

The Guelph-Wellington Men's Club

43rd ANNUAL MEETING

SECRETARY'S REPORT for 2019-2020

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

INTRODUCTION

The Guelph-Wellington Men's Club (GWMC) is a club for retired men from business, the professions, government, education, academia and many other backgrounds who meet on Tuesday mornings for talks, discussion and camaraderie that flow from shared activities. 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. As members, our greatest asset 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". As a previous Club president observed, "The most valuable part of your Retirement Savings Plan is your emotional circle, and it can't be bought". Thank you to all the volunteers that make enjoyable and educational things happen.

This **43rd year** of the Guelph-Wellington Men's Club began with Club members looking forward to the fun, fellowship and camaraderie of our meetings and special events. What began as a normal year abruptly changed course in January 2020 when the World Health Organization declared the ubiquitous COVID-19 Coronavirus a world concern and a pandemic in March 2020. What follows is a synopsis of the administration and events of the GWMC for what became a very abnormal year covering the period **September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020**. In spite of the hardships we have all faced under COVID-19 restrictions this review will provide some evidence of the many good things that have happened through the year. Tuesday Club meetings continued during the early days of COVID-19. With concern for the health and safety of our members, and the shutdown of ICC operations, the Board moved to cancel all in-person Club meetings and activities for the foreseeable future following the meeting of March 10th. However, it is necessary to specifically thank **Jim Howse** for his dedicated service and leadership as Club president in ensuring the Club take action to maintain connection and communications with our members

The COVID-19 "New Normal" disrupted face to-face-board meetings but communications and planning continued electronically. A phone blitz by board members informed Club members of the cancellation of the Spring Luncheon. Planning began, led by **Ross Knechtel**, to re-establish our Tuesday morning meetings virtually utilizing Zoom conferencing technology. **Graham Ford, Allan Dyer** and the Program Committee established a roster of speakers, local and international, taking advantage of the world wide reach of Zoom. President Jim asked bulletin editor **Ken Jeffrey** to make the Club Bulletin a weekly for the month of May, with content contributed by many members, to keep our members connected and informed. The Spring highlight was the inaugural Virtual Zoom Club meeting on May 28th with our own **Tom Watson** as guest speaker. This began the renewal of our regular Club meetings under the guidance and management of Zoom Master Ross Knechtel and his team. Virtual Zoom board meetings began on May 5th and the Club held its first virtual Zoom General Meeting on June 2nd. **Thom Herrmann** coordinated a telephone survey of Club members to assess their participation and comfort with the Zoom meeting format. The feedback was positive and is helpful to the Zoom team in fine-tuning virtual meeting delivery. On July 24th, in the face of COVID-19, the intrepid **George Hughes** organized another successful GWMC Members Clothing Drive.

Over the seven months of COVID-19 the “New Normal” has slowly become the “Now Normal” and, with some adaptations and adjustments, the fun, fellowship and camaraderie is back in the Guelph and Wellington Men’s Club.

BOARD

ADMINISTRATION

Board of Directors

Officers:

President

1st Vice President

2nd Vice-President

Past President

Treasurer

Assistant Treasurer

Membership Secretary

Secretary

Jim Howse

Jim Sanders

John Hart

Dale Lockie

Keith Devolin

Howard Simpson

Rob Lindsay

Ron Dolynchuk

Bulletin Editor: **Ken Jeffrey**

Website: **Randy Cook**

Video Services: **Ross Knechtel**

Directors to 31st August 2020:

**Derek Bewley, Dick Haas, Lloyd Hicks,
Norm Hunter, Lawrie Jackson, Jim Thompson**

Directors to 31st August 2021:

**Art Cutten, Graham Ford, Thom Herrmann,
Ken Le Lacheur, Bob Keleher, Jim Tsujita**

In conjunction with the Board of Directors, most of the **Club Administration** is carried out through the **Finance, Membership and Communications Committees**. Indeed all other Committees, while also a lot of work and fun, are very important to the success of our Club.

Finance

As required in the By-Laws, the Treasurer on behalf of 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. Treasurer **Keith Devolin**, delivered the financial report for the 2018-2019 fiscal year and the budget for 2019-2020 to the membership at the October 29, 2019 AGM. **Keith Devolin** was assisted by Assistant Treasurer **Howard Simpson** in managing Club banking and collection of members’ dues. A special thanks go to **David Dorion** and **Peter Stonehouse** for their continuing diligence in the review and reporting of the financial records of the Club.

Annual Budget and Fees

Each May, the Finance Committee (**John Hart** – Chair) presents its recommendations to the Board with respect to a proposed Annual Budget and on changes to membership and initiation fees for the next year. The Finance Committee’s recommendation that there be no change to membership dues and fees for the 2020-2021 fiscal year was approved at the Club’s Virtual General Meeting via Zoom on June 2, 2020.

Membership and Roster

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, 2019 Club membership totaled 314 including 288 Active, 23 Associate and 3 Life members.

