

President Bob Berry opened the meeting @ 9:55 am with 46 members in attendance. He then announced that we had lots of guests today and introduced Ross Bairstow, Ron Galbraith, Wayne Hall, Bryan Florence and Hugh Thomassin.

Activities

President Bob recalled the Valentine's dinner at the Symposium the previous evening and said it was a fine dinner with lots of great fellowship amongst members and their wives. He thanked Warren Gregg for the added touch of giving each of the ladies a rose and the gentlemen each received a miniature bottle of a spirit.

Warren Gregg announced some upcoming performances at the Drayton Hamilton Theatre:

- Tickets have been pre-ordered for "*Jersey Boys*" and they should be signed up for and payment should be paid directly to Warren. Tickets should be available at the next meeting.
- Tickets are also being ordered for a production of "*Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*" later in the summer.
- Another event in the planning is a performance at the Guelph Little Theatre on April 28th.

The President informed the members that the Activities' Committee and the Speakers' Committee are seeking new members to replace some of the current committee members who are stepping down. Also there is a need to increase the number of members on these committees in order to carry-on important functions of the Club. Please volunteer to assist.

Presentation

Bob Berry introduced today's speaker, a Club member, Ron East.

Bio:

With expertise and experience in both the academic and professional theatre communities on 2 continents; Ron has a career background in the professional theatre, TV and film, including acting, directing, playwriting, dramaturgy, and training. With an MA from the University of Toronto, and a PhD from University of Guelph, his academic interests include: imagination as brain function, and creative practice. Ron has operated a theatre production company and a professional theatre school in Toronto and London, England. Currently writing his second book, Ron recently presented a research paper entitled 'Altered States' at Oxford University, and at the National Humanities Congress of Canada. Ron has been chair of a theatre foundation, has served on a provincial regulatory board, has been chair of the Cultural Advisory committee for the City of Guelph, and is currently Chair and an active member of the Guelph chapter of the Council of Canadians, as well as serving on the national board as a regional rep.

Speaker Presentation

WRITING Inspiration: The Brain, Imagination and Creative Practice provides original insight into the nature of the creative process. It explores how the imagination, the most powerful system in the brain, and its connectivity to the senses, emotions, and consciousness functions to enable creative outcomes. With a focus on how this system

opens up discovery, invention, and inspiration at every level, it explores the nature of the sensual, existential, quantum and collective imagination as a means to create pathways to a better future. In writing this book I am inspired by a quote from Nelson Mandela: *"It always seems impossible until it is done."*

Ron's slide presentation was titled: *Just Imagine* (It can be found on the Club website)

- Ron started in theatre when he was 14 in high school then continued while in university;
- graduated and became a professional actor;
- said we all use our imagination which is essential to becoming an actor.
- His history includes acting, directing, creating, teaching acting;
- He created and produced 16 shows and wrote a lot of stories;
- eventually started his own theatre school which operated for about 40 years;
- Worked at Stratford Festival when it originally operated in a tent;
- He related the story about his first day of acting at Stratford when he received a call to come to Stratford on the spur of the moment and was put into a play immediately doing a production of Richard III;
- Ron did 3 seasons at the festival then the National Arts;
- He went to Paris for 2 years which changed his career then he started creating his own theatre pieces.

A Q&A followed Ron's presentation.

Bob Berry thanked Ron for his presentation

Next Meeting: February 29, 2024 with Cam Guthrie on *the State of the City*

Adjournment @ 11:00 am

Recording Secretary: Kerry Gennings