

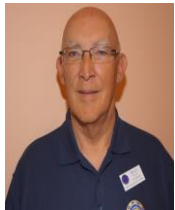


Chapter # 185  
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February 23, 2007

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

EDITION 78

October, 2014



Bruce Taylor  
President



Mike Catling  
Vice - President



Wayne Brumwell  
Treasurer



Don Holbrook  
Secretary



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Director, Membership



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Club Services



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Gerald Brown  
Director, Communications  
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and Historian  
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## Meeting Highlights :

- President Ted called the meeting to order and extended a welcome to the annual Founder's Day and 2014 AGM meeting.
- He then requested everyone to please stand and join in a group singing of "O Canada".
- Following the anthem, he informed the membership today's luncheon would be provided to them at the hall instead of going out to a restaurant following the meeting. He also told them that the buffet was catered by the Pita Pantry and the costs would be assumed by the Club funds.
- Next Ted called upon Ron Morgan, Health and Welfare, to come forward and present any health issues concerning our membership at the present time. Ron stated that Ray Smith was in the ICU unit at the hospital, due to medical complications with his heart and blood circulation.
- Ted continued by introducing our guest speaker for the morning, Eric Conroy, also known as Captain Rick, and his presentation was titled the "History of Keewatin".
  - o Eric was born in 1945 in Toronto Ontario and grew up in Willowdale, once a suburb but now part of that great city.
  - o At 17 he began working on the SS KEEWATIN and her sister ship SS ASSINIBOIA as a waiter in 1963 and 1964.
  - o He stated that the life experiences during this time made especially upon the SS KEEWATIN, become an important part of who he became and what he accomplished in his life.
  - o He was a high school teacher, a promotions salesman, an advertising executive, a restaurant owner, founded a chain of automotive stores, worked as the General Manager for the Canadian National Exhibition, consulted on Public Affairs with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, founded and ran the largest children's magazine in Canada and spent 29 years as a volunteer for Toronto's famous Santa Claus Parade selling sponsorships.
  - o He is a distinguished member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Mess in Ottawa, a Life Honourary member of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and holds an Order of Bulgaria, an RCMP Challenge medal and The Queens's Diamond Jubilee medal.
  - o He is married to a woman he refers to as The Scottish Lady and has two grown children.
  - o He retired in June of 2011 to take on the challenge of purchasing the Keewatin for Skyline Investments and managing the huge job of arranging to bring Keewatin Home, establishing her as a profitable "not for profit charitable foundation" and organizing her volunteer support group, Friend of The Keewatin.
  - o His real name is Eric Conroy, but uses "Captain Rick" as a job title since it is difficult to go from waiter to Captain without all the steps in between, but this allows him to play the part of the Captain, a role he will someday pass on to someone else as their job title.
  - o He continued his presentation by providing some important facts or information concerning the history of the "Keewatin" :
    - o Built at Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Co., Ltd., Govan, Scotland;
    - o Sailed her maiden voyage from Greenock, Scotland, in September 14, 1907 and arrived in Montreal, in September 23, 1907;
    - o Separated in two sections, made available due to its' original construction, for passage through the Welland Canal, and put back together at Buffalo, Lake Erie, thereafter;
    - o Put into regular service between Owen Sound on Georgian Bay and Port Arthur/Fort William in Lake Superior on October 7, 1908;

## Important Notice

Our next meeting will take place on

Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>

## Next Guest Speaker

**TUESDAY, November 11th**



**Bruce Faulkner**

### **"The Return to Juno Beach"**

Featuring Bruce Faulkner and  
John O'Reilly (Former M.P.)  
also

The Secret of Juno Beach will be revealed !



**Club member Vinny Duke (R), thanking Captain Rick (L) for his presentation.**



**In-coming President, Bruce Taylor (R) presenting President Ted with a plaque on behalf of the membership**



**President Ted presenting Founder Awards to Rodger Smith (M) and Ron Chartrand (far right).**

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

**[gerald.brown@explornet.com](mailto:gerald.brown@explornet.com)**

- o Due to a new terminal opening up in 1912, that shifted the Keewatin's home to Port McNicoll and continued voyages from there until she was retired from service in October, 1965;
  - o The ship was to be scrapped, but R.J. Peterson purchased the ship from the scrap dealer and it was sailed to Saugatuck-Douglas, Michigan in June, 1967 to become a floating museum;
  - o A company called, Skyline Investments acquired the S.S. Keewatin from Mr. Peterson. Shortly thereafter, the head of company contacted Eric and requested that he take on the task to make the arrangements to have the ship brought back to Port McNicoll and its' final resting place;
  - o He was then to make the Keewatin available to the public as a Historic Destination site tour.
  - o The Keewatin finally arrived home at the Port McNicoll dock on June 23, 2012;
  - o During the presentation, Eric went into great detail explaining the long intense process and adversities that were experienced during lengthy process bring Keewatin home back to Port McNicoll.
  - o He concluded his presentation that he is still actively involved and is working hard towards his original dream, which is to help bring the Keewatin back to its' original state as soon as possible.
- Upon completion, Club member Vinny Duke thanked Captain Rick, on behalf of the membership for his very informative and entertaining presentation.
  - Next Ted informed the group, that after a very short break, the annual AGM part of the meeting would commence.
  - An outline of the AGM agenda :
    - reading and the adoption of a number of items :
      - Adoption of the AGM Agenda – previously circulated;
      - Minutes of the October 2013 AGM – previously circulated;
      - President's Report;
      - Presentation of two Founders Awards - Ron Chartrand and Rodger Smith for their dedicated service to our Club for many years;
      - Treasurer's Report (Wayne Brumwell presented financial statements and 2014/2015 budget – previously circulated);
      - Appointment of the members to conduct the 2014-2015 financial review;
      - Report of the Nominating Committee/Election of Officers;
      - Introduction and a slide show presenting the 2014-2015 Management Committee members.
      - Remarks from the incoming President, Bruce Taylor and Director/Programs, Richard Graham;
      - New business items (none brought forward).
  - Incoming President Bruce Taylor passed on a thank-you to Ted, on behalf of the entire membership, for tireless efforts of working for our club not only as Club President for the past year but also as Vice President and Director of Programs in previous years. He also wanted to thank him for his continuing efforts in the upcoming year as acting Past President and an active member of the Program Committee.
  - As his final act as President of our Club, Ted adjourned the AGM meeting.
  - Next the members were treated to a buffet lunch which consisted of a large variety of pita sandwiches, dessert squares, assorted soft drinks, tea and coffee for their enjoyment.

( Glb / October/ 2014 )



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