



Message from the President



I am honoured to write this first letter as President of PROBUS Canada. I have been a member of the Escarpment Probus Club of Milton for just short of ten years and Probus has become an

important part of life for my wife Norma and me. We have travelled with our club, played cards, tasted wines and whiskies, and enjoyed fine dining with friends whom I hadn't even met 10 years ago. The Probus motto of "Get Connected Stay Connected" has certainly helped ensure our well-being as we move forward with the pandemic largely behind us.

We're Growing Again!

I am pleased to see that our membership numbers have resumed an upward trend and your Board is committed to doing what it can to help support that. New members bring new life, vitality, and ideas to our clubs and help to keep them relevant. New members also are a valuable source of management team candidates. I know that for many of our clubs, the single largest challenge is finding people prepared to step forward and take leadership roles. I would suggest that you consider management team membership as part of the fun of being a Probian - it shouldn't be a challenge, it should be fun! I certainly enjoyed my five years on the management team of my Club.

Board Executive

I am pleased to introduce the Board executive for 2023/24 elected at our AGM in April:

- Inga Thomson Hilton, Vice President
- Brenda Andrews, Past President
- Jack Zaleski, Secretary
- Bill Willson, Treasurer

– Craig Greenwood, Director at Large

District Directors

I extend my sincere thanks to three of our District Directors who retired from the Board in April – Dennis Pommen, Alberta; Lorna Eadie Hocking ON5; and Bob MacNair, ON7. We were delighted to welcome three new Directors – Martin Buscher, ON7; Bob Middaugh, ON8 and Doug Byers, ON9. We are currently searching for Directors to serve for Ontario District 5 and Alberta.

Please remember that your District Directors are there to help you and don't hesitate to contact them not only to ask for advice but also to offer advice. If something is working well in your Club tell your District Director about it so that other Clubs may benefit from your club's approach. I have found the most enjoyable part of being a District Director is finding out the different ways that our Clubs operate. I have also found that Clubs are much more interested in hearing what other Clubs do than what PROBUS Canada is up to! So share your magazines and newsletters as they are an endless source of ideas. If you get a good guest speaker, tell your neighbouring clubs about it!

Above all else have fun!

Sincerely,

Martin Capper,
President and Director ON4
PROBUS Canada

Get Connected. Stay Connected

And congratulations go to.....

On May 11, **Jamie Doolittle** was presented with PROBUS Canada's **John R. Morris Founders Award** for "outstanding dedication, commitment, leadership and promotion of Probus across Canada". Jamie is well known and respected for the contributions he has made to his club, his district, and the national organization. He and his wife Carol have been members of the Northumberland club since 2008. Jamie hosted golf events and social functions, edited the newsletter for two years, and served as the club's Vice-President, and President. In 2015, Jamie became Director of Ontario District 1; in 2019 was elected President of PROBUS Canada and in 2020 assumed the role of Past



President of PROBUS Canada. Click [here](#) to watch the award presentation.

Left to right: **Craig Greenwood**, Director Ontario District 1; **Brenda Andrews**, Past President PROBUS Canada; **Jamie Doolittle**; **Martin Capper**, President PROBUS CANADA; and **Florence Fletcher**, President Probus Club of Northumberland.

The Probus Club of Belleville celebrated 30 years in April! Honoured guests included **Craig Greenwood**, District Director ON1; **John Chisholm**, President of the sponsoring Rotary club and his wife **Wanda**; Charter members: **Joyce and Lawrence Foster**, **Carroll Hopkinson**, and **Leon Hill**; and eleven Past Presidents including **Bert Moore**, Past President 1997/98 who was also the Club Historian for over 20 years. Sadly, **Clare Westheuser**, who had been President an unequaled three times, passed away just a few days before.



Left to right: **Carroll Hopkinson** and **John Chisholm**



Left to right: **Bert Moore** and **Craig Greenwood**



Left to right: **Cliff Prentice**, President and **John Chisholm**



The Probus Club of Uxbridge celebrated its five year anniversary in June! Congratulations to a vibrant club of over 200 members!