Rob Lindsay, Membership Secretary, has provided the following Membership changes for the year ending: August 31, 2020:

- 22 deaths of which 15 were Active members, 1 was an Associate member and 6 who had previously resigned.
- 23 new members were accepted
- 31 resignations of which 17 were Actives and 14 were Associates
- 10 members shifted from Active to Associate status

The Club is greatly indebted to **Rob Lindsay**, assisted by **Gord Curl**, for their labours in keeping track of 314 of us - and more.

Communications

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

1. **Club Bulletin:** The monthly Club bulletin under our Editor, **Ken Jeffrey** continues to provide the membership with timely and complete information on Club news and activities. A special thanks to **Alan Green** for his continued service as 'official' club photographer for event and members' photos. Back issues of the Club Bulletin can be found on the Club website.
2. **Club Website:** In 2007 the Club moved to a more '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 out the website at --- www.guelphwellingtonmensclub.ca
3. **Video Services:** COVID-19 caused the Board to find a new way to enable regular Tuesday Club meetings. The Board adopted **Ross Knechtel's** recommendation of Zoom conferencing technology as the vehicle to deliver Virtual on-line meetings. A special thanks to Ross Knechtel and team for administering and managing the meetings as well as assisting members with technical issues. Video replays of meetings are posted on the Club Website.

WEEKLY MEETINGS

The weekly meeting is the 'main event' of our Club and it starts with the **Program Committee** continuing to attract excellent speakers for each meeting. This role was under the co-leadership of **Allan Dyer** and **Graham Ford** for the past year. A new feature, quarterly program evaluations, enable the committee to engage speakers to match members' interests on a wide

diversity of informative topics. Adapting to the “Now Normal”, the monthly Program Coordinators have a mix of local and international speakers scheduled through January 2021.

In addition to the Program Committee and Video Services, there are many committees involved in the smooth functioning of each meeting throughout the year. There are more than 100 members involved in committees in our Club in addition to the many 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.

HOUSE COMMITTEES, under **Derek Bewley**, includes the **Audio Visual (Steve Scadding - chair)**, **Badge Board and Refreshments (Wynne Wright – chair)**, **Colour Party (Bill Irving – chair)** Committees, the **Emergency Evacuation Team (Jim Mottin – captain)** and **AED/CPR First Responder Team (Ivor Wright - Captain)**. The **Anthems (Lawrie Jackson – chair)**, **Greeters (Art Cutten - chair)**, **Health and Celebration of Members (Lloyd Hicks – chair)** and **Thought for the Day (Dick Haas - chair)** Committees are busy at each meeting doing an excellent job and **Gord Kuder’s** end of meeting stories always send us off with a chuckle.

Note: the responsibilities of the **Emergency Response Group** includes *evacuation* of the meeting room in case of fire or other event and *first aid and defibrillation* as necessary. A Club presentation on September 10th detailed emergency evacuation procedures and a mock fire drill took place at the September 17th meeting. Specialized training is provided for emergency and first responder team members. The **Audio-Visual Committee** supports Club meetings with technical services under the expert leadership of **Steve Scadding**. As illnesses and vacations occur, the AV table is sometimes down to only one or two operators so please **volunteer and join today** by going over to the AV table and introducing yourself once COVID-19 is behind us.

The **Health of Members** Committee lead by **Lloyd Hicks** keeps us informed of the ailments of members and their progress to recovery. In addition, this committee also brings us up to date on milestones in our members' lives such as wedding anniversaries of 50 or more years and birthdays of 80 or more years.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

25-Year Members honored: The following seven members joined in 1995 reaching the 25-year membership mark during the **2019-2020** year:

Bruce Stone Bill Johnson Don Lyon Roman Braun
Ken King Don Blackburn Mike Peleschak

The Awards Committee, chaired by **Dale Lockie**, selected the following local Community groups to receive the 2019 – 2020 Club’s financial support:

1. The \$1,500.00 Annual Club Award went to the **City of Guelph's "No One Left Behind"** program administered by the Guelph United Way.
2. Kenneth P. Greenaway Awards of \$1000.00 - **Kiwanis Music Festival of Guelph,**

Archives and History Committee was under the auspices of **Jim Howse** with **David Hull** coordinating the Club's archives which are deposited regularly with the Guelph Public Library. **Peter Moore** updates the printed Club's formal history that is provided to all new members.

Club Choir: Until COVID-19 struck, the Club choir continued as a vital component of Club fellowship with **Lawrie Jackson** as board rep and **Ivor Wright** as choir chair. Its performance at our Remembrance Day meeting is a highlight of the Club year. Practices, led by choir director **Frank Parkinson**, are held at the ICC every Tuesday morning from 8:30 to 9:30. Prior to the pandemic shutdown the Choir went *on-the-road* in 2019-2020 to perform and represent the Club at these local retirement and long term care facilities:

Guelph Lake Commons – October 16, 2019

The Elliot Community - December 4, 2019

St. Joseph's Health Centre – January 9, 2020

The Royal on Gordon – February 12, 2020

The Village of Arbour Trails – March 25, 2020

Once the choir is back in action please feel free to give the Choir a try and regain that "old black magic" or indeed move out of the shower and into the performance hall.

Nominations Committee, chaired by **Dale Lockie** 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.

