

President Bob Berry opened the meeting at 9:55 am. He began by thanking Warren Gregg for filling-in his absence at the last meeting. He next welcomed and introduced new members to the Club: Harry Braun, Wayne Hall, Brennan Mournahan, Bent Anderson, Bryan Florence, Ross Baristow, Hugh Thomassin.

**Announcements** - President Bob Berry

President Berry informed the members that we are now officially incorporated as of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. As a result there are a few things that have to be done in order to transition from the old club to the new club. A post will be put on the website to be voted on two weeks from today regarding resolutions that will transfer the assets of the old club to the new club. In the mean-time members will be members of the old club and the new club until the time of the Annual General Meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup> when we will dissolve the old club. Members are encouraged to come to that meeting. A special program is being put together for that meeting with talks from past presidents. We will talk about the past, present and the future of the Club. Lunch is being served afterward at a cost of \$25 for the lunch.

The Club's name, Royal City Men's Club, remains the same as the old club.

Club fees are now due for the next year and the cost remains the same as last year: \$90. They can be paid by e-transfer, cash or cheque.

Regarding Coffee gatherings on alternate Thursdays:

The Boathouse where we have been gathering on alternate Thursdays has put a restriction of 20 members as the number of people they can handle. So, if you arrive there and there are that many members there, you can go close by to Angels Diner. The other option that we have now started to use is Uptown Grill on Woolwich Street. The Symposium is also a venue where we can attend.

**Ken Marchant**

- Announced that pop-up walks are about to start again at the Arboretum conducted by Ken and the first pop-up walk will be Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 10:00 am starting from the upper west parking lot of the Arboretum off of College Avenue near Victoria Street.

- *Jersey Boys* performance is this coming Saturday;

- Another upcoming Drayton performance is *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*

- Another event is a tour of the Volt Carbon Technical Research facility planned for Fri., April 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:30;

- The Annual General Meeting luncheon is scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup> and the sign-up sheet for lunch is at the welcome desk;

- A tour of the Guelph Sikh Temple on June 11<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 to 2:00 near Clair Rd. and Victoria Rd.

Spouses are welcome;

- there are other event also in the planning stages.

Doug Davidson introduced today's speaker, Brian Skerrett

**Bio:**

P. Brian Skerrett has lived in Guelph for over 50 years. His first job in high school was washing dishes at the Bookshelf Café in 1981 and his last job in the city was Bookstore Manager at the Bookshelf.

After career as a sales and marketing director in the book publishing industry, he volunteered for five years with Heritage Guelph including four years as committee chair. One of the highlights of that time was the drive to have the Reformatory lands designated as a Heritage Conservation District.

He is now able to bring all his background, and especially the research into the Ontario Reformatory, as a member of Urban Park Guelph.

**Presentation:**

Turning the Former Correctional Centre into a National Urban Park  
(Brian Skerrett's presentation can be found on the RCMC website under Speaker's notes)

Following his presentation he responded to a Q&A.

Bob Berry thanked Brian Skerrett for his presentation and gave him a token of appreciation.

**Next Meeting:** April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 with Karen Van Ooteghem on "Balance, and the Importance on our Health"

Adjournment @ 10:58 am

Recording Secretary: Kerry Gennings