



Lindsay Men's Probus Club

Chapter #185: Charter Date: February 23rd 2007



On August 11th, 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. There were no guests at this meeting.

Our Who Am I? Member this month was Bruce Cameron, and his talk is summarized on Page 3.

John then called on Pat O'Reilly to introduce our speaker, Wesley Found. Wesley's talk was titled “Generational Business is the Cornerstone of Local Economic Development.

“Wesley grew up on an Angus breeding farm outside Lindsay. Fourth generation in a community his family has been part of since before most of its buildings were built.

He trained as an economist, which he will tell you is less about numbers than most people assume. Economics is philosophy and social science as much as it is math. It is the study of how people make decisions and how communities form. That lens, combined with four generations of business experience in this town, turned out to be a general-purpose toolkit that applies equally to running a company, leading a BIA, and thinking about what makes a place worth staying in.

Wesley is President of Linborough Property Corp., the commercial real estate portfolio his family has built across generations in downtown Lindsay. He chairs the Downtown Lindsay BIA and sits on the boards of Launch Kawartha and OBIAA. His family established the Ken Found Art Fund in honour of his father, and Linborough is now restoring the heritage building at 19 Cambridge Street as the new permanent home of the Kawartha Art Gallery. Wesley believes culture and commerce belong on the same main street, and always have.

After his talk, there was a Q&A, following which he was thanked by Eric Smeaton, who reflected on how he and Wesley had many private conversations on this topic and why the points he raised are critical components of the continued vitality of Lindsay's downtown.

Wesley then drew the winning 50/50 ticket, which was won by John Bennett.

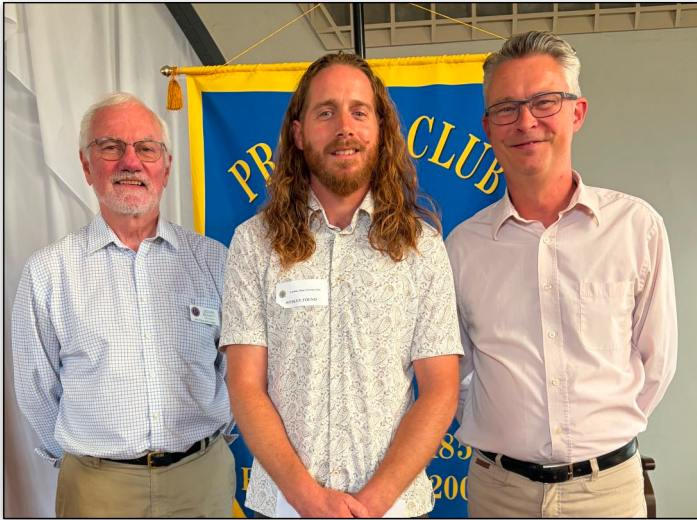
John then moved into Club Business by asking for volunteers to join the Nominating Committee for the MC (2026-2027) led by Bill Mackasey. Contact Bill if you can help.

John also announced that a new mixed Probus club is being formed in Lindsay and there is an information session planned for the end of September. Full details are on page 4.

Places are still available for the club's annual golf tournament on Tuesday, September 1st, at Sturgeon Point Golf Club. Non-playing members are also welcome to come for lunch at a reduced cost. See page 3, for details.

John closed the meeting just after noon with 20+ members going to lunch at Kelseys.

PHOTO's



Guest speaker Wesley Found [C] was thanked by Eric Smeaton, with Club President John Bennett.



WHO AM I? Bruce Cameron

A Summary of Wesley Found's Talk

Wesley's talk argued that successful communities depend on **long-term stewardship of land, culture, and relationships**, rather than simply maximizing transactions or short-term economic indicators.

Drawing on four generations in a family real-estate and farming business, he describes the principle of **“feeding the soil, not the crop”**: businesses succeed because their communities support them, so owners have a responsibility to give back and plan for future generations. Economics and entrepreneurship reinforced this perspective by teaching that incentives, trade-offs, and customer needs operate according to common principles across businesses, BIAs, and municipalities.

