

## JANUARY 2022

### PRESIDENT:

**Sensei Dave Manara, Kudan**  
(9<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt)

### VICE PRESIDENT:

**Steve Borda, Hachidan**  
(8<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt)

### TECHNICAL DIRECTOR:

**José-Carlos Garcia, Hachidan**  
(8<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt)

### SENIOR DIRECTOR & ADVISOR:

**Ray Kennedy, Shichidan**  
(7<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt)

### COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR & FOCUS EDITOR:

**Robb Dods, Rokudan**  
(6<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt)

### YUDANSHA MEMBERSHIP

#### DIRECTOR:

**Ron Sheyan, Shichidan**  
(7<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt)

#### SENIOR ADVISOR:

**Michael McCarthy, Rokudan**  
(6<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt)

#### WEBSITE DIRECTOR:

**Leaton Bernard, Rokudan**  
(6<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt)

#### AMBASSADORS:

**Steve Borda, Hachidan**  
**Ray Kennedy, Shichidan**  
**Ron Sheyan, Shichidan**

## INTRODUCTION

Well, here it is; January; a New Year; 2022!

And, here in Ontario Canada, we are under another COVID lock down; stage 2 requires things like restaurants closed to inside dining and lots of other restrictions to people gathering, including dojos. Just as some clubs had begun to open, they were closed again. Will this never end?

In the last issue of FOCUS, we had some people sharing memories of the early days training at the Ryerson dojo. More of our community have shared their stories in this issue, so we hope you enjoy their remembrances.

We would like to continue this theme of sharing stories. Everyone is welcome to submit your memories; this can be of the early days of starting your training or any interesting tale you would like to share about your karate journey.

We are publishing a schedule for the next six months for the virtual Yudansha sessions, in this issue and we will include it on the website.

There is a little news from a few clubs, but not much until more dojos can open again. Having said that, we have a wonderful story by Sensei **Dan Duce**, Yodan as he and Sensei **Kim Duggan**, Yodan retire from running the Beaubassin Club. But not to worry, Sensei **Michael LeBlanc**, Nidan has stepped up to be the new Club Head with the help of his fellow black belts.

Sadly, we say goodbye to a past member of our community, Sensei **Wolfgang Franke**, 5<sup>th</sup> Dan.

As always, we look forward to your submissions. Keep them coming!

Enjoy your read! > EDITOR **ROBB DODS**

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TORONTO WADO-KAI WEBSITE: [WWW.TORONTOWADOKAI.COM](http://WWW.TORONTOWADOKAI.COM) COMMUNICATIONS: [TORONTOWADOKAI@GMAIL.COM](mailto:TORONTOWADOKAI@GMAIL.COM)  
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## Virtual Yudansha Schedule

To help with the senior belts' planning for participating in the virtual Yudansha classes, we have put together a schedule until June this year. The dates are a mix of week nights (for all) and weekends. (Senior belts usually means 4<sup>th</sup> Dans and up, but depends on what is being taught; mainly focusing on kata, bunkai and applications).

Hosted by Sensei **Steve Borda** 7<sup>th</sup> Dan and Sensei **José-Carlos Garcia**, 7<sup>th</sup> Dan, these sessions will help the Yudansha members keep up to date on kata's and practicing techniques. Themes and details for each session will be shared prior to each event.

The schedule will be posted on the TWKK website. Mark these dates in your calendar. Classes will be 1.5 hours in length.

Yudansha	Tuesday, January 25, 2022	8:00-9:30 PM
Sr. Yudansha	Saturday, February 26, 2022	3:00-4:30 PM
Yudansha	Monday, March 28, 2022	8:00-9:30 PM
Sr. Yudansha	Saturday, April 23, 2022	3:00-4:30 PM
Yudansha	Tuesday, May 24, 2022	8:00-9:30 PM
Sr. Yudansha	Saturday, June 25, 2022	3:00-4:30 PM

## Sensei Kim and Sensei Dan Retire

By Dan Duce, Yodan



Kim and I, year one of the Beaubassin Club

After a lot of reflecting and false starts, Sensei Kim and I finally decided to retire from karate teaching in the summer of 2021. We had been discussing it for at least a year, but when COVID came along that seemed to be the sign we had been waiting for. Most of 2021 was lost to training when the school, where we had been holding classes for more than 20 years, cancelled all extra-curricular activities.

