

Kiwanis eye Napanee for new service club chapter

BY ASHLEY ESPINOZA
Staff Reporter

A district Kiwanis representative is looking for community support and membership applications to establish a Kiwanis group in Greater Napanee.

Dennis Margueratt, Kiwanis Lieutenant-Governor for Eastern Canada, has been approaching some local residents, businesses and clubs to garner interest for a Kiwanis club in Greater Napanee.

Mayor Gord Schermerhorn

has agreed to step up as the first member of the proposed Kiwanis club; however, there must be at least 15 people to start the club. Margueratt, who is based out of Picton, said he would also be a member of the Napanee club to help it get established.

The club is dedicated to raising money within the community and return that money to the community in the form of children’s programs, said Margueratt.

“We have determined that we’d like to form a club in Napanee,” Margueratt said. “We did a

demographic survey of Greater Napanee and the average age in Napanee is 47 — so that means that there’s young families and lots of children, so it’s a great fit to have a Kiwanis Club here that focuses on kids.”

Margueratt said some ways the Kiwanis club in Picton has helped the community is by organizing regular community cleanup days and providing funds for a splash pad. He said a club in Napanee would determine how funds should be allocated in order to benefit local children and

youth.

“Once the club is formed, the principle focus is having fun and also fundraising in the community. Doing such things as pancake breakfasts — Belleville does chicken barbecues — clubs generally come up with all kinds of innovative ways to raise money,” said Margueratt.

“In Picton we have a children’s Christmas party at the Salvation Army and we donate all the money that goes into hosting that Christmas party toward children that are generally underprivi-

leged in the community. We also have a scholarship program for young people that are going from high school to post-secondary, furthering their education,” he added, giving examples of some of the ways a club in Napanee would benefit the community.

Individual and corporate memberships are available. Margueratt said to contact him directly if someone is interested in becoming a member. He can be reached by email at Margueratt@gmail.com or by phone at 613-827-0084.