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The Men's Probud Club of Lindsay Probud Banner Newsletter

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Vice - President



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Meeting Highlights :

- President Mike Catling called the meeting to order; followed by a group singing of "O Canada".
- He questioned the group to see who was interested in attending the luncheon after the meeting at the Grand Experience Restaurant.
- Mike called upon club member, Ken Pizer, to come forward and introduce the morning's guest speaker, Paul Arculus.
- Paul was born in England but graduated from Agincourt High School and received his post education in Canada and the United States. He has a B.A. in Psychology from McMaster University, a B.Ed from the University of Toronto, a M.A. in history and an M.S. in Ed, both from Niagara University in New York. He taught in several locations in Ontario and in England but spent the last 20 years of his career teaching history at Port Perry High School.
- Since retiring Paul has published several books including "Durant's Right-Hand Man", a biography of Dr. Edwin Campbell, a local boy who become a founder of the Chevrolet Motor Company.
- Paul's presentation was based on this biography, and here is a brief summary or outline of it :
 - Edwin was born and raised in Port Perry, Ontario;
 - he finished his education, obtained a degree, become a medical doctor and practiced in the United States;
 - in the mid 1890's, he built a very successful medical practice in St. Ignace, Michigan;
 - he wanted to further his medical knowledge, so he decided to leave his practice in Michigan and travel to Europe;
 - in Europe, he took specialized courses at hospitals in London, Paris, Vienna, Berlin and other cities on the Continent, studying gynecology and obstetrics;
 - Edwin returned to Flint, Michigan in 1894 as a registered physician and surgeon, and was the only doctor in that part of the states who held any qualifications or expertise in female medicine:
 - quickly gained the respect of a lot of very important families, the Durant family being one of the prominent ones;
 - Edwin loved to play poker and held illegal games at his residence where he became best friends with Billy Durant during those card events;
 - as their friendship grew, Edwin was introduced into Billy's rich and famous Durant family, who owned and operated the largest carriage producing company in the United States at that time;
 - during this time, Edwin became very attracted to Billy's daughter Margery. They dated and eventually married in 1906;
 - Billy appointed Edwin as Director at of one of his existing carriage producing companies, the Buick Carriage Company;
 - Billy's interest grew in the new automotive industry, so he purchased the Buick Motor Company in 1904 to get involved;
 - he continued by establishing the General Motors Company in Flint in September, 1908 and he named Edwin as the Director of this newly formed car company;
 - during this time frame, Billy also acquired a number of existing car businesses, Buick, Oldsmobile, Cadillac, Elmore, Oakland and also a truck business called Owosso, to expand his newly formed GM company;
 - the business struggled, so Billy and Edwin lost control of GM in 1910;
 - Edwin and Billy ventured on and became the founders of the Chevrolet Motor Company which he and Durant built up so they could use Chevrolet shares to regain control of GM once again;

Health and Welfare

Please notify
RON MORGAN

(705) 324 - 2318

**if you have knowledge of a member
that is experiencing health issues
at any time....**

Next Guest Speaker

TUESDAY, July 12th



RAE FLEMING

" ALL ABOARD "

**" A PRESENTATION OF THE RAILROADS THAT
SERVED LINDSAY AND AREA "**



Past President Bruce Taylor thanking guest speaker Paul Arculus (left) for his informative and interesting presentation .



Billy Durant, shortly after his election as President of General Motors in 1920.



Edwin Campbell after his graduation from Medical School at the University of Toronto, 1887.

Any corrections, comments or additions regarding this banner can be forwarded to the attention of the editor at :

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- in his early years, Edwin was friends with a gentleman by the name of Sam McLaughlin. Their friendship lead to the creation of General Motors of Canada;
 - once GM of Canada was operational, Sam was named the President. Billy was put in charge of the sales division and Edwin was appointed to look after financial side of the business;
 - Billy became a Wall Street guru and helped Edwin to become immensely wealthy by investing in a selection of car company stocks and bonds;
 - in 1920 car sales dropped badly, and Billy Durant was let go from his position with General Motors of Canada but Edwin held on to his responsibilities;
 - in 1921, Edwin left GM and along with Billy started out on another business adventure, Durant Motors in Toronto, Ontario, building Durant model cars, but it failed badly;
 - Edwin eventually died in 1929 in New York City a very wealthy man due to his many investments in the car industry;
 - Edwin lies alone in the serenity of a quiet glade in Woodlawn Cemetery in New York;
 - Edwin commented at his death, that he hoped the realization of his ambitions and dreams for Chevrolet and General Motors Companies would be fulfilled in the days to come;
 - As far as Billy Durant was concerned, his life began a slow spiral into ill-health and eventual poverty at the end of it.
- o Paul stated the complete story line of Edwin and Billy's adventures is revealed in his latest book titled, "Durant's Right Hand Man", if anyone was interested in further reading.
 - o He summed up his presentation by stating that he hoped that we had a greater appreciation for a very unique individual who was born, raised and educated in our local area (Port Perry) and the huge part he played in the establishment of the car industry in our country.
- Mike called upon Past President, Bruce Taylor, to come forward to thank Paul on behalf of the Club members, for his very informative presentation.
 - Following a short break, Mike proceeded with the "Club Business" part of the meeting.
 - Mike asked the membership to stand for a monument silence in memory of one of our past members, Bob Puffer and Ron Morgan voiced a small tribute to his memory.
 - Following his tribute, Ron informed the group that club member George Sweetnam is still experiencing health issues, and John McCrae recently had a medical procedure; more information when available.
 - Mike informed the membership that a Management Committee meeting was held on June 07th, and the following items came out of that meeting:
 - o Club Treasurer Irwin Brown reported that our revenue and expenditures are under budget and finances look to be in good shape through the end of the fiscal year.
 - o Mike stated that he received a notification from the Masonic Lodge advising that our rent will increased from \$1200 to \$1650 – an increase of \$450 a year. The Management Committee discussed this rental increase and they all agreed that the lodge is the preferred location based on its location, parking, no stairs, on-site storage and also the reasonable rental rate.
 - Mike continued by stating he wished to pass on congratulation to club member, Sal Polito on being appointed Vice President of the Ontario Association of Police Service Boards.
 - Mike called upon club member Ron Baldwin to talk about the Probus' Golf Day that took place on June 06th at Oliver's Nest Golf Club.
 - Ron stated first of all, he wanted to thank the members of his committee that helped organize the day that was well appreciated by the golfers taking part. He continued by naming all the members that were going to be rewarded by having their names engraved on the celebrated Probus Golf trophy for 2016 event :
 - o 9 Hole event winners : Ron Morgan, Reid Watson, Ron Gatward, and John Hunter;
 - o 18 Hole event winners : Clarke Tummon, Ron Baldwin, Ted Abbot, and Paul Terrill.
 - Mike informed the membership that our fall social is going to take place on September 20th at the Lindsay Rugby Club facility and member Bill Kennedy has volunteered to chair the event committee this year. (Tickets will be available at the next meetings).
 - Before adjourning the meeting and the members making their way to the Grand Experience Restaurant for the luncheon, Mike read a little humorous story regarding a humorous gardener's tale.