

President Warren Gregg opened the meeting by greeting the 61 members in attendance. He announced that one of our members, Stu Smith, who is now in care at Wellington Hospice. President Gregg asked everyone to extend thoughts to Hugh Thomassin who has recently had surgery and is now recovering. And Charlie Barnes is recovering from a recent car accident.

President Gregg then called for a moments silence to remember all those who we have lost and those still suffering.

Martin Alderwick introduced today's attending guests: Dave Pacheo, Ralph Southward, Dave Berger, and Gino Santi.

### **Announcements**

Activities – Frank Webster

- Club members and their partners enjoyed a successful evening two weeks ago at the Night-at-the-Races at Elora Race Track;
- Upcoming events include:
  - The VBA Cabaret is on Thurs. Nov. 22nd and one for Sat. Nov. 23rd. We will book two tables for members and spouses; One table for each night;
  - Remembrance Day ceremony on Nov. 11th at Sleeman Centre. Members wishing to attend will meet in Section 116 at 10:00 am. Anyone wishing to meet afterward we will go for lunch at Diana's Restaurant;
  - The annual Christmas Luncheon is scheduled for Dec. 12th at Victoria East Golf Club. Music will be provided by Ritchie Zelk who has offered to give dance lessons beforehand at 10:15 am.; We are still seeking donations for the draw table;

Doug Davidson introduced today's guest speaker, John Ilika.

### **Bio:**

John Ilika is currently enjoying retirement, where he finds that although the money isn't better, the hours certainly are. John was previously employed within the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services for over 35 years. Throughout his career, John held a variety of positions, including the Guelph Correctional Centre, Maplehurst Correctional Complex, Central East Correctional Centre, Correctional Services Oversight and Investigations Division, Vanier Centre for Women and Assistant Deputy Ministers Office.

These positions included Correctional Officer, Tactical Team Member and Leader, Crisis Negotiator, Critical Incident Stress Management Peer Support Member, Field Intelligence Officer, acting Staff Sergeant, Deputy Superintendents of Operations, Shared Services, Security and Administration. John finished his career as Project Lead - Virtual Bail Project with the Office of the Assistant Deputy Ministers Office, Institutional Services Division.

John has delivered presentations to a variety of law enforcement partners and specialty investigational groups throughout Ontario for over 10 years, and provided guest lectures in Alberta and Arizona. He volunteered as an Executive Board Member with the Ontario Gang Investigators Association, assisting in coordinating yearly conferences for law enforcement members, and assisted in organizing community education functions regarding organized criminal groups. John was recipient of the Ministers Award for Humanitarian Services, Ministers Award for Bravery as well as the OPP Commissioner's Award for lifesaving. He received over 45 letters of commendation throughout his career.

John now enjoys spending time with family, friends and travelling...and although he enjoys long walks on the beach, he tries to avoid them while golfing!

**Presentation**

Take a map of Ontario, throw a dart at it, and there is a good chance you will hit a small Ontario town that has been negatively impacted by Toronto Street Gang members.

This presentation will give some insight as to the reasons why Gangs continue to expand into many of our communities and the negative impact that their activity has not only in Ontario, but world-wide!

(Editorial Note: John Ilka's presentation can be found on the Club website under Speaker's Notes for September 26th.)

Warren Gregg thanked John for his presentation and gave him a token of our appreciation.

**Next Meeting:** October 10, 2024 with Catherine Ann Wilson - *Diaries Uncover the Daily Lives of Rural Families*

Adjournment @ 11.03 am

Recording Secretary: Kerry Gennings