

The Guelph-Wellington Men's Club

39th ANNUAL MEETING

SECRETARY'S REPORT for 2015-2016

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

INTRODUCTION

The Guelph-Wellington Men's Club (GWMC) is a group of retired Business and Professional men with active minds that values broadening and fellowship. This is accomplished in many ways; foremost are weekly meetings with outstanding speakers chosen from a broad range of disciplines and backgrounds. Others include various social, sports and entertainment activities, which some share with our companions. Our Mission is to build relationships in an environment of fellowship where trust and laughter remain the principle objectives. Our greatest asset as members is to provide generous support to carry out the programs of the Club through volunteering. It is this vital participation that allows us to remain connected in what John Woods termed "the most successful club in Guelph". Thank you to all the volunteers that make enjoyable and educational things happen.

The past year marked the **39th year** of the Guelph-Wellington Men's Club. What follows is meant as a brief synopsis of the Administration and Events of the GWMC in the twelve months ending August 31st, 2016. I hope that this review will provide some evidence of the many good things that have happened. However, it's necessary to specifically thank **Ian Millar** who served as president with skill, humour and dedication resulting in an exciting and successful year for our Club.

ADMINISTRATION

Officers/Board

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| President | Ian Millar |
| 1 st Vice President | Alan Green |
| 2 nd Vice-President | Charlie Whittaker |
| Past President | Mark Waldron |
| Treasurer | Gary Christie |
| Assistant Treasurer | Howard Simpson |
| Membership Secretary | Rob Lindsay |
| Secretary | Ron Dolynchuk |

Bulletin: Alan Morrell (Editor)

Website: Randy Cook

Directors to 31st August 2016: **Ken Bedasse, David Dorion, Allan Dyer, David Murray, Ken Woodside**

Directors to 31st August 2017: **Jim Clarke, John Hart, Jim Mottin, Dan Moziar, Jim Pettit, Dale Pickering**

All Club members were saddened by the death of **Past President Mark Waldron** on December 9th, 2015. He will be missed by all who knew him.

In conjunction with the Board of Directors, most of the **administration** is carried out through the Finance, **Membership and Communications Committees**. **The other Committees are very important to our club and many are a lot of work and fun.**

Finances

As required in the By-Laws, the Treasurer via the Finance Committee presents a statement of the financial affairs of the Club together with the financial reviewer's report at each Annual General Meeting. **Malcolm Coutts** delivered the report to the membership on behalf of the Committee on October 27, 2015. A special thanks go to **Joe Valeriote** and **Peter Stonehouse** for their continuing diligence in the review and reporting of the financial records of the Club.

The Club is greatly indebted to **Gary Christie** for his work as treasurer and wishes him well as he leaves the position this year.

Annual Budget and Fees

Each May, the Finance Committee presents its recommendations to the Board with respect to a proposed Annual Budget for the next year. On the committee's recommendation of an increase of \$10.00 in the annual membership from \$90.00 to \$100.00 and an increase of \$10.00 in the initiation fee from \$50.00 to \$60.00 was presented and approved at the Club's General Meeting on June 14, 2016. The Treasurer's report for 2014-2015 was presented by **Malcolm Coutts** and the 2015-2016 budget was approved at the Club's Annual General Meeting on October 27, 2015.

Membership

According to Club By-Laws, Active Membership is limited to 350, primarily due to the size of the meeting room at the Italian Canadian Club. There are also Associate Members who come infrequently to meetings. As of August 31, 2016 Club membership includes 353 Active, 21 Associate and 4 Life members.

Rob Lindsay, Membership Secretary, has provided the following Membership changes for the year ending: August 31, 2016:

- 22 deaths (of which 12 were active members, 1 was an associate member, 1 a life member and 8 had previously resigned.
- 36 new members were accepted
- 22 resignations (of which 14 were actives and 8 were associates)
- 6 members shifted from active to associate status

The Club is greatly indebted to Rob, assisted by **Gord Curl**, for their labours in keeping track of 353 of us - and more.

