

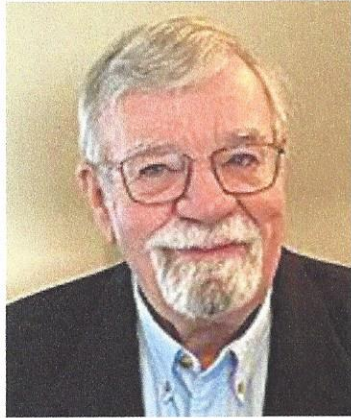


# PROBUS CANADA

## “NEWSLETTER”

Published for the Members of PROBUS CLUBS in CANADA by: **PROBUS CANADA**

June 2021



**PRESIDENT**  
**ROBERT 'BOB' MACNAIR**

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am grateful for the confidence that the Board of Directors has given me to serve as PROBUS CANADA's President for 2021-2022. I am also very proud to follow in the footsteps of PROBUS Pioneer, **Bernard "Bud" Crookes**. Bud was a Founding Member and First President of the PROBUS Club of Collingwood (Club #4) that was Chartered on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1987. He was a former Treasurer of PROBUS CENTRE- CANADA which was incorporated on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1995 and was its Chairman from 1997-98. Bud was involved in the promotion of 15 Clubs in Simcoe and Muskoka Counties and in Port Elgin on the shores of Lake Huron. Bud was also a recipient of the **John R Morris Award**. He and his wife **June**, developed and published the first International Web Page in 1996. **Bud** passed on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and **June** followed shortly after on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The last year has been very challenging for all of us due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. As our PROBUS Clubs were founded on the "principle of fellowship", it has been especially disappointing for all of us that we cannot meet our fellow members "in person".

To help cope with these challenges, Ontario District 4 Director, **Martin Capper**, and PROBUS Club of Cambridge Member, **Dan Clements**, initiated our **Zoom Support Program**. This Program has been very successful. We have 21 Mentors who have volunteered to help our Clubs across the country use Zoom as a way of reaching Club Members with Monthly Meetings and several Club activities like Book Clubs, Trivia Nights, Bingo, Wine-tasting, Happy Hours, Coffee Chat Groups, Card Games, Cooking Clubs, etc.

The Zoom Support Team is helping Clubs learn about possibly holding "Hybrid Meetings" in the future. These are Meetings where a limited number of Club Members could meet in their usual venue "in person", while other Club Members would continue to participate via Zoom. Of course, we all look forward to the day when we can all again meet "in person". I want to congratulate the leadership of our Club Presidents and Members of Management Committees who have continued to serve their memberships by regularly contacting members via emails, "phone contact programs", and Monthly Newsletters which share recipes, puzzles, humour, recognition of Birthdays etc. and also include pictures of outdoor activities that follow the protocols of Provincial and Health Region Guidelines.

The changes to our Board Executive for 2021-22 include the following. **Jamie Doolittle** becomes Past President. Jamie has worked tirelessly throughout the year to serve all of us. In many ways, his year, as President, was possibly even busier than usual and it was very unfortunate that his opportunities to visit Clubs were extremely limited. Our Past President, **Marlene Pearce**, will serve one more year on the Board of Directors as Director of the Atlantic Region. I thank Marlene for her guidance and for the many hours that we discussed PROBUS issues on our telephones. **Keith McGregor**, Director of British Columbia District #1, will continue to serve as our Secretary. **Martin Capper**, Director of Ontario District 4, has taken on the role as our Treasurer. **Brenda Andrews** is our Vice-President. She has been very active in promoting new Clubs. Brenda is the Director of Ontario District 2, which is the largest District in PROBUS CANADA with 34 Clubs. Our Board of Directors had one major change this year. **Bob Boone** has retired after serving for 6 years. He contributed a great deal over that time. He was instrumental in bringing about our new National Website. Bob was our 2018-2019 President. We welcome Bob's replacement, **Bill Willson**, as the new Director of Ontario District 3. Bill is a member of the PROBUS Club of Burlington Lakeshore. We had a very major change to our Support Staff. **Gordon Hutton** retired as our Financial Manager. We thank Gordon for his many years of service and expertise that he has given to PROBUS CANADA.

We welcome his replacement, **Doug Cucheron**. Doug is a member of the PROBUS Club of Vancouver.

We thank **Reg Whynott**, our Managing Director, for his ongoing service. Reg deals with the everyday operations of our Society. He has been my Mentor since I became a Board Director in September 2017.

It was March 2020, when COVID-19 challenged all of us. We had two new Clubs Chartered earlier in the year: **Port Stanley** in February and **Bobcaygeon** in March, 2020. Several other Clubs were in the process of becoming members of PROBUS CANADA. Those were, of course, all put on hold. When we return to more normal times, we hope to see a growth in both the number of Clubs and in overall membership. It is interesting to note that 49 Clubs reported an increase in their membership for the 2021 year. (Cont'd on Page 2.)