From left to right: **Brenda Andrews**, Past President, PROBUS Canada; **Kathy Clulow**, President and **Chuck Heroux**, Past President.

The PROBUS Club of Dartmouth NS Celebrated its 10 Year Anniversary in June. Launched with a record 77 Charter members, the club is going strong with 28 of the original members still active!



*Left to right: the Charter Management Committee and their roles at the time: **Ian Travers**, Secretary; **Clive Mason**, President-Elect; **Janet McKinnon**, Treasurer; **Terry Rowell**, President; **Oliver O'Rourke**, Member Services; and **Bill Scott**, Membership.*



Janet McKinnon, President presented Terry Rowell, the Charter President, with a Life Membership plaque and pin.

The Probus Club of Cobourg Northshore Celebrates Two Decades!



The twenty-one Charter members who have been attending continuously since 2003

The celebration in June included seventy-eight current and past members who gathered to remember the many accomplishments and past entertainment events and to acknowledge the years of service by members. Bruce Steel, a former President gave an entertaining recap of the club's first 20 years. After lunch, the Bay City Quartet from Brighton entertained with familiar songs which even inspired some dancing!

*Left to right: **Brenda Andrews**, Past President, PROBUS Canada; **Lynda Ghent**, President; and **Craig Greenwood**, District Director ON1*



New PROBUS Club of Red Deer #275 celebrated its official Charter on May 11, 2023.



After almost five years of outreach and a newspaper announcement in November, the Charter Club finally formed with 34 enthusiastic members. Red Deer is the tenth Club formed in Alberta. The event included the club's Management Team, the South Edmonton Club Sponsor and special recognition by Deputy and Red Deer Historian Mayor **Michael Dawe**. Sponsoring Club South Edmonton VP **Patricia McKendrick** presented President **Sheila** with a \$300 start-up and gift cheque to honour the formation. **Dennis Pommen**, District Director for Alberta, presented further acknowledgments and the Charter to the Club.

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PROBUS CANADA CITATION AWARDS

Recognizing individuals who have had a lasting effect on their club, district and/or PROBUS Canada. Click [here](#) for details on how to submit a nomination.

In May, the **Women's Probus Club of North Shore Vancouver** presented two deserving members with awards for their dedication and efforts in sustaining the Club through the tough Covid years.



*Left to right: **Carolyn Armstrong**, President and **Joan McLeod**.*

As Speaker Program Chair, **Joan McLeod**, successfully pivoted from in-person meetings to Zoom Webinars, learning new technology and

maintaining high participation; she worked closely with the incoming Speaker Chair to ensure the continued success of the speaker program; and located a new Club event venue.



*Left to right: **Carolyn Armstrong**, President and **Margaret Landstrom**.*

Having served as a President and Past President, **Margaret Landstrom**, undertook the tough task during Covid to recruit volunteers for the vacant Management

Committee positions. Through her persuasive ways and connections with Club members and other North Shore clubs, Margaret successfully recruited volunteers who still serve on the Management team today.



*Left to right: **Dennis Pommen** and **Peter Rausch**, President*

The Probus Club of South Edmonton presented member **Dennis Pommen** with a Citation Award in April. Since joining the club in 2008/09 Dennis held several positions - Editor, Vice President, President and Past President – plus he also served as the Alberta District Director on the Board of PROBUS Canada for the past six years, retiring in April. Dennis's numerous accomplishments over the years resulted in the growth of our Club and other Albertan Clubs and significant contributions at the national level.



***Dennis Pommen** with his retirement gift from PROBUS Canada*

AT THE CLUBS



On April 20th, representatives from 18 **Probus Clubs in Ontario District 5** met in Stratford for an exciting day of sharing information and ideas about all things PROBUS. Participants attended two workshops, enjoyed a guest speaker from the Stratford Festival Theatre, and laughed with the mayor of Stratford as he figured out just what PROBUS is all about. Special thanks to the **Stratford PROBUS Club** for hosting this special event and the organizing committee: **Lorna Eadie Hocking**, District 5 Director (now retired); **Shirley Lacey**, President and **Robin Woodyard**, Vice President of the Stratford PROBUS Club; **Kelly Romanchuk**, President Grand Bend and Area Women's PROBUS Club; and, **Helen Pepler**, President Hanover Area PROBUS Club.



