

# “The Banner” ~ Newsletter #207 ~ May 2026



## Lindsay Men's Probus Club

Chapter #185: Charter Date: February 23rd 2007



On May 12th, we held our monthly meeting, with 40+ members attending. Following a 30-minute social time, Club President, John Bennett, opened the meeting at 10:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone. We then rose for O'Canada.

John then updated members on the health of former president Bob Armstrong, who recently fell and was admitted to hospital.

There were three guests at this month's meeting: George Pineau and Brian Parish, guests of John Rose; Stephan Willshaw, guest of Eric Dormer.

John called on Dave Robertson to come forward as this month's Who Am I member. Dave condensed his life story into a five-minute talk, with more detail on page 4.

John then called on Ted Abbot to introduce our speaker, John Boyko, speaking about his upcoming book to be published on June 2nd, "In Pursuit of Tomorrow: The Inventive Life of Sandford Fleming".

"It was 14 years ago that John Boyko first spoke to our Club about his book - Prime Minister R. B. Bennett—The Rebel Who Challenged and Changed a Nation. Today is his 5th presentation to us, which indicates our interest in his talks.

John has written 9 books, contributed editorials for newspapers across Canada, as well as appearing on TV and radio to discuss his books and current political events. He has degrees from Trent, Queen's, and McMaster Universities.

Although he retired as Dean of Social Sciences at Lakefield College School in 2022, to say that John is slowing down would be inaccurate. He is a regular at the local gym, has run marathons, and plays hockey and golf. In politics, he has been a Councillor, Deputy Reeve, as well as on many Boards. Taking it further, John is the lead guitarist and singer in a band called the Footnotes. After signing a recording contract, one of his compositions was a minor hit in Canada as well as hitting #2 in Sweden – I guess he couldn't knock off ABBA.

No music today as he is here to talk about his latest book, which he has also made available for purchase here today for us."

After his talk, there was a Q&A, following which he was thanked by Mike Puffer, who remarked on how Sandford Fleming influenced many aspects of modern-day life in Canada, but who many Canadians know very little about.

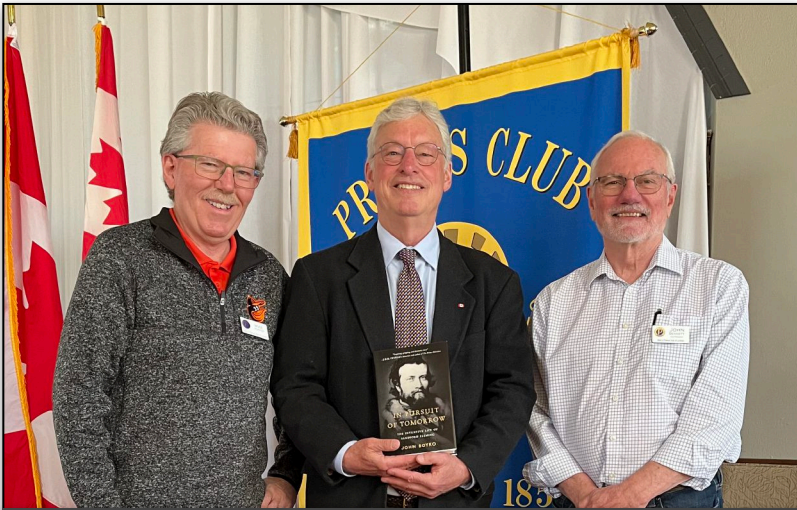
John Boyko then drew the winning 50/50 ticket, which was won by Wes Lane.

One new member was inducted into the club: Eric Smeaton sponsored by John Bennett.

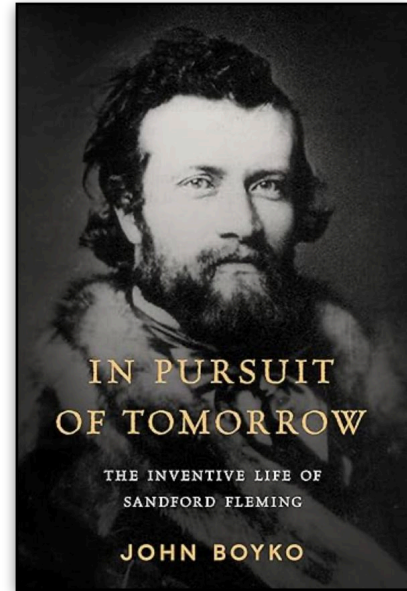
Ted Abbot will be heading up a small committee making final arrangements for this year's Christmas lunch and a couple more volunteers are needed. If interested, please contact Ted.

John closed the meeting just before noon with 20 members going to lunch at the Cat & Fiddle Pub.

## PHOTO'S



Guest Speaker John Boyko was thanked by Mike Puffer and John Bennett.



Who Am I? Member Dave Robertson with President John Bennett



New Member Eric Smeaton with his sponsor John Bennett and club registrar Bob Whitfield.



Canada's first stamp, designed by Sandford Fleming, features a beaver rather than a head of state, which had been the norm up to that time.

## Sir Sandford Fleming



Sandford Fleming (in tallest hat) at the ceremony of the "last spike" being driven on the Canadian Pacific Railway

Sir Sandford Fleming (born January 7, 1827, Kirkcaldy, Fife, Scotland—died July 22, 1915, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada) was a civil engineer and scientist who was the foremost railway engineer of Canada in the 19th century.

