

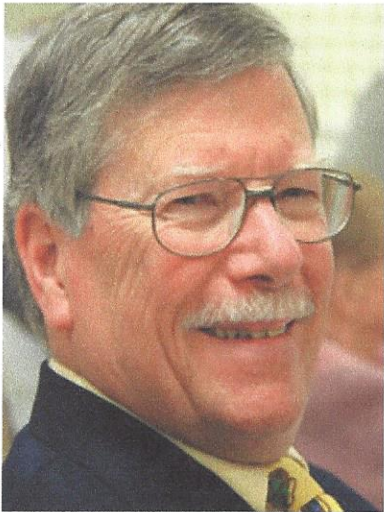


PROBUS CANADA

"NEWSLETTER"

Published for the Members of PROBUS Clubs in Canada by PROBUS CANADA

October, 2020



**PRESIDENT
JAMIE DOOLITTLE**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

They say that with age comes experience and wisdom. Now I don't know who "They" are, but I do believe the sentence. I am buoyed by the resilience of our Members and their Management Teams at our Clubs. They ... You, are exemplifying our experience and wisdom by the many varied means being used to keep in touch with one and another.

While we continue to be guided by our various Governments and Health Departments, your Directors and I are delighted to learn of Club meetings being held here, there and everywhere. Fall drives in the country, golf, wine tasting and group activities happening across Canada. It was great fun for me to be at the PROBUS Club of Belleville, Ontario twice recently at outdoor meetings. All social rules were followed and the Member turnout was terrific. We are reminded of the wisdom of our Club Management Teams as they continue to conduct A.G.M.'s with

in-person meetings, snail mail, e-mails and using Zoom. Several Clubs, in order to fill any vacancies on their Management Teams, are having two or more Members share a position. I know of a Club that had four Secretaries, with each serving a three month term.

Zoom is now gaining momentum across Canada. Many thanks to Director Martin Capper and to Dan Clements of the Cambridge Club for their initiative in proposing and subsequently launching this communication tool. We are hearing of many guest speakers at Clubs who are getting their message to us via Zoom. A side benefit of this product is the ability to enjoy a speaker even when inclement weather makes an in-person meeting impractical.

I have written to you earlier this month with our annual renewal process. You will note that your national Board of Directors has maintained the annual remittance to PROBUS CANADA at \$2.50 per Member per Club. Please print and complete the form and remit it with your Club cheque at your earliest convenience. This will help to lessen the burden to our Managing Director.

Recently we have had inquiries from several people looking for a PROBUS Club. We have been able to direct them to a Club and we are sure they will enjoy the comradeship we all share at PROBUS.

As I previously mentioned, Club activities continue albeit in some different formats. Please send write-ups and pictures of these events to your District Director. This will enable us to consider their inclusion in future newsletters or on our web site www.probus.org

I hope you enjoy our pretty Fall season with your relatives, friends, neighbours, and PROBUS friends. Please ensure all Members of your Club receive a copy of this newsletter.

