



PROBUS CANADA

“NEWSLETTER”

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March 2021



Jamie Doolittle, President
PROBUS CANADA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is in the air and various parts of the country are without any snow and indeed flowers are blooming and birds are chirping. These signs remind us to celebrate **National PROBUS Month** (N.P.M.) in March or April. Inside this issue you will see a **PROBUS** flag raising at Wasaga Beach attended by the Mayor and Bob MacNair in his capacity as V.P. of **PROBUS CANADA** as well as the Director of Ontario District #7 joined by four of the five local **PROBUS** Club Presidents.

This flag raising is one way some Clubs celebrate **N.P.M.** Clubs have celebrated in various ways, including Proclamations by a Mayor, having banners or flags flown, or writing an article for a local newspaper. In normal times many Clubs celebrate with a colour themed day including having a special Breakfast or Lunch party with a cake.

Zoom continues to be a very important system we use to allow our Members to keep in touch with one another while also attending regular Club meetings. I have had the pleasure of being a guest speaker at several Clubs via Zoom. I am so pleased, as I'm sure most of you are, with the success of our Zoom program. I have written to all the Zoom Mentors including Director Martin Capper and Dan Clements, our Zoom Founders, to personally thank them for their assistance and dedication to **PROBUS**. This week I am attending a local Club in Ontario District #1 to again be the guest speaker. While Zoom is terrific, I know we are all looking forward at some point to resuming our in-person meetings.

This brings me to the point of reminding our Members across the country as they prepare to meet in person, commence walking, hiking, golf, and basically doing any number of things together, please ensure you follow the guidelines announced by our Federal, Provincial, and Municipal Governments plus your local District Health Office as well as your Club landlord. We have been through too much to throw caution to the wind. Quoting my old Uncle John again, “Let's make haste slowly!”

Many of our Clubs have increased their Membership year over year and, on top of that, we are aware of approximately 7 new Clubs waiting to anxiously join our **PROBUS** family. Thus, please continue to invite your friends and new neighbours to join a Zoom or in person meeting (where allowed) and to consider submitting an application form to join a **PROBUS** Club.

Let's not have any retired or semi-retired individual living in our midst not enjoying the fun, fellowship, and learning we enjoy at **PROBUS**.

BE A FRIEND—BRING A FRIEND

GET CONNECTED --- STAY CONNECTED



The two PROBUS Clubs in **Cobourg, Ont.** were spurred into action after reading the inspiring article by Dominik Wisniewski in the Northumberland News about the plight of the Cobourg Lions Community Centre. Normally both the PROBUS Club of Cobourg Northshore and the PROBUS Club of Northumberland meet separately twice a month at the Lions Centre. This has not been possible for the last year.

The Presidents of the two Clubs, Linda Sedgwick-Girard and Fraser Maxwell, respectively chatted with the President of PROBUS CANADA, Jamie Doolittle, a Cobourg resident, and they arranged for the Lions Centre Manager, Cindy Barrett, to receive \$500.00 from each Club to help the Lions Centre during the pandemic.

PROBUS is an association of retired and semi-retired men and women who get together for fun, fellowship, and to hear from interesting guest speakers. More information including Club locations in Northumberland and across Canada can be found at www.probus.org or by telephoning Jamie Doolittle at 416-892-6498..

Photo Lto R: Linda Sedgwick-Girard; Pres. PROBUS Cobourg Northshore; Jamie Doolittle, Pres. PROBUS CANADA; Cindy Barrett; LIONS Club ; Fraser Maxwell, Pres. PROBUS .Northumberland. .

A Salute to an outstanding Canadian and Member of PROBUS Saskatoon.

Mr. Gary Gulliekson

Dear Gary;

On behalf of our Board of Directors and approximately forty thousand Canadian PROBUS Members it is my privilege and honor to Congratulate you on 'being awarded the

“ORDER OF CANADA”.

Your contribution to the Art of Music is well known and the University of Saskatchewan and several choirs in the City are very, very fortunate to have benefitted from your talent and your dedication to music. As well, you have been on the Board of Education for thirty-five years and how fortunate we are that you were a Charter Member of the **PROBUS** Club of Saskatoon. Your guidance and commitment to **PROBUS**, including being on the Speakers Committee for many years has helped your Club double in size from the original eighty Charter Members.

Again Gary, we are proud of you for receiving this very prestigious honor.

WELL DONE ! ‘

Very Sincerely yours

**Jamie Doolittle , President
PROBUS CANADA**

A MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR MARTIN CAPPER RE THE ZOOM SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Zoom support program is currently working on presenting a workshop on hybrid meetings for everyone who has registered for Zoom support. The mentors and several of the Directors have already met on this topic and we believe we have good advice that can be offered to all clubs as they emerge from lockdown and resume in person meetings possibly with restricted numbers. It is anticipated that the workshop will be scheduled for the first half of April.

