



# The Men's Probud Club of Lindsay

Chapter # 185  
Charter Date  
February 23, 2007

## Probud Banner Newsletter

EDITION 117

April 2018



Bert  
Blackwood  
President



John Sale  
Vice-President



Eric Lansdell  
Treasurer



Harry  
Newton  
Secretary



Brian Devan  
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 May 8



Corinne Miller

Camp X

### Meeting Highlights

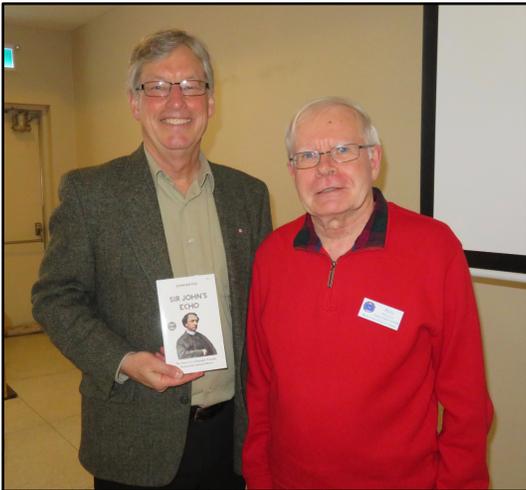
#### Opening and Announcements:

President Bert Blackwood called the meeting to order and asked the members to stand for the singing of O Canada. Returning snowbirds and guests were welcomed to the meeting. John Sale surveyed the members about their attendance at Boston Pizza for the optional lunch. Don Willis and Don Henderson were inducted as new members into the club. According to Bert, this month is Probud Month for our club. Our club's slogan is 'be a friend, bring a friend'. A number of guests have been invited today to celebrate with us. The first Probud club was formed in England in 1966 and the first Probud club in Canada was formed in Cambridge, Ontario on March 17, 1987. There are over 200 clubs across Canada today, with over 35,000 members.

Bert announced that Brian Devan was departing as Membership Director effective immediately. He was thanked for his service to the club. Bob Whitfield has volunteered to assume the role of Membership Director. Bob Barkwell, Director of Corporate Services, will be stepping down this fall. He is currently on vacation. Hans De Visser has volunteered to assume the role of Director of Corporate Services in the fall and has also volunteered to fill in for Bob while he is currently on vacation. Bill Legere has volunteered to be the back-up Director of Corporate Services when Hans is absent. The club is still looking for volunteers to assume the roles of Vice-President and Director of Communications. John Sale announced that a survey would be circulated to the members over the next few days, asking members to share their interests and hobbies. The results will be discussed at the May meeting. Bert informed the members that Brenda Andrews is the new Director of District 2 (our district) for Probud Canada. She is replacing Richard Furlong who is stepping down as Director. Ron Morgan reported that Ron Wysynski has been diagnosed with stage 2 cancer, Bob Schenk has passed away and former President Stuart Kell and his wife were in a car accident. Gerald Brown continues to receive treatment for his cancer and is in good spirits.



Bert Blackwood (L), Ron Fevang (second from left), and Harry Newton (R) welcome Don Henderson (third from right) and Don Willis (second from right) to the club.



Ron Wallace (R) thanked John Boyko (L) for his presentation.

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

[denniseaton@xplornet.com](mailto:denniseaton@xplornet.com)



It was also reported that Ted Howes has been admitted to hospital. Ron encouraged members to contact him if they hear of other members who have become ill or injured.

**Guest Speaker: John Boyko**



Ron Wallace was asked to introduce the guest speaker John Boyko. The members were informed that John is an author and historian whom the *Globe and Mail* deemed “a distinguished scholar of Canadian political history.” The *Winnipeg Free Press* has praised his “encyclopedic knowledge of Canadian history.” John is the best-selling author of seven books addressing Canadian history and politics. He is now the administrator of Lakefield College School and lives with his wife in Lakefield.

According to John, half of Canadians see Sir John A. MacDonald as a hero. But the other half of the country see him as a villain. He said that during this presentation, he will argue that Sir John should be viewed as a hero to this country. Sir John A. MacDonald was viewed as a villain for a number of reasons. In building the railway across the country, he misused his position as prime minister to garner financial favours to support his re-election campaign. He also maliciously exploited Chinese workers who were building the railway and ensured that they didn’t remain in Canada. He also exploited indigenous peoples by taking their lands for the railway. He deliberately starved the native people to force them to move off lands needed for the building of the railway. He also set up residential schools to destroy the native culture. Many native children were physically and sexually abused in these schools.

Sir John A. MacDonald should be viewed as a hero because he was the driving force behind Confederation. As a lawyer, he literally wrote many sections of the Constitution in a way that would be acceptable to others, and remains today. In 1864, Britain wanted to get rid of the colony we call Canada. They were unwilling to support the colony financially, economically or militarily. The Americans wanted to invade Canada as part of their ‘Manifest Destiny.’ Britain decided to give the colony to the Americans. To prevent the Americans from taking over Canada, Sir John A. MacDonald created a Constitution and made Canada a country. He gave the most important and essential powers to the Federal government. He also built the country’s infrastructure including the railway. Lastly, he set up trade tariffs to encourage Canadian industry to thrive. John Boyko concluded that Sir John. A. MacDonald created, built and saved Canada and should be viewed as a hero.

**Closing:** President Bert Blackwood concluded the meeting with a humorous story about why you should not compete with current politicians to be the best liar.