

The Guelph-Wellington Men's Club

42nd ANNUAL MEETING

SECRETARY'S REPORT for 2018-2019

Tuesday, October 29, 2019

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.

The past year marked the **42nd year** of the Guelph-Wellington Men's Club. What follows is meant as a brief synopsis of the Administration and Events of the GWMC covering the period **September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019**. I hope that this review will provide some evidence of the many good things that have happened. However, it's necessary to thank not only **Dale Lockie** for his dedicated service as Club president but also 1st Vice President **Jim Howse** who chaired our meetings during Dale's illness together making it an overall fun and exciting year for our Club.

ADMINISTRATION

Board of Directors

Officers:

President
 1st Vice President
 2nd Vice-President
 Past President
 Treasurer
 Assistant Treasurer
 Membership Secretary
 Secretary

Dale Lockie
Jim Howse
Jim Sanders
David Bain
Keith Devolin
Howard Simpson
Rob Lindsay
Ron Dolynchuk

Bulletin Editor: **Ken Jeffrey**
 Website: **Randy Cook**

Directors to 31st August 2019:

Allan Dyer, Wayne Hawkes, Thom Herrmann
Jim McQueen, Ralph Sykes, David Walpole

Directors to 31st August 2020:

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

In conjunction with the Board of Directors, most of the **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 2017-2018 fiscal year and the budget for 2018-2019 to the membership at the October 30, 2018 AGM. **Keith Devolin** was assisted by Assistant Treasurer **Howard Simpson** in managing Club banking and collection of members' dues. 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.

Annual Budget and Fees

Each May, the Finance Committee (**Jim Sanders** – 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 2019-2020 fiscal year was heartily approved at the Club's General Meeting on June 4, 2019.

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 343 including 312 Active, 28 Associate and 3 Life members.

Rob Lindsay, Membership Secretary, has provided the following Membership changes for the year ending: August 31, 2019:

- 20 deaths of which 12 were Active members, 3 were Associate members, 4 who had previously resigned and 1 life member
- 29 new members were accepted
- 28 resignations of which 21 were Actives and 7 were Associates
- 9 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 343 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:** The monthly Club bulletin under the very capable 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.
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 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** continuing to attract excellent speakers for each meeting. This role was under the leadership of **Allan Dyer** 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. A highlight of the year was a special meeting on May 29, 2019 featuring Canada’s former Governor General, the Right Honorable David Johnston. The theme of his presentation was ‘Building a Better Country through Mutual Trust’ in a Q and A format with Tom Watson as Moderator. Both ICC meeting rooms were utilized to capacity with members of local service clubs, school students and dignitaries attending. Thanks go to the planning committee of **Bruce Stone, Jim Howse, Jim Sanders, Tom Watson, Alan Dyer and Chris Clark** for coordinating the event.

In addition to the Program Committee, there are many committees involved in the smooth functioning of each meeting throughout the year. There are more than 130 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 COMMITTEE, under **Derek Bewley**, includes the **Audio Visual (Steve Scadding - chair)**, **Badge Board and Refreshments (Wynne Wright – chair)**, **Colour Party (Bill Irving – chair)**, **Emergency Response (Bert Wolting – chair)** sub-Committees. The **Anthems (Lawrie Jackson – chair)**, **Greeters (Wayne Hawkes - 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 Committee** include *evacuation* of the meeting room in case of fire or other event and *first aid and defibrillation* as necessary.

Audio-Visual Committee: Club meeting are supported 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.

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: Two members joining in 1994 reached the 25-year membership mark during the **2018-2019** year with badges being presented in December this year.

Jack Alex

A. E. John Thompson

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

1. The \$1,500.00 Annual Club Award, presented at the Anniversary Dinner, October 23, 2018 to a deserving community charity group - **Wild Ontario**
2. Kenneth P. Greenaway Awards of \$1000.00 - **Kiwanis Music Festival of Guelph**,

Archives and History Committee was under the auspices of **Dale Lockie** with **David Hull** coordinating the Club's archives which are 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.