(President's Message – cont'd) On a personal note, my wife, **Diane**, and I moved to Collingwood from Brampton in July, 2009. I retired after 37 years of teaching Grades 1-8 for the Peel Board of Education and taught in Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon. Diane was also an elementary school teacher. I belong to the two Men's PROBUS Clubs in Collingwood and was the President of the PROBUS Club of Collingwood 2016-17. Diane is a member and Co-Chair of Membership of The PROBUS Club of Harbourlands, one of the three Collingwood Women's Clubs and together we are members of the PROBUS Club of Mountain View, Collingwood. Diane and I have a blended family of 4 sons and 7 grandchildren and, like so many of you, we have truly missed seeing all of them and sharing Birthdays and Seasonal Celebrations during these very uncertain and stressful times due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We all look forward to the days when we can again be with all of our family members and also experience the wonderful opportunities that our PROBUS Clubs can offer for all of us .....

**FELLOWSHIP --- FRIENDSHIP --- LEARNING --- and most of all ... FUN !**

**GET CONNECTED - STAY CONNECTED !**



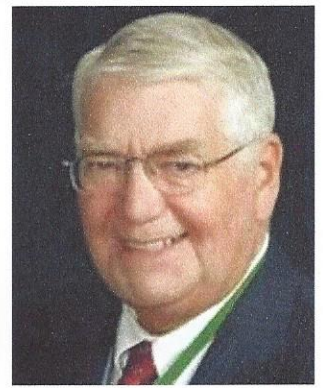
Bob Boone (Past President)



Bill Willson (new Director)



Brenda Andrews (Vice Pres)

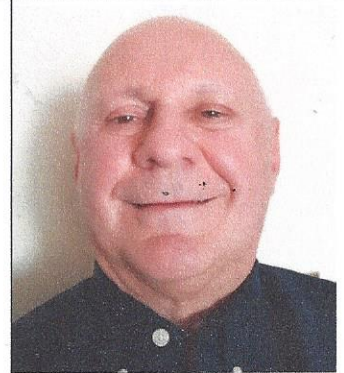


David Ricketts (Director)

It was an interesting time at PROBUS CANADA when long time Veteran of the Board of Directors, Bob Boone surrendered his seat to newly elected Director Past President Bill Willson of the Burlington Lakeshore Club in Ontario District #3. Bob retired after more than six full years of dedicated service, including that of President, and Bill has large shoes to fill as he assumes his new duties. At the same time, during the Nomination / Election process both Brenda Andrews and David Ricketts retained their seats on the Board for a second three year period as they were re-elected for a second term "by acclamation". Special thanks to Bob Boone for his major contribution over the past six years and also to Brenda and David for a most successful three year term and "welcome back" for term # 2 and a warm "WELCOME" to Bill Willson.



And the changes continue at **PROBUS CANADA** as our good friend **Gordon Hutton** (left) retires after 15 years as our Financial Manager and turns his duties over to **Douglas Cucheron** (right) who is well qualified for the position and the related duties. Gordon is currently a Member of the Orca PROBUS Club in Comox, B.C. and Douglas is a Member of the Vancouver PROBUS Club, both long time Members of PROBUS. We wish for these gentlemen a long and enjoyable relationship with PROBUS in the years ahead and we are indebted to both of them. We **thank** Gordon for his many years of dedication and look forward to our relationship with Douglas in PROBUS . .





## CURRENT OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### OF PROBUS CANADA

- President.... Robert MacNair**, Collingwood, Ont.  
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Tel: (705) 444-9161  
Email: bdmacnair@sympatico.ca
- Vice President ... Brenda Andrews**, Bradford, Ont.  
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Tel: (905) 778-1992  
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- Treasurer ..... Martin Capper**, Milton, Ont.  
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Email: martin@martincapper.com
- Secretary ..... Keith McGregor**, Nanaimo, B.C.  
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Tel: (250) 704-6122  
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- Past-President.... Jamie Doolittle**, Cobourg, Ont.  
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- David Scott** ..... Vancouver, B.C. (B. C. # 2)  
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Email; david@scott.ca
- Marlene Pearce** ..... Moncton, N.B. ( Atlantic Region )  
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- Bill Willson** ..... Burlington, Ont. ( Ont. Dist. # 3 )  
Tel. (905) 334-0509  
Email: billwillson601@gmail.com

### NON-VOTING VOLUNTEER STAFF

- Financial Manager.....Douglas Cucheron**  
Tel: (604) 687-2006 Email: dac2004@telus.net
- Managing Director ..... Reg Whynott,**  
Tel: (250) 757-8026 Email; rwhynott@shaw.ca



Even in the most difficult of times there are some Awards that just can't wait. PROBUS CANADA Past President Marlene Pearce had the distinct privilege and pleasure to present a certificate of "Congratulations" to President Michael Prangnell on the occasion of the **30<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the PROBUS Club of Greater Moncton (Men)** .The Club chartered with 54 members and today show 168 Members... a good cause for a Celebration by **Club #16** .

