



LINDSAY MEN'S PROBUS CLUB

Chapter #185 Charter Date: February 23rd 2007

In place of a regular Club meeting, a successful Christmas Lunch was held at the Lindsay Golf Club on Tuesday December 14th, with good food and company. In total 53 people attended including members with wives and partners and all who commented were very happy with the venue and food.

We had a great meal of Salmon, Chicken or Roast Beef cooked to perfection by the Lindsay Golf Club's kitchen chef Ron, served family style by staff.

Musical entertainment after lunch was provided by Joey and Natasha Mackey, both studying music, at Laurier and Queen's Universities respectively.

Thanks go to the team who made our Christmas lunch possible. Those involved were John Sale, John Saunders, Paul McPherson, Bob Whitfield, Liz Cameron, and Sal Polito.



Thanks to Liz Cameron for the great photos.



A CHRISTMAS TO REMEMBER

It was December 24, 1916. The world had been at war for just over two years. Already, hundreds of thousands of soldiers had been killed and hundreds of thousands more had been wounded or maimed in an endless series of fierce, but inconclusive, battles being waged along the Western Front, in the fields and forests of northern France and of Flanders. It had become a war of attrition, one in which the opposing forces faced each other, along lines of opposing trenches, where the forward lines were usually no more than a rifle shot apart.

A war weary world was preparing to celebrate Christmas. The generals on both sides had agreed that there would be a Christmas truce, that the guns would cease firing on Christmas Eve, and that they would not begin firing again, until Christmas Day was over. Christmas Eve or not, however, truce or no truce, neither side really trusted the other. Throughout the evening, the troops continued to guard their positions, rifles at the ready, staring across no-man's land, just in case, the other side might launch a surprise assault, hoping to find their enemies unprepared. The hours passed in eerie silence. Towards midnight, soldiers in the British lines were surprised to hear the voice of a young German soldier in the forward line of German trenches. He was singing a Christmas carol "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht" - "Silent Night, Holy Night". When he finished, a British soldier began to sing an English carol, "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen". Another joined in, and soon the British and German soldiers were singing carols together, each in their own language.

It was the beginning of what was probably the most extraordinary event of the war. Suddenly, the British soldiers manning their rifles in the trenches spied the figure of a lone German soldier walking hesitantly across no-man's land, unarmed, and carrying a white flag of truce in his hand. A young British soldier grabbed a white handkerchief, fixed it to a pole, and walked slowly forward, also unarmed, to meet him in the middle of no-man's land. "Fröhliche Weihnachten - Merry Christmas." The greeting was shouted back to the men in the lines. He just wants to say, "Merry Christmas". Soon, one by one, soldiers from both sides began to make their way into no-man's land. They greeted one another and tried to talk to one another in broken English and German. Soon, they were sitting around in groups, exchanging candies and cigarettes and swigs from flasks of brandy that had mysteriously appeared from out of nowhere. They showed each other photographs of their families, sweethearts, wives, and children waiting for them back home. Someone brought out some musical instruments and someone else a soccer ball. They spent the night singing carols and playing an impromptu game of soccer. Which side won? It doesn't really matter. Then, as the sun rose at dawn, soldiers of both sides wished each other one last "Merry Christmas" and returned to their trenches.

In a few hours, the guns began firing again. It didn't take long for the generals in the rear lines hear about what had happened. The generals on both sides were alarmed by this extraordinary, and totally unexpected turn of events. Both sides had used every device of propaganda they could think of to demonize their enemies. They did not want their soldiers thinking about their enemies as human beings - men like themselves, husbands, fathers, brothers, potential friends, who wanted nothing more than to see the war finished so that they could get back to their own homes and families, live in peace, and get on with their lives. When Christmas 1917 came, the generals took steps to ensure this kind of event would not happen again, and it never did. The extraordinary events of that night were not reported, at the time, in either the British or the German newspapers. The story was censored, kept secret for decades, until long after the war was over, and it no longer had any implications for national security. Then, finally, the files were opened, and the events of that extraordinary night came to the attention of historians. The soldiers who experienced that night, however, never forgot what had happened. They never forgot how for one extraordinary night the spirit of Christmas had created an oasis of peace in a world wracked by war, making friends out of enemies.

Soon, it will be Christmas 2021. The world that we live in is also at war, not a world war of nation against nation, but a world war where all the world's nations face a common enemy, a war against a deadly virus, a war that will not end until this virus is defeated not just in one nation, but in every nation. It would be great to have a Christmas truce in our battle with Covid this year, but let's not count on it.

Keep yourself, your family, and your neighbours safe. Have a merry and great Christmas and let's look all forward to a happier and better New Year in 2022.

Ron Wallace, President.





January 2022 Meeting

The next meeting will be at 10am on Tuesday, January 11th and will be a ZOOM only meeting.

(A Meeting Link will be sent to all members a few days before the meeting.)

Alex Fitzgerald-Black

Executive Director of the Juno Beach Centre Association

“Canada’s D-Day Story”

DISTRESSING NEWS FROM PROBUS CANADA ...Please read

The Management Committee of the Men’s Probus Club of Lindsay met on Tuesday, December 7, for our regularly scheduled bi-monthly meeting. About an hour before our meeting began, a letter was emailed to all Probus Clubs in Canada by the Board of PROBUS CANADA, addressed to all Club Presidents and Management Committee members across Canada. I will quote for you the opening paragraphs of this Letter, the discussion of which took up most of our time at our Management Committee meeting that morning.

