



Message from the President



My term as President of PROBUS CANADA will be complete at the end of April and what I have most enjoyed in this past year has been connecting with PROBUS clubs and members across Canada. While we may come from many different walks of life, we share some

common goals: to have some fun and to enjoy new friendships. When I visited clubs, I was amazed at how active each one is with guest speakers, activities, lunches, etc. It is apparent our members are having a good time and I want to commend the club management teams across Canada for keeping their members engaged as we adjust to our new normal.

District Meetings

I'm happy to say that our annual District meetings are returning to being in-person. I have attended a few this year and the noise level was amazing! Our clubs' delegates are clearly excited to connect with one another again and the meetings provide many benefits, including the opportunity to address mutual challenges and to celebrate each others success.

Survey Success

On behalf of the Board, I thank all of our clubs for participating in the two surveys sent out in January. By now, your District Director will have notified you that it was decided to keep the existing PROBUS

logo. This means clubs can resume ordering lapel pins, name tags and other PROBUS materials. A communications toolkit is now being worked on and you'll have more news on that soon. In the meantime, your District Director has templates for a flyer and a 3-fold brochure that your club can use to inform and promote new members.

PROBUS CANADA General Manager

Lori McDowell, our General Manager since September, resigned in January for personal reasons and we're very sad she's leaving but thank her for her contributions. I am very pleased to announce that Wendy Machmer, a member from the PROBUS Club of Regina in Saskatchewan, will be our new General Manager effective April 1. Welcome Wendy; we look forward to working with you!

Finally, I want to stress that it is the volunteers at the club level and the national level who are the engine that keeps our organization going. If you haven't already, I ask each of you to consider contributing to that effort yourself. I personally want to thank each and every one of you for your time, your effort and a job well done!!!!

I urge you all to keep well, keep safe, and keep in touch.

Sincerely,

Brenda Andrews

Get Connected. Stay Connected

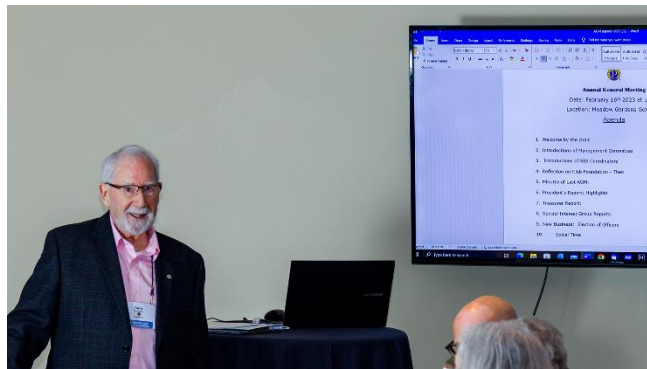
And congratulations go to.....



Photo courtesy of Galen Simmons/The Beacon Herald.

Jean Aitcheson, a member of the PROBUS Club of Stratford, Ontario has been awarded the Order of Canada “for her leadership of global humanitarian medical missions, and for her long-standing devotion to helping those in need.” Jean is the founder and leader of the Stratford Mission Depot – an organization of volunteers that sends supplies to about 26 countries around the world including Ukraine. [Click here to read the full story.](#)

The PROBUS Club of Maple Ridge in Maple Ridge, British Columbia celebrated its five-year anniversary in February with 40 of its 69 members in attendance.



President, **Sam Lewindon** said, “We are very pleased with last year's operation and look to another successful year ahead.”

On February 22, **The PROBUS Club of Westside** in West Kelowna, British Columbia, celebrated its 20-year anniversary with 80 members, past members, and guests in attendance. Many received recognition including nine Past Presidents and 23 Charter members since 2003.



2003-04 Charter and First Year Members.

Nancy Kostiuk, Westside club President (left) receives a PROBUS CANADA 20th Anniversary Certificate from **Inga Thomson Hilton**, BC3 District Director.



