMONTON TRADITION OF THRILLS?
STORY BY WENDY ROSE GOULD

EDMONTON LOCALS LOVE TO SHARE THEIR FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF COASTING DOWN THE LONG, YELLOW KIWANIS SLIDE.

When the Kiwanis Club of Edmonton, Alberta, purchased a gigantic yellow slide in 1973, members knew it harnessed some serious potential. In the past 40 years, though, it has surpassed expectations across multiple channels, including community involvement and fundraising.

Money raised from the slide accounts for a significant portion of the club’s annual fundraising goals, allowing them to donate to local charities and sponsor festivals.

“The slide also gives us lots of flexibility to contribute to the community,” says club President Krista Leddy, who explains that other clubs and organizations operate the slide to raise funds for their projects as well. “We hire high school and university students, Circle K clubs and we also have our own volunteers operate the slide.”

Allowing these groups to run the slide—particularly the younger Circle K and student volunteers—not only earns them money, but also helps them develop important project-management skills.

Over the past four decades, the slide has turned into a popular destination for community members. It has even played an integral role in sentimental memory making. Bridal parties, for example, have been known to chute down the slide together and many grown-ups get all nostalgic, associating the slide with the best days of their childhood.

“We are a landmark in Edmonton, not just at K-Days,” notes Leddy. “Locals know the giant yellow slide very well and share their childhood memories with us quite frequently.”

One particularly touching story involves an elderly couple who came to the slide very early one morning and requested to go down the slide together. The slide, Kiwanians discovered, was where he proposed to her many years before.

Who knew that a 60-foot slide could contribute to a community in such an endearing way? It just goes to show that fundraising and community involvement can be as easy as one, two, whee!
A FESTIVAL TO CROW ABOUT
THE KIWANIS CLUB OF SOMERSET, PENNSYLVANIA’S POPULAR SCARECROW FESTIVAL EXPANDS.
STORY BY SHANNA MOONEY

“WE ENCOURAGE OUR NONPROFIT FRIENDS TO PUT UP A TABLE AND A DONATION JAR. IT’S GREAT: COME AND MAKE SOME MONEY FOR YOUR CHARITY!”

For one Saturday in September, a troupe of straw-stuffed characters takes center stage amid the autumn-colored splendor of western Pennsylvania’s hills and forests. The Kiwanis Carnival & Scarecrow Festival has all the fixings of a fall fair: a petting zoo, entertainment, tractor square dancing, food, games and pumpkin painting. But make no mistake: In Somerset, Pennsylvania, the scarecrows are the stars.

The scarecrow creation contest is the big draw, challenging entrants to stuff their finest crow-chasing figures in four categories: family, non-profit, business, and school. This past year’s entrants included Rapunzel, a 1960s flower child, a rock band and the “Wizard of Oz” cast. The scarecrows remain on display for a week after the festival.

Though the event is a fundraiser, the club keeps it accessible to all by not charging for admission or most activities. They also invite other groups to participate.

“That’s another important part of the event,” says Kiwanian DeAnn McCoy. “We encourage our nonprofit friends to put up a table and a donation jar. It’s great: Come and make some money for your charity!”

Club president Tom Koppenhofer concurs: “Working within our community to help build community and benefiting families is our local mission as members of the Kiwanis organization. We are a small club, but we accomplish some mighty things.”
Birthdays

These clubs celebrate 25th, 50th and 75th anniversaries in November and December 2014. For a more complete list, visit www.kiwanis.org/birthday.

75th—1939
Doniphan, Missouri, November 6
Mayfield, Kentucky, November 14
Great Bend, Kansas, November 22
Brewer, Maine, November 27
Sturgis, Michigan, November 29
Ely, Minnesota, December 7
Perry, Iowa, December 14
Holland, Michigan, December 18
Owensboro, Kentucky, December 21

50th—1964
Northshore, Bothell, Washington, November 5
Junction City, South, Kansas, November 10
Weed Lake Shastina, California, November 12
Aruba, Aruba, November 21
Hartsville, South Carolina, December 7
Greater Chicago Heights, Illinois, December 15
St. Gallen, Switzerland, December 17
North Platte-Buffalo Bill, Nebraska, December 29
Westside Jacksonville, Florida, December 30

25th—1989
Loveland Golden K, Colorado, November 8
Sarganserland, Switzerland, November 15
Cossonay, Switzerland, November 15
Vlaardingen Europoort, Netherlands, November 20
West End Atlanta, Georgia, November 24
Lawrence Sunrise, Indiana, November 28
Westside Columbia, Missouri, November 28
Toms River Daybreak, New Jersey, December 8
Murtensee, Switzerland, December 14
Peterborough, New Hampshire, December 20

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In 2015, Kiwanis will turn 100. A celebration this important requires preparation. Is your club getting ready? Add your inspiration to our global celebration. Get ideas and information on the 100th anniversary website!

Get ideas and information at Kiwanis.org/Kiwakis100.
Kiwanis and maggots working together to help children! How is that even possible? It is, and you might say it all began in April 1922, when a joint Canada/US Kiwanis International Board committee came up with a plan called “A Square Deal for the Underprivileged Child—Future Citizen.”

Clubs responded by setting up camps, founding orphanages and—in Baltimore, Maryland—supporting research that “led to a ‘cure’ for osteomyelitis by using maggots to debride affected tissue.”

The Underprivileged Child idea also planted a seed that branched into annual objectives and themes.

Unlike our Objects, which have remained unchanged since their 1924 adoption, these initiatives changed frequently, usually annually. World War II-era themes, such as “All Out for Victory,” were replaced in 1946 by “Build for Peace—Unity—Opportunity,” which was followed by 1950s’ messages proclaiming “Freedom” and “Liberty.” Themes in the 1960s called Kiwanians to “personal responsibility” and “leadership.”

“Get Involved in Community Service” became the theme in 1969–70, but it was teamed with a new concept. The organization’s first Major Emphasis Program, Operation Drug Alert, provided clubs with tactics and resources to battle substance abuse in their communities. Through the next two decades, these MEPs called clubs to address a variety of issues and causes, such as crime, senior citizens and disabilities.

The last Major Emphasis Program—Young Children: Priority One—inspired Kiwanians in 1990 to change their “We Build” motto to today’s “Serving the Children of the World,” which has rallied the organization through global fundraising campaigns to eliminate iodine deficiency disorders and maternal and neonatal tetanus. And it all started with maggots.
DON’T JUST READ THE STORIES, REACH OUT AND TOUCH THEM.

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This free, interactive and entertaining app brings new dimension to Kiwanis magazine through video, slideshows, audio and other exciting features. Touch the heartwarming stories of Kiwanis’ impact on children around the world, and be touched in return.

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**What's Your Story**
If your club has a success story, simply email a summary and a few photos to shareyourstory@kiwanis.org to be considered for possible future use in Kiwanis International publications.

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*A non-profit, Kiwanis sponsored fundraising program exclusively for Kiwanis Clubs.*