

President Bob Berry opened the meeting at 9:50 with 45 members in attendance. He welcomed the return of a former member, Ray Biffis and then introduced a new guest, Ken Chappa (?).

He announced that we are trying out a new sound system and we will take a straw vote at the end of the meeting to see if people can hear the meeting any better.

**Announcements** – Ken Marchant

- Ken announced that there would be a celebration of life for Ken's wife, Pat, on this coming Saturday at the Village-by-the-Arboretum main hall at 2:00 pm.
- The AGM luncheon is approaching on June 6<sup>th</sup> and the meeting will start earlier at 9:30 followed by a lasagna dinner;
- The Tour of the Sikh Temple is scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm;
- A tour of the Ontario Steam Heritage Museum is scheduled for August 6<sup>th</sup> with a back-up date of August 13<sup>th</sup>;
- The performance of *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 at the Hamilton Theatre in Cambridge at a cost of \$48 per ticket and there are a lot of tickets available.

John Sneyd announced the program for the AGM regards our Club. We will be hearing a little bit of history of this Club and we will hear from our former presidents. Additionally, we want to hear from the members and so, there will be survey conducted to help direct the future of the Club. It will also be day to say "thank-you" to Bob since it will be his last meeting as president.

Bob Berry announced the *Tour de Guelph* bicycle run to raise money for the Guelph General Hospital. The Club has entered a team with the members being Martin Alderwick, Bob Denis, Ken Alsop, Julian Sale, and Nigel Morris. There is page on-line for you to go to for you to make a pledge in support of the Hospital.

President Bob, informed the membership that the Annual General Meeting will be held in two weeks on June 6<sup>th</sup>, and the AGM Report is now on the Club website for all to view the reports of the various committees as well as the proposed slate of Directors to be voted on. It also includes the Treasurer's Report of our financial position.

Ritchie Zelk introduced his neighbour, Dave Penny as today's guest speaker.

**Dave Penny: The Evolution of Fish Culverts**

**Bio:**

Dave was born in 1949 in London Ontario beside the Thames River. His childhood was spent exploring the Etobicoke Creek, canoeing in Algonquin and skiing in the Blue Mountains. In 1971 he graduated from The University of Waterloo with a degree in Environmental Studies. While at Waterloo he worked collecting field data for researchers who were studying the deteriorated condition of streams and developing restoration techniques.

Following graduation he was hired by ARMCO, the World's largest manufacturer of Highway Construction and Drainage Products to supervise and instruct on the installation of very large Soil Steel Structures (culverts). That same year he married Linda and the two of them went to Europe for a nine month honeymoon on "Five Dollars a Day".

When they returned home Dave was hired full time by ARMCO to promote, teach and sell culverts. This took him all over the World where he worked with and learned from thousands of engineers, contractors and communities.

Dave and Linda have three children who were born beside the Ottawa River and six Grandchildren who live on Vancouver Island, Thunder Bay, Guelph and North Bay.

Over the last fifty years he has been working in or near water in a number of capacities. He has been part of many projects, innovations and inventions related to stream restoration. Most recently, at Fishculvert.com, he is helping fish overcome barriers in the stream.

**“Helping to Re-Connect Communities, One Creek at a Time”**

**Presentation:**

As transportation technology has advanced, largely over the last 200 years, the healthy ecology of creeks and waterways has often been overlooked and damaged. Fortunately Fish Culverts continue to evolve to help our Communities correct this as we move towards a sustainable future.

(Dave’s presentation can be seen on the Club website under “Speaker’s notes”.)

Following Dave Penny’s presentation, Bob Berry gave him a token on appreciation.

Before adjourning, Bob Berry asked for a show of hands regarding the sound system and members responded positively that it was better quality.

**Next Meeting:** June 6, 2024 – Annual General Meeting

Adjournment @ 10.55 am

Recording Secretary: Kerry Gennings