

President Bob Berry opened the meeting at 9:55 am with 45 members in attendance. He first announced that one of our former members, Bruce Whitestone, passed away last week. Bob relayed that in the mid 1970's he recalled seeing Bruce Whitestone get on the bus from Guelph to Toronto every Monday to Thursday and travel to downtown Toronto where Bruce was the speech writer for one of the major charter banks. This was only one of the many things that Bruce did. David Wallace added that Bruce also worked in the Privy Council for John Diefenbaker. Bruce was a graduate of Yale University.

President Berry next introduced today's guest members: Bob Housser, and Dan Laroque. Bob also introduced the Club's newest member: Richard Rivkin. He extended a welcome to today's guest speaker, David Beaton.

Announcements

Activities – Ken Marchant

- The first announcement was that the previous planned event of attending the Guelph Storm game has been cancelled due to not enough members signing up to get the discount for the event.
- Village-By- the-Arboretum Cabaret – Fri., Nov. 24th – sign-up is closing for tickets today and tickets are available for pick-up now. There are two extra tickets for Friday night.
- Remembrance Day ceremony is scheduled
- The Christmas Dinner on Dec. 7th at Victoria GC – tickets are available for pick-up.
- The Drayton performance of *Evita* was a success.

Doug Davidson introduced today's guest speaker, David Beaton

David Beaton: State of Guelph Stewardship

Bio:

A graduate of Guelph's Environmental Sciences program, Dave's culminating research examined community support for restoration and naturalization efforts in Guelph along the Speed River that he would later be hired to lead.

Dave spent a 17-year career at Credit Valley Conservation, managing CVC's Community Outreach, volunteer programs, awards program, initiating urban, rural, and farming programs, Conservation Youth Corps, and initiating efforts for the 100 km Credit Valley Trail.

Dave continues to live in Guelph and is a long-time volunteer who for 25 years has led the efforts to protect the 600-acre Hanlon Creek Conservation Area, (aka Preservation Park) through boardwalk construction, other trail improvements, and ecological restoration. These efforts continue to the present day with fall workdays coordinated with the University of Guelph's Project Serve and community volunteers maintaining more than one km of boardwalks.

In 2017, Dave joined the City of Guelph as Supervisor of Trails and Natural Areas working to connect people with the nature in their neighbourhood, establishing stewardship programs, and supporting community restoration efforts. In 2021, Dave was appointed as Program Manager of Forestry and Sustainable Landscapes leading Forestry, Horticulture,

Natural Areas Stewardship, and GIS for the Parks department. Dave is proud to work with a talented group of professionals as well as many dedicated community leaders devoted to making a difference in the city we love.

Presentation

Dave Beaton is Guelph's Program Manager of Forestry and Sustainable Landscapes within the Parks department. Dave Beaton will provide a State of Guelph's Stewardship and highlight community and park staff efforts and accomplishments. Dave's teams and community partners are making real progress to meet Guelph's canopy targets, improve biodiversity in our natural areas and streetscapes, thwart invasive plants, engage residents in restoration through a new Park Stewards Program and support community efforts for food security through community gardens. Dave will provide a synopsis of where we are now and ask for community support to carry these efforts further into the future.

(See Dave Beaton's slide presentation on the RCMC website under "Speaker's Notes")

There was a Q&A following Dave Beaton's presentation.

President Bob Berry thanked Brian Beaton and made a donation to Guelph Hiking Trails on his behalf.

Next Meeting: November 9th - Doug Davidson: *WW2-Highland Light Infantry-Guelph Connection*

Adjournment @11:04 am

Recording Secretary: Kerry Gennings