



Chapter # 185
Charter Date
February 23, 2007

The Men's Probus Club of Lindsay

Probus Banner Newsletter

EDITION 122

September 2018



Bert
Blackwood
President



John Sale
Vice-President



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Hans De Visser
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 October 9



Brock Godfery
Fraud Awareness

Meeting Highlights

Thank You:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the membership for your kind words of support during my term as Director of Communications. It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve you. Although I will be stepping down as Communications Director, I will continue to maintain the website and update the club's brochure each year.

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 Swiss Chalet. John Rose was asked to introduce his guest Ken Harrison and Max Radiff was asked to introduce his guest David Hill. Bert announced that the President of the Vernon B.C. Probud Club has agreed to present Reid Watson's posthumous Founder's Award to Reid's wife Marion at their October meeting. It was announced that a vote to raise the initiation fee for new members from \$25.00 to \$40.00 will take place during the AGM meeting in October. The Tri-Club Golf Tournament was cancelled due to rain. Hans De Visser has offered a cabinet to replace one of the cabinets taken by the Women's Club during their move to Celebrations. The club is looking for one more replacement cabinet. Vice-President John Sale announced that the positions of Vice-President, Communications Director and Social Director are vacant and need to be filled. Membership Director Bob Whitfield has begun collecting annual dues today. Please pay by cheque if possible.

Guest Speaker Introduction:

Ron Wallace introduced the guest speaker Michael Newnham. Michael is a graduate of the Chopin Academy of Music in Warsaw, Poland and he has also studied at the Indiana University of Music and at the University of Toronto. He is now celebrating his 18th season as the Music Director of the Peterborough Symphony Orchestra. Michael has conducted many orchestras and opera companies around the world, including Poland, Slovakia, Italy, Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, South Korea as well as Canada. He is also the interim Music Director of Orchestra Toronto and the Music Director of the Kawartha Youth Orchestra.



Ron Wallace (L) thanked Michael Newnham (R) for his presentation.

Guest Speaker: Michael Newnham



Michael began his presentation by addressing the question ‘what does a conductor do?’ According to Michael, orchestras began at the beginning of the 17th century. This was the time the first operas were being written in Italy. Operas had instrumental music, singing, acting and dancing all put into one performance. With all this going on, someone had to coordinate it and channel all this energy from the performers. One of the most famous conductors was an Italian who moved to the court of Louis XIV. He was a very flamboyant conductor and his style was to use a large staff similar to one used by the marching major in a marching band. Unfortunately, during his flamboyant performance for the king, he stabbed himself through his foot with the staff. His wound became gangrenous and he died shortly thereafter. He was the first conductor to die on the job. A Hungarian conductor, known for his volatility, stabbed himself with his baton in his eye during a performance in London. He survived but almost lost his vision.

If you saw an orchestra in the 18th century, you probably were in a church listening to music provided for the Sunday service, or in a palace listening to a performance by the nobleman’s hired musicians. Joseph Hayden, an Austrian composer, in the 18th century, had to train the musicians everyday, audition the new members, work with the singers for the upcoming operas, write church music for the count’s chapel on Sunday and write music for the count. There were often two performances per week. Haydn wrote 105 symphonies for one count alone. The job was incredibly intense but that was the way a person became a conductor.

At the end of the 18th century, the French revolution took place and changed society forever. The power society was transferred to the middle class and concerts became public events. These venues had to be big enough to make sufficient money on ticket sales (minimum 700 to 2000 people). The orchestra had to become bigger so that they could be heard by everyone in these large concert halls. Orchestras grew from about 30 people to 120. Instruments also changed.

Closing:

President Bert Blackwood closed the meeting with a humorous story about a crime family’s concerns with digging up their backyard tomato garden.

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

denniseaton@xplornet.com

