



## Lindsay Men's Probus Club

Chapter #185: Charter Date: February 23rd 2007



On September 9th, we held our monthly meeting, with 36 members attending. Following a 30 minute social time, Club President, Bill Mackasey, opened the meeting at 10:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone. We then rose for O'Canada.

There were no guests or new members at this month's meeting.

Our guest speakers, Brenda Wall & Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley, were then introduced by Bruce Cameron. Their talk was titled “Truth & Reconciliation” focusing on the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Community of Bobcaygeon. Brenda & Rodney shared the podium and were supported by a slide presentation which contained photos of many of the recent gatherings, exhibitions, and ceremonies undertaken in the Kawartha. They also brought a number of pamphlets and flyers outlining events that will be open to the public before the onset of winter.

*“The mission of the Truth and Reconciliation Community Bobcaygeon is to foster and develop respectful relationships among Settlers, Indigenous Peoples, and the Land.*

*We encourage and support one another, and anyone who will join with us, in moving towards restitution and decolonization.*

*We are learning, educating, and working towards reconciliation locally within the Settler community and in relationship with the Michi Saagig Nishnaabeg.*

*We are actively engaged in learning about and honouring Treaties, both locally and in the wider Canadian context.*

*We continue to work towards restitution of wrongs as we respect the values and cultures of Indigenous communities”.*

Additional information related to their talk will be provided later in the newsletter. Brenda & Rodney were thanked by Ted Abbot, following which Brenda drew the winning 50/50 ticket, which was won by Ron Chartrand.

There were several business announcements, and these will be covered in more detail later in the newsletter.

Bill closed the meeting at noon, with 20 members heading to the Olympia Restaurant for lunch.

## Early Indigenous History in the Kawarthas



At least 12,000 years ago, First Peoples migrated into the area we now know as the Kawarthas, shortly after the retreat of the great ice sheet.

Archaeologists have documented their arrival at sites like Rice Lake and Stony Lake near Burleigh Falls, which are among the earliest human habitations found in Ontario. As the ice sheets and water continued to diminish, about 10,000 years ago, the Kawarthas began to resemble their current landscape. Forests thrived with various deciduous and coniferous species, leading to an increase in animal and fish populations. This abundance encouraged Indigenous people to stay longer in one spot and establish small communities.

Archaeologists have found evidence of habitations throughout the area, including Pigeon, Balsam, Stony, and Rice Lakes. The debris found at these sites, known as ‘habitation debris,’ provides insights into the lives of the Indigenous people. It could be evidence of stone tool manufacturing and cooked animal bones, as well as technological innovations like fish weirs discovered at Lovesick Lake.

The Kawartha landscape held immense spiritual and cultural significance for the Indigenous populations, and it still does today. Ceremonial and burial sites were used for hundreds of years. Jacob Island in Pigeon Lake, for example, was used from approximately 4500 to 1000 years ago, as noted by Dr. James Conolly, Professor of Archaeology at Trent University.

Another notable site for visitors is the Teaching Rocks, or Petroglyphs, near Woodview.

Early evidence, dating back about 2500 years, has been discovered on Chiminis (Big/Boyd) Island in Pigeon Lake. These sites highlight the significance of hunting, trapping, fishing, and utilizing wetland resources like Manomin (wild rice).

Around 2000 years ago, a more intricate ceremonial centre can be found at Serpent Mounds on Rice Lake. Additionally, numerous other locations in the Kawartha Lakes have yielded marine shells, silver jewelry, and musical instruments used in ritual and ceremonial practices.

By AD 1300, Indigenous populations had begun maize cultivation and “managed” the landscapes around them. Local people, who had continuously inhabited the Kawarthas since the ice receded, tended to fields, fruit trees, prairies, and mature open forests.

The world of Indigenous people underwent a profound transformation when European settlers and traders began to populate North America. Samuel de Champlain’s passage through the Kawarthas in 1615, along with the contributions of others over time, escalated regional warfare between Indigenous groups.

Battles were fought along the Otonabee River and in the Rice Lake region, with Fox Island and Buckhorn Lake also serving as significant skirmish sites. A musket ball has been discovered on Jacob Island.

By the late 17th century, the Michi Saagig (Ojibwa) had successfully pushed back the Iroquois and colonial powers (French and British). They established control over much of southern Ontario and the Kawarthas for the next 100 years.

The pressures of increased European and post-American Revolution migrations forced Indigenous populations into unwanted land treaty negotiations. Treaty Number 20, signed in 1818 between the Crown and the ‘Principal Men of the Chippewa (Ojibwa) Nation of Indians,’ marked the arrival of the first legal settlers in the Kawarthas that autumn.

While Treaty Number 20 required the surrender of Indigenous land, it did not negate their hunting, harvesting, and propagation rights to crops like Manomin.

For more information: [trcbobcaygeon.org](http://trcbobcaygeon.org)

## Club Business

**Max Radiff - Chair of the Nominating Committee addressed the Members and here is summary of the points he made:**

- **Club's Situation:** The club is in a precarious situation and needs volunteers for Executive positions to survive.
- **Survey Purpose:** The Management Committee is conducting a survey to find potential volunteers for Executive positions for the next few years.
- **Best Case Scenario:** Several members volunteer, filling current vacancies and creating a pool of potential volunteers for the future.
- **Club's Future:** The club may fold if no one volunteers for president, vice-president, and secretary.
- **Survey Results and Recommendations:** The survey results will be presented to the members in October, and the Management Committee will make recommendations for the club's future.
- **Call to Action:** Members are encouraged to volunteer, recommend other members, or pass on names to the Management Committee.
- **Current Challenge:** The organization is facing a societal problem that is impacting its volunteer base and overall sustainability.
- **Potential Causes:** COVID-19, an aging society, evolving societal norms, or a combination of these factors.
- **Immediate Need:** Securing volunteers to ensure the organization's survival in the short term.

**President, Bill Mackasey read the following Notice of Motion, to be voted on by the membership at the October 2025 Meeting.**

**Moved by Max Radiff, Seconded by Ted Abbot, that Bylaw 3:5b be amended to read: “The term of office for the Treasurer shall be at the discretion of the Membership”.**



## PHOTO's



Guest speakers Brenda Wall & Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley were thanked by Ted Abbot & Club President Bill Mackasey.



Handmade Quilt made by Community Members and displayed at the Probus Meeting.

Probus Club members enjoyed great weather and fine company for the Annual Golf Tournament at Dunsford G&CC on September 11th.



## CLUB NOTICES

**Next Club Meeting & Annual Meeting ~ Tuesday October 14th**  
**Speaker: Ian McKechnie : *"J.W. MacMillan - Social Justice Advocate of Early Twentieth Century Canada"***

### Future Meeting Notices

- The club's Annual Meeting will be on Tuesday, October 14th, 2025.
- The November meeting will be on the 4th of November; the 1st Tuesday of the month, to avoid any conflicts with Remembrance Day on the 11th of November.
- The Christmas Lunch will be on December 9th at Celebrations and catered by "Heaven on Seven".

## We need more members...

**Be a friend, bring a friend to a PROBUS meeting!**

Please consider inviting guests to attend a Club meeting to allow them the opportunity to share the experience and advantages of joining our Club.

## Health & Welfare

If you know of any member who is experiencing health issues at this time, please contact Bruce Cameron ~ [cam48retired@gmail.com](mailto:cam48retired@gmail.com)



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