Communications

In addition to weekly announcements of upcoming events, there are two excellent modes of written Communication with members, namely the:

1. **Club Bulletin**, under the very capable Editor, **Alan Morrell**. Alan took on the role of bulletin editor from **David West** beginning with the August 2015 issue and has continued proving the membership with timely and complete information on Club news and activities. Thanks go to David West who has admirably served as editor since 2007; and a special thanks to **Alan Green** for his continued service as ‘official’ Club photographer for event and members’ photos.
2. **Club Website**. In 2007 the Club moved to more of the ‘on-line’ mode of communication. **Randy Cook** became the Webmaster and has done an excellent job of organizing a great deal of information in an easy to find manner and this includes the monthly Bulletins, history, dates of events etc. It is easy to find information in this way: **be sure to check it out at—**

www.guelphwellingtonmensclub.ca

WEEKLY MEETINGS

The weekly meeting is the ‘main event’ of our Club and it starts with the **Program Committee** getting excellent speakers for each meeting. This role was under the direction of Vice-President **Alan Green** for the past year. It was an excellent year of programming with a wide diversity of informative topics.

In addition to the Program Committee, there are many committees involved in the smooth functioning of each meeting throughout the year. According to **Past President Garry Clarke**, there are about 135 members involved in Committees in our club in addition to about 100 involved as greeters. There is some overlap in these duties but these **volunteer members are the key element in the success of our club** as they are busy people involved in doing things with smiles on their faces. The old saying that “Many hands make work light” is very appropriate, but still some jobs are not light when you do them every week. The **House Committee, under David Murray**, includes the Audio Visual, the Coffee and Badge Board, the Colour Party and the Emergency Planning and Defibrillator Sub-Committees. The **Anthem (Jim Pettit chair), Invocations (Jim Mottin chair), Greeters (Ken Bedasse chair)** Committees are all busy at each meeting and have done an excellent job. When speakers travel some distance by bus or train they can be given some additional funding towards travel from a line item allotted by the Treasurer for this purpose when needed.

There are so many volunteers in the weekly meetings, and they deserve our sincere expression of appreciation. Second Vice-President **Charlie Whittaker** oversaw bridge and euchre for aficionados of both games. Many volunteers deserve and receive great applause as had the

stories from our storyteller, the late **Walter Duerksen**. Sadly, Walter passed away in December 2015. **Gord Kuder** has stepped in to take over as raconteur to great success.

The **Health of Members** Committee under the Chair of **Ken Woodside** did an excellent job of keeping us informed of the ailments of members and, for most, their progress to recovery. In addition this committee also kept us informed of most milestones in our members' lives such as wedding anniversaries of 50 or more years and birthdays of 80 or more years.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Awards and Donations

Life Member honoured: An Active member since 1995, **Mike Peleschak** was proposed and voted a Life Member of the Guelph-Wellington Men's Club at the 2016 General Meeting of the Club. Mike has provided leadership, expertise, diligence and exceptional commitment in the operation of the Club's audio/visual services since 1996

25-Year Members honored: Twelve members joining in 1991 reached the 25-year membership mark during the **2015-2016** year with badges being presented during the 2016 anniversary dinner:

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| Bob Aldis | Murray Mathieson |
| Bill Bell | Howard Nodwell |
| Wilson Clark | Bob Sheard |
| Bob Davis | Bob Waddell |
| Peter Dunham | Sandy Warley |
| Bill Irving | Richard Wilson |

The Awards Committee, chaired by **Steve Scadding**, selected the following local Community groups to receive the Club's financial support:

1. Kiwanis Music Festival of Guelph, Kenneth P. Greenaway Awards - \$2000.00
2. The Annual Club Award, presented at the Anniversary Dinner in 2015 to a deserving Community Charity group: **Griefwalk** - \$2,500.00

The Archives and History Committee was under the auspices of **Ian Millar** with **David Hull**. The club's archives are now deposited regularly with the Guelph Public Library. **Peter Moore** has agreed to update the club's formal history that is provided to all new members.

The Audio-Visual Committee lead by **Mike Peleschak** reports no major new initiatives this year, but was mightily challenged during renovation to our meeting room at the Italian Canadian Club. **More volunteers are needed to help with this indispensable weekly task**. As illnesses and vacations occur, the AV table is sometimes down to only one *or two* operators. **Volunteer today** by going over to the AV table and introducing yourself.

