



Zorra Caledonian Society
General Meeting – January 15, 2018
MINUTES
8:10 pm @ Embro Legion

“The Zorra Caledonian Society is a volunteer community organization formed in 1937 to recognize the Scottish heritage of the Village of Embro and the Township of Zorra”

In Attendance: Helen Dowd (President), Steve MacDonald (Past President), Peter Fleming (Treasurer), Holly MacDonald (Coordinator), Laura Green, Gord Mackay, Anne Knops, Sean Borland, Kevin Fraser, Katherine Grieve, Ron Marshall, Jim Grieve, Alan Normand, Jim Walton and Jim Knudsen.

Absent – Jennifer Moodie (secretary)

Guest - Jim Keron (Thamesford Lions)

Welcome – President Helen Dowd welcomed everyone to the first general meeting of 2018!

Roll Call – *What did you like best about the 81st St. Andrew’s Night Banquet? What could be improved on for another year?*

Everyone presented his or her comments on the event:

Overall it was agreed that it was a delightful night out with a good meal prepared by Janice’s Fine Country Catering and a wonderful address to the haggis. Kevin Fraser, Steve MacDonald, and Ron Marshall commended the addition of the projection screens. With the dancers now on the floor, Ron Marshall extended an additional idea to be able to extend the videography next year to follow the dancers’ feet, which would also keep the video from fixating on the recycling bins behind them as pointed out Katherine Grieve. It was agreed by all at the meeting that a guest list of 240 people seemed very fitting for the evening; as mentioned by Jim Grieve, perhaps the idea of assigned sitting could be reconfigured for next year. It was also mentioned by all members that the speaker was not what was expected and did not quite live up to expectations.

Approval of the Agenda - M/S Carried

Approval of the Minutes from the Previous General Meeting (December 11, 2017) **M/S Carried**

Financial Report –

Peter Fleming presented the finances and reported we were in good shape. A completed annual financial report (with break downs) will be available at the AGM meeting. We are still sitting around a profit of \$10.5K with St. Andrew’s Night banquet considered break-even.



Introductions -

Helen announced that Holly MacDonald has been hired as the ZCS Coordinator for 2018 and welcomed her to the Society in her new role. Holly has been attending meetings for the past year so has a great handle on what we have become since our incorporation Fall 2016.

Presentation from the Lion's Club of Thamesford -

Helen welcomed and introduced Jim Keron, from the Thamesford Lion's Club. Jim is interested in starting a club in the Embro area and explained the ins and outs of what would be involved. He spoke highly of a workshop the Lions' are hosting on volunteer recruitment at the Thamesford Library on February 4th between 1-5pm. The meeting will be focusing on recruiting techniques and is applicable to any organization struggling to find and attract volunteers. We have been invited to attend.

New Business:

- Presentations of Pitch Pages (by each Committee Chairperson)

Ontario Heavy Events Championships - Sean Borland

- Last years site was approximately 120-130 sq ft., can we accommodate additional space for the heavy events this year? (150sq ft)
- His budget has increased by approx. \$ 500 due to women were not paid the same mileage as the male competitors in 2017.
- Possibility of a sheath throwing demo or competition, but we will need access to a 30ft lift
- Event organizers and competitors are happy with snow fence for keeping visitors off of the field however with the new location Sean would like to see it first before commenting on 2018.

Highland Dance – Laura Green

- We are currently short on Bronze medals for this years event; we will be looking into borrowing extra pipe band medals and ordering new ones
- With the change of location we will need to update the entry forms (Holly MacDonald has volunteered)

Road Race – Grant Innes (Absent from Meeting)

- As confirmed in the last meeting the road race will remain in Embro
- More information will be available after the upcoming road race meeting on (January 17th)
- Is there a possibility of having a shuttle from the road race/Embro to the event grounds was a suggestion by Katherine Grieve?

Tug of War – Ken Ulch (Absent from Meeting)

- Society is still in favor of keeping the 2-team demonstration
- We will still talk to other teams to find any additional interest after overhearing the teams tried to create their own competition and after seeing multiple teams at the Cambridge event



-It is problematic having not having Ken Ulich at Games planning meetings, suggest we ask Jack Matheson about stepping up to help Ken out so we have better communication.

