

President Warren Gregg welcomed all in attendance and paid a special welcome to today's guest presenter, Catherine Anne Wilson. The meeting started at 9:55 with 46 members in attendance. He welcomed back Charlie Barnes who has been recovering from a serious car accident.

Warren announced that two members who have recently passed away: Wayne Hall who has only been a member a short while. Also, recently deceased is Stu Smith and the Club has just received a letter of acknowledgement from Stu's wife, Earla for our support following Stu's death. Warren then asked for moment of silence for those recently passed or suffering.

### **Announcements**

Activities – Frank Webster

- There will be a Riverside ad hoc walk and coffee event with people meeting at the band shell parking lot off of Woodlawn Rd. on Mon. Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> @ 9:30 am. We need to know how many (sign-up sheet is on welcome table) so that Martin Alderwick can bring enough coffee for everyone wishing to go on the walk but bring your own coffee mug.

- Remembrance Day service at Sleeman Center on Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>. We will meet in section 116 @ 10:00 am. There is a sign-up sheet for those interested in going for lunch to Diana's Restaurant following the service.

- There is now a sign-up sheet for the Annual Christmas Luncheon on Thurs., Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> at Victoria East Golf Club. It will be a full Christmas dinner with two meats and salads and desserts. The price is \$60 per person. Ritchie Zelk will be providing the music and he and Edna have offered to give ballroom dance lessons to anyone wishing them. If interested come at 10:15 am.

Draw prizes are still be solicited by those who can donate toward door prizes.

Ken Marchant:

Announced the VBA Cabaret has a new director who was a professor of drama at UoG. The event is on Fri., Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sat., Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> with Saturday already sold out. There are still two tickets available for Friday. Pay Ken Marchant for tickets which will be available for pick-up at next meeting.

Martin Alderwick

Introduced one guest attending today who has already indicated that he will join: Welcome to Dave Pacheco.

Martin also introduced one new member, Steve Haveron whose badge is on order.

Also new member, Charlie Barnes has now been given his membership badge.

Doug Davidson introduced today's guest speaker, Catherine Anne Wilson on *Diaries Uncover the Daily Lives of Rural Families*

### **Bio:**

Catharine's interest in rural and family history began while growing up in Grenville County where her ancestors settled. To celebrate 1967, her parents built a log cabin in their basement. Inspired by the family heirlooms displayed there, she's been fascinated with the history of daily life ever since. Much of her scholarship has included genealogical research and is recognized for employing under-utilized sources such as diaries and innovative methods that revise historical interpretations. Her early work focused on Irish immigration, pioneer settlement, and farm tenancy. Her new book entitled "Being Neighbours: Cooperative Work and Rural Culture, 1830-1960" explores reciprocal work bees (barn raising, quilting, and threshing bees, etc.) using Ontario farm diaries. It was published by McGill Queen's University Press in Fall 2022. The book explores

the creation, maintenance and definition of neighbourhood and its practical workings. She was the inaugural Redelmeier Professor in Rural History, and is currently Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Guelph, the Founder and Director of the Rural Diary Archive website, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

**Presentation**

The Rural Diary Archive website showcases over 250 Ontario diarists (1800-1930) <https://ruraldiaries.lib.uoguelph.ca/>. It includes the full text of selected diaries for the public to freely read, search, and transcribe online. Her presentation identifies several Wellington County diaries, the value of diaries, and how to use them for your own research.

(Editorial Note: Ms. Wilson's presentation with Powerpoint slides can be found on the Club website under Speaker's Notes for October 10<sup>th</sup> )

Warren Gregg thanked Catherine Wilson for her presentation and gave her a token of the Club's appreciation.

**Next Meeting:** October 24th, 2024 with Alan Marshall: *Elmira Water Crisis*

Adjournment @ 11.02 am

Recording Secretary: Kerry Gennings