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The Men's Probud Club of Lindsay Probud Banner Newsletter

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President



Bob Doran
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 Hobart's Restaurant.
- Mike continued by calling upon Director of Programs, Richard Graham, to come forward and introduce the morning's guest speaker, Caley Ferguson.
- Richard informed the membership, that Caley is the Vice President and 4th generation partner at Northern Casket Company that is located on St. Peter Street in the north end of Lindsay.
- Caley's presentation concerned the history of this casket company and here is a brief outline of it :
 - In Fall of 1925, an idea is born at an investment club meeting to utilize local lumber, manpower, and distribution, to produce funerary products.
 - Original 5 shareholders were Charles Ferguson – Dry Goods Merchant, James Mackey – Furniture & Funeral Director, James Arnold – Arnold Carriage Works, Albert Varcum – Varcum Chemical and Les Wagstaff – Local Farmer;
 - 1926, "Northern Casket" is incorporated.
 - 1927, Operations begin using the Arnold Carriage Works building (parking lot - north side of the current Lindsay firehall) with 8 employees, and producing an average of 20 caskets per week.
 - 1929, Moves to Horne's Woolen Mill building at Bond St. and William Street North (now apartment buildings).
 - 1931, General Manager Charles Ferguson buys out all existing partners except for Les Wagstaff, his brother-in-law.
 - 1933, Purchased grain elevator and concrete building from defunct Victoria Distilleries at 25 King St. in Lindsay.
 - 1957, Employees of Northern Casket unionize and join the Industrial Allied Woodworkers which would later be bought by United Steel Workers in 2000.
 - 1959, Charles Ferguson's two sons Don & Eric Ferguson purchase Northern Casket from their father.
 - 1976, Move to 165 St. Peter Street (current location).
 - 1980, Addition to manufacturing facilities.
 - 1987, Company is bought by Don's only son, Gord Ferguson, who is able to consolidate all family outstanding family shares.
 - 1990s, Cremation begins to make an impact in Canada.
 - 1992, Introduction of the "ENVIRO-CASKET", an alternative to the conventional manufactured casket, that assists in the protection of our environmental footprint. A number of elements contained in conventional caskets had to be eliminated while ensuring that functional properties of the casket were maintained; the metal components were the most obvious of these challenges.

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, October 11th



Cathy Pearcy
" Osteoporosis Canada "



Club Member Wayne Allred thanking Caley Ferguson (R) for his very informative and interesting presentation.



**Gord Ferguson
President – Northern Casket**

**Retiree's
Famous Quote of the
Day**

**TODAY, I'm
doing NOTHING!
Cuz I started doing
it yesterday, but I
haven't finish it yet!**



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

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- o Metals, such as hinges, nails, catches, brackets, staples, all presented them with unique challenges, all of which were solved by utilizing some using traditional methods, or other new ingenuities (example – wooden hinges, etc).
- o 1994, another addition to the Lindsay facilities.
- o 1999, a whole production line was formed to produce urns due to the vast increase in cremation procedures taking place at the time.
- o The introduction of their new creation, a unit called a Funeral Ark which become highly regarded and utilized throughout Canada and United States. It was a highly crafted hardwood unit that was designed to carry an urn during a funeral process.
- o 2003, Gordon's eldest son Caley Ferguson joins the family business.
- o 2004, one of an America's biggest casket company, the Batesville Casket Company, arranged an agreement with Northern Casket to manufacture their hardwood caskets to sell in Ontario, which turned out to be about 55 % of manufacturing process in the Lindsay facility.
- o 2009, another addition to the Lindsay facilities. (110k square feet added in total);
- o 2013, North Casket started to open up warehouse locations all across Canada, except Quebec, to aid their distribution network.
- o Their company today :
 - 110,000 Square feet (producing over 400 caskets/week);
 - 7 Warehouses in 4 provinces;
 - 85+ Employees;
 - 11 Deliver trucks;
 - Polyester coatings process;
 - Wood Caskets Cloth caskets, steel caskets, rental caskets, cremation containers and urns;
 - highly crated hardwood furniture items (for funeral homes).
- o Their biggest threats to their industry today :
 - cremation and social attitude shift;
 - Corporate Funeral Home acquisitions;
 - Overhead costs (hydro, WSIB, etc.) and Just-in-time delivery;
 - Competition
 - U.S. exchange rate
- o Some of their advantages at the present time :
 - their present warehousing distribution network;
 - customization (size, colour, etc.);
 - innovation (Funeral Ark, rentals etc.);
 - Air Miles Reward Miles;
 - reaction time (next day delivery process);
 - family owned company;
 - their well respected reputation national wide;
 - U.S. exchange rate.
- o Mike called upon club member Wayne Allred to come forward to thank Caley on behalf of the Club members, for his very informative presentation.
- Following a short break, Mike called upon Ron Morgan, Health and Welfare.
- Ron informed the membership that club member Ted Abbot is undergoing treatment at Princess Margaret in Toronto for the next six weeks.
- Next Vice President Bob Doran informed the membership that all the positions to be appointed for the new Management Committee have been filled. Any additional applicants to filed by the end of September.
- Mike reminded those interested to contact Wayne Brumwell to play in the upcoming golf tournament with the Newmarket club on Thursday, September 22nd.
- Before adjourning the meeting and the members making their way to the Hobart's Restaurant for the luncheon, Mike read a little humorous story regarding a Rolls Royce vehicle and a frozen chicken adventure.