-Helen stressed teams cannot be late as they share the site with the Heavy Events and they run a tight ship!

Pipe Bands – Ron Marshall

-Pipe bands went from seven to ten in 2017 and Ron will try and get 12 for 2018. We pretty well have to have a cap at 12 or else it gets too expensive! We do pay well for mileage but again we cannot reduce that as it is seen as a “carrot”.

-Compared to other Games, PPBSO sees us being on July 1st as problematic as many pipe bands are booked to be in Canada Day parades.

- Ron is considering changing the awards? (Only awarding top 3 in each class, one person/band competing (3rd prize money))

Dog Agility & Sheep Herding – Jamie McPherson (Absent from Meeting)

-Jamie McPherson has moved to Vancouver so Helen as asked Jim Grieve if he will add Dog Agility and Sheep Herding to his role as Livestock Coordinator?

Jim will see what he can find out from Jamie’s wife re: contacts for those two areas of the Games. Jim has secured the Oxford Knitters and Weavers again for the Games.

Scottish Livestock – Jim Grieve

-New additions of livestock to add for the upcoming year (special breeds of sheep, cattle and horses) Jim needs to know if there is shade in the pen areas and if we can change the sizing/number of pens on the day of the event? Helen stated it is best if Jim goes on the first property tour that is organized in the spring to get his answers directly from the COP Staff.

Visitor & Volunteer Services – VACANT

-Helen will ask Wendy, Meredith and Marie Marshall to chair this area as the first two women have been involved for many years in this area.

Historical Display & “Put me in the Picture” Photo Area – Katherine Grieve

-Katherine is organizing a large map of Scotland to showcase and flag areas where people are from (approx. date)

-In addition she will paint photo cutout plywood boards (dancer, pipe major, heavy events, etc.) which are always popular with visitors.

Scottish Dogs on Parade – Philip Kerr (Absent from Meeting)

-Same participants have agreed to come back this year

Children’s Scottish Crafts - Jennifer Moodie (Absent from Meeting)

-Found shaded pavilion that’s suitable



7's Rugby Tournament (Men's & Women's)

-Waiting for go ahead from the site Helen worked with the Black Swans Rugby club from Stratford.

Craft Beer Festival

-a committee is needed as Brian McMaster is not coming back and Helen has not heard from Doug if he is interested in helping again (is at Atwood Lion's Days July 1 so cannot attend the Games)

Whiskey Tasting

-Start small and see how things progress

Kilted Yoga

-Will contact Woodstock Yoga studio again for interest
-Will contact Stratford studio if she cannot get traction from Woodstock.

Best Dressed Highlander

-Idea from 2015 trip to Scotland

Plaid for Dad Prostate Awareness Campaign (Steed Transport)

-Waiting for confirmation, but will have lots of space on the new site

Toronto Taiwanese Community Choir (booked for 2018)

Speaker on Celtic Rings - Jason Bellchamber (re-scheduled for 2018)

Allison Lupton, Ian Bell & Dan MacDonald (booked for 2018)

Children's Scottish Outdoor Games – Rowena Ridder

Additional Notes:

- **Please send completed copies of Pitch Pages to Helen and Holly**
- Amateur Log Sawing competition opportunity
 - o Kevin Fraser to head the committee?
 - o Separate from the heavy events
 - o Insurance policy?
- Shuttle bus from Woodstock and from Embro?
- Using the people movers as a seniors tour around the games
- Ontario Volunteer Service Awards
 - o Nominees Warren McKay, Ron Thompson, Jack Matheson and Alex McKay
- 2018 Membership fees now due – bring \$ 5.



- Annual General Meeting is **Monday February 26, 2018** @ the Embro Legion with 5:30 pm Social, 6 pm Catered Roast Beef Dinner by Janice Mitchell, 7 pm Annual General Meeting. Tickets \$ 20 on sale from Jim Walton until Monday February 19, 2018. All members welcome and encouraged to attend!

Community Announcements

- February - Embro Fairboard Dinner Theatre Production ***Bare Bear Bones***
- March - ***Kai the Barbarian*** debuts at Thistle Theatre in Embro
- April – National Tartan Day event at the Embro Legion April 6th

Adjournment - meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm. M/Carried