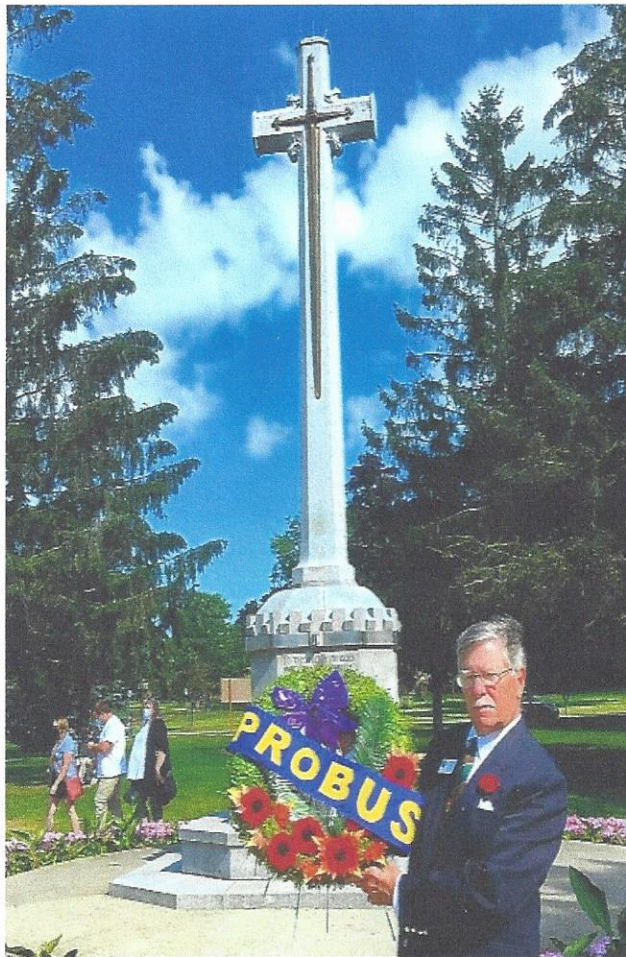
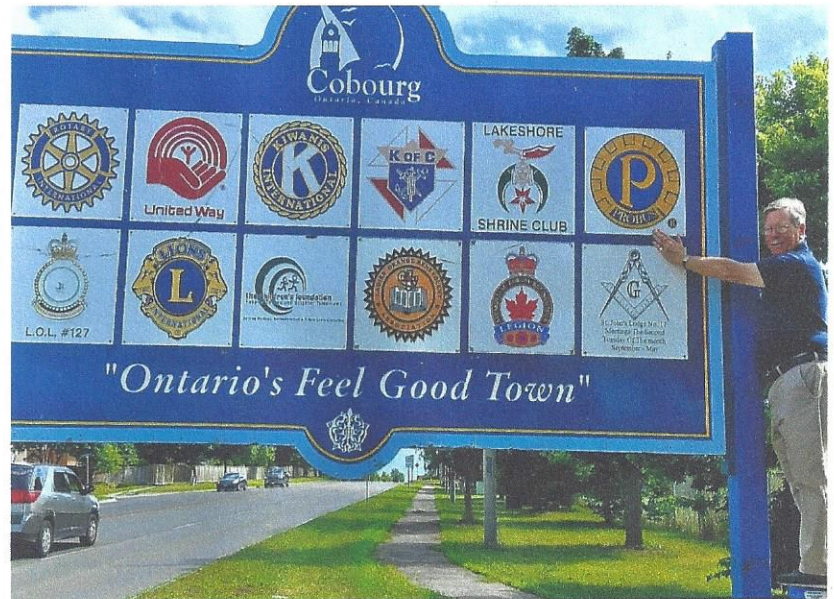
Please keep well! Keep safe! Keep in touch!

Remember: **BE A FRIEND---BRING A FRIEND**

GET CONNECTED -- STAY CONNECTED

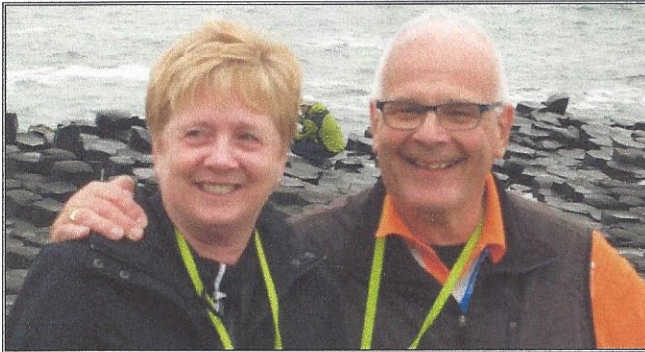
COBOURG ---- A GREAT PLACE !

When the Town of Cobourg lost the original sign at the entrance to the town, Members of the PROBUS Club were more than a little bit disappointed . However, little did they hope that the new sign would have the PROBUS CANADA logo in the same spot as previously. President Jamie waited for the right opportunity to check the sign and when he did he was pleasantly surprised to note the logo location you guessed it..... in the same spot as it was previously. It truly is no wonder that COBOURG's motto is **"ONTARIO'S FEEL GOOD TOWN"**.


**LIBERATION OF CANADIAN PRISONERS OF WAR
IN JAPAN & HONG KONG**

As another gesture of good will recently, Cobourg lived up to their reputation once more when President Jamie was invited to take part in the Memorial Service in the Town this past summer which they held as a Memorial Day Parade , a Wreath Laying Ceremony and Recognition Day on August 15th known as VJ Day 1945. The day was also in recognition of the liberation of Canadian Prisoners of War in Japan and Hong Kong. President Jamie expressed that he realized that this was a very special 75th Anniversary not just for those who lost their lives but for those who survived as well and although there are very few survivors, they too are remembered. In the photo on the left **President Jamie** is seen about to place a wreath, bearing our name, on the Cenotaph as a token of our gratitude for their sacrifice. Several others who participated in the service included Philip Lawrence, Member of Parliament ; David Piccini, Member of Provincial Parliament (Ontario) ; Mayor John Henderson of Cobourg; Mayor Bob Sanderson of Port Hope; Bob Robinson, President Cdn Legion Branch 133, Cobourg; Andre Labrosse, President Cdn Legion Branch 30, Port Hope; Chris Devlin, Trumpeter and, as previously noted, **Jamie Doolittle, President, PROBUS CANADA**. Also our sincere thanks to the Cobourg Legion Pipes and Drums and to Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association for their support and participation !!