### **PROBUS LAPEL PINS**

Regular PROBUS lapel pins are \$5.50 each in orders of less than 25 but only \$4.50 each in orders of 25 or more.

The 5, 10, 15, 20,25 and 30 year pins are \$5.50 each regardless of number ordered and the President pin, the Past President pin and the PROBUS Canada pin are \$8.00 each regardless of the number ordered. The price includes taxes and shipping cost. Pins are shipped with an invoice and return envelope.

To order your pins, or for more information, please contact our Managing Director Reg Whynott by regular mail at P.O.Box 292, Qualicum Beach, B.C V9K 1S8 or by email at ...rwhynott@shaw.ca ... or by phone at (250) 757-8026. ( Your order will be shipped within 48 hours – weekends not counted.)



### **MARTIN CAPPER -- News From ZOOM - - - Hybrid Meetings**

In the last edition of the PROBUS CANADA Newsletter I wrote about an upcoming session on Hybrid meetings. That session took place on April 15 with almost 300 Probians from across Canada in attendance. Dan Clements and his team did an excellent job in presenting a relatively simple approach to what initially appears to be a daunting prospect,- how to cope with physical limitations on meetings while allowing the entire Club membership to participate !

With Ontario having just announced its "re-opening plans" our Zoom workshop could not have been more timely and if the number of discussions that flowed through the chat box during the workshop is any indication interest in the topic among our Clubs is extremely high. Dan has followed up the workshop with more information in his ZOOM support newsletter including links to two YouTube videos by a Rotary Club on possible ways of dealing with hybrid meetings. If you are contemplating your own Club's reopening plan I would encourage you, if you have not already done so, to register with the Zoom support program and review the available materials.

Members of your Club may have already registered but that should not deter you from registering even if it is just to access the database of materials that Dan and his team have built up over the last 15 months - [please register here](#) ! Perhaps you just wish to access specific information on hybrid meetings then I suggest you email me and I will be happy to forward a copy of our last Zoom support newsletter to you.

**Martin Capper** ..... [martin@martincapper.com](mailto:martin@martincapper.com) District Director Ontario District #4 .

### **"BRADFORD PROBUS DOES IT AGAIN ! "**

The Bradford PROBUS Club was to celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary last June 2020. As part of the festivities we had planned a beautiful luncheon, then an evening party with the theme Starry, Starry Night. We had ordered yellow and blue M & M's that we were going to use to make up table favors for each of our guests at the luncheon, as well as a commemorative 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary bookmark. Well we all know what happened !!!!!!! We had hoped that things would get back to normal, and that we could still find a way to celebrate the special event in person but alas it wasn't to be. So, as we were approaching our 11<sup>th</sup> year, and as an additional way to stay connected, several of our Executive delivered the little surprise, all packaged up, to each of our members at their homes. Judging by the feedback received, our members were delighted to not only receive the goodie bag, but really enjoyed the brief outdoor social distanced visit. It was a beautiful sunny spring day and getting out to deliver the little surprise was as much a pleasure for myself and the helpers as it was for the people receiving the gifts!

**From Brenda Andrews – Ontario District #2 Director**

### **PROBUS CLUB OF DUNCAN – CRAZY COVIT 2021 CAR RALLY**

By Marg Brown – PROBUS DUNCAN

Four Members of the PROBUS Club of Duncan bored with sitting around with COVID took it upon themselves to develop a "Crazy Covid Car Rally" with the thought of getting some of our Members out of their houses and providing them with a little fun while being safe. Our Members were invited to complete the rally at their leisure with at least one other person, hopefully a PROBUS Member from their bubble to join the fun. The Crazy Car Rally was created as a drive and walk rally event. Members had items to search out during their drive plus 4 different walks to take on a sunny spring day. It was not intended to be completed in one day but to be continued another day at where they left off remembering where that was and staying socially distanced. The idea was to get out and enjoy the spring sun and **HAVE FUN !**

Participants answered the more than 70 questions and statements and trekked through walkways, parks , playgrounds and even an estuary. For some they covered new ground they didn't even know existed within their own community. Our event started on Mar. 17<sup>th</sup> and ended on April 30<sup>th</sup>. 51 PROBUS Members , friends and family, along with a number of furry friends participated. Fun gift bags were assembled and delivered to all participants. All following the rules re visits and distancing. It was the perfect event to do while everyone was "locked down" it was the perfect answer to the need for a change of pace.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about our rally please do not hesitate to contact Marg Brown at our Club.....

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