

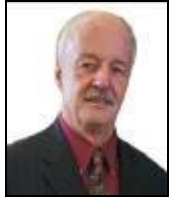


Chapter # 185
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The Men's Probus Club of Lindsay Probus Banner Newsletter

EDITION 76

August, 2014



Ted Abbot
President



Bruce Taylor
Vice - President



Wayne Brumwell
Treasurer



Don Holbrook
Secretary



Stan Hill
Director, Membership



Sal Polito
Director, Programs



Bob Barkwell
Director,
Club Services



Ron Morgan
Health and Welfare
(705) 324 - 2318
Jr.morgan@sympatico.ca



Gerald Brown
Director, Communications
Editor, Photographer
and Historian
(705) 953 - 9794
gerald.brown@xplornet.com

Meeting Highlights :

- President Ted Abbot 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 St. Dave's Diner & BBQ which is located on the north-east end of Lindsay on Highway #36.
- Ted called upon Past President Max Radiff to introduce the morning's guest speaker, his son-in-law, Mr. Bjorn Alfredsson who owns and manages/operates Holsag Canada.
- Max presented a brief history of Bjorn's personal background :
 - was born and raised in Sweden;
 - possessed hockey skills at an early age and developed enough to play for the Swedish Junior National Team, and after coming to Canada, played university hockey in Toronto;
 - received his early introduction into the furniture industry through his father who operated furniture manufacturing concerns in Europe and Canada.
- Bjorn's presentation outlined the history of the small furniture business :
 - stated his finances were very limited at the creation of his business;
 - started out by operating import business out of small warehouse in north end of Lindsay and eventually evolved into chair production facility as years continued on;
 - agreements were established with European suppliers and chair components were imported from eastern Europe, assembled in his small plant and then shipped to buyers who were mainly from the United States;
 - plant production started in 1995 in a small warehouse facility in the north-east end of Lindsay that had a total of 4,500 sq. ft. of floor space at that time;
 - at first, his export market was based totally within the hospitality business (chairs for restaurants, bars, hotels, etc.), but around 2005, due to large competition from foreign companies/suppliers, he redirected his company's focus to the elder care market (hospitals, continuous care and long term care health facilities, senior retirement residences, etc.) within the States;
 - due to the increase in sales (USA being his largest market) within this new demanding market, higher production volumes had to be met, thus the production area within his plant was gradually increased to cover an area of 175,000 sq. ft. and future expansions are in the works;
 - at present, his non-unionized work force, that consists of more than 100 people (approximately 70% men and 30% women), produces 3,000 hand crafted chairs a week or more than 150,000 units a year;
 - he bases his business reputation on the following :
 - utilizes only the best imported beech hardwood components;
 - all units are assembled, glued, sanded, and finished by hand;
 - each of the final units is inspected by the human eye before shipping;
 - shortest process turn-around time in the industry,
 - six week lead time process,
 - three week production time from start to finish;

Health and Welfare Update

Please notify **RON MORGAN, Health and Welfare, if you have knowledge of any our members that are experiencing health issues at any time....**
(705) 324 - 2318

Next Guest Speaker

TUESDAY, September 09th



Zita Devan

Poverty in the City of Kawartha Lakes



Club member Richard Graham thanking Bjorn Alfredsson (R) for his presentation.

FOR SALE

**Probus Club's shirts (\$35)
and hats (\$16)
always available for sale
at our monthly meetings.**

Words of Wisdow To Reflect On

Being in control of your life and having realistic expectations about your day-to-day challenges are the keys to stress management, which is perhaps the most important ingredient to living a happy, healthy and rewarding life.

The most important thing is to enjoy your life - to be happy - it's all that matters.

The most important thing in communication is hearing what isn't said.

The most important educational vehicle in all life is a parent figure.

**Any corrections, comments or additions regarding this banner can be forwarded to the attention of the editor at :
gerald.brown@xplornet.com**

- plant is operated by a first class management team and the production workers are selected from the abundance of good unskilled labour from within the local area;
 - the plant has an extremely low turn-over in workforce due to excellent working conditions, excellent health/personal benefits and a group profit sharing process that is made available to all plant personnel from the top to bottom within the organization.
- He concluded his presentation by stating that he loves living and raising his family in this area, and will continue to own and operate this business as long as there is a viable market for his product in the years to come.
 - Ted called upon Richard Graham to come forward and thank Bjorn, on behalf of the Club members, for his very informative presentation and presented him with an honorarium.
- Following a short break, President Ted proceeded with the "Club Business" part of the meeting and called upon Stan Hill, Membership Director, to come forward.
 - Stan stated no new members to be inducted at that time, and at the present we have a total of "98" members. Stan also noted that new badges were on order for those missing them.
 - President Ted provided the following highlights from last week's Management Committee meeting :
 - advertising in the Banner will be eliminated in 2015, therefore this might result in a small increase in membership dues if determined by the up-coming budget for next year;
 - Christmas Luncheon (December 9th) – entertainment will be provided by Denis Grignon, a stand-up comedian;
 - Next Management Committee meeting in October will be held at the Masonic Hall with no charges occurring, and the new Management Committee will determine if this is a permanent arrangement for all future meetings or not.
 - Ted read a memo that he received in the mail from last month's speaker, Richard Sauvé. He wanted thank us for allowing him the opportunity to speak about his life-long profession in Nuclear Power Organization, the enjoyable lunch and also for the honorarium presented to him.
 - Next Ted called upon Vice President Bruce Taylor to present a report from the Nominating Committee. Bruce stated that his Nominating Committee now had a full slate of members volunteering to hold a position within the new Management Committee for next term and will be presented next month's meeting.
 - Next item, Sal Polito, Director of Programs, reported the following :
 - September's guest speaker will be Zita Devan, who will be speaking on : A Framework for Understanding Poverty;
 - up-coming Tour of the Keewatin Ship at Port McNicoll, **August 19th** (1 ½ hour tour, luncheon, and museum visit);
 - Golf Day with Newmarket Club, **September 11th**, if interested contact Wayne Brumwell for further information;
 - Fall Social at the Lindsay Rugby Club on **September 16th**, Club member John McCrae organizer of this event.
 - Ted reported for Ron Morgan, Health and Welfare, that Ron Richards is now recovering at home and Brian Devan was present at the meeting after a hospital stay.
 - Ted then adjourned meeting and the members attending the luncheon, made their way to the St. Dave's Diner and BBQ Restaurant.

(Glb / August / 2014)