Sensei Dods has reached out to us and asked that we do a write up to reflect on our history in karate. We started back in 1994 and trying to pick the memories to recount over 27 years is quite the challenge.

As it turns out, our history together in karate is directly tied to our history together as a couple.

Kim and I both worked for Manulife Financial, in Toronto. Kim was a lawyer in their Law Department, and I was an IT guy who was assigned to modernize the Law Department and bring them into the twentieth century from a technology perspective. Kim was assigned, by her boss, to be the key contact for the project. Over the course of the project, a relationship developed that expanded beyond computer networks and automation.

At that time, Manulife had a couple of other employees named Robb Dods and Leaton Bernard. I found out from Leaton that Manulife had a karate club. I had trained, briefly, in karate during university and then studied taekwondo after graduating. Kim had practiced judo in high

school and karate in law school. When I mentioned the club to Kim, she was immediately interested and we both joined the club.

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The club was led by Sensei Robb. Other instructors we encountered early on were sensei Eric Bergman, Mike McCarthy and Andrew Marshall. At the time we first met them though, none of them were yet black belts.

The Manulife dojo was a fantastic environment. Students were primarily employees from Manulife and it was a fun, young crowd. Most were in their 20's or early 30's. It was a tightknit group that became like family.

Back then, the Manulife gym had saunas in the change rooms, and post-karate sauna sessions were the place to be after a hard workout. We used to always tease the women in the class and invite them to join us in the men's sauna someday.

Didn't we get the shock of our lives one evening as we relaxed in the heat and steam, when the door opened and there stood the lady karateka wrapped in towels? They had accepted our invitation. It became obvious that it wasn't a totally spontaneous decision on their part as they brought a camera with them! (And I still have prints from that evening).

During the week, Kim and I trained at the Manulife dojo. Then we heard that classes were available on Saturdays at what was called Ryerson Polytechnical Institute at that time. We attended our first class there with quite a bit of trepidation. We had already heard stories about the grueling workouts under the eagle eye of the legendary Sensei Manara. Stories were also told about other sensei who attended these classes and their amazing abilities. As it turns out, they were all true.

The one word that encapsulates our early years with Toronto Wado-Kai is "inspirational". Kim and I both felt like we were totally supported and part of a close community. We also felt totally challenged and we were always trying to improve our skills to keep up with everyone we trained with.

Toronto Wado-Kai members became a large part of our social circle, and they became family. Our friends and their children trained with us and our children. Karate camps at Wasaga Beach were really huge family reunions.

I eventually left Manulife for a pre-sales engineering position with Computer Associates. Kim stayed with Manulife, and we got married a little later, in October, 1998. Our new family (with our children, Katie and Ryan) trained hard, competed at tournaments, and even managed to bring home a few trophies. Life was good, but it was about to change.



**A Bloor Street (Manulife) Club Outing**

In 1999, Kim was headhunted by a company looking for an experienced lawyer with insurance experience. It was a great job, but it was in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The position was attractive because it would allow Kim to move back home and be close to her family. From my perspective, it was an adventure, and living in a more rural setting greatly appealed to me as I was born and raised in the country. The horrible part of it was the prospect of leaving all of our Wado-Kai family.

In the end, we decided it was the right decision for our future. This resulted in a crazy number of months while we prepared to move across the country. At the same time, Kim and I were both preparing for our Shodan ranking which we were determined to pass before we moved. Everything was going along pretty well on both fronts. The only hiccup was that there was a tournament the week before our ranking. In one of my matches, I thought it was a good idea to block one of Sensei Leaton's roundhouse kicks with my ribs. Turned out to not be such a great idea.

