



## APRIL 3, 2019

This week, our guest speaker was our local historian Lisa Gilbert. Lisa was introduced by Karen MacDonald.

Lisa and her husband, Jim, launched their latest book, *A Chatham-Kent Tapestry: A Visual History to 1950* last December.

Beginning with records preserved from the mid-19th century, *A Chatham-Kent Tapestry* carefully curates photographs from the Chatham-Kent Museum and other community archive collections, as well as surviving negatives from the Chatham Daily News, to tell the remarkable story of one of the oldest communities in Upper Canada.

Jim and Lisa Gilbert have been bringing local history in Chatham-Kent to life for almost 40 years.

They have won local, regional, national and international awards for their radio shows, newspaper columns, historical presentations and heritage programming.

Lisa showed excerpts from the new book, starting with a photo of a busy downtown Chatham from the 1930s. Lisa also talked about the Bradley Marsh and the swap of a Kentucky coal mine about a century ago for this swamp.

Another interesting story involved the origin of Apple Day as a fund-raiser for the Boy Scouts. The first Apple Day may have occurred at the local theatre in Wallaceburg.

Jim and Lisa are old friends of the Rotary Club and we are always pleased to have them join us.



Karen MacDonald, President Jennifer, Lisa and Jim Gilbert



Guest speaker Lisa Gilbert

Left, Karen MacDonald introduces our guest speaker

Lisa mentioned that this book was the first book where a publisher approached them. The publisher was Windsor-based Biblioasis and they requested a local pictorial history book.

Although Lisa and Jim are long-time columnists for the Chatham Daily News, they have found new stories for this book that they didn't know previously.

Lisa talked about the Chatham Wallaceburg Lake Erie Railway Company, known as CWLE which was also the subject of a book by another Chatham historian, John Rhodes.

Jim and Lisa were teachers and administrators with the local school board.

They have written several other books, including *Chatham*, a history of Chatham at the end of the nineteenth century. They are also well-known for their ghost walks around downtown Chatham.

Many Rotarians have long memories and recall tracks from the CWLE railroad and the days when Erieau consisted of several islands.

## **APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

**Andy Watson**  
**April 1**

**Diane McGuigan**  
**April 17**

**Colin McGregor**  
**April 22**

**Ross Eberlee**  
**April 23**

**Keith Koke**  
**April 29**



# Happy Notices

## **CLUB ANNIVERSARIES**

**Tom Storey**  
**36 yrs - April 6**

**Gord & Jane Fry**  
**5 yrs - April 9**

**Ed Robbins**  
**19 yrs - April 12**



Above is a picture of Sparky's car that he will be driving during his year as District Governor. There is a contest in progress to name the car.

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**April 10 Chatham Kent Woman's Center**  
**Second Stage Housing and Outreach**

**April 17 Kim Cooper**  
**We Grow For The World**

**April 24 Dave Elliott**  
**Wallaceburg and District**  
**Council for the Arts**

**May 1 Club Meeting**



*The Rotary Club of Chatham gratefully acknowledges the support of Riverview Gaming Centre*