

Guelph Wellington Men's Club, Member Survey January 2019

Many of you have been wondering what happened to the results of the survey that you recently completed. Well, they certainly haven't been ignored. Your Board along with the New Innovations committee has collated all of your replies and the result that work is given below.

This is not the end of the line for these results. The Board has decided that there are several items that have been highlighted by the survey that need further attention and possible action. As we study these results and make decisions of actions to be taken, we will either advise you of these actions or reach out to you for further direction. Your board is continually looking for ways to improve your enjoyment of the Club and will keep you up to date on any changes anticipated."

Summary

Approximately 160 replies, over half by email.

Question 1: Would you support more time for some or all speakers?

Yes: 27%; **No:** 26%; **Special occasions:** 39%; **No opinion:** 3%.

Single comments: Keep the meeting to an hour (SO); More time only if advertised in advance, otherwise as is; Take time away from some speakers.

Question 2: Name *one* thing you value about the club.

1. **Speakers/Education/Communication** of ideas or information: 43%
2. **Friends/Comradeship/Social interaction:** 39%
3. **Quality of the organization of the meetings:** 4%
4. **Specific items:** Choir (4%); Tours (3%)

Single comments: Encouragement to get up and out in the morning; Gives a purpose to my day; Special luncheons; Health and anniversaries; Fees are reasonable.

3. Do you have concerns about the club?

No: 53%

Membership: Declining membership, aging membership, less attractive to new recruits, rising age of retirement etc. 19%

Meeting others: Need more opportunities to meet others, to mix at tables, not to be stuck in the long "visitors' gallery". 7.8%

Speaker time: More time, 3.1%

Intro members: Don't need "3 official intros", 2.3%

Two comments (1.5%); Stop non-club announcements; People talking during announcements, speaker presentations is very irritating; Sound system; Too many meetings; Dress code (President should have a tie and jacket).

Single comments: Lack of participation in some activities (golf); Need more fun, less academic speakers; Do we need a weekly joke? Keep it simple; Less attendance at social functions; Uneven member participation; hearing problem.

4. Can you suggest one way to improve the club?

No: 35%

Meeting others: More opportunities to mix, member seat rotation, 6.2%

Declining membership: Need younger members, 6.2% [some others specifically said “not a problem”]

Better speakers, 5.3%

Need better audio system, 4.6%

More time for speakers, 3.8%

Two comments (1.5%); Coat space/cloakroom issue; More special interest groups (investing, reading, tours etc); Shorter new member intros (not 3 intros); Different way to assess speakers; Too many meetings; Shorten the preliminaries, eg Thought for the Day, Eliminate birth and anniversary announcements, national anthem; More discussion of ageing-related issues, eg home health care; Make club better known, eg Tribune coverage.

Single comments: Start earlier (5 or 10 mins for a trial); Put “In Memoriam” on a Board, not at a meeting; Suggestions for speaker topics; Attract new members from all walks of life; Too many ex-U of G Profs; New activities/ideas (unspecified); Entertainer or comedian every 2 months; Do a 5 min member profile when no new member introduced; More use of the “support network”; Dress Code- No shorts!; How to get members with mobility issues in and out; “Stag” table at special events if no spouse; Mingle like Royal City Men’s Club; Delay in accessing microphone by members; Make dues payment easier, no public shaming; Give new members badges before they’re made members; Ice cream; Female membership; Keep the golf; More talks by hockey referees, athletes; Go monthly; More life members; On-line introductions of new members; Suggestion box; Review proposed program ahead; times 9-10, 11-12?

Recent changes: Liked introduction of new members at the start of a meeting; Liked change of anniversary dinner to a lunch was a good idea; Liked the debates;

5. How can we make the club more attractive to new members?

Many didn't answer this question and some wrote they didn't think it was a problem. Several people wrote "Keep it up!" 55 written suggestions are summarized. One or two members answered at length but only single suggestions are summarized.

Promoting the GWMC: Guelph's best kept secret, Get the message out, Advertise in the community, including The Tribune, invite The Tribune, open the meetings up to outsiders, 18.5%

Recruiting: Members should recruit friends, make bringing guests more a norm without implying membership, 11.1%

New member friendly: Mix people up much better, welcome new members at a table, involve new members early in club activities eg as greeters, rotate seating for new members, make first year fee half-price, invite new members to an Exec meeting, ask new members for experience with club, 11.1%.

Admissions process: Shorten and clean up the admissions process, drop the need for 2 sponsors and 3 introductions, 9.2%

Keep it up: 9.2%

Two comments (3.7%): Have a small community project to engage (new) members; More time for speakers.

Single comments (1.8%): More correct behavior of members to impress *good* new members; Visitor coordinator to explain the club to visitors; Temporary name badges before formal membership approved; Provide table discussion topics for members arriving early; Drop birthday and anniversary announcements; One minute Introduction of new members; Provide transportation; Great opportunity to give back to the community through eg Food Bank, Clothes Drive; Audio system; Promote social side; Female membership; New Member Recruitment Committee.

6. Do you have any other comments?

Many didn't answer this also, with biggest single comment being "Keep it up" (31%) of the 70 comments provided, excluding "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!" (3%).

Membership: Mix up the members, make the club more friendly to new members (7.1%). Find out why members resign (5.7%).

Jokes: 4.2% liked the jokes.

Two comments (3%): Cancel the August meeting; Combine the two Guelph men's retirement clubs; Tours are great; Shorten speaker and member introductions, shorten

Thought for the Day.

Single comments: It is hard to capture the wide range of written comments. Remind to turn off cell phones; Club should have jackets with a Crest and year of membership (On second thoughts everyone might end up in someone else's jacket!); Good speakers the last 12 months; Concern about the fire practice last year; project the new words of O Canada on the screen (.. "in all of us command"..); Improve sound system; Less Food Bank, Clothing Drives; Have entertainment instead of a speaker sometimes; Have once a year special lunch and activity; Dancing girls; Keep girls out; Bottled water instead of coffee and tea; Likes debates; Mourns Robbie Burns dinner; Mourns loss of the Invocation; Have the Anniversary lunch every 5 years; More social time at meetings; Liked the Videos from last year; Choir members should have a tie; Make addressing the numerous challenges of old age a focus of the club, one of the benefits of club membership; Put old and new announcement information on the screen before the meetings; Describe what the actual volunteer activities are in the Bulletin; Unhappy with grading of the speakers.