With the adrenalin of the match being for the black belt sparring trophy, I didn't feel anything at the time. The next day was a totally different story. A couple of cracked ribs made even walking a challenge. When it came time for our Shodan ranking, Kim executed the kata with her normal grace and power. In comparison, I felt like the mummy trying to get out of his wrappings. Happily, the ranking gods were kind to me and allowed me to be promoted along with my beautiful wife.

We arrived in Nova Scotia in early 2000, just after the hype of Y2K. We searched for a karate club to join, but couldn't find anything like what we had been used to in Toronto; either the style was totally different or the feel wasn't right – usually it

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was both. With all of the greatly skilled instructors we had trained with in Toronto, there was a surprising lack of ego most of the time. We didn't realize how rare that was.

After several false starts, we gave up searching. We thought that if we couldn't find a club that felt right to us, maybe we could start one? We phoned Sensei Manara.

Kim and I did not feel that we were in any way ready to lead a Wado-Kai dojo at this point. We were freshly promoted black belts and most of the clubs we had trained at were led by people who had been doing it a heck of a lot longer than us. But Sensei Manara was incredibly supportive and assured us that we could do it. He shared his knowledge and experience with us and helped us plan to be successful. All we needed to do now was find some place to hold classes.

We spoke with Kevin Gallant, the principal of the school that Katie and Ryan attended, and told him what we wanted to do. He loved the idea of having a karate dojo hosted at his school and offered us something better than we had imagined. He said that if we could schedule the classes to start at 5pm and end at 6:30 then we could use the school gym for free and be covered under the school's insurance. The class would be listed as an official school offering. The only requirements on our part were that the class had to be open to any students of the school and... it had to be able to be offered in French.

Ecole Beaubassin is a French school. Luckily, Kim was fully bilingual, as were Katie and Ryan. Me, not so much. Happily, Monsieur Gallant was not super strict on everything being in French. So long as we were able to speak with students who could only speak French in their native language, all was well. The majority of students were bilingual.

Our first class had approximately ten people. Four of them were Kim, me, Katie and Ryan. But it was a start! The first year didn't see the enrollment grow a lot, but things quickly changed after that. We remembered what we had been part of in Toronto, and we started hosting demonstrations to boost the membership. Monsieur Gallant helped us again, when he held a school-wide assembly that was nothing but a karate demonstration. For a while this became an annual affair, but we eventually had to stop because our class had reached the maximum size that we could host in that space. There were more than 50 students per class at that time.

Every now and then, Kim and I would feel a little overwhelmed or out of our depth and, as if by miracle, we would have a visitor show up. Sensei Mike McCarthy and Sensei Andrew Marshall both provided needed inspiration and expert training skills to us and the class in those early years.



**Sensei McCarthy's visit in 2002, demonstrating with Kim**



**Doing a demo for the school**

Sensei Andrew ended up being assigned to work for his company in Nova Scotia for six months and we had him stay with us. We already considered him family and having him attend classes was a bonus. The style and perspective he brought to our students was unlike anything they had seen before.

And then twenty years passed.

So many things happened in those years. We ranked our first black belt (Ryan) and then another (Justine Boudreau) and then more and more. Hundreds of people were students over the years. We saw some of them join as seven-year old's, stay with us and earn their black belt, then go to university and graduate to become doctors, lawyers, engineers, pilots, and more.

We encouraged parents to train with their kids rather than just dropping them off and coming back later. In some instances, the children eventually dropped out and the parents stayed on. This

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is how we got Sensei Mike Leblanc (2<sup>nd</sup> Dan). Sensei Mike and Sensei Keith Daigle are two of the cornerstones who helped build and support the club as it grew, while still keeping the family feel to everything. Sensei Keith is also a second Dan and both of his daughters now hold the Shodan rank.

