

President Bob Berry opened the meeting at 9:55 am with 55 members in attendance. He welcomed all present with a special welcome to today's guest speaker, Ed Mizzi, as well as visiting guests, Dan Laroque, Don McFarlane and a special welcome back to Ray Biffis.

Announcements

Bob Berry – Re: Incorporation

- This past September the Board of Directors met with our insurance broker to discuss insurance coverage for our Club and its members. We are presently unincorporated which means that every individual in the Club is subject to liability in the event of a serious misadventure. We are mostly covered but in case there is any shortfall of insurance coverage we would be better covered if we were incorporated.
- With this in mind we have considered the pros and cons of becoming incorporated and as a result the Board is taking the necessary steps to become incorporated and to limit the liability of members and the Club's assets.
- The Board has drafted articles of incorporation that have to be submitted to the government and developed a new set of by-laws and made amendments to incorporate our current by-laws.
- These documents along with the "pros & cons" will be put on our website (password protected) for the membership to read and consider.
- At our next membership meeting on February 1st, 2024 we will ask the membership to give the Board of Directors permission to proceed with the application for incorporation with the intent to become incorporated as of March 31, 2024.
- All assets and memberships will be transferred over to the new Club (Royal City Men's Club) on April 1, 2024.
- On April 1, 2024, the Board of Directors of the new club will be exactly the same as the current Board of Directors until the next Annual General Meeting in June, when a new Board of Directors will be elected.

Re: Volunteer Drivers and members seeking a ride

- Members offering to be drivers to pick-up other members needing a ride are asked to put their name, contact information etcetera on the sign-up sheet on the welcome table;
- Members seeking a ride are asked to check this sheet for information on getting a ride.

Activities – Ken Marchant

- Valentine's Day Dinner is scheduled for February 14, 2024 at Symposium Restaurant and the signup sheet is on the welcome table. Sign-up needs to be done very soon.
- The performance of Jersey Boys is scheduled for April 13th at Drayton's Hamilton Theatre.
- There are a lot of activities being scheduled in the coming months.

John Sneyd introduced today's presenter, Ed Mizzi. John first met and heard a presentation by Ed Mizzi when John was at a week-long seniors event in Algonquin Park last summer.

Bio:

Ed Mizzi is an amateur astronomer with the Royal Canadian Astronomical Society of Canada and his main focus is to help educate members of the public about the oldest of sciences and the wonders of the universe. Due to his volunteer work, Ed was honoured earlier this year, by the International Astronomical Union, based in Paris, France, with a Minor Planet being named after him. Ed served in several capacities on the Board of Directors of the Hamilton Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC), and he is a Past President. He also received a Service Medal from the RASC, in 2019.

Ed Mizzi: Astronomy: Way Out There

Presentation:

Astronomy is the study of everything in the universe beyond Earth's atmosphere and it helps us understand our place in the cosmos. Ed described some of the many facets of this fascinating and oldest of the sciences. He discussed some of the most intriguing discoveries and celestial bodies in our Solar System and beyond.

Ed Mizzi answered questions following his presentation.

President Bob Berry thanked Ed for his presentation and presented him with a token of appreciation.

Next Meeting: February 1, 2024 with Jim Brown on Guelph Emergency Services

Adjournment @11:05 am

Recording Secretary: Kerry Gennings