



The Newsletter
December 2019



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

So much for the mild late summer and fall weather. The snow and cold have finally arrived and are sure to stay with us for several months to come.

On the good news side, we are very pleased that our activities and special events are progressing well and are being well attended. It is fantastic to have so many new members involved. Past President Peter Morris has produced a second very interesting newsletter and future editions are in the works. All member dues have been collected by our Membership Team leaving us in fairly good financial shape, however we still have a need to redouble our recruitment efforts. A huge thank you for all you do to make the club as enjoyable as it is.

It was a very difficult decision to leave the Oakville Club with its beautiful and warm surroundings. The Management Committee debated long over the issue for a number of months. Knowing that many Probus members were also members of the Oakville Club made the decision even more difficult. After much deliberation and weighing the pros and cons, the decision to move was made.

While the location of our meetings is important, I believe more important is their purpose. For me, our most important goal is to provide opportunity for our members to come together and enjoy each other's company, have interesting speakers and activities, laugh and enjoy ourselves.

I enjoyed our first meeting at the Holiday Inn on December 11, and the delicious turkey lunch that followed. I want to wish all our members a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2020.

Curt

SPEAKERS GORD STOVEL

October 2nd: MEMBER SPEAKER:

Jonathon Marler was our member speaker who showed pictures of his motorcycle trip across India with his son Nicholas. Exotic pictures needless to say, including a few of a similar trip to Cuba. He ended with a song, being a member of the St Jude's Choir; a bit of a surprise bonus.

GUEST SPEAKER:

John McClenaghan is a retired pilot from Air Canada, who also volunteers with the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton, where he flies several craft including the prized Lancaster bomber known as VERA. He shared some background on the museum and the Lancaster bomber which was a pivotal aircraft in WW2 for Britain. There are only two left in the world that can fly and VERA is the only one that is open to the public. John was one of the pilots that flew her to Britain in 2014 for the Battle of Britain memorials. John showed videos of the trip and the two Lancasters flying in formation together in Britain.

November 6th: LAST POST CEREMONY

To commemorate Remembrance Day, our club did its Annual Last Post Ceremony. This included Stephen Walter as piper, Ron McKee as our Last Post bugler and Jim Campbell who read the poem "In Flanders Fields". A special treat was our guest, Jane Underwood who shared the story of her uncle, Robert Hampton (aka Ham) Gray; the last Canadian to be awarded the British Victoria Cross.



Ron McKee



Jim Campbell, Jane Underwood, and Stephen Walter

MEMBER SPEAKER

Was our own Dick Whittington who has experienced a lot of global travel and life experiences all over the world, which has included 2 separate “Around the World Cruises” in 1999 and 2019. His talk focused on how the Asia Pacific region has radically changed over the past 20 years. Most of the area was marginally developed in the 1980’s and ’90’s; but are now are enormous engines for growth. He shared reasons for that amazing shift, and how our world is radically different going forward. Our club totally enjoyed Dick’s perspective, and based on both the Q&A that followed the meeting, it was clear he had hit a nerve in the membership.



December 11: GUEST SPEAKERS

Bob Boone, the President of our district, gave us an update on Probus Canada and spoke about the progress of other Probus clubs in our district.

Roberto De Clara, the conductor of the Oakville Symphony Orchestra, gave a very interesting talk on what an orchestra conductor actually does. He explained conductor uses his baton to lead the musicians. The presentation was complete with lessons in conducting for the audience and a Christmas sing-along. It was an excellent presentation.

ACTIVITIES—BILL HARRIS

THE EUCHRE CLUB

The Probus Euchre Club meets every second Friday at Noon at the Sixth Line Pub on Sixth Line just south of Upper Middle Road. The pub is on the west side in a small strip mall. The group is still in its start-up phase and needs more players. **Curt Allen**, the Euchre Group Leader, advised that members who wish to play should email him at curtis.allen@sympatico.ca If you enjoy playing euchre with other friendly Probus Members, let Curt know. You will be made very welcome.



