



Message from the President



It seems like only yesterday that I started my year as President of PROBUS Canada and yet here I am writing what will be my last letter to members of our Clubs. The last year has been a busy one for PROBUS Canada and I

need to pay tribute to our support team of Wendy Machmer, General Manager; Doug Cucheron, Financial Manager; Martin Buscher, our former Webmaster; and Ron Baer, his successor as Webmaster.

Your directors have also been busy not only with their individual Districts and Clubs but also with matters Corporate. In particular I must thank Past President Brenda Andrews for, in addition to her own District, Brenda looked after Ontario District #5. In this vein thanks are also due to Vice President Inga Thomson Hilton who, in addition to her own District, made herself available to the Clubs of Alberta. I was very pleased to attend Zoom meetings of the Club Presidents of these two Districts and I am delighted to see that these Districts will likely have new District Directors going forward.

I would also like to recognize the work done by our Marketing Committee under Craig Greenwood. You will have already seen some of their early work on our website and I am pleased to say there is more to come and all of it good and specifically designed to help our Clubs spread the message of PROBUS

enabling more retirees to enjoy friendship, fun and learning. I am sure Craig will forgive me for shortening this important Committee's impressive full title!

Our Insurance portfolio under the watchful eye of Canon David Ricketts has expanded to add an offering of Home and Auto Insurance to our popular Health and Travel offering available to our members.

As a Director of PROBUS Canada my biggest thrill has been to visit with our Clubs. Over the past year I have been at The Cambridge Club meetings more than any other Club. These were very special occasions as I was there on two occasions to present birthday greetings to members who had reached the 100 year milestone. In January it was John Wright who was being honoured - he also received Certificates from the Club and the City and took great pride in telling all three of us that he had already received best wishes from The Prime Minister and His Majesty King Charles III.

I will finish by thanking all of our Directors and our support team for all of the work that they have done and will continue to do for PROBUS Canada.

Sincerely,

Martin Capper,
President and Director, Ontario District 4
PROBUS Canada

Get Connected. Stay Connected

NOTICE OF PROBUS CANADA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting for PROBUS Canada will be held on Friday, April 26, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time by Zoom. A representative of each member club may register to attend the AGM as either a non-voting participant or a voting participant who has notified the Board Secretary in writing that their club has withdrawn its proxy from their District Director. Further details will be sent out to all clubs.

And congratulations go to.....

Probus Club of Parksville the first on Vancouver Island to celebrate 30 years!



On November 20, **Ian Kennedy**, Director, BC District 1 (left) presented the club's 30-year certificate to President, **Doreen Mackay Dunn**.



Ian Kennedy congratulated the two longest serving directors in the club. Left to right: **Helen Shaw** - 11 years as Social, President, and Treasurer; and **Judy Wood** - 18 years as Social, President, and Newsletter.



Six members, in the club for over 25 years, were recognized. Back row left to right: **Ian Kennedy**, **Wayne Stewart**, **Bill Stoddart** and **Gerry Schofield**. Front row: **Fred Collins**, **Jim Nash**, **Judy Wood**.



Ten Past Presidents attended.



PROBUS Club of St. John's Region Newfoundland Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Serendipity permitted **Grace Kell**, a Newfoundland native who was visiting "The Rock" with her husband Seymour for the holidays, to step in on behalf of Regional Director, **Mary Campbell** to present the club's 20th anniversary certificate. The club celebrated the anniversary with a bus trip to Carbonear for the day where they had lunch, visited a couple of museums, and Clark's Beach for a distillery tour. They had a ball!



Left to right: **Grace Kell** presenting the club's 20th Anniversary Certificate to Founding Member, **Vern Whalen**

Left to right: **Grace Kell**, from the Women's PROBUS Club of Southeast New Brunswick in Moncton, New Brunswick with **Kate Chalker**, President .

The Probus Club of Bradford West Gwillimbury in Bradford, Ontario celebrated 10 years on January 17!
Click [here](#) for the full story.



Members share a laugh while cutting a cake.



Co-presidents **Cynthia Riley** and **Bob Holmes** hold the 10-year certificate from Probus Canada.



Carol Taggio helps members sign up for events.

The Probus Club of Stouffville in Stouffville, Ontario 10th Anniversary!

January 11 was a snowy, blustery day but over 85 members came out to celebrate. Brenda Andrews – Director, Ontario District 2 gave 10-year pins to 13 of the remaining 22 Charter Members in attendance.



The Probus Club of Trent Hills in Campbellford, Ontario celebrated its 10th anniversary on November 8.

Craig Greenwood – Director, Ontario District 1, brought congratulations from PROBUS Canada and presented certificates to four of the five members of the original steering committee. Founding President, **Bill Hogle**, shared the history of how the club was set up and 40 charter members were acknowledged with 10-year pins.



