

With Doug Davidson – Bag Pipes

President Bob Berry opened the meeting at 9:55 am with 44 members in attendance.

Following a few opening remarks, he introduced today's guest members: Bob Bairstow, Terry Haron, and Jay Gold.

Announcements

Activities – Ken Marchant

- The tickets for “*Joseph*” are now available and a reminder that the date is Saturday, July 22nd @ 2:00 pm;
- The date for “An Evening-at-the-Races” at Elora has been changed to Friday, September 22nd;
- Last Saturday the RCMC contingent team, *the Incorrigibles* who entered the *Tour de Guelph* raised \$3,800. The total *Tour de Guelph* event raised \$170,000 for the Guelph General Hospital.

President Bob Berry announced that today's scheduled speaker, Karen Van Ooteghem, had a sudden work-related commitment that prevented her from presenting to us today. On extremely short notice, our new Speakers' Committee Chairperson, Doug Davidson, has volunteered to present to us about his experiences and knowledge about playing the bag pipes.

Doug Davidson, Chair of the Speakers' Committee

Doug was born in Kitchener where his father was a doctor. Doug was a member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and the Scout Troop that he belonged to. About 1964 when he was about to enter high school and his mother was harping on him about taking some kind of music lessons, he found an ad in the newspaper by the Kitchener Legion Pipe Band offering free lessons. He thought this was kind of “cool” so, he took lessons and hasn't regretted it since.

He played in the Kitchener Legion Pipe Band as a young player. (He showed a picture of him in the band in 1968.) He also showed several members of the group he played with who went on to win several world championship gold medals. Doug spoke about the history of the band and its accomplishments as well as some of the band members. Some members went on to join the Army Reserve Pipe Band in Cambridge which became a regimental pipe band for the Royal Highland Infantry of Canada. This band amalgamated with the Scots Fusiliers of Kitchener. This band became the Royal Highland Fusiliers who recently played for the new King Charles III.

In 1984 the Regimental band pipe major retired so Doug was called upon to become the Pipe Major thinking that this promotion was only temporary. However, he continued in this role until he retired as the Pipe Major in 2009. He has the longest service record in the Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada.

Doug had the opportunity to go to France with some Highland Veterans to the 50th anniversary of D-Day ceremony. He showed several pictures of the event and surrounding territory. This was the most devastating battle the RHF ever fought when a third of the battalion was either wounded or killed.

Membership Meeting
2023

July 6,

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Doug has had the opportunity to go on many trips because of him being a bag pipe player. And as a teacher for the Waterloo Board of Education every time there was a dignitary, he got to go to play the pipes. He also was requested numerous times to pipe at funerals. When the army band stopped competing, he joined the Cambridge District Pipe Band which won the grade 3 competition in 1984.

Doug got to travel with the composite band of the Canadian Forces to the 90th Anniversary of the Vimy Memorial Commemoration.

In 1989 the British Imperial Royal Highland Fusiliers celebrated the anniversary of their amalgamation with the Royal Scots Fusiliers so, Doug's Pipe Band got to go over and play at their anniversary celebration.

Princess Margaret was the Royal Colonel of the Pipe Band and Doug's Band got to play for her at the time shortly after Lord Louis Mountbatten was assassinated.

Doug showed several pictures of various events he has played at.

Doug was forced to retire in 2009 due to his age. He feels blessed to have had a long career and he got to do many things he wouldn't otherwise have done except for the fact he was a piper.

Doug provided a brief history of the bagpipes and an explanation of their construction where he broke them down into their components. He then played a few songs on the bag pipes.

Bob Berry thanked Doug for stepping forward on short notice to present to us.

Next Meeting: July 20, 2023, with Paul Obermeyer, RN on Inpatient Programs Offered at Homewood

Adjournment @10:58 am

Recording Secretary: Kerry Gennings