Fleming emigrated from Scotland to Canada in 1845, where he was trained as an engineer. By 1857, he had become chief engineer for the Ontario, Simcoe, and Huron Railway (now part of the Canadian National Railway). In 1863, he was chosen by the Canadian government to conduct a survey for the route of the first link—from Quebec City to Halifax—of a proposed railway to run from the Atlantic to the Pacific. He became chief engineer for the construction of the resulting Intercolonial Railway (also part of the Canadian National Railway). In 1871, he became engineer-in-chief of the proposed Canadian Pacific Railway, and the routes he surveyed through the Kicking Horse and other passes greatly aided Canadian railway construction in the ensuing decades. Fleming retired from his post with the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1880.

Following his retirement, Fleming served as chancellor of Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario, from 1880 to 1915 and devoted himself to scientific projects and writing. Railway travel across great distances in Canada and the United States had rendered obsolete the practice of different regions setting their clocks according to local astronomical conditions. In studying solutions to this problem, Fleming advocated the adoption of a standard time with hourly variations from it according to a system of time zones. His efforts were instrumental in the convening of the International Prime Meridian Conference in Washington, D.C., in 1884, at which the current internationally accepted system of standard time zones was adopted.

Fleming was also a forceful advocate of a telegraph communication system for the British Empire, the first link of which was a Pacific cable between Canada and Australia in 1902. Additionally, Fleming designed Canada’s first postage stamp, the threepenny beaver, in 1851. He was knighted in 1897.

If you want to learn more about this book and others written by John Boyko, here is a link to his website: <https://johnboyko.com>

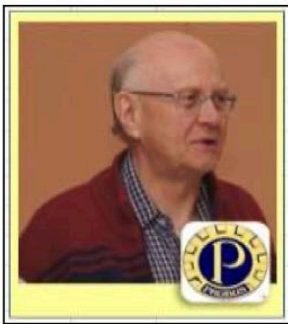
## WHO AM I?

Our Who AM I? Member this month was Dave Robertson, who joined the club in August of 2007, sponsored by Founding Member Bruce Faulkner.

Dave was presented with the club's Outstanding Service Award in 2015.

Dave is no stranger to “WHO AM I?” and previously introduced himself to club members in March 2012. The extract from that month's newsletter is reproduced below.

Thanks, Dave, for 19 years of contributions to PROBUS.



My name is : **W. David Robertson.**

I was born in Calgary, Alberta, in 1937. My wife Margaret and I live at 30 Adelaide Street South, Lindsay and we have raised 2 children.

I also have lived in Dawson, Creek, B.C., Vancouver, B.C., Ocean Falls, B.C., and Toronto, Ontario.

My professional career, 1969 to 1975 a Teaching Master/Professor S.S.F.C., 1976 – 1996 Coordinator Fish and Wildlife Programs, S.S.F.C., Lindsay, Ontario, 19667 – 1969 contract work with Ontario Land Inventory and Canada Land Inventory – Ontario Department of Lands and Forest.

I am a Past President Lindsay Canadian Club, a member of the Member Friends of the Osprey, Kawartha Lakes and Secretary Treasurer of Trustees - St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Lindsay.

As for my hobbies, I enjoy reading, I used to curl and play golf, computer club (Probus), Scottish history, genealogy and traveling.

## PSA's

**SATURDAY, JUNE 13TH, 2026**  
8 pm to 12 Midnight  
Doors open 7 pm

*The Harry Peterson*  
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**Tickets \$25/pp**  
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*Made in Kawartha Lakes*  
**SHOW & SALE • MAY 23-24, 2026**

**Join us for a weekend celebrating local creativity, craftsmanship, and community.**

The Kawartha Lakes Arts Council is proud to present the 8th annual *Made in Kawartha Lakes Show + Sale*.

This event brings together 50+ local artists and artisans, delicious food vendors and local musicians, offering a unique opportunity to shop handmade, support local businesses, and connect with the creative community.

This year's event will take place at the **Victoria Park Armouries** in downtown Lindsay – a historic and centrally located venue that provides the perfect backdrop to explore the work of local artists and artisans. From expressive paintings to handcrafted jewellery and everything in between, this vibrant showcase celebrates the incredible talent found throughout our region.

Admission is by donation to the Kawartha Lakes Arts Council. We thank you for your support!

## CLUB NOTICES

### **New Club President, John Bennett, Confirmed**

**Motion from the Probus Management Committee Meeting  
on Tuesday April 28, 2026**

“Consequent to Max Radiff resigning his position as President by letter dated March 11th, 2026, John Sale moved, John Saunders 2<sup>nd</sup>, that John Bennett assume the role of President for the remainder of this year (to October 2026); all voted in favour. Carried”

**Next Club Meeting is on Tuesday June 9th  
The Guest Speaker is Nathan Rajevski  
“KAWARTHA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY”**

### **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)

### **2026 Christmas Lunch**

Ted Abbot is leading a small committee to put the final touches on the 2026 Christmas Lunch and is looking for a few volunteers to help. Please contact Ted if you are interested.

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