Left to right: **Bill Hogle**, Founding President; **Moira Hall**, Incoming President; and **Craig Greenwood**, Director, Ontario District 1.



Left to right: charter members **Elizabeth Hogle**, **Pat Armstrong**, **Orian Bambrough** and **Norah McGowan**.



On October 18, Escarpment Probus Club of Milton, Ontario celebrated its 10th Anniversary!

With 146 members in attendance, Founding President **Joanne Millichamp**, recounted the history of the Club. **Martin Capper**, President, PROBUS Canada (right) presented the club's 10-year certificate.

The Probus Club of North Bay and District in North Bay, Ontario celebrated its 10-year Anniversary!

Click [here](#) for the full story.

The club management team and the visiting District Director. Left to right, Dick Tafel, Toni Beninger, Bob Middaugh (Director, Ontario District 8), Joan Hambley, Peter Forster, Karen Mann and Donald Bell.



AT THE CLUBS

Hawaiian Murder Mystery at the Probus Club of Bradford in January!

Fifty members, along with the actors, solved the case and had a great time dressing up!



Probus Club of Belleville presented "Scrooge Makes Up"!

At the club's Christmas party, members performed the Peter Jepson play, a light-hearted reworking of the classic Dickens tale about the redemption of a notorious miser. Featuring Bonnie Gurney, Pat Gurney, Cliff Prentice, Carol Wannamaker, Doug Ankenmann, Diane Ankenmann, John Gurney, Dianne Cowing, Elizabeth Sills, Jack Evans, and Peter Jepson. Nadine St. Amant and Sue Simpson also helped the cast with their costumes.

God Bless Us, Every One!



Speakers Catalogue

The Ontario PROBUS Speakers Database, created to help Speaker Chairs in their quest to find stimulating presenters, has been copied to the PROBUS Canada website. It is now the Speakers Catalogue, a national repository of guest presentations recommended by other Probus clubs. To access it click [here](#) and follow the instructions for accessing speakers and adding your recommendations for speakers to the list.



And the winner is...

Congratulations to **Duncan Bristow** of Probus Club of Mountainview on being the winner of the first PROBUS photo contest! Part of what makes this photo so great is that it doesn't show any faces making it a perfect representation of everyone. All retirees, regardless of creed, colour, or gender identification can be a Probus member and are welcomed. This photo shows retirees enjoying a crisp winter day full of sunshine while snowshoeing up a slight incline. The picture is full of colourful coats, trees, snow and shadows. Duncan took the photo on the Bruce Trail near Collingwood, Ontario.

PROBUS Canada Introduces New *Club Ambassadors Program*



*Brenda Andrews,
Immediate Past President,
PROBUS Canada*

Late in 2023, **Brenda Andrews** and **Bob MacNair**, Probus veterans with leadership experience in their clubs and on the PROBUS Canada Board of Directors, joined forces to help promote Probus clubs and membership in Canada. Both have experience founding new Probus clubs and can therefore provide practical help to members of the public and existing clubs on the process and timeline to found a new Probus club. Their first step has been to identify clubs that have a waitlist of 20 or more people. They can then work with the club to sponsor a new one. A new club can also be started if there is not a sponsoring club in the area. Communications to the public will be through media advertisements and the PROBUS Canada website. You can contact Bob and Brenda by email if you would like their assistance or advice.



*Bob MacNair,
Past President,
PROBUS Canada*

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PROBUS Canada Strategic Plan 2024-2027

THE VISION

PROBUS Canada promotes the Probus community and facilitates the success of its member clubs by providing resources, guidance, and support.

THE MISSION

Promote the growth and development of the Canadian Probus community as the most recognized and accessible social organization for retirees fostering Friendship, Fellowship and Fun.

THE VALUES

Collegiality
Communication
Diversity
Integrity
Respect



New Insurance Opportunity for Club Members Say hello to exclusive savings on car and home insurance through belairdirect.

You need great coverage that can keep up with your schedule. Luckily, our official partner, belairdirect, has got you covered.

We've teamed up with them to score special deals on insurance that's tailored just for you, as a member of PROBUS Canada. belairdirect helps simplify insurance for you, to make your life easier. You'll also enjoy enhanced home coverage and the option for great car insurance add-ons with their Affinity Plus endorsement. Plus, a suite of helpful digital tools that make managing your insurance a breeze!

More than just a policy.

When you get insurance through belairdirect you're also supporting PROBUS Canada.

Get your quote today and be sure to mention you are a **PROBUS Canada member**.

Visit belairdirect.com/savings or call 1-833-887-4626.

Available to Probus members in Alberta, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador.

All group insurance opportunities, including Health and Travel Insurance, can be found on the PROBUS Canada website in the Club Reference Guide under Insurance.

<https://www.probuscanada.ca/club-reference-guide/table-of-contents#h.g9uugdnc91bv>