Club Choir: The Club choir continues as a vital component of Club fellowship with **Lawrie Jackson** as board rep and **Ivor Wright** as choir chair. Practices, led by choir director **Frank Parkinson**, are held at the ICC every Tuesday morning from 8:30 to 9:30. 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. Its performance at our Remembrance Day meeting is a highlight of the Club year. In 2018-2019 the Choir went *on-the-road* to perform and represent the Club at these local retirement and long term care facilities:

Eden House Care Facility - October 10, 2018

The Elliot Community - December 12, 2018

Guelph Lake Commons – January 9, 2019

The Village of Arbour Trails – March 13, 2019

The Village of Riverside Glen – April 17, 2019

Nominations Committee, chaired by **David Bain** 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 2018 – 2019 year:

41st Anniversary Luncheon – October 24, 2018 - committee chaired by **Norm Hunter**

At its July 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 11, 2018 - committee chaired by **Jim McQueen**

Spring Luncheon – April 09, 2019 - committee chaired by **David Walpole**

Bridge and Euchre aficionados continue to meet weekly on Thursdays – committee chaired by **Dave Ireland**

Tours and Lunch

Another successful year of excellent tours was organized by the Tours and Lunch Committee for the 2018 – 2019 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 30, 2018 – Conestoga College Food Processing Lab (31 participants)

December 3, 2018 – Cascade Industries, Aberfoyle (31 participants)

February 19, 2019 – Victoria Rec Centre (28 participants)

March 19, 2019 – St. Andrews Church and Masonic Lodge (27 participants)

June 4, 2019 – Spring Mill Distillery (33 participants)

July 23, 2019 – Classic Car Tour, ICC parking lot (22 participants)

Special Events Committee: Ralph Sykes, chair

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

September 17, 2018 – 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: Thom Herrmann - chair

Jack Schill and committee organized two golf events (September 19, 2018 and June 26, 2018) and while **Lawrie Jackson** worked hard on organizing the Blue Jays game outing of September 8, 2018 the board accepted his recommendation to cancel the 2019-2010 Blue Jays event because of low participation.

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

New Initiatives:

New Initiatives Committee presented two events with **Jim McQueen** as chair.

>November 27, 2018: An **New Member Orientation** session, coordinated by **Allan Dyer**, was held for newly inducted Club members.

> January 2018: The committee planned and coordinated a **Club Member Survey** early in 2019 to receive input from our members by reflecting on the past, evaluating the present and contemplating the future of the Club to help the Board chart a path for the Club keeping it strong and healthy. The thoughtful and strong response was the subject of a Board retreat which took place on March 26, 2018 to discuss the survey results and develop next steps. A summary of the survey results and the Board's response to the survey has been posted on the Club Website.

Conclusion

Overall, 2018 - 2019 was a very good year for our Club. Its objectives have again met our expectations of gaining knowledge and having great fellowships.

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

In Memoriam

2018- 2019

Don Sutherland	T.K. (Sandy) Warley
Grant McRae	Thomas J. Hulland
Ivan S. Stinson	W.E. (Bill) Tossell
Gilbert Bennett	Hon. Wm. Winegard
Neil M. Sullivan	Richard Wilson
Kenneth G. Murray	John R. (Dick) Yeoman
David Kuhn	Lane Van Geest
H. Garry Clarke	Dr. Bruno Will
Harris Steele	Norman E. McCollum
J.R. (Jack) Bruce	Bill Braithwaite

Resignations

2018-2019

John Higham	Ken Kay
Bruno Will	Bob Mackenzie
Otto Ahlers	John Benham
Jack Bruce	Bob Scott
Earl Sutton	John Walcot
Karl Wettstein	Cam Bailey
Neil McLaren	Dick Kaufman
Ted Burnside	Angelo Longo
John Caron	Gord MacFarlane
Hugh Rose	Neil Sullivan
Wilf Park	Derek Jamieson
Joe Valeriotte	Blair Wilson
Nick Pestill	Henry Thiessen
Bill Grexton	Jim Pettit

**New Members
2018-2019**

Brock Tanner	Jim Kingdon
Michael Bouk	Mike Silvani
Paul Dafoe	Keith Lymburner
Alex Smith	Glenn White
George Annette	Rick Light
Henry Thiessen	Peter Anderson
David Wolk	Mike Trotter
Jack Wolowich	Jim Le Clair
John Holt	Howard Johnson
Bill Anderson	Ken Kroeger
Bob Keleher	George Elliott
Vance Curry	Denis O'Donnell
Tom Kendall	Walter Johnson
Peter Krell	Tom Bird
Dave Hume	

**Active to Associate Status
2018-2019**

Jimmy Roberts	Norm McKenzie
Bernie Kiely	Fred Howlett
Jack Alex	Steven Faehrmann
Bruce Holden	Wilson Clark
Tim Lumsden	

Respectfully submitted by Ron Dolynchuk, Secretary, October 29, 2019