STRICTLY CANADIAN in these special times many have turned to the game of Trivia. and some have become literally experts about details / happenings around the world. But what about Home in Canada ? The Motto of the 2010 Winter Olympics came from the English lyrics of "O Canada" ...what were the words ? Who was the first reigning British Monarch to visit Canada after Confederation ? What was the name of the Toronto team that played in the NBA's inaugural 1946 - 47 season ?



PROBUS CANADA and "ZOOM"

working together in the interest of PROBUS

by PROBUS Director Martin Capper with wife Norma
(shown left)

"As a District Director of **PROBUS CANADA** I was receiving many emails and phone calls expressing concern about the effect "lockdown" and the inability to meet in person was having on the Clubs in my District. My youngest son who lives on the other side of the country had introduced me to Zoom in the early stages of lockdown as a means of keeping in touch.

In July I was invited to speak at the Cambridge Men's Probus Club at their July General Meeting which was their first General meeting on Zoom. I was impressed by the preparation and effort that the men of Cambridge put in to ensure the meeting was a success. This was truly a Club that lived up to our motto of **"Get Connected - Stay Connected"** That meeting led to several Zoom chats with Rad Bazzul and Dan Clements of the Cambridge Club which culminated in Dan offering to set up a Zoom Mentoring and Support team. In our discussions we had realised that applications like Zoom actually removed physical and distance barriers and Dan generously offered the support not just to my District but to any District or Club that wanted help.

This culminated in a proposal to and acceptance by the Board of PROBUS CANADA on August 24. I am grateful for the support of President Jamie Doolittle and Vice President Bob McNair, all my fellow Directors and Managing Director Reg Whynott. It is mere weeks since we launched the initiative and to date 149 individuals have signed up from 11 of our 13 Districts. What is particularly gratifying is the number of Probians who have offered to be mentors thus enabling us to find local mentors in the Districts. I would also like to thank my fellow Probians who have stepped forward and offered to help Dan and his team in their mentoring efforts - they are truly living up to the spirit of Probus and its motto!"

To those clubs that haven't registered I would offer the following from one of the clubs in my own district:- **'Well, we did it !!!** After several Management Team meetings via Zoom, we had a very successful General Meeting via Zoom taking place. After hearing what other clubs were doing, I had decided that if we had sixty attendees, we would call that a success. Imagine how we are feeling this afternoon one hundred and ten ladies attended our meeting. The agenda was close to being normal; we had Chris Vollum as our speaker. He was very well received. We fielded questions through the chat box. And the second half of our meeting was our AGM, so we now have a full roster on our Management Team, a new President and Vice President, plus we have a couple of people offering to host our October meeting."

It was when I attended the webinar put on by the gentlemen from Cambridge that I realized that we needed to do this in order for our club to survive. I am not a techie, the thoughts of organizing a Zoom meeting were frightening. But that's only because I didn't realize how great our club is. In no time flat I had an ad hoc committee whose mandate it was to **"make our membership comfortable in a Zoom setting"** and they just took the ball and ran with it. We had planning sessions, coaching clinics, trouble shooters for the morning of the meeting and rehearsals. And that's how we ended up with 110 people at our meeting.....

Normal attendance. Who would have thought? "

Any Probus member involved in organising or planning General Meetings and/or special interest group meetings are welcome to register here to learn more about Zoom from their fellow PROBUS Members:

[CLICK HERE FOR INFORMATION and REGISTRATION](#)

Or contact Director Martin at martin@martincapper.com or (905) 693-0354

COVID-19 --Re-opening PROBUS Clubs

Suggested Guidelines for Re-Opening PROBUS Clubs:

Guiding Principles used: Keep abreast of changes to Guidelines/Club's autonomy vs. Guidelines/Keep brief/general. **Note:** These are Guidelines only and do not in any way minimize the important responsibility of Management Committees and individual members to do all that is necessary to reduce risk to themselves and to their fellow members. (Robert (Bob) MacNair – Vice-President. PROBUS CANADA)

Startup Strategies:

- Each Club's plans should adhere to current and changing Federal, Provincial and Municipal Location Guidelines and Health Authorities and satisfy each Club's needs.
- Health and Safety of our Members is Paramount-Personal Hygiene and Social Distancing.
- All Club members have a responsibility to follow their appropriate guidelines in a caring manner.
- We are a Togetherness/Social Organization.
- Provide confidence to Members that returning is low risk. They have been apprehensive-common sense dictates.
- Priority should be Stability/Retention- Then Growth (be prepared for reduction in Membership in some cases).
- Crisis has provided opportunities to learn and to improve communications to members is a high priority e.g. newsletters etc.

