



Lindsay Men's Probus Club

Chapter #185: Charter Date: February 23rd 2007



On January 13th, we held our monthly meeting, with 50+ members attending. Following a 30-minute social time, Club President, Max Radiff, opened the meeting at 10:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone. We then rose for O'Canada.

There were several guests at this month's meeting: John Gundy & Jim Brady guests of Jan Mikkelsen; Eric Dormer guest of John Wylie; Derek Roche, Alan Clark & Doug Hatcher guests of Bob Whitfield; Mark Robbins guest of Philip Mayville; Bill Preston guest of Bob Barkwell; Mike Puffer & Terry Leslie guests of John Bennett.

Our "Who Am I?" Member this month was John Bennett, Vice-President of our club, who talked about his early years, the long and progressive career he had with CIBC, and his retirement, extensive community involvements, family, and hobbies. Thank you, John.

Max covered some club business items, including the recent Management Committee meeting, which are detailed later in the newsletter, and then called on Ted Abbot to introduce our guest speaker, Tashi Rabgye, whose talk was entitled "CHINA TIBET MACHIK".

Tashi's father, Pencho, was a Buddhist monk in Tibet and served as a bodyguard for the Dalai Lama before being pushed out by the Chinese Communists. After leaving the clergy and starting a family, he brought them to Canada in the early 70s.

Tashi started her education in Lindsay at King Albert Public School, Central School, and Lindsay Collegiate. From there, she went on to earn law degrees at Oxford and Cambridge, where she was a Rhodes Scholar and a PhD at Harvard.

Currently, Tashi is a visiting Professor of Law at the University of Toronto.

As published in the notice of meeting, Tashi is working on governance in Tibet and many other areas of research. Tashi is also working on a book about the need to re-frame the Sino-Tibetan dispute due out sometime next year. Her talk today was on Machik, which she co-founded; it is a non-profit, non-governmental organization focused on growing a global community dedicated to a stronger future for Tibet.

After question time, Jan Mikkelsen thanked Tashi for her talk, following which she drew the winning 50/50 ticket, and it was won by Bill Preston, one of today's guests.

Max closed the meeting just before noon with 20+ members going to lunch at Gusto Grande.

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Machik is a U.S.-based non-profit, non-governmental organization whose mission is to grow a global community committed to a stronger future for Tibet. Its work focuses primarily on civic engagement, gender equity, and social innovation.

Background

Machik was co-founded by Tibetan sisters Losang and Tashi Rabgey, two Ph.D.s who were raised in Canada. The group came about after they and their parents built the Ruth Walter Chungba Primary School in the rural village of Chungba, located in the mountains of the Kham region of

Tibet. The bilingual school opened in 2002. The organization has also developed the Chungba Middle School and supports students through high school and university. It also created programs to offer educational opportunities for Tibetan girls and women in the Amdo region and created the summer enrichment program for students from across Tibet. Other service projects have included bringing green energy and clean drinking water to a rural town, building a library in a town with high literacy but low access to materials, creating a greenhouse, repairing roads and houses, and participating in health care initiatives.

Losang and Tashi Rabgey were born in a Tibetan refugee settlement in India and later moved to Canada, where they both graduated from the University of Toronto. Losang was the first Commonwealth Scholar of Tibetan descent and has a Ph.D. from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies and was named an explorer by both National Geographic and the Explorers Club. Tashi was the first Rhodes Scholar of Tibetan descent. Her LLB is from Oxford University, her LLM is from Cambridge University, and she has a Ph.D. from Harvard University. She is now a Research Professor of International Affairs at the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University. She has published extensively on Tibet issues and continues to do research on the region.

Work

The work of Machik has grown from its first school to include much broader initiatives. It has centred on community-based approaches and direct interventions. Machik centres the innovative and impactful capacity of change-makers inside Tibet and is a bridge between Tibetans in Tibet and the global community. Current programs include Machik Weekend, Machik Khabda, and Machik Gender Summit.

Machik has been able to achieve success in its programs without the political pitfalls that organizations have faced. Machik's staff speak both Mandarin Chinese and Tibetan, and its educational efforts in the U.S. emphasize an understanding of Tibet within the broader system of international affairs, including Chinese governance.

To learn more please visit the website: <https://www.machik.org/>

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PHOTO's



John Bennett was the “Who Am I?” Member this month.



Guest Speaker Tashi Rabgey was thanked by Jan Mikkelsen [R] with President Max Radiff

CLUB NOTICES

Next Club Meeting is on Tuesday February 10th
The Guest Speaker is Brian Kerr
CEO & GM of Kawartha Dairy.

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

SOCIAL EVENT

From John Sale ... Invitation to a local social event

We have been invited as members of the Men’s Probus Club of Lindsay to the 55th Annual Brotherhood Banquet on Monday, 23rd February at 7:00 p.m. at the Canadian Legion.

This year, it is hosted by the Lindsay Knights of Columbus members. The speaker will be Father Tom Lynch, who will talk about the history of the Peter Robinson immigrants from Ireland to this area.

Tickets are \$40 for a roast beef dinner. You will learn some local history and meet members of other local brotherhood organizations.

John Sale will be pleased to answer any questions and register your bookings; (home tel. 705.879.4090 or email johna.sale@gmail.com). He will also have tickets available at our next meeting on February 10th.

Management Committee Meeting Update

The management committee met on Tuesday, January 6th, and here is a summary of the key discussion points:

- The 2025 edition of the Christmas Lunch was deemed a success, and the venue, caterer, and entertainment have all been booked for December 2026. A few “ tweaks ” have been identified and will be incorporated into the arrangements. Should any member have any feedback about this event, they are invited to share it by contacting any MC member.
- John Bennett has volunteered to lead an effort to increase membership over the course of 2026. We currently have 75 members, and in order to be sustainable, we need 90+.
- The monthly program for 2026 is almost complete, and we have a diverse group of quality speakers lined up. The MC would also like to promote and encourage more social activities and is discussing how to organize and support this aspect of the club.

Next MC Meeting is March 3rd.

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