



**Zorra Caledonia Society**  
**General Meeting - Nov 20, 2017**  
**8:00 @ Miller's Keep**

"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

**Agenda**

**Attendance** Helen Dowd (president), Steve MacDonald (past president), Peter Fleming (treasurer), Jen Moodie (secretary), Mel Matheson, Sandra Alyea, Laura Green, Gord Mackay, Holly MacDonald, Robert M Matheson, Helen Matheson, Grant Innes, Kevin Fraser, Katherine Grieve, Ron Marshall, Jim Grieve, Angus Thomson, Alan Normand, Jim Walton and Jim Knudsen.

**Rd Report - How many tickets did you sell to the 81st St. Andrew Night's Banquet?**

Everyone present stated how many tickets they sold. Grant Innes was the high at 3.

We are having a 4:30 start pm. Meal will be served at 7:00 sharp. Set up is at 6:30 am on the 23rd. Grieve's are taking care of arrangements for the guest speaker at Miller's Keep B & B (Garner's). Kevin Fraser will take care of lighting the haggis. Jim Walton is carrying the haggis and Jen Moodie is doing the address. Angela Schneider, a friend of Helen's, is greeting at the door. Wendy Marshal will be the hostess and we need four ushers Grant Innes, Jim Grieve, Gord Mackay and Sandra Alyea. We have five or six "clan tables" registered. The bar will be cash (no tickets required). Since Fan Fare books is arriving at 8pm, we will only have the tartan sales table and the membership table set up at the conclusion of the evening.

**Approval of the Agenda**

The addition of two topics Set the date of the next meeting, a definite date of the next meeting. These topics were approved by the meeting. M/S Carved

Approval of the Minutes for the previous General Meeting (Sept 13 2017)  
 The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as presented to "Bea Ba e M/S Carved

**Financial Report** Peter Fleming

There has not been a whole lot of activity. We are still waiting for an invoice from Mr Pinch. (which was in the budget of \$2K) for the port-a-potties at the EHG. We are still sitting at a profit of around \$10K. We made \$100 donations to show condolences for the recent passings of Jean Blair, Beverley Matheson and Fred Howe.

**Old Business** - None



## ew B s ess

- 201 Site Investigation Report EHG
  - o Shall we stay or shall we go for 201
  - o The conditions of the Grounds at the EZCC are still very poor.
  - o We have been on the look-out for other suitable grounds for the 201 games due to the construction and the lack of parking available on site (we have to encroach on a neighbour's field, not sure if this is a long-term viable option).
  - o Comments from the Mayor of Zorra are positive and promising that the conditions will be great for next year. She feels that the soccer field will not impede on our Grounds and the "sodded" ground will be ready to use, however some members of the Society are not as hopeful based on the actual conditions of the Grounds as winter hits
  - o The president and past president presented a slide show on the information and pictures they had taken on Friday October 20, when they had a tour of Canada's Outdoor Park (COP) east of Golspie.
  - o The access points off the 11<sup>th</sup> line, are very convenient. The grounds are 100 acres. There is ample parking and the bleachers are already there. The tables and benches are there to use there is permanent fencing for our livestock. The main entrance is very large. The hydro and water are there but we would still need some generators. The running race could take place in nature on cross country trails in wooded areas. This would be a drive-up grounds, no walking or turning off of Tollgate sideroad is permitted. There could be three entrances and two exits.
  - o With the idea of having Rugby at the Games, a COP employee is an Ontario Rugby Ref and also Outdoor Farm Show Livestock Coordinator. He could set us up with both Rugby teams (tournament) and any animals we would like to have.
  - o The big Coveralls would be used for events that need to be out of the weather. (beer tent, dancers)
  - o In addition to asking the U of Guelph (land owners), the COP operators would need to apply for a zoning change, however if approved, it would be good for three years. The cost to apply is \$ 0.00 plus a \$ 2,0 admin fee for a total cost of \$ 1,000. The land rent would be \$ K a year, or for the first year, one dollar per paid admission.
  - o The site is secure and has all of the amenities on site, (buildings, golf carts, benches, people movers, parking, shelters, picnic tables, bleachers, roadways, perimeter fencing, emergency exits, access to volunteer organizations, high grade weather tracking/info)
  - o The City of Woodstock has city buses that have been used in the past to take city folks to the grounds.
  - o The road race could all be onsite making it safer as it would be away from traffic. Grant mentioned there would be a cost to have the run measured out but that he had been to other highland games where the runs are all done on the grounds.
  - o Garbage and recycling barrels are on site.



- Certainly after 30 years in Embro, there are emotions involved in making this type of a change/move. It was mentioned that this similar conversation happened when we moved from Matheson Park to the arena.
  - We could use 2018 as a trial year to see if we want to see how it goes
  - A motion to continue to investigate the relocation to the COP site for 2018 IN PRINCIPAL ONLY was made by Peter Fleming and Seconded by Kevin Fraser with more discussion to follow at the January General Meeting on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> at which time a final decision will have to be made
  - M/S Carried (Jim Grieve was opposed but has since advised the president he is in favour of looking into the new site)
  - Helen to organize a site tour next week and Jennifer to advise all members, if anyone would want to attend, they are more than welcome.
- 2018 Big Picture Planning
    - Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting (Legion)
    - March 2<sup>nd</sup> Ontario Festival & Events Annual Conference (we get to tell our story!)
    - April Tartan Day (do we want to do an event (East Coast Caleigh ) at the Town Hall/Legion/Small Hall at the EZCC Yes there was interest.
    - July 1<sup>st</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> Embro Highland Games
    - August Scottish Day Camp in Embro for kids 12 and under (yes there was interest)
    - Sept Golf Tournament - we will try it again
    - Nov 30<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> St. Andrew's Night Banquet (falls right on the date next year).
  - 2018 is a Wrap (members get the last word!)
  - Holly MacDonald would like anyone who has photos from the EHG to email them to her for her Social Media pages. Her address is [hm.macdonald@hotmail.ca](mailto:hm.macdonald@hotmail.ca).
  - Doug Ferguson has the EHG "stills" and Helen will get them to Holly by Nov 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - Kudos to our current president for all of the work that she has put into the expansive, refinement, organization, promotion and celebration of our Society!
  - Comment that our card tables are in very bad shape so if we stay in Embro we would need to buy new ones (used for the judges for the piping and drumming etc.
  - Many of the members asked for a COP Site Map which Helen will request.
  - A concern about the open Pond on the grounds for safety reasons
  - Discussion around the old stone gates of the McKay farm and the gates at Matheson Park.

Ad o e t - eet was ad o ed at 9:40 .M ot o ed/ Ca ed