



PROBUS CANADA

“NEWSLETTER”

Published for the Members of PROBUS CLUBS in CANADA - By PROBUS CANADA

Nov., 2017



Bill Sexsmith

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I travel across the country, representing **PROBUS Canada**, and meeting many Probians, I come away with a feeling of optimism and a better understanding of the diversity, creativity and commitment within our membership. The purpose of **PROBUS** is to provide a forum for active retirees in fellowship, self development and participation. Our mission is to enhance the membership experience and to further the development of the organization on a sustainable basis. My message today is to provide a few notes on how all this is happening in Canada.

John R Morris Award Newmarket, ONT The John R. Morris Award, named after the founding member of PROBUS in Canada, is our highest honour to be bestowed on a Probian in recognition of her or his exceptional contributions to the community and significant development of **PROBUS**. It was my privilege this year to present this award to **Maureen Huismans** on September 27th in Newmarket, ONT. Maureen is a very special person with vision, endless energy and a strong sense of social justice who is much admired by her many friends. (Photos are enclosed).

Atlantic Regional Conference Charlottetown PEI Regional conferences held throughout the country on a biannual basis are growing in popularity – an excellent way to exchange ideas, communicate and interact with different clubs. It was a pleasure to participate in the Atlantic Region Conference held in Charlottetown, PEI on September 12. Delegates from 11 clubs attended the one day session, all offering highlights on what was happening locally. Charlottetown is always attractive and in its own friendly way provides a very special and warm welcome to visitors.

Northumberland Clubs' Meeting Cobourg, ONT I presented and discussed our national programs on September 28th to the **PROBUS Club of Northumberland**. Also attending were delegates from other Clubs within the immediate area. Interestingly a number of these clubs meet twice a month year round. The Northumberland Club took the marketing initiative to arrange for a **PROBUS** sign to be placed along with the many service club signs at the city entrance. With the appropriate “pomp and ceremony” we unveiled the sign. This initiative could be followed by other clubs as a way to welcome visiting Probians and to raise the local **PROBUS** profile.

National Membership Growth..... In my June message I indicated that we encourage a sustainable national membership growth rate of 2.5 – 3.5% per year. Our two sources of growth are internal growth of existing clubs and the development of new clubs. I am encouraged that we have chartered four clubs this calendar year in three different provinces, Nova Scotia (1), Ontario (2) and Alberta (1). Even better news is that we have several new club prospects now being developed in Ontario and British Columbia. On a current review of our membership numbers we are projecting to meet our annual growth objective.

Licence Plate Frames Your Board has approved the development of a standard automobile licence plate frame appropriately identifying **PROBUS**. While this plate will not qualify you to become an UBER driver it will let your community know that you are a proud member of **PROBUS**. This product has now been developed, is available to you and may be purchased through your home club.

Western Regional Conference April 2018 We are planning to have a one day Western Regional Conference in the latter part of April 2018 which will take place in Vancouver the day before the AGM of our Board of Directors. The purpose is to expose the considerable expertise within our many clubs and to return home with some new ways of doing things. We will release more information as the program details are developed. Mark your calendars.

Your Board is actively involved with each club within her or his District. The calibre of guest speakers across the country is outstanding. Within the various clubs there is an extensive array of activity groups along with memorable special events. Many members have conveyed to me their very positive fellowship experiences from **PROBUS** membership.

Keep in touch we need your suggestions!

GET CONNECTED - STAY CONNECTED

CURRENT OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF PROBUS CANADA

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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 233 Kenmuir Road, Qualicum Beach, B.C V9K 2E7 or by email at ...rwhynott@shaw.ca ... or by phone at (250) 757-8026.



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL DISTRICT MEETING

Has your Club participated in a District / Region event lately... or ever. Experience tells us it's a great way to find new ideas for your Club or to share your own activities with your neighbours. The following is a summary of a recent event for your interest, held in Barrie, Ont., hosted by three Barrie Clubs and attended by 90 Members from 24 area Clubs as well as 4 Directors from PROBUS Canada.

The meeting opened with all joining in O'Canada" and an intro of the various Clubs in attendance. Richard Furlong, Director and Past President of PROBUS Canada, spoke on PROBUS in Canada, highlighting our history, current status, goals for 2017 /18, how to recruit persons for your Management Committee, suggestions for revitalizing your Club (Operation Recharge) and the importance of working together with other Clubs to improve the PROBUS experience. He urged all to have an interest in serving on the Board of Directors of PROBUS Canada, a busy but also an enjoyable experience and then The work began.

Breakout sessions were organized and after deliberations and lunch, the groups reassembled and reported on their ideas for the future. Many suggestions were offered on how to make the PROBUS experience enjoyable for all.

The meeting notes have been shared with all PROBUS Canada Directors and if you are interested please contact your Director as noted on the list on this page.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

WHERE ARE WE NOW

Since the last Newsletter we have welcomed two additional PROBUS Clubs to our membership rolls and we are pleased to have them with us. This brings our active number of PROBUS Clubs to 242 with over 34,000 individual members. The following detail is provided on the newest Clubs and the first will be part of Ont. District #2 and the second is in Alberta. The sponsoring Clubs are Men's Lindsay and Edmonton South and we thank them for their support and enthusiasm.

THE PROBUS CLUB OF FENELON FALLS, ONT. (Comb.) # 253

P.O. Box 235, Fenelon Falls, ON KOM 1N0

Email - robert.pennock@sympatico.ca Fax - None

228 Members (Sponsor Men's PROBUS Club of Lindsay)

Charter Members 228 - 10/10/17

FENELON FALLS MEET Seniors Hall, Fenelon Falls-3rd Mon. 10:00 AM

President - Robert Pennock (705) 887-2147

Secretary - Beverley Pennock (705) 887-2000

THE PROBUS CLUB OF GRAND PRAIRIE, AB (Combined) # 254

9366 - 69 Avenue, Grand Prairie, AB T8V 6T3

Email : gscerbak@telus.net Fax - None

13 Members (Sponsor PROBUS Club of Edmonton South)

Charter Members 13 - 10/25/17

GRANDE PRAIRIE MEET Oliver's Funeral Home-2nd Wed. 9:30 AM

President Greg Scerbak (780) 814-7410

Secretary M. Vernon Begalke (705) 814-1549

Should you be in the area of one of these Clubs do drop in and say hello and enjoy one of their meetings. We're sure you'll find a warm welcome waiting for you !

IS IT YOUR TIME TO SPONSOR A NEW PROBUS CLUB ?

If you have been part of the pleasant process of establishing a new PROBUS Club you will know that it is a satisfying event. It's a warm feeling to know that you have assisted to provide the opportunity for others to find the same fellowship and pleasure you are able to enjoy at your Club. There are literally hundreds of retired people on "waiting lists" around our country and the best way to accommodate them is to provide access to a new PROBUS Club if you have a waiting list which is too long.

Ask your PROBUS CANADA Director how to start the process of considering establishing a new Club you will find it to be an interesting challenge and you'll be doing the same favour for someone that was done for you by the founders of your Club. The Directors' list can be found on page two (2) of this newsletter.

YOU'LL BE GLAD THAT YOU DID !!

Do You Have Trouble Getting Volunteers for Your Club's Management Committee ?

Perhaps you'll find a working idea in the following list!

- a/ Establish a Nominating Committee of Past