SOCIAL EVENTS: The Club continued to sponsor a variety of special and mixed social events during the 2019 – 2020 year:

42nd Anniversary Luncheon – At its July 9, 2019 meeting the Board accepted the recommendation of the Anniversary Luncheon Committee that, due to declining attendance, the Club's Anniversary Luncheon be permanently cancelled.

Christmas Luncheon – December 10, 2019 - committee chaired by **Ken Le Lacheur**

Spring Luncheon – April 14, 2020 – cancelled due to COVID-19 - committee chaired by **Bob Keleher**

Bridge and Euchre - committee chaired by **Dave Ireland** – Aficionados 'normally' meet weekly on Thursdays but continue to play on-line Wednesday afternoons during COVID-19.

Tours and Lunch

Another successful year of excellent tours was organized by the Tours and Lunch Committee for the 2019 – 2020 season. The Club thanks **Jim Thompson** and committee for their contribution to the success of the Tours and Lunch program. The following is a list of tours which were presented:

October 15, 2019 – Alma Aquaculture Research Centre (38 participants)

November 20, 2019 – Bar Code of Life - U of G (46 participants)

January 21, 2020 – Guelph City Hall (37 participants)

February 18, 2020 – Model Train Museum - St. Jacobs (46 participants)

Special Events Committee: Ralph Sykes, chair

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

September 9, 2019 – Grand River Raceway – Elora

Theatre Visits sub-committee chaired by **Roger Ellis**

September 19, 2019 – Billy Elliot at the Stratford Festival Theatre

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: Jim Tsujita - chair

Unfortunately the ever popular Club golf events had to be cancelled this year due to COVID-19.

Much effort goes into planning these events, and we acknowledge our appreciation to the organizers and their committees

New Initiatives: Thom Herrmann - chair.

On January 28, 2020 another **New Member Orientation** session, coordinated by **Allan Dyer**, was held for newly inducted Club members.

Club Member Survey

Following publication of the results of the March 2019 Club Member Survey the Board formed an Ad Hoc Committee chaired by **David Bain** to review the current system of committees and Club social activities. Its report was presented to the Board on February 5, 2020 and discussed at subsequent board meetings resulting in approval of the report at the May 5th Board meeting. Revised Club bylaws reflecting these changes will be presented for approval at the 2020-2021 General meeting.

Conclusion

Overall, 2019 - 2020 was a very challenging year for our Club. Through the efforts, experience and talents of our members the GWMC continues serving all Club members with opportunities for the fun, fellowship and camaraderie that makes the Guelph Wellington Men's Club the "best social Club in Guelph". The newly formed **Calling All Members** committee reminds us that a phone call to a fellow Club member beginning with a simple "Hi, how are you today" is the best medicine against the COVID-19 blues.

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 **\$1,500.00**

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.

Previous Award Recipients

- 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 Stroke 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
 2013 – Living on Less Program, St. James the Apostle Anglican Church
 2014 – The Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington
 2015 – Griefwalk
 2016 – Chalmers Community Service Centre
 2017 – Guelph Symphony Orchestra
 2018 - Wild Ontario at the University of Guelph
 2019 – No One Left Behind – City of Guelph

In Memoriam

2019 - 2020

Alan Morell	E. Ken Grant
William C. Scott	Robert Langlois
Cam Mullen	David P. Chesney
A.E. John Thompson	John Ogilvie
Alvin Gillies	Earl Osborne
Donald H. Parr	Ron Gumbley
J. Harold Reed	Murray Swanston
Doug Rodenburg	Donald Pletsch
Ken O. Hammill	Ron Lappan
R. Bruce MacIntosh	Gerry Friars
John Higham	Ken Reeve

Resignations

2019-2020

David Thompson	Bill Malone
John Wilkie	Tim Tentcher
Al Hauff	R. Wilson Clark
Norm McKenzie	Barry Athoe
Chris Harrison	Gary D. Partlow
Dick Julian	Peter Dunham
Doug Rodenburg	Charlie Fulton
Brock Tanner	Don McKay
Bruce Whitestone	Al Raftis
Ernie McFarland	Jim Milne
Steven Faehrmann	Howard Clark
Bernie Kiely	Jimmy Roberts
Jack Alex	Andy Kozakavich
Ken Reeve	Glen White
Peter Valentine	Fred Neufeld
George (Ted) Clarke	

**New Members
2019 - 2020**

Stuart McCannell	Cam Guthie
William Christian	Dale Schenk
Ted Sefton	Eric Bogoros
Steven Jacobs	David Davidson
Jim Hoy	Fred Brauer
Bill Gillespie	Rob Davis
Glen Tarlin	John Valeriotte
Bruce Cameron	John Ambrose
Frank Misurka	Lowell Lindsay
Grant Maxie	Royal Hamel
Brian Woodrow	Mark Schwindt

**Active to Associate Status
2019 - 2020**

George MacLean	Dan O'Conner
Howard Nodwell	Ralph Tersigni
Al Spence	Ken Martin
Rollie Laliberte	Doug Long
Kris Ottosen	William Christian

Respectfully submitted by Ron Dolynchuk, Club Secretary, October 27, 2020