Be Open To:

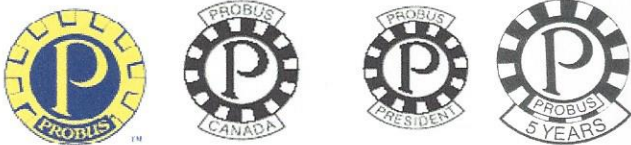
- Reducing numbers attending meetings--changing to larger venue, split clubs, etc.? Consider using Zoom or equivalent for those unwilling or unable to attend physical meeting.
- Social distancing. Change format/layout/seating.
- Hand sanitizers available at entrance of meeting venue. Clean or sanitize hands before and after meeting.
- Consider requiring members to wear masks to protect others.
- Sanitize microphone and any other equipment that you used.
- Re-evaluating food serving practices at meetings for coffee/celebrations or group activities. Should allow for physical distancing for as long as may be required.
- Flexibility re: Club's AGM (Timing/Nominations/Reschedule/vVirtual or E- mail voting for AGM process works as an option. By laws flexible in these times. NOTE: AGM's may be postponed and some Management Committee Teams could remain in place for more than a one year.
Hugs/handshakes- out for now.
Sick members must stay at home (to protect others).
- Greeter could ask each member how they are feeling.
- Committee Meetings and a few General Meetings may revert to in-person Meetings (togetherness) as per updated guidelines.
- Acknowledge that we were in a "pause" for Celebrations and that we will re-schedule in the future. Examples, Anniversaries/PROBUS Month etc.
- If Club's annual dues are extended please Note: Each Probus Club is still responsible for Membership Renewals to PROBUS CANADA by Dec. 31st, 2020 for Liability insurance / PROBUS CANADA funding.
- Special Interest/Activity groups- Some may start up soon-but go slowly.
- Venue guidelines should be consistent with Club's guidelines - cleanliness requirements, etc.
- Community Thank-you..... Each Club might want to Brainstorm ways to say thank-you to the community.
- **Remember**--Each Director is here to support each District Club .

PROBUS Pins & Other Supplies

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 Box 292, Qualicum Beach, B.C V9K 1S8 or by email at ...rwhynott@shaw.ca ... or by phone at (250) 757-8026.

**MEDOC Travel Insurance Plan**

MEDOC is designed to combine all of the travel insurance needs of PROBUS Members in one convenient package, with plan options to suit the coverage you require as well as your budget. MEDOC balances the needs of travelers regardless of age or health status. It is important that you carry the coverage that gives you peace of mind while traveling. Know & understand the plan you purchase. There are a number of questions being asked of PROBUS CANADA re the current coverage, etc., which we then have to forward to our most co-operative representatives at Johnson Insurance and then carry the response back to you. We feel that you may wish to speak with a representative of JOHNSON Insurance and that can be done by utilizing the following information

Call Toll Free- **1-866-60Medoc** or
Email: www.johnson.ca/medoc

STRATHCRAFT AWARDS

have been with PROBUS Canada for several years. For information, or to order, check out their latest site for Probus supplies !

www.strathcraft.com/stores/probus
or: call and ask for Brianne at (519) 686-1891

CURRENT OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF PROBUS CANADA

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| President | Jamie Doolittle Cobourg, Ont. (Ont. Dist. #1) Tel: (905) 372-6465 Email: probus1@cogeco.ca |
| Vice-President | Robert MacNair ...Collingwood, Ont. (Ont. Dist. #7) Tel; (705) 444-9161 Email: bdmacnair@sympatico.ca |
| Treasurer | Brenda Andrews Bradford, Ont. (Ont. Dist. #2) Tel: (905) 778-1992 Email: dbandrews2004@gmail.com |
| Secretary | D. Keith McGregor ...Lantzville, B. C. (B. C. # 1) Tel: (250) 704-6122 Email:dkeithmcgregor@hotmail.com |
| Past-President | Marlene PearceMoncton, N.B. (Atlantic) Tel. (506) 386-3492 Email: marlene.pearce38@gmail.com |

DIRECTORS

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|-----------------------------|--|
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| David Scott | Vancouver, B.C. (B. C. # 2) Tel: (604) 408-9021 Email; david@scott.ca |

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| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
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| Managing Director | Reg Whynott , Qualicum Beach, B.C. Tel: (250) 757-8026 Email: rwhynott@shaw.ca |