But none of this would have been possible without the constant support and tutelage of Sensei Manara. Whether it was through phone conversations, emails, or his visits here to train us, rank senior students, and hold seminars, Kim and I have always felt supported.

There are so many people who have been part of this adventure over the years, and so many who feel like family. We love hearing from our Toronto friends and occasionally seeing them when they visit. Key names include: Sensei Manara, Robb Dods, Leaton Bernard, Mike McCarthy, Andrew Marshall, Rein Vares, Eric Bergman, Kathy Lisle, Kristine Aoki, and Pauline Cheung.

We are also proud to be part of the Toronto Wado-Kai community. The friendships we have formed over the years are very dear to us. Retiring from the club won't change that and our door will always be open to visitors.



**Sensei Manara seminars – always a hit with the students (Kids class 2013)**



**Santa and his reindeer races. A Christmas class tradition.**

We are so proud of our Beaubassin Wado-Kai students. From the club's beginning in 2000, we focused on training, but most importantly, respect and the sense of community. We have watched students begin training, saying, "I will never be able to do that." How good it felt to watch their confidence and skill grow, and then point out later that they could do that.

Many students continue to keep in touch, and we love hearing about their accomplishments through the years.

The time has come for us to pass the torch. We are confident that Sensei Mike LeBlanc, Keith Daigle and Herb Milton will continue the traditions that we have instituted over the years. We expect to hear that birthday push-ups will include Sensei Dan and me.

We wish the sensei and the Beaubassin club great success. Know that we are always only a phone call away for questions or even a friendly chat.



**Tough workout in 2010**



**Class getting big in 2013**

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## Remembering the Early Days

In the last issue of FOCUS, in an article celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original TWKK club at Ryerson, a number of karate-ka shared memories of training at the Ryerson Club. FOCUS asked our community to share more memories of their early days of beginning their karate training. Here are some tales of what has been shared, so far (we would like to still hear from our members about your memories of what it was like at the beginning or during your karate journey).

### Rein Vares



A life changer – at age 34 every 7<sup>th</sup> heart beat was a skip and I was not feeling too well overall. I joined the Wado-Kai club at Manulife and Sensei Robb worked me hard; and by orange belt, my heart had straightened out. The best sauna and team discussions were after class! My favorite moment – line attack as an orange belt – some Shodan-Ho launched a flying drop kick at me and I side stepped it; poor fella (guy was training to become OPP) landed against the concrete wall... thank you, Sensei Robb, for the good side-step instruction! By my green belt, the rib-stitches and breathing through my ears disappeared during the tough workouts.

By blue belt, the karate lights were going on and technique was starting to emerge. Shodan-Ho was an eye opener... more to remember... and training at Yudansha was at a whole other new level. Then the day came for the black-belt test; after passing, I remember walking down the street from Ryerson realizing that this was the turning point of when the real training and learning was going to begin. Through all those years, I met amazing people and they are my sisters and brothers for life. Now, at the age of 63, my right hip is a bit of mess and perhaps a reminder to have not kicked the impact bags so hard. I still have all my flexibility and reflexes... still saves me every time when I start dancing on unsuspecting ice. I think back to those Karate days and friends in great fondness.

### Billie Ching

When I first started my karate training (1990), it was in the Thornhill dojo with Sensei Wolfgang and Gord Kerr. Today, I am the only one left from those early years. At that time, we had a hall full of students. Gord had to stand up on a chair to see all of us to take attendance. When we had to break up into smaller groups according to different levels, we were ushered to the next hall to have more room. One day, management told us we could not do that anymore unless we paid extra rental for the next hall; so we cramped back into one hall and bumped into each other when we practiced katas – lots of fun!

We used to have a tournament twice a year within our Thornhill dojo. Medals seemed easy to come by because we did not have too many students competing in each level, so both parents and students were happy to participate.

