



MEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF NEWMARKET
GENERAL MEETING
MINUTES

Wednesday, 21 October 2020
Virtual by ZOOM

President

Sunny Lau

About 40 members and guests signed into the meeting. Among the guests were DR. Sukhija Kamal, founder of the PROBUS Club of India and Shirley Roberts, President of PROBUS Global, from England.

President Sunny welcomed all and reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

An unexpected recess was called when the bandwidth available at the Sharon Temple made it impossible for Steve Muir to handle the crowd of ZOOMsters attending.

After an interval, Steve arrived at home with a sufficient band width to carry on.

As a result, Management Committee Reports were set aside in favour of the remainder of the program.

Who Am I? Warren MacRobie shared his progress from a student at Leaside High School, his fascination with Bridge (the game not the structure) as he studied engineering at U of T. Through taking advantage of a series of opportunities, he embarked in a life-long career in Computer engineering, eventually as an independent consultant for banks and other large corporations as they embraced the digital age. In retirement, with his wife Karen, he has travelled the world, enjoying the experience of meeting history where it happened.

Presentation:

The Sharon Temple and the Children of Peace
With Jim Pearson and Ian Proudfoot

Naqi Ahsan introduced our speakers, both members of the Board of Directors of the Sharon Temple Society.

In a remarkable presentation, these two gentlemen provided a picture of the temple and its community when it was built, early 19th century.

Ian Proudfoot began by describing the origins of the Children of Peace, founded by David Willson as a breakaway sect of the Quakers. Under the leadership of David Willson, the Children of Peace established a co-operative economy, founding Ontario's first credit union and a land-sharing system that helped make Hope (now Sharon) one of the most prosperous farming communities of the time. They established the first co-operative – the Farmers Storehouse marketing produce and lending money to local farmers. Caring and charitable, they also built the province's first homeless shelter. The Children of Peace cultivated music wholeheartedly both in and outside of the Temple recognizing its education and community-building value. They created the first civilian band in Canada and built the first organ in Ontario

Jim Pearson appeared in the character of his great, great, great grandfather, David Willson. Standing in the Temple, he responded to interview questions about the structure, the symbolism and the importance of the Temple.

Even for those such as this writer, who lived in the area and has visited the temple often, this presentation left us with a much clearer understanding of this important historic site.

Adjournment: about the noon hour.