Royal City Men's Club

Minutes

General Meeting September 11th, 2025

Ron East – Secretary

Meeting Called 9:50 AM Warren Gregg – President presiding

Members present – 57

Julian Sale announced that the Tour de Guelph team raised $35,000.00 for the Hospital

Charlie Barnes raised $30,000.00 himself and over 8 years with the rally raised $130,000.00

BRAVO!

Ken Marchant – Chair Activities Committee

The horse race gig is on in Elora

Guelph Storm tickets are available and going fast

A show at the Arboretum is on Nov. 21,22

A car rally is planned for Oct. 14 – 15th

Martin Alderwick introduced 3 guests

Barry Hall

Glen Moore

Shelby Korman

This was followed by a moment of silence

Warren introduced our Speakers

Chief Gord Cobey and Deputy Chief Dan Gill Guelph Police Force

Presentation: General Discussion about the state of poklicing in Guelph

Chief Cobey announced that there are no slides, he will talk briefly and answer questions

Bio:

When Gord Cobey began his bachelor's degree at McMaster University, he already had an idea of the career he wanted to pursue.
"I applied to the RCMP a few weeks after starting university and was hired shortly after I completed my degree three years later," he remembers. "Policing was something I was interested in from a very young age".
As a youth, many of Cobey's football and hockey coaches were police officers and he liked

the idea of "engaging in an interesting and meaningful career with many opportunities to serve and support the community."
Upon graduating from the RCMP training academy in 1994, Cobey requested a remote posting in northern Manitoba. He was sent to Gods Lake Narrows, a fly-in community 550 kilometres northeast of Winnipeg.
Having grown up in eastern Ontario, Cobey had never lived or travelled extensively outside of his home province. "I thought it would be interesting and a great opportunity to learn." In fact, the first time he was ever on a plane was when the RCMP flew him to his first posting.
In his time in northern Manitoba, Cobey learned lessons that have served him well throughout his policing career. "When you're working in very remote communities, or any community, it is important that you build relationships with community members. The greatest lesson I learned was the importance of being kind and treating people with respect."
After seven years in Manitoba, Cobey and his wife – who were high school sweethearts -- moved their family back to Ontario, settling in Guelph where his wife had attended university. They have three adult children. Cobey continued to work for the RCMP until early 2019, when he was hired to replace retiring Guelph Police Chief Jeff DeRuyter.

The police have 350 people on staff, and this is Chief Cobey's 7th year in the position.

The police are not involved with speed cameras.

Guelph used to be 1st or 2nd safest City, then they dropped to 19th wjhen Chief Cobey started. We now stand at 6th . His purpose is to support the community and earn our trust. He has undertaken 12 talks so far this year and considers it an important part of the job.

Concerning scams and fraud – this is on the rise and frequently targets seniors. The police have a special task force on these issues and Chief Cobey encouraged us to arrange a representative from this task force to come and speak specifically about these issues.

Prevention is crucial as these crimes are frequently difficult to solve.

Investing in the police force is an investment in the community. Guelph is amomng the lowest Cities in Canada on investments in the police. We have a Police Board and currently we are fazing in 32 new personnel.

Homelessness, human trafficking, violent crime are on the rise

Andrew Griffen of the community response unit have initiated a program entitled "Impact" together with a mental health and social worker team to align resources especially around addiction. They have responded to 3,000 interactions so far. Open drug use has resulted in 185 arrests so far. These results are all detailed in their annual report.

The police force in Guelph is 30% female and among senior managers it is roughly 50/50 and reflect the ethnic make-up of the City.

Interaction with youth is an important aspect especially regarding human trafficking and intimate partner violence.

There is a 20 minute virtual tour of the police building available online

There has been an increase in violent crime and a reduction in hate crime. Front line resources need to be increased. The 911 help line is open 24/7

Road safety needs to be increased.

Warren thankd our speakers

The meeting was concluded at 11:02 AM

Ron East - Secretary