



MEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF NEWMARKET
GENERAL MEETING

19 April 2023
Newmarket Legion Hall

President's Welcome

President Bill Kidd

- Eight guests were warmly welcomed.

Visiting Speaker: In a change from our usual schedule, our speaker spoke beginning of the meeting. Despite IT issues at her end, we were able to receive her message.

Ann Harrison, on behalf of her ailing Husband Ron, spoke on

The Underground Railroad

As descendants of escaped slaves, both Ann & Ron have delved deeply into the history of the complex and dangerous process of escaping to Canada. In a most detailed story, some of the highlights included:

- The story of slavery in Canada, particularly the discriminatory legislation that remained on Federal and Provincial books until late in the 20th century.
- The clever codes that were used to distribute secret routes and methods by:
 - Very secret messages in code that were guarded carefully.
 - Like most Spirituals and work songs, music gave clear messages, such as *Follow The Drinking Gourd*, i.e. the North Star.
 - Quilt Patterns: African textiles were used to display coded squares.
- Many helped, both on the way, such as the Quakers, and upon arrival in Canada. For example:

THE QUEEN'S BUSH SETTLEMENT, 1820-1867

In the early 19th century, the vast unsettled area between Waterloo County and Lake Huron was known as the "Queen's Bush." More than 1,500 free and formerly enslaved Blacks pioneered scattered farms throughout the Queen's Bush, starting circa 1820. Working together, these industrious and self-reliant settlers built churches, schools, and a strong and vibrant community life. In the 1840s, the government ordered the district surveyed, and many settlers could not afford to purchase the land they had laboured so hard to clear, and by 1850 migration out of the Queen's Bush had begun. Today African Canadians whose ancestors pioneered the Queen's Bush are represented in communities across Ontario.

Our speaker closed by reporting that Canada, in this 21st century, has come a long way in including all people as full citizens.

Coffee break

Management Reports:

- **Secretary.** *Doug Wrigglesworth*
 - The March minutes were reviewed.

- **Treasurer** *Via Doug Wrigglesworth*

From the Account presented at the last Management, we are still afloat. Management is developing a budget for the fiscal year to come.

- **Web Site** *Via Doug Wrigglesworth*
 - Webmaster Sunny had prepared a report on visitors as most often accessed pages over the past month.

- **Marketing Plan** *Past Pres Dick Furlong*

A new *ad hoc* position of Marketing Chair has been created. The need for such a position will be considered by Management annually. He will as a voting member of the Management Team. Dick Furlong has agreed to take the position for the coming year.

For the Marketing report – see attached.

Membership

David Elms

- A record attendance today - since Covid. Forty-two live and two virtual.
- Last meeting 34 live and one remote
- Membership stands at 78

Induction of New Members

President Bill welcomed two new members and introduced them to the audience,
Grant Campbell and ***John Vanderwielen***

Programs

Dave Brisley

Dave reviewed the sparkling list of upcoming speakers we will enjoy over the next few months.

WHO AM I?

New inductee Grant Campbell introduced himself with a most enthusiastic review of a most interesting life.

He was happily involved in School, Sports and Writing from his early years. He spoke of writing broadcast sports reports even from his imaginary “Press Box.” He went to school in Lakefield and was encouraged by his Grade 8 Teacher – and was able to carry on despite family tragedies. He also became friends with the novelist Margaret Laurence, another Lakefield resident.

After graduating in Journalism from Carleton, he decided to use his love of sports to encourage young people to have the same enthusiasm. He began a successful career as a Secondary School Phys Ed teacher.

Fellow members look forward to learning more from this enthusiastic new member.

Adjournment – 12:10 to lunch at Finn MacCools

Marketing Chair
Created new position
as a voting member of Management Team

RON ANDERSON
MILE BALLARD
DAVE LENNARD
PAUL BATH
DAVE ELMS
DAVE BRISLEY
Warren MACROBIE
SUNNY LAU

PROGAMS TO DATE

- Promo @Rotary
- Promo @Roxborough
- Poster Program
- New Brochure
- Business cards
- Lindsay Men's Club
- EUCHRE
- e Home Sho\|tv April 1/2

PROGAMS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

- Lindsay Men's Club, Exchange visits, golf
- Promo Recording
- Ribfest Participation May 26-28
- External Events {Queens Park ,Theatre ,Sports
- LETS DO LUNCH
- Barbeques- NewMakelt, Roxborough
- Xmas Lunch Format