

President Bob Berry opened the meeting at 9:55 am with 49 members in attendance. He welcomed today's guest speaker, Ken McGoogan and welcomed back Kerry Gennings following a brief hospital stay and Ritchie Zelk from his trip to Madagascar. He introduced a new member, Bob Houser, and a couple of out-of-town guests, Richard Seibel from Fergus and Brian Welch from Elora.

Announcements

Activities – Ken Marchant

- The Christmas Dinner is on Dec. 7th at 11:30 at Victoria GC with 55 tickets sold. Members can still purchase tickets but must do so soon in order to inform the golf course caterers. We are still soliciting tickets for donations for door prizes for the Christmas dinner.
- Other activities will be scheduled in the new year such as attending a Guelph Storm hockey game.
- Valentine's Day dinner is scheduled to take place at the Symposium Restaurant.

- Warren Gregg reminded members about the Drayton performance of *Fiddler on the Roof* scheduled for December 2nd and announced that this is the first time a performance at Drayton Theatre has completely sold out a month before the performance is to take place. Also he has made reservations for dinner following the Drayton performance at the Queen's Café and it is over-booked if everyone decides to attend. So he needs to know people's final decision about attending this.

- President Bob reminded us that today is the last membership meeting before the new year but the Boathouse will still be open for coffee meetings until December 21st. The next membership meeting will be on January 4th, 2024.
- He also wished best wishes to everyone for the upcoming festive season.

John Sneyd introduced today's guest speaker, Ken McGoogan.

Bio:

Let's Make History Exciting Again: Adventures in Creative Nonfiction. In this talk, Ken argues that History is in the ropes – especially Canadian History. It is time to build upon the foundation laid by writers like Pierre Berton and Peter C. Newman by incorporating newer story-telling techniques -- by taking a creative nonfiction approach to writing History. His latest book, *Searching for Franklin*, is his most developed illustration. While delivering a factual narrative, it incorporates personal presence, intertwines story lines, and shifts point of view. Bottom line: *Let's Make History Exciting Again.*

Presentation

Ken McGoogan is a globe-trotting, history-loving storyteller who survived shipwreck off Dar es Salaam, chased the ghost of Jane Lady Franklin from Russell Square to Van Diemen's Land, and placed a John Rae memorial plaque in the High Arctic. He is an award-winning Canadian author and speaker who recently published his sixteenth book: *Searching for Franklin*. His previous books on Arctic exploration history – among them *Fatal Passage*, *Lady Franklin's Revenge*, and *Dead Reckoning* – have won the Pierre Berton Award for history, the UBC medal for Canadian biography, the Canadian Authors' Association prize for History, and an American Christopher Award for "a work of artistic excellence that affirms

the highest values of the human spirit.” Ken is a fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society and the Explorers Club and sails with Adventure Canada as a resource historian. He has lived in Guelph for three years. www.kenmcgoogan.com.

Ken McGoogan began his talk while showing slides of some illustrations and pictures. These can be viewed on the RCMC website under Speaker’s notes for November 23, 2024.

A question and answer period followed Mr. McGoogan’s presentation

President Bob Berry thanked Ken McCoogan and presented him with a token of appreciation from the Club.

Next Meeting: January 4th, 2024 with member Ed Herold speaking on Human Sexuality

Adjournment @10:55 am

Recording Secretary: Kerry Gennings