Approximately half of our clubs are now known to be using Zoom and it is entirely possible that Zoom may be with us beyond the restraints of the current pandemic as it would permit members who are "snowbirds" to continue participation through the winter months and allow us to attract speakers from other than our local areas. MARTIN CAPPER,

(martin@martincapper.com)

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**CARL HENRY INGEBERTSON
PAST PRESIDENT- PROBUS CANADA
R.I.P.**

PROBUS CANADA

....LOST A GOOD FRIEND & ONE OF OUR FOUNDING MEMBERS RECENTLY WITH THE PASSING OF OUR GOOD BUDDY "CARL". A CLOSE FRIEND AND A CO-WORKER OF OUR FOUNDER JOHN MORRIS , CARL WAS INVOLVED VERY MUCH IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE FORMATION OF "PROBUS CANADA", AS HE WAS RIGHT UP TO HIS MOVING ON TO BIGGER AND BETTER THINGS. HE WILL BE SORELY MISSED BY ALL, ESPECIALLY HIS BELOVED FAMILY !

THANKS CARL AND ADIEU !

AN IMPORTANT INSURANCE MESSAGE !

For those Clubs who may have concerns, the D & O coverage and Third Party Liability Insurance stays in effect throughout the time between when we pay the premium and the Certificates are issued. We have paid the premium and the Certificates have been mailed to all Clubs. You may relax you and your Club are well protected and we suggest you keep your certificate in a safe place.

PROBUS CANADA'S ZOOM MENTORSHIP SUPPORT PROGRAM

by Marlene Pearce - Immediate Past President of PROBUS Canada

Once the Pandemic hit us in March, 2020 our Canadian PROBUS Clubs meetings were at a standstill. Enter **Zoom!** Many of us had never even heard the word before. Clubs across Canada have responded unanimously and over half of our 256 Clubs are now involved.

The Zoom Support Program (initiated by PROBUS CANADA Director, Martin Capper, and Cambridge Men's Club Member, Dan Clements) has been very successful. There are 21 Mentors, helping our Clubs across Canada, using Zoom to reach out to their Members for Virtual Meetings. Each of our thirteen Districts was assigned one or two mentors. These people attended the Clubs meetings, acting as Host for at least two or three meetings. Meetings were recorded and could be distributed to absent Members.

Some of the Virtual Activities that took place, in addition to regular meetings, were Book Clubs, Trivia Nights, Wine Tasting, Bingo, Knitting Groups. Even a Cooking Class (the member sends out their recipe and while making it, you can have the ingredients on hand, and join in doing your own meal. Some apparently just had a glass of wine and watched the procedure. One Club had their Christmas Party on Zoom dressing in Holiday Attire that consisted of funny hats and sweaters mostly red and green. The special speaker was a Stand-Up Comedian followed by Christmas Trivia and Winners of the Twelve Days of Christmas Wine Survivor Contest being revealed.

It has been wonderful to see how different Clubs serve their members during these particularly challenging and stressful times.

Along with the Zoom Support Program, Clubs have continued to have a monthly newsletter which provides everything from games, puzzles, recipes, and pictures. Also, several Clubs have been using a 'Phone Contact Program' where Management Committee members are assigned to contact, on a fairly regular basis, each Member of their Club just to touch base and have a friendly chat to see if any special concerns need to be addressed. This is especially important for members who live alone, and it truly shows that the foundation of PROBUS, namely Fellowship, is being addressed.

We are all looking forward to the day our Meetings get back to normal, but for now our Clubs are staying active and creative and enjoying the new Pandemic programs.

Yes, We do get letters

Hello Reg

I do not know if you are receiving information about the ways **PROBUS** Clubs in Canada are celebrating **PROBUS Month**. I was asked by our President Ron Wood to send an email regarding what we have done to celebrate.

We have done so with the launch of a new website (still at www.probus-northshorevancouver.ca).

We are also hosting "**Pop-up**" Zoom meetings (chat rooms) several times a month in addition to our regular monthly meeting. We have received very positive feedback from the members regarding these pop-up Zoom meetings, many of whom have provided topics for discussion. These chat rooms do provide a way for the social interaction that they have missed during the pandemic due to the health guidelines preventing large gatherings. Thank you.

Regards, *Linda Metcalfe*

The PROBUS Club of Northshore Vancouver

linda@metcalf.org

Proclamation of PROBUS Month in Wasaga Beach and Flag Raising

The Event took place on Tuesday, March 2nd at 2 pm at the Town Hall in Wasaga Beach, Ontario. The Event was limited to 10 people due to COVID-19 Restrictions.

In attendance were the Mayor of Wasaga Beach, Nina Bifolchi, three Town Councillors, 4 Presidents of Probus Clubs in Wasaga Beach- Liz Ness, Els Meyer, Gene Stephenson, Ron Hanson- and myself, Bob MacNair, Director-Ontario District 7.

One picture shows Liz Ness with Mayor, Nina Bifolchi with the Proclamation. Mayor Bifolchi read aloud the Proclamation of PROBUS Month in Wasaga Beach before the raising of the PROBUS Flag.
Sincerely, Bob MacNair, Director-Ontario District 7 (Vice-President, PROBUS CANADA)



Another example of “PROBUS at WORK”

The PROBUS Club of Bradford and the PROBUS Club of BWG are honored to fly their Flag for PROBUS MONTH. What a difference a year makes. This time last year they had 30 Members for the Flag Raising followed by lunch nearby. This year they had to listen to the requirements of the town re people allowed , followed by going home !

In the photo Mayor Rob Keffer reads the Proclamation while PROBUS Presidents Glen Green and David McMillan , with helping hands, hold the banner !