

Today's meeting opened with Doug Davidson chairing the meeting for President Warren Gregg who was vacationing this week. There were 39 members present and no guests. Doug began by saying how fortunate we were to be able to get a speaker for today because we had a member speaker having to cancel due to an unexpected personal situation. However, we were fortunate enough on a week's notice to be able to get local historian and author Ed Butts who graciously accepted our invitation to speak to us.

Announcements – Frank Webster, Chair of the Activities Committee

- Thanks to Ritchie Zelk for arranging with the Donkey Sanctuary for a seniors-day visit on Tues. July 9th from 11:00 to 3:00 and payment is made when you arrive. People should just go on their own within this time.
- The tour in Hamilton of the HMCS Haida will be on Wed. July 24th, and people can meet at the Beer Town Restaurant parking lot on Stone Road to car pool with a 9:30 am departure for Hamilton. Be aware that the ship has some walking constraints with low ceilings and high steps to traverse and steep boarding ramp.
- The next tour will be the Steam Heritage Museum on Tues. August 6th, with donations only.
- An Evening-at-the-Races at Elora Race Track will be on Sept. 13th, with details coming later.

Doug called on Kerry Gennings to introduce today's speaker.

Bio

Ed Butts was born in Toronto, but grew up in Guelph and has always considered it his hometown. He attended the University of Waterloo, and spent eight years teaching at a school in the Dominican Republic. Ed has written more than twenty books for both adults and juvenile readers. They include *Simon Girty: Wilderness Warrior*, *Wrong Side of the Law*, *The Mad, Bad and Dangerous*, and *Wartime: The First World War in a Canadian Town*. Several of his books have been nominated for awards. Ed has contributed articles to many publications, including the Toronto Star and the Globe & Mail. He writes a monthly column about Guelph history for the Mercury-Tribune. He is also a contributor to *Historica*, the online Canadian Encyclopedia. Ed lives in Guelph with his daughter and grandson.

Presentation

Ed Butts on his book *Guelph Stories*.

Ed began his presentation by telling an anecdote about his serendipitous connection to Donald Sutherland who recently passed away. Ed's daughter had an infatuation with Donald Sutherland's son, actor Keifer Sutherland. She was nonchalant about her father's writing credits until she learned about Ed's connection to Donald Sutherland, father of Keifer. Ed had written an article for the Mercury Newspaper about the time during the Second World War when the Guelph Ontario Agricultural College was being used to train wireless operators for the Air Force. Sometime after the article was published a WWII veteran called Ed up to thank him for the article and to tell Ed that he was one of the WWII wireless operators who had trained there. That veterans name was Donald Sutherland. This connection to Donald Sutherland and Guelph, and indirectly to Keifer Sutherland, is what impressed Ed's daughter.

Ed used this anecdote to illustrate the serendipitous nature of the connections around us and this was what led him to write his book, *Guelph Stories* about the serendipitous connections to Guelph of people and events.

Ed Butts said that the stories in this recent book are not stories he has talked about in other books but are stories he has come across incidentally with connections to Guelph. He went on to give examples about some of the stories in the book.

He explained some of the sources he used for his research and how he found some interesting connections about people and events that are connected to Guelph. Following the publication of the book there were readers who contacted Ed to inform him that they were family descendants of some of the people Ed had written about. The stories bring to life the connections to the past.

The picture on the front cover of the book is a picture of the old former Guelph Carnegie Library.

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Following a Q&A Doug Davidson thanked Ed and gave him a token of our appreciation.

Next Meeting: July 18, 2024 – David Rowley on *The Ontario Dental Railway*

Adjournment @ 10.56 am

Recording Secretary: Kerry Gennings