



Chapter # 185
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The Men's Probud Club of Lindsay

Probud Banner Newsletter

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January 2018



Bert Blackwood
President



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Harry Newton
Secretary



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Membership



Ron Wallace
Program



Bob Barkwell
Corporate Services



Ron Morgan
Health & Welfare



Dennis Eaton
Communications

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 Meeting

Tuesday February 13



Charles Pick

Molecular Plant Breeding

Meeting Highlights

Opening and Announcements:

President Bert Blackwood called the meeting to order and asked the members to stand for the singing of O Canada. Bert surveyed the members about their attendance at the Cat and the Fiddle for the optional lunch. He called upon Harry Newton to introduce his guest, Bill Mackasey. Bert introduced his guest, Hans de Visser. Bob Coleman introduced his guest, Gerald Armstrong. Lastly, Wayne Aldred introduced his guest, Bill Legere. The Management Committee from the Fenelon Falls Club was introduced by our President. The members include Bob Pennock - President, Kathleen Beall - Vice President, Dorothy Mullen - Treasurer, Joan Sutherland - Hospitality and Kathy Stackhouse - Speaker Chair. Ron Wallace was called upon to induct Jim Bartlett and Dave Chatland as new members. The deaths of Neil McWilliams and the daughter of Ray and Lorna Smith were announced. It was also announced that Gerald Brown has been diagnosed with cancer.

Dennis Eaton was thanked by President Bert for the design and production of the new brochure and the development of the new website platform (lindsaymensprobudclub.com). Copies of the new brochure were circulated around the room. Bert wrapped up the business portion of the meeting by encouraging the members to find 25 new members by December 2018. The meeting was then adjourned for 15 minutes.

Ron Wallace was asked to introduce our guest speaker, Ian McKecknie. Ian was born and raised in Lindsay, the eldest son of Jim and Patty McKecknie. Educated at Jack Callaghan Public School, Parkview Public School, Central Senior and LCVI, Ian pursued an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature at Trent University, graduating in 2013. For the past few years, Ian has worked in various capacities with the Victoria County Historical Society. He has conducted research and coordinated commemorative events such as 2016's *Where Duty Leads: Waving Off The 109th* and most recently, *Our Place In Canada: 150 Years of Food, Song, and Story*.



Members of the Fenelon Falls Probus Club Management Committee, Kathy Stackhouse (L), Joan Sutherland, Dorothy Mullen, Kathleen Beall and Bob Pennock (R) are shown with our President Bert Blackwood.



President Bert Blackwood (L) and Ron Wallace (R) welcome new members Jim Bartlett and Dave Chatland.



Ian McKechnie (L) is thanked by Ron Wallace (R).

Ian sits on the board of the Kawartha Heritage Network, as secretary, and is a keen observer of the ever-evolving arts, culture and heritage scene in this community. Ian hopes to carry on the legacy of his great-grandfather, the late Dan McQuarrie (1887-1970), who, with several other citizens, worked tirelessly to ensure that the heritage of this community would be preserved for future generations.

Guest Speaker: Ian McKechnie

Ian began his presentation with a story about the May 1924 murder of Omeme resident Beatrice Fee, who died in hospital after being shot 4 times in the chest during an altercation with her fiancé, Fred McCaughey, on Golden Mile Road. He was executed for the crime on December 5, 1924 and was the last person hanged in Lindsay. He spoke about the people involved in the execution, including Harry Stone - the Governor of the jail, Leslie Frost - the defence attorney, Mr. Ellis - the hangman, and Rev. McIntosh - the presiding clergyman from St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. The hanging was one of the most dramatic moments in the history of the 140-year old jail, which was closed 15 years ago, but continues now as a museum. Jails back in time were notoriously inhumane places, and used barbaric practices like flogging and attaching balls-and-chains to prisoner's legs. Phyllis Wilkinson, the daughter of Jail Governor Harry Stone, spent many years living at the jail with her family. She wrote a voluminous account of life at the Lindsay Jail about 20 years ago. In 1968, the Victoria County Jail became a provincially run facility. Ian noted that the Victorian interior was replaced with character-less steel paneling. By 1982, new wings were added to the north and south ends of the building to accommodate more cells and offices. In February 2003, the Lindsay Jail was closed and the prisoners transferred to the Central East Correctional Facility on Highway 36. The jail-turned-museum was renamed in 2008 as the Olde Gaol Museum and officially opened to the public in 2011. The museum sees itself as a creative hub for telling stories about the community, through theatre and pop-up displays at public events. 2018 will hopefully see the development of a major exhibit and programming about the history and heritage of poverty reduction efforts in Lindsay.



Bert concluded the meeting with a humorous story about a priest and a rabbi on an airplane.

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

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