On April 25th, the **Women's PROBUS Club of Saugeen Shores**, celebrated PROBUS month with cake, decorations, door prizes, and a special guest speaker. **Lorna Eadie Hocking**, Director ON5 brought greetings from PROBUS CANADA and shared a presentation "PROBUS - Past, Present & Future".

From left to right: **Nancy White**, Vice President, **Karen Plaskett**, President, and **Lorna Eadie Hocking**

Happy 35 years to PROBUS Canada! In October, members of the **Probus Club of Brighton**, and three members of the **Probus Club of Presqu'ile** enjoyed lunch and cake to celebrate PROBUS Canada's 35 year anniversary with **Craig Greenwood**, District Director ON1, as the guest speaker.



PROBUS presence at the Newmarket Ontario Home Show in April! The Newmarket women's and men's Probus clubs were represented and the Town Mayor and local MPP were there too. There was a good turnout and lots of positive interest in PROBUS.





In Memory of Muriel Dodge

Muriel passed away on June 18 and is remembered fondly by her home club. They described some of her contributions: "During her tenure as past president Muriel took on the task of organizing Rendezvous B.C. in Salmon Arm in 2007. This was a coming together of Probus clubs throughout B.C. It was extremely successful, and our club benefited very well financially, and it certainly put us on the Probus map." "Muriel was on the "New Club Development Team" along with Bob Priest that spearheaded the sponsorship of Probus Club Vernon (2008), Probus Club Kamloops (2009), a 2nd Probus club in Salmon Arm (2012) and Copper Island in Blind Bay (2012)."

President, PROBUS Canada (2015-2016); District Director BC3 (2011-2017); and President of Probus Club Shuswap (2005 – 2006).

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE OFFICE...

In May, PROBUS Canada's District Directors from across Canada gathered in Vaughan, ON for a Workshop and Orientation.



There was a special presentation by representatives from our insurance provider, Johnson, as well as many sharing and learning sessions. Thank you to our planning committee, Martin Capper, Inga Thomson Hilton, Brenda Andrews, and GM Wendy Machmer. Special thank you also to presenters Martin Buscher and Douglas Cucheron.



Photos courtesy of Mary Campbell.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you very much for the March issue of the PROBUS Canada newsletter. I was delighted to see a photo of the charter members of the Westside Probus Club but there were two people missing... my wife, Dianne, and me. We lived in Kelowna from 1999 to 2006 and were Charter members of the Westside club. In fact, the club had its start in our living room on Gregory Road. Joyce and Gordon Springate, Michael and Sheila Taylor, and Dianne and me were lamenting that the Kelowna Probus Club was men only. We wanted there to be a club for men and women so we got the ball rolling. I was never a club President but I was the first Editor of their newsletter and was in that role until we moved back to Ontario. Since moving to Ancaster, I have been President and newsletter Editor of the Hamilton Mountain Club (now defunct) and was President and am now newsletter Editor for the Ancaster club.

I have a lot of fond memories of all three groups!

*Cheers,
Harley Auty*

DID YOU KNOW....?



Your club can use the PROBUS Canada SurveyMonkey account to conduct your own surveys. Click [here](#) for details.

We have a refreshed Probus logo!

Based on input from clubs across Canada, the logo has a slightly streamlined look and updated colours. Click [here](#) to view and download from our website.



CONTACT A REPRESENTATIVE TODAY:

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Note from the General Manager, Wendy Machmer

I would like to thank Lori McDowell, for being our editor for this issue of PROBUS Canada Connections!

Please send articles and photos for the next issue to gm@probuscanada.ca.