



Kiwaniis[®]

CLUB OF BRANDON

Brandon Kiwanis Club Bulletin

An effort was made to sing Oh Canada to start the meeting. This is not easy to do collectively on Zoom and was not a roaring success. Perhaps we need a guest soloist! Volunteers?

Just as a starting note, the use of the screen share on Zoom is very effective. Using a laptop means I get a full screen presentation of the material (pictures, power point, maps etc) that the speaker wants to use for illustration.

Tom Mitchell, Zoom speaker for Sept 29th

Tom's topic was Manitoba's pre-confederation history. The main thesis was quite interesting, given the tendency for those of us in Brandon to think everything was launched from Winnipeg. It seems Brandon House was the real root of development in Manitoba.

Tom discussed the history of Brandon House as a Hudson's Bay post (there were several at different places along the Assiniboine actually) from 1793 AD. Using the full screen, Tom showed a 1791 map by McKay and Jarvis of the length of the Assiniboine river and the Souris with the Brandon Hills labeled as the Moosehead Hills. A key point was that McKay and Jarvis were sent from Albany House on James Bay in what is now Northern Ontario to establish an advance location to trade for pemmican from the Indians to provide a food reserve for further exploration and trade to the north-west. Brandon House number one was established Oct 9th, 1793 by McKay and crew. In an amusing way, Tom remarked that Brandon House became a meat packing establishment which we could think of as an early incarnation of Maple Leaf.

Later the North-West company established posts called Fort Souris nearby (a couple of posts over several years) that were to compete. Brandon House and Fort

Souris altered location from time-to-time for trading advantage but when the North-west company merged with the Hudson's Bay company only Brandon House remained.

A very interesting point was that Brandon House was instrumental in the establishment of the Selkirk settlement at the join of the Red and Assiniboine. The postmaster of Brandon House, a man named Fidler, was a cartographer and was assigned to map out the settlement and to arrange to supply food for the earliest arrivals. The historical root of Winnipeg was Brandon House.

What's happening at Kiwanis (meeting alternate Tuesdays at 12:00PM by Zoom)

- 1) **Oct 6th Business Meeting (with Lt. Gov. Mike Owens)**
- 2) **Oct 20th speaker Bill Mayberry and friends on HAM radio**
- 3) **Nov 10th**
- 4) **Nov 24th**
- 5) **Dec 8th**
- 6) **Dec 22nd**

John Rice, Bulletin editor

Hugh Cowan, photography