THE BREAKFAST CLUB

The Breakfast Club has changed its time and meeting place. The group now meets at Artisano's Restaurant every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 9am. Regular members feel that the venue and change to every second Wednesday, together with a broader and healthier choice of food, will appeal to more members. Artisano's is on Iroquois Shore East of Trafalgar next door to the TD Bank. There is no need to feel compelled to order a huge breakfast. Artisano's offers a full breakfast, just tea or coffee, or nothing at all if you only want to enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow Probud buddies.

Make a note of the new time and place and join us for tasty food, good company, and varied conversation. Contact **Bill Harris** at billharris@bell.net for more information.

OTHER Probud activities and contacts:

Following are other Probud Activities together with contact names and email addresses. For more information on any of these activities, please contact the Activity Leaders directly.

Activity & email

Leader

Camera Club

Rick Schwartz
rick_a_schwartz@yahoo.com

Living Alone Group (LAG)

Dave Whatmore
jvwfdw@sympatico.ca

Marathon Bridge

Peter Morris
peterjmo@bell.net

Cribbage Group

Brian Emo
bndemo@sympatico.ca

Dinner Group

Hugo Kamerling
hugokamerling@yahoo.com

Investment Club

John Vipond (co-leader)
jvipond@cogeco.ca



Investment Club

Brendan Barnet (co-leader)
husruin@yahoo.ca

Tuesday Lunch & Pool Group

St. John Blakeley
stjohn.blakeley@sympatico.ca

Seasonal activities:
Summer Golf

Gerry Tien
gerbear.tien@sympatico.ca

Lawn Bowling

Mark Cox
markwcox1970@gmail.com

SPECIAL EVENTS - JOHN BUTLER

The Special Events Committee (SEC) is continuing with the change in approach and hopes that more Members will work with the Committee to suggest, promote and organize future events.

Members of SEC will assist other Club Members with any such events.

Since the Last Newsletter the Special Events completed were:

OCTOBER 15th – Tour to Elora and the Hydro-Electric Power Plant.

This Tour included a coach ride to and from Elora, the tour of the Hydro-Electric Generating Plant, Lunch at the 5 Star Elora Mill Hotel and a Presentation on future developments in the Village of Elora.

All reports of the tour of the Hydro Electric Plant were very positive. Including the information provided by the tour guide and the willingness to answer all questions. Our thanks to Don Anderson, Club Member, for suggesting this tour and his assistance in organizing the event and providing commentary on the coach.

NOVEMBER 17th – The Annual Presidents' Lunch.

The Presidents' Lunch is our Club's Marquee event for the year with wives, partners and guests being invited. The lunch was excellent, with only positive comments being received on the meal, the service and the ambiance.

The after-lunch speaker was **Barbara Dickson** who gave a fascinating insight into the lives of the thousands of women, our "Bomb Girls" who worked long hours in the early 1940's to keep the ammunition flowing to our fighting forces.



DECEMBER 11 - Christmas Lunch

A very enjoyable Christmas Lunch was held after the regular monthly meeting at our new location in the Holiday Inn.. A three course roast turkey lunch was enjoyed by 46 members followed by a trivia contest. The contest winners were the team of Ed Shane, Arthur Brown and Peter Morris.

Future Events scheduled or planned are:

FEBRUARY – Sheridan College is offering “CABARET” this year and tickets should be available by the December meeting. Unfortunately, Sheridan has elected to increase prices significantly, but they will still be a bargain for the entertainment offered.

MARCH 4th – Breakfast at the Holiday Inn – at 8.30am preceding the March Monthly Meeting. Menu, pricing and a sign-up list will be available at the December Meeting.

For information on Future Events or to reserve tickets, please contact John Butler or Jim Davidson.

SEASON'S GREETING'S

To all members of the Probus Club of Old Oakville, we wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas, a Happy and Healthy New Year and Happy Holidays.