“This is to advise you that effective December 31, 2021, our insurer, Victor, has added the following exclusion on the Commercial General Liability Insurance Policy, ‘Communicable Disease Outbreak Exclusion’.” “What this means is that if any 3rd party suit naming PROBUS CANADA or one of our member clubs were to arise out of an alleged (or real) transmission of a communicable disease there would be no coverage from Victor on the suit. This would include no coverage for defence cost to the suit.” “Due to the COVID -19 pandemic, this has become standard practice in the insurance industry.”

What this legalese means, in practice, is that our Club, and most particularly, our Directors, the members of our Management Committee, no longer have liability insurance protection should anyone become infected by COVID-19 at one of our meetings and pass it along to a 3rd party, a family member, friend, or acquaintance, who would then attempt to sue our Club and our Management Committee members for damages, and whether the Club might win or lose such a suit, our insurer would not even pay our legal expenses. Neither our Club, nor our Directors, are in a financial position to cover the cost of a lawsuit against our Club, whether it is successful or not. This puts our Club and its Directors in a very distressing situation, because, while the risk of a lawsuit may be low, it is not low enough to take on a risk that could be financially bankrupting for those named in the suit.

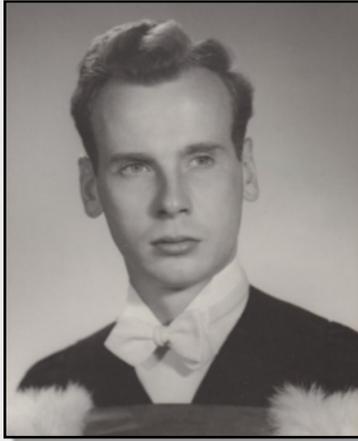
Therefore, the members of our Management Committee have concluded very reluctantly that there is no other option, at the present time, but to cease our current practice of In-Person meetings, with a Zoom component, until such time as the insurance issue is resolved. Beginning with our January 2022 meeting, we will revert to a Zoom only format, such as we had from January to September of this year. The members of the Management Committee directed me to write a letter to PROBUS CANADA that would respond to their letter in the strongest possible terms, copying our Probus District 2 Regional Director, and asking her to copy all the other Probus Clubs in our District. The letter sent stresses the disastrous effect this change will almost certainly have on our membership, and requests PROBUS CANADA to seek alternative quotations from other insurance companies to reinstate the previous level of coverage.

How long will it be before we can get back to the format of our regular pre-COVID meetings again? It is my hope, and it is only a hope, not a prediction, that we will be able to get back to In-Person meetings, sometime this Spring. In the meantime, let us carry on, as best we can, and commit ourselves to doing everything we can to hold our Club together, as we wait for better days to come.

Regards,
Ron Wallace – President



Remembering Probus Member, Don Rutherford



Entered into rest at the Ross Memorial Hospital, Lindsay on Sunday, November 14, 2021 at the age of 93. Don is survived by his beloved wife of 60 years, Jean (nee Longmore). Father of Linda Rutherford (Andy Laidley), Donna Rutherford, and Grant Speed (Donna Jean). Proud grandfather of 6 and great-grandfather of 3. Brother of the late Mary Kellogg (the late Rev. Claire), Margaret Fleming (the late Robert), Malcolm (Shirley), and predeceased by one infant sister. In keeping with Don's wishes, cremation has taken place, and there will be a private interment held at the Colborne Union Cemetery at a later date. If desired, memorial donations to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church or the Ross Memorial Hospital Foundation would be appreciated by the family. Donations and condolences may be made through the funeral home or online at www.mackeys.ca. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Mackey Funeral Home, 33 Peel Street, Lindsay (705-328-2721).

Membership

Based on the number of members who have paid their dues for 2021- 2022, your Club’s membership now stands at just over 60, down from 90+ before COVID.

If you have not renewed your membership, the last date to do so is December 31st 2021, at which time all those who have not renewed will be removed from the Club’s Membership List and will not receive further emails or other information from the Club.

Should you wish to renew your membership please contact Bob Whitfield, before the above date.

Health & Welfare

If you know of any member who is experiencing health issues at this time please contact Bruce Cameron ~ cam48retired@gmail.com

<i>Management Committee 2021-2022</i>			
President	Ron Wallace	Technical	Bill Legere
Vice-President	TBD	Club Services	John Rose
Past President	Sal Polito	Program	Bill Thompson
Treasurer	Paul McPherson	Communications	John Saunders
Secretary	John Sale	Health & Welfare	Bruce Cameron
Membership	Bob Whitfield		



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THE BUSINESSES LISTED BELOW SUPPORT OUR CLUB, AND WE HOPE THAT MEMBERS WILL CONSIDER THEM, IF THE SERVICES THEY SUPPLY ARE NEEDED.

Mark V. Wilson P.Eng.
President



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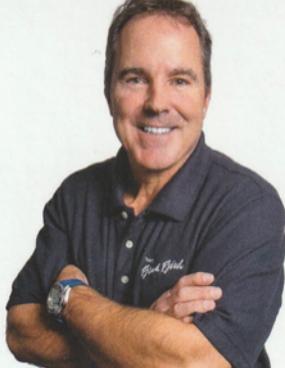
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