The Club Choir continues as a vital instrument with **Ken Woodside** as board rep and **Ivor Wright** as choir chair. With Frank Parkinson as director, Choir membership continues buoyant in the 30-plus range of membership, but the choir is always looking for new talent and of course hidden talent.

Choir practices are held at the ICC every Tuesday from 8:30 to 9:30 when there is a Club meeting, but it does take the summer off to refresh vocal chords. Please feel free to give the Choir a try and maybe you will regain that “old black magic” or indeed move out of the shower and into the performance hall.

Nominations Committee, chaired by **Steve Scadding** is always on the lookout for Club members willing to volunteer to take a two year position on the **Board of Directors**. Be ready to say **YES** when asked to take on one of the many board tasks that make the Guelph-Wellington Men’s Club the place you want to be on Tuesday mornings.

Past President’s Committee

A meeting of the Club’s Past Presidents was held on May 10, 2016 with many issues raised for discussion producing many good suggestions in its report to the Board.

SOCIAL EVENTS: The Club continues to sponsor a variety of special and mixed social events:

Anniversary Dinner - committee chaired by **Allan Green**

Christmas Luncheon - committee chaired by **John Hart**

Spring Luncheon - committee chaired by **Jim Clarke**

Lunch and Tours

A very successful year of excellent tours was organized by the Tours and Lunch Committee for the 2015 – 2016 season. The Club thanks **David Dorion** and committee for their contribution to the success of the Tours and Lunch program. The following is a list of tours which were presented:

September 22, 2015 – Turf Grass Institute (29 participants)

October 20, 2015 – Apiary Research Centre – University of Guelph (35 participants)

November 24, 2015 – Elora Dairy Facility – University of Guelph (50 participants)

February 16, 2016 - Guelph Armory 50 participants)

April 26, 2016 – Co Cast Pipe (43 participants)

May 31, 2016 – Guelph Tool Inc. (38 participants)

Special Events Committee: Dan Moziar, chair

Night at the Races sub-committee chaired by **Gord Kuder**

Drayton/Shaw Festival/Stratford sub-committee chaired by **Patrick Kyba**

It should be remembered that these events are for all members and not just those with companions. Both **vegetarian meals** and **gluten-free** meals are available if requested for social luncheon or evening dinner events.

Sporting Events Committee: Dale Pickering, chair

This year **Ted Pritchard** organized two golf events and **Lawrie Jackson** worked hard on organizing the Blue Jays game event. Much effort goes into planning these events, and we acknowledge our appreciation to the organizers and their committees.

New Initiatives for 2015-2016

This was an active year for implementation of recommendations made by the New Initiatives Committee chaired by **Alan Dyer**:

- > September 22, 2015: A “Town Hall” meeting format focusing on ‘Where we are and where we might go with the Yorklands’.
- > Members were encouraged to recruit and propose newly retired men as prospective members of the Club.
- > October 27, 2015: Educating Grandpa Tech Ed session held at John F Ross but due to declining enrollment the initiative will be cancelled.
- > Board approved motion to have all new members circulate amongst tables for eight weeks to meet the members and encourage discussion among members.
- > November 17, 2015: An orientation session was held for 21 newly inducted Club members.
- > April 16, 2016: The first annual ‘Cambridge Style’ debate took place addressing the spurious topic “Be it resolved that the Guelph-Wellington Men’s Club welcomes women as members”.
- > July 16, 2016: Program to update the Yorklands as Guelph’s green hub.

The club is greatly indebted to Allan Dyer and committee members for the time and imagination they have applied to new initiatives for the club this past year.

Ad Hoc Committee on the Environment

The tenure of this Committee was maintained during the year of the Club and participated in the Yorklands town hall meeting in September.

Conclusion

Overall, it has been a very good year for our club and its objectives have again met our expectations of gaining much knowledge and having great fellowship.

The Guelph-Wellington Men's Club Award

Purpose: The purpose of the Award is to encourage and reward individuals and / or groups who have made a unique and outstanding contribution toward enhancing the quality of life, development of human resources, improving the environment or beautifying the landscape of the community served by the Guelph Wellington Men's Club.

Nomination: Any Club Member may make a nomination. **The Nomination must** be accompanied by a brief description of the contribution made to the community. The Awards Committee will choose the winner from the nominations. **Nomination Forms** are available from the GWMC Secretary and online.