His central thesis is that **culture comes before commerce**. Land creates places for people to gather; gathering creates culture; and culture enables commerce. Landowners and municipalities therefore share a stewardship role in ensuring property achieves its “highest and best use.”

Using examples from downtown Lindsay—including prolonged permit approvals, zoning barriers, vacant upper-floor spaces, and the redevelopment of 19 and 23 Cambridge—he argued that **bureaucratic friction creates invisible economic losses**: projects that are never built leave no record of what was lost.

The solution is not simply more growth, but better direction: measure permitting times, activate existing incentives, improve cooperation between municipalities and property owners, and focus on **leading indicators of community vitality**. The goal is to restore downtowns as places where people don't merely visit or transact, but actually **live, gather, and build community**.

A complete audio recording is available on the Probus Club Website.

WHO AM I?



Good morning; I am Robert Bruce Cameron, known as Bruce for 77 years. Born at Ross Memorial Hospital, I spent my first 20 years in Lindsay—10 on Churchill Crescent and 10 on Elgin Street. I delivered the Star for Milt Battersby, bagged groceries at Drury's, delivered milk for Silverwoods, and spent a summer on a Great Lakes boat for Saint Lawrence Cement. After high school, I tried General Motors, an electrical company, and Seneca College for business. I worked at the sports centre to cover costs, often eating KD or Kraft Dinner.

My girlfriend Liz, a nurse, and I married during this time. A year after graduation, she suggested finding a real job. I met the HR manager at Canada Packers, whose wife owned a bake shop in Carnarvon. He arranged an interview, and I started in sales, moved to London, Ontario, for six years, then returned to Brampton.

We lived in Milton and raised two children, often returning to Lindsay to visit friends and family. Camping was our regular pursuit, using a small camper and renting houseboats on Lake Tamagami. We also took ski trips to Vermont, Maine, and Quebec.

Business at Canada Packers shifted as parts were purchased for resale. We were acquired by Gordon Food Service, a family-owned firm from Grand Rapids, Michigan. I held roles in product management, production, inventory control, and purchasing. GFS built a warehouse in Milton, and I became the Transportation Manager. We started with 28 drivers, growing to over a hundred by my retirement, now around 225 with two warehouses—one in Milton, expanded three times, and another in Whitby. Warehouses span from Vancouver to Amherst, Nova Scotia.

After 35 years, I retired and worked at Greystone golf course near Milton and then Glen Abbey. We moved back to this area, living on Pigeon Lake by Bobcaygeon, and I also worked at the Lindsay Golf Club for a few years.

We have continued travelling with the Baldwins—Portugal, France, and Newfoundland. I hope to continue more of this. Cheers

Annual Probus Golf Tournament

This year's Lindsay Probus Golf Tournament will be held at Sturgeon Point Golf Club in Fenelon Falls (78 Golf Links Road) on Tuesday, September 1st.

Tee times begin at 10am but please arrive early to register at the pro shop and to participate in the putting contest. The format will be a 2-person scramble with course competitions included.

The cost of the event is \$50 per person, which includes 9 holes of golf with a cart and a BBQ lunch. Payment details will be communicated shortly.

To register, please email Ron Posner at rposner14@gmail.com. For those who want to attend the BBQ lunch only, please let Ron know.

CLUB NOTICES

**Next Club Meeting is on Tuesday September 8th.
The Guest Speaker is Dave Ellis
*“Wildlife Photography in the Kawartha's”***

A new mixed PROBUS club is planned for LINDSAY!

Yearly fee of \$75 and a one-time fee for a name tag.

Information session on Wednesday, September 30, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

At Celebrations ~ 35 Lindsay Street North K9V 1T3

Contact: slprobus@gmail.com

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

"The Banner" ~ Newsletter #210 ~ August 2026

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Mark V. Wilson P.Eng.
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