Left to right: Westside club Presidents 2003 – 2023 - **Doug Karvonen**, **Emile Brokx**, **Jan Conradi**, **Wilma Griffin**, **Jim Maxwell**, **Joyce Springate**, **David Parsons**, **Nancy Kostiuk**, **Peter Campbell** and **Lee Kiddell**.

Percival “Percy” James Smith is a veteran of the Merchant Navy and a member of the PROBUS Club of White Rock - South Surrey, in Surrey, British Columbia. He was born on May 10, 1923 and is coming up on his 100th birthday. Have a very happy birthday Percy and thank you for your service!



Spread the word.....



Templates are available to make a 1-page flyer or 3-fold brochure with your club's information. Contact your District Director for more information or assistance.

You can use local media to promote the fun, fellowship, and learning available with a PROBUS club membership. On March 16, two members of the PROBUS Club of Northumberland were featured on Northumberland 89.7 FM radio. **Florence Fletcher**, club President and **Jamie Doolittle**, club member and Past President of PROBUS CANADA 2020/21, did a 45-minute interview reaching a local audience of about 50,000. The following week the pair also did a 15-minute interview on Cogeco television's "All Around the Town" program. [Click here to watch an excerpt.](#)



The club was thrilled to welcome 11 guests at their next meeting - the most they've had at a meeting since March 2020. Jamie said, *"We did radio and television events like this when I was a District Director in 2016 with great results. I strongly recommend clubs and District Directors tap into their local media outlets so their communities can learn about the benefits of our great organization."*

Making PROBUS connections... around the world!

Meeting PROBUS members in other countries is fun and helps strengthen international bonds. When **Don Ross**, President of the PROBUS Club of Winnipeg visited his daughter in Antwerp, Belgium last fall, he decided to check out their local PROBUS club. Back home, Don shared his experience with his club telling them what a warm welcome he received when speaking to that club's members and being presented with a tie.

Shown here: Don Ross (center) sporting his new tie.



In February, PROBUS members from Ontario District Two clubs in Port Perry, Pickering, Ajax, Richmond Hill and Bradford celebrated their dedication to friendship, fellowship and fun with a 21-day holiday to Spain and Portugal.

Alberta Senator Visit

The PROBUS Club of South Edmonton was honoured to have **Senator Paula Simons** attend their meeting on January 24. Her topic was “Not Your Grandfather’s Senate” and it covered the significant changes in the Senator appointment process and functioning within the Senate. Simons was appointed to the Senate of Canada in 2018, after a long and distinguished career as one of western Canada’s most acclaimed journalists.



Dennis Pommen, Alberta Director with Senator Simons.

New Directors Confirmed in 2023

Congratulations to these PROBUS members confirmed as District Directors effective at PROBUS CANADA's AGM in April. There are still vacancies for Ontario District 5 as well as the Alberta district so we encourage club Past Presidents in those districts to consider stepping up. In Ontario, there has been a rebalancing of clubs across the existing seven districts plus two new districts added to more evenly distribute the 175 existing clubs and several new ones.

District BC3



Inga Thomson Hilton
Thompson Rivers
PROBUS Club

District ON7



Martin Buscher
Beaver Valley PROBUS
Club

District ON8 **NEW**



Bob Middaugh
PROBUS Club of Orillia

District ON9 **NEW**



Doug Byers
PROBUS clubs of
Durham Central and
Oshawa

CONTACT A REPRESENTATIVE TODAY:

Telephone: 604.881.8840
Toll free: 1.866.799.0000
Fax: 604.881.8828
Email: pbservicewest@johnson.ca

JOHNSON INC.
110 – 9440 202 Street
Langley, BC
V1M 4A6

JOHNSON 
GROUP BENEFITS



*"Give us a
call today"*

DID YOU KNOW?

Optional voluntary insurance benefits are available to PROBUS CANADA members.

INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR PROBUS MEMBERS

- EXTENDED HEALTH CARE
- PRESTIGE TRAVEL INSURANCE
- DENTAL CARE
- AND MORE!

Call for a quote or visit their website
<https://travel.johnson.ca> (enter **PROBUS
Canada** as the group name).