Schedule: Nominations close at the end of June. The Award Presentation will be made at the Club's Anniversary Dinner.

Eligible recipients may be:

- An Individual
- A Group
- An Organization
- An Institution

Recipient(s) must reside or be located in the area served by the Guelph Wellington Men's Club. The administration of this award will be carried out by the Awards Committee of the Club.

The Award is in the Amount of

\$2,500.00

If there are no nominations or if in the opinion of the Awards Committee, none is worthy, the award will be omitted for that year. An award may be made posthumously. Recipients will not be reconsidered for the award until ten years have lapsed.

1985- Ontario Public Interest
Research Group (OPIRG)

1986- Gordon Couling
(Posthumously)

1987- Guelph Horticultural Society

1988- Guelph Historical Society

1989- Rotary Club of Guelph-Wellington
(Abbeyfield House)

1990- Wellington District Boy
Scouts Association

1991- Guelph Humane Society

1992- Wellington Hospice Care

1993- Sister Christine Leyser
Gladys Yates

1994- The Guelph Children Singers

1995- Adair Hannah
Big Brothers Association

1996- The Guelph Concert Band

1997- Onward Willow &
Neighbourhood Group

1998- Wyndham House

1999- The Alzheimer Society of Guelph

2000- Wellington Hospitality Connection
of Community Chaplaincy

2001- Guelph Food Bank

2002- Sunrise Equestrian & Recreation
Centre for the Disabled

2003- St. Joseph's Voluntary Care
Association

2004- Change Now Youth 12-24
Day Program & Overnight

2005- Guelph-Wellington Stoke
Recovery Network

2006- Women in Crisis

2007- Royal Canadian Legion
Branch 234

2008- The Community Inclusion Program
of Guelph Independent Living

2009- Charles James Whittaker
Landscape Beautification Program

2010- IODE Victoria Guelph Chapter

2011- Beginnings Family Services

2012- Loyola House
Old Growth Forest

Previous Award Recipients:

Cont'd:

2013: Living on Less Program, St. James the
Apostle Anglican Church

2014: The Children's Foundation of Guelph
and Wellington

2015: Griefwalk

In Memoriam 2015-2016

Ronald Smeaton
W. Bruce Lowe
Scott Bland
Ronald Robson
Bill Forsythe
Mark Waldron
Walter Duerksen
Malcolm Summerlee
Bill Eason
Alwyn D. Lloyd
Paul Muller
Elmer L. Menzie
Murray Maxwell
Edmund M. Green
Thomas E. Bates
W. Peter Ashton
Donald Raaflaub
Macdonald (Mac) Dunbar
James A. Fountain
J. Clarence Rennie
Thomas H. Lane
Richard G. Hyma

Resignations 2015-2016

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Don Raaflaub | George Fleming |
| Ron Gumbley | Ian Boyd |
| Bill Eason | Bruce Rae |
| Gerry Day | Jim Fountain |
| Larry Simonato | Joe Young |
| Harvey Wright | Duncan MacDonald |
| Howard Parkinson | Garnet Norrish |
| Jim Andrews | Jamie McIntosh |
| David Mowat | A Michael Oldfield |
| John Scott | Ron Newton |
| John Burrows | John Arnold |

New Members 2015-2016

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Denis Little | Peter Valentine |
| Dermot Mark | Otto Ahlers |
| Sandy Vano | Ernie McFarland |
| Ken Naylor | Bill Renton |
| David Thompson | David R. Pell |
| James L. Miller | David Bacon |
| Garnet Shoup | James Cummins |
| John Miller | Charles Fulton |
| Jim Roberts | Harold Chapman |
| Bob Jefferson | Nick Harris |
| Garner Patrick | Fred Graham |
| Vince Wall | Richard Blake |
| Bruce McLeod | Ronald Lappan |
| Dan Waterston | Gilbert Bennett |
| Ab Moore | David Walpole |
| Evan Spicer | Steven Henrikson |
| Dick Yeoman | Alan Hill |
| Ralph Sykes | Russel Cox |

Respectfully submitted, Ron Dolynchuk, Secretary

October 25, 2016