



Chapter # 185

Charter Date
February 23, 2007

The Men's Probud Club of Lindsay Probud Banner Newsletter

EDITION 134

September 2019



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Vice President



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September Meeting

The club held its September meeting on Tuesday 10th. After a 30 minute social time, Club President **John Sale** opened the meeting at 10:30am, with those in attendance singing 'Oh Canada'. John announced that the **optional lunch** following the meeting would be held at the **Friendly's** restaurant.

New Members: two guests who were at our August meeting; **Mike Green**, guest of Jim Buchanan, and **Bill Thompson**, guest of Bert Blackwood, submitted their applications for membership, and were approved by the committee. Mike and Bill will be formally inducted at our next meeting in October.

We had one **guest** at this meeting – **Ben Kipple**, guest of D'Arcy McGee

Guests for our October meeting – Please consider inviting a guest to our next meeting, when our speaker will be Peter Schlieffenbaum, the owner of Haliburton Forest, who is a controversial character with interests in sustainable forestry, outdoor pursuits, travel, music, wolves, etc..

Health and Welfare: On August 17th our long time member **Dom Fox** passed away in the Ross Memorial Hospital. Ron Morgan has sent a card to his wife Betty, with condolences from the members of our club, and a donation of \$75 has been sent from club funds to the Ross Memorial Hospital as requested by Dom's family. Members were invited to stand in silence for a moment in his memory.

John Hunter, Rich Graham and Ted Abbot are currently indisposed due to an accident or illness. Members are invited to maintain contact with these guys while they are currently unable to attend our meetings.

The **self catering** option for the pre-meeting drinks and treats was initiated thanks to Hans deVisser and his set up team. The objective is to save money while maintaining or improving the quality of service. The fact that hardly any treats were left at the end indicated a general level of satisfaction; and the result of a simple survey indicated a desire for more butter tarts.

"Share the Wealth" – John Saunders reported that we sold \$162 worth of tickets, resulting in a share to the winner of \$81.

Continued on Page 2...

Next Meeting: Tuesday October 8th 2019

Peter Schlieffenbaum

**" R. D. Lawrence and the Haliburton Forest Wolf
Centre "**

Health and Welfare

Please notify **Ron Morgan (705) 324-2318**
**If you have knowledge of a member who is
experiencing health issues at any time.**

Sal Polito introduced our speaker Barry Devolin. Barry described how he first became interested in Korea, through his work in the Federal Government. He then went on to describe teaching at a Korean university and his life in Korea after retiring from politics. Barry also gave a very accomplished and interesting presentation with maps, photo's and other illustrations on Korea; including early history of the area leading up to the present unresolved division of the country. (See page 3).

Barry's full talk is available on the website; <https://www.lindsaymensprobusclub.com/audio-recordings-2/>

Sal thanked Barry for his talk, which took the place of the planned speaker on medicinal marijuana, who was no longer available. It is planned to seek an alternative speaker on this subject at a later date.

Our guest speaker then drew the **winning ticket** for "Share the Wealth" which was purchased by **Gerald Brown** (\$81).

President John closed the meeting with a joke about a canny Scotsman negotiating a price with his dentist for removing a tooth.

PHOTO's



Sal Polito introduces guest speaker Barry Devolin.



Guest speaker Barry Devolin delivers an intriguing talk about his time living and working in Korea.



John Sale and Sal Polito thank our guest speaker.

Korea – A brief history (Notes from Barry’s talk)

North and South Korea have been divided for more than 70 years, ever since the Korean Peninsula became an unexpected casualty of the escalating Cold War between two rival superpowers: the Soviet Union and the United States.

Historically A Unified Korea

For centuries before the division, the peninsula was a single, unified Korea, ruled by generations of dynastic kingdoms. Occupied by Japan after the Russo-Japanese War in 1905 and formally annexed five years later, Korea chafed under Japanese colonial rule for 35 years—until the end of World War II, when its division into two nations began.

The catalyzing incident is the decision that was made, without the Koreans involved, between the Soviet Union and the United States to divide Korea into two occupation zones.

Why Was Korea Divided?

In August 1945, the two allies “in name only”, divided control over the Korean Peninsula. Over the next three years (1945-48), the Soviet Army and its proxies set up a communist regime in the area north of latitude 38°N, or the 38th parallel. South of that line, a military government was formed, supported directly by the United States.

While the Soviet policies were widely popular with the bulk of the North’s laborer and peasant population, most middle-class Koreans fled south of the 38th parallel, where the majority of the Korean population resides today. Meanwhile, the U.S.-supported regime in the South clearly favored anti-communist, rightist elements.

The ultimate objective was for the Soviet Union and the United States to leave, and let the Koreans figure it out. The trouble was that the Cold War intervened and everything that was tried to create a middle ground or to try to reunify the peninsula was thwarted by both the Soviet Union and the United States not wanting to give in to the other.

In 1948, the United States called for a United Nation-sponsored vote for all Koreans to determine the future of the peninsula. After the North refused to participate, the South formed its own government in Seoul, led by the strongly anti-communist Syngman Rhee.

The North responded in kind, installing the former communist guerrilla Kim Il Sung as the first premier of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) in the capital of Pyongyang.

Korean War

The Korean War (1950-53), which killed at least 2.5 million people, did little to resolve the question of which regime represented the “true” Korea. The north, with Russian support, invaded the South and almost took the whole peninsula until the newly formed United Nations sent a military force (90% US) to help the South retake lost territory.

It did, however, firmly establish the United States as the permanent adversary of North Korea, as the U.S. military bombed villages, towns and cities across the northern half of the peninsula. The armistice that ended that conflict in 1953 left the peninsula divided much as before, with a demilitarized zone (DMZ) running roughly along the 38th parallel.

Unlike another Cold War-era separation, between East and West Germany, there has been extremely little movement across the DMZ between North and South Korea since 1953. The border is “hermetically sealed,” which helps to explain the drastically different paths the two nations have taken, and the continuing divide between them.

Post Korean War

With continuing strong ties to the West (and an ongoing U.S. military presence), South Korea developed a robust economy, and in recent decades has made steps toward becoming a fully democratic nation.

Meanwhile, North Korea remained an isolated “hermit kingdom”—particularly after the collapse of the Soviet bloc in the early 1990s—and economically underdeveloped, as well as a virtual police state ruled by a single family for three generations.

The North’s dedicated efforts to develop a nuclear program have also greatly heightened tensions with South Korea and its allies, particularly the United States.

Starting in 1948, there are two established state organizations run by Koreans, each claiming to be the legitimate leaders of the people of the whole nation, and nothing’s changed since then.

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