Those were the days!

### Ilona de Caen

Wow! It has been so long. I do remember one of my first days. There were not any other girls except for Claire King and one other. All men. But being stubborn, and not going to give up, I stayed; even though my friends did not. Claire was so much bigger than me, but we sparred and ended up respecting each other.

Another time, many years later, (I think I was a brown belt) we were at Karate Camp doing our katas, and my pants fell down. Luckily, I was wearing a bathing suit underneath - Ha Ha! Sensei Manara said if I had of continued the kata I would have won extra points!



To this day, I am still a very good friend of Claire and John Voros.

I taught karate at the CNIB with Bill Eguchi. Shortly after, I had a small club for kids at a school on Jamieson, in Toronto. I even had a Karate Camp for those kids at my parent's cottage in Wasaga for a weekend. Same rules applied; workouts twice a day; no beach time until after, etc.; tournament on Sunday when Moms and Dads could come and watch. What fun! I then started another little club when I moved to Adjala (Alliston Area), but that did not last long.

### **Mark Illy**

A new year often brings us moments of reflection and review of events of the past and our achievements over the years. In thinking about my on-going journey in the study of karate, I took a trip down memory lane back to September of 2009 when I was going to Brooklin Wado-Kai Karate twice a week to watch Sensei Ron Sheyan teach my daughter karate.

She initially tried out karate through a Whitby Community Connections class at a local elementary school, approximately 18 months earlier, where she was very interested and engaged by the teaching of Sensei Ron who told me that, as soon as there was availability at the dojo, he would call to see if my daughter was still interested in studying karate.

A little less than a year and a half later, we got the call and my daughter eagerly attended classes. I was present for every class and was thrilled to see the positive effects that it was having on her self-confidence. After a few classes, I asked if I could begin training because, well, I was already there so why not join in?! Sensei Ron happily agreed, and that was the beginning of my journey in karate. Looking back, I could not be happier about my decision to begin all those years ago.

It has now been over 12 years of training, successes, learning opportunities, challenges, and growth in my study of karate, and in myself, personally. While my daughter went on to discover horseback riding and decided to quit karate, she did train and achieve her orange belt before leaving, and she still has very fond memories of her time at the Brooklin Club.

Over the years I attended tournaments, special training sessions and found that there was a whole group of truly amazing people out in the Toronto Wado-Kai Karate family. In some tournaments, I performed well enough to achieve a win, and in others, I took away a great and fun learning experience. There were broken fingers, bruised ribs, and one very broken foot, but I can honestly say that I enjoyed every aspect of my experiences, with all of the wonderful people I met and befriended at these tournaments.

Over the years I was fortunate enough to achieve my Nidan rank, and my step-daughter now shares my passion and enjoyment for karate. With the Brooklin Club's first four months since reopening under our belts, I continue to be blessed with the fantastic support and guidance of so many great individuals, both in the Brooklin Club and from Sensei Manara and the rest of the Toronto Wado-Kai Karate family.

I wish everyone a safe and prosperous New Year and I look forward to a time in the near future when we will all be able to get back together again and continue to share our passion for everything karate.

### **Larry O'Grady**

It all started innocently enough, I had arrived at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute to study photography. I was taking Shotokan karate in Eganville with my brother Jim at the local karate club. I wanted to continue my training in karate while going to Ryerson. He told me when I was searching for a club that I would know just by attending the dojo within the first few minutes if it was the place to be.

I went to a demo down in the lower gym and the rest is history.

I vividly remember the first few classes, for about a month or so, staying in one spot and doing basics. The gym was packed; there was probably a good 50 people in the class. The beginners would start a half hour or an hour earlier than the coloured belts and black belts. Classes were normally on Mondays and Wednesdays, and then a 2-hour Saturday class, but when I started the gym was under renovation and classes were on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturday.

