

President Bob Berry opened the meeting by welcoming all in attendance (42 members) including today's guest presenter, Susan Glasauer. He further introduced a guest member, Richard Rivkin. Bob welcomed back member Ken Alsop following his recovery from a bike accident.

Announcements

Activities – Ken Marchant

- Ken thanked Warren Gregg for arranging a successful and fun evening at Elora Racetrack. The food & service was good and the room arrangement/track access was well liked;
- Coming up is the Drayton performance of "Evita" at Hamilton Theatre (in Cambridge) on Saturday, Oct. 21st, @ 2:00 pm and cut-off for ordering tickets ends today;
- There is a lot of interest in the tour of the Warplane Museum; cost is \$12 and you pay for your lunch there; a car pool sign-up sheet is at the welcome table and it is being closed off today;
- The Guelph Storm vs. London Knights hockey game and dinner is on Wednesday, Nov. 15th, for \$50 admission to the lounge for wings and beer;
- The Cabaret at the Village-by-the-Arboretum (VBA) is coming up with two nights available, Friday & Saturday, November 24th & 25th. Put your name down today because tickets have to be reserved well in advance.

President Bob Berry announced that on our website there is a notice about the Elora Film Festival with a documentary by Ian Evans on his many adventures. Tickets are available on-line.

Also, the Trinity United Church is putting on a presentation on "Elvis". Tickets are available.

Doug Davidson, Chair of Speakers' Committee, announced that the Speakers' Committee met recently and would like to try something new at a later scheduled Membership meeting. The idea is to fill in one membership meeting by having three pre-selected members do a "get-to-know-us" presentation on their previous life experiences and work-life. Caveat: it needs to be summarized in 15 minutes or less. Members can volunteer by signing-up or will be searched out by the Speakers' Committee. Sign-up sheet at the welcome table and the first meeting will be in January.

Doug Davidson introduced today's guest speaker, Dr. Susan Glasauer.

Bio:

Dr. Susan Glasauer is a faculty member in the School of Environmental Sciences at the University of Guelph, and the president for the Canadian chapter of the Society for Wetland Scientists. She completed an undergraduate degree in Plant and Soil Biology and a Masters in Soil Chemistry at the University of California at Berkeley, and a doctoral degree at the Technical University of Munich in Germany. Following several years as an environmental consultant, with wetland restoration projects in the Niger Delta, she joined Dr. Terry Beveridge at the University of Guelph as a post-doctoral researcher before accepting a faculty position in Land Resource Science in 2003. Her research is focused on the interactions between microbes, metals, and elements of concern in Canada such as arsenic and uranium. Wetlands are central to her research because they are among the most chemically and biologically diverse environments on Earth. The activity of wetland

microbes in particular can be manipulated to remove elements of concern from wastewater, or to liberate nutrient elements from rocks that are essential to both microbes and to higher organisms such as plants. She will discuss her research and the future of wetlands in a changing climate world.

Presentation

Dr. Glasauer provided a great talk on wetlands and microbes and the need to protect them. She addressed Canada's importance in wetlands because Canada has about 25% of the world's total wetlands. She mentioned our perception and sense of what wetlands and swamps are and then the good of wetlands and swamps. Canada's wetlands and swamps are the secret weapon to fighting climate change. Wetlands are aerial rivers and when they are eliminated they create deserts. Wetlands buffer the landscape from flooding. Hydrology is the primary factor that determines whether and where wetlands form.

She provided a synopsis of the diversity of plants and animals that thrive in wetlands. Flooding and geology create the conditions for characteristic plants and animals.

The classes of wetlands are:

- Marshes and meadows
- Open water ponds
- Swamps (wetlands with trees)
- Fen (peat)
- Bog

Wetland development is dynamic and transitional in time and space. About 80% of Canada's wetlands have already been destroyed.

The Ontario Wetlands Evaluation System (OWES) evaluates wetlands and only about 2% has been evaluated. The total wetland area used to include all wetlands within a complex. This was changed in 2022. More wetlands will be disappearing. The MNR is no longer in charge of this. It is now the responsibility of municipal government. The Hudson Bay Wetland is the largest wetland in Canada.

Dr. Glasauer responded to a Q&A following her presentation.

President Berry thanked Dr. Glasauer for her presentation and gave her a token of our appreciation.

Next Meeting: October 12th with Dr. Brian Stevens: *Feral Pigs and the Numerous Dangers*

Adjournment @11:07 am

Recording Secretary: Kerry Gennings