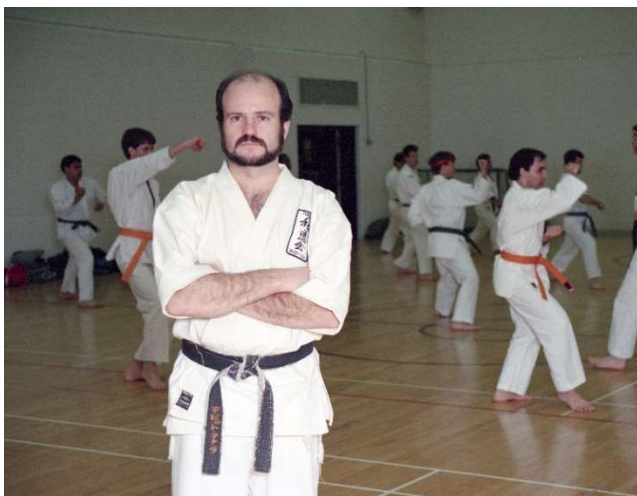
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At that time there was Sensei Manara, and sensei Eric Goddard, John Vorros, Claire King, John Gallagher, Ian Mador, and Joel Cohen leading the classes; they were on a regular rotation. Sensei Steve Borda and Sensei Ray Kennedy would also be there to train and teach.

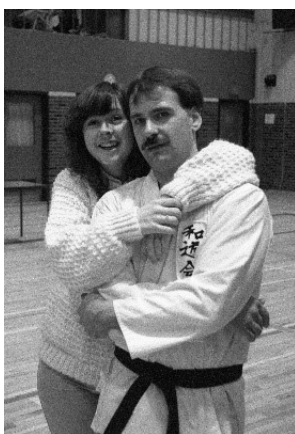
I attended Ryerson for photography and I had to do a documentary for an assignment in my first year; so, I decided to photograph the karate club for my assignment.



**And, yes, back then Sensei Manara had a bit more hair!  
(Yikes! He is going to give me the 6 week or 6-month option!)**

From that point forward, as tournaments or special occasions I would be partaking in, I would also take photos.

I remember the Saturday when the bag of one of the students got stolen from the gym, and the race down Yonge Street to Elm Street to get the bag back! Yes, after that everyone put their gym bags along the far wall away from the doors.



**The Ryerson dojo also had another name at the time; it was also known as “Dave Manara’s Karate Club and Dating Services”!**

Ah yes, I would be remiss if I did not mention, as others have, the half time show during Yudanshas. Sensei Steve and Sensei Dave would engage in a sparring match with each other. What a sight; Sensei Steve would barrel in like a train at Sensei Dave and then end up going flying back from one of Sensei’s front kicks!!

As I progressed through the ranks to black belt it was amazing the size of the club back then, with at least 20 - 30 black belts attending, and more.

Sensei would conduct a two-hour Yudansha class, with the last half hour discussing issues that would come up in a dojo. Classes were held at Ryerson and black belts from the other clubs would attend.

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The Saturday classes were two hours long and you would have a different black belt leading each time.

I remember one class that Sensei Andrew Marshall was teaching, and one particular person would be talking as Sensei was talking (a definite no-no). So, Sensei Andrew had to demonstrate the technique he would be trying to explain to the group and that particular person would be his partner, and sometimes the technique would slip!!

Then there was Sensei Ray Kennedy's two-hour sparring class. One Saturday, I made arrangements to get some video equipment so we could video the class.

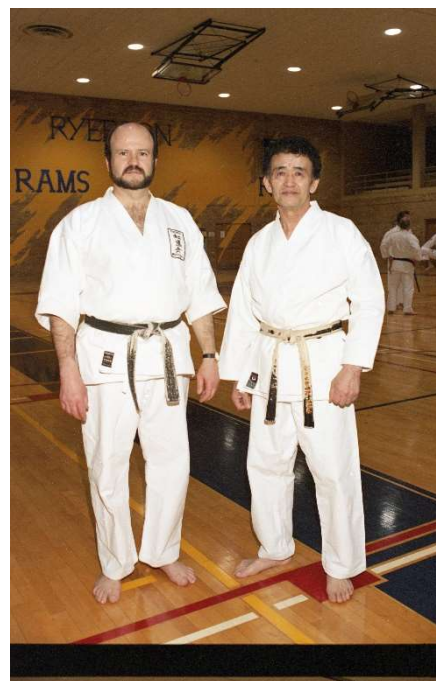
Each sparring session was video-taped and he would sit down and analyze each clip, and then the participants sparring got up and went at it again. I remember Casey Smith and I sparring, and ended up on the floor finishing our fight in a wrestling match when Sensei yelled "Yame"!



When I was a Shodan-Ho I was getting worried about going for my Shodan ranking; quite a few of the black belts besides Sensei were folic-ly challenged, and I was worried I might have to lose some hair as well.

Then there were the visits from Sensei Shintani; he would come and conduct clinics. He would tell us that Sensei Dave was quite the "Tiger" when he was a young black belt at tournaments!

I could keep going on; but Sensei Dods will probably kill me for taking up so much space!!



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## NEWS FROM CLUBS

**BROOKLIN Family Karate Club,  
Brooklin, ON**

**Sensei Mark Illy, Nidan**  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Black Belt)

MONDAY AND THURSDAY:  
7:00 – 8:30PM

### Grading Announcement

With the arrival of 2022, the Brooklin Club is optimistically looking forward to what I believe will be an excellent year. Since our reopening in September (closed again at time of this issue) we have been fortunate to have added new students to our ranks and we have even had our first grading since our reopening.

I would like to wish congratulations to our newest yellow belt, **Charlie**. Charlie's grading went very well, where she demonstrated all of the skills and techniques required to achieve this first major step-up in her karate training.

Congratulations Charlie from everyone at the Brooklin Club, and thank you to Sensei **Ron** and **Fiona** for conducting Charlie's grading.



**Sensei Fiona, Sensei Mark, Charlie, and Sensei Ron**

As announced January 4<sup>th</sup>, by the Government of Ontario, there have been heightened restrictions put in place due to the recent surge of Omicron variant cases. As a result, we will be delaying the reopening of the dojo in 2022 until allowed by the Government. This decision is in line with the Government's mandate concerning the operation of fitness facilities and is to ensure that everyone at Brooklin Wado-Kai Karate is kept as safe as possible.

I will continue to keep everyone informed of any changes in our reopening and I welcome any questions that you may have.

I wish you all the best for 2022 and that you and your families remain safe during this ongoing time of challenge and uncertainty.

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## SEIKIKAI Martial Arts, Etobicoke ON

Sensei Steve Borda, Hachidan  
(8<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt)

### OLYMPIUM:

Monday, Wednesday,  
Sunday:  
7:00-8:30pm

### January 2<sup>nd</sup> Class at the Etobicoke Olympium

Well, we started the New Year off with our normal Sunday class on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. First class of the year is always great. A number of our students must have been still celebrating and didn't make it out to class. It was looking great as we had our permits in place for the Etobicoke Olympium and Caledon locations, and had been getting a great turnout during fall classes. Then – another lockdown.

We have transitioned to Zoom classes again. While not as good as in person classes, at least with Zoom we can maintain our basics and still keep engaged during the lockdown. Being active is a key component to staying healthy. I hope it will be a short lockdown, and I'm ready to get back to regular classes as soon as possible.

I hope everyone had a great holiday break. Stay healthy and safe.



## BEAUBASSIN Karate Club, Halifax, NS

Sensei Michael LeBlanc  
Nidan  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Black Belt)

ÉCOLE BEAUBASSIN

### Announcing the New Club Head – Michael LeBlanc, Nidan

With the retirement from active training of Sensei **Kim Duggan** and Sensei **Dan Duce**, Sensei **Mike LeBlanc** has taken on the role of Club Head for the Beaubassin Karate Club.

We wish Mike all the best in supporting the club in these difficult times. We hope there will be a time soon when the club will be up and running again, and we can have TWKK members visiting the dojo in the Maritimes once more!

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW BLACK BELT RANK

We missed announcing a ranking last year.

**Emily M.** of the Oshawa-Whitby Club was ranked to Junior Shodan in April 2021.

## OUR CONDOLENCES

Sensei **Wolfgang Franke** 5<sup>th</sup> Dan died on Tuesday, December 28, 2021, following a 30-month fight with brain cancer. Wolfgang had not been involved with the TWKK for 20 years or so, but many of the senior Dans will remember him from his Ryerson training days and as the sensei of the Thornhill Club. Wolfgang also served for many years as the original editor of the TWKK newsletter, FOCUS.

<https://www.arbormemorial.ca/highland-markham/obituaries/wolfgang-matius-franke/76436>



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## The Haunting of Mr. Robinson

There was a green belt attending the Training Camp at Wasaga Beach for his first time. It was a very large Camp that year, and Sensei had booked pretty much all the cottages available that were owned by the family members of the cottage site. There were the home-base cottages at the Sand'n'Surf, the Yellow cottages along the lane in front of the beach, the Blue cottages at the bend in the lane, and the Green 'Robinson' cottages up around the back at the end of the lane. The Bloor St. Club (then called the Manulife club) was settled in at the Robinson cottages, about the farthest away from the training beach.

Around the campfire that Friday night, Sensei Manara told the green belt about Old Mr. Robinson, of how he lived in the cottage that the student was staying in, until he was murdered. Sensei told the green belt to look closely at the floor boards for traces of blood. It was known that every night, Mr. Robinson would go in and out of his cottages. "He won't hurt you, just try to forget about it."

That night, the student heard the toilet flush for no reason, there was banging in the walls (the trees next to the cottage blowing in the wind?). He didn't sleep all night, and he wouldn't stay in the cottage after that; he moved in with the ladies next door for the rest of the weekend.

Leaton, Sensei made it up.

### TORONTO WADO-KAI KARATE CLUBS AND CLUB HEADS

AJAX-PICKERING – Daina Als	EDMONTON – Randy James
André's Budo Centre (Edmonton) – André Beauregard	OSHAWA-WHITBY – José-Carlos Garcia
BEAUBASSIN (Halifax) – Michael Le Blanc	RYERSON (Toronto) – Leaton Bernard
BROOKLIN-WHITBY – Mark Illy	SEIKIKAI MARTIAL ARTS (Etobicoke) – Steve Borda
CALGARY – Steve Henrich	THORNHILL – Biller Ching & Dave Manara
CLARINGTON – Robin Singh	YUDANSHA HOMBU (Thornhill) – Dave Manara

### TORONTO WADO-KAI SENIOR DAN COUNCIL

<b>Kudan</b> (9 <sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt)	Dave Manara
<b>Hachidan</b> (8 <sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt)	Steve Borda, José-Carlos Garcia
<b>Shichidan</b> (7 <sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt)	Randy James, Ray Kennedy, Larry O'Grady, Ron Sheyan
<b>Rokudan</b> (6 <sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt)	André Beauregard, Leaton Bernard, Biller Ching, Robb Dods, Steve Henrich, Tony Marziliano, Michael McCarthy, Ed Young
<b>Godan</b> (5 <sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt)	Eric Bergman, Ken Buck, Heather Cant-Woodward, Joel Cohen, James Darker, Margaret Michael, Frank Murphy, Ron Ruskay, Jim Sullivan, Anthony Woodward
<b>Yodan</b> (4 <sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt)	Andy Basacchi, Dan Duce, Kim Duggan, Alex Nguyen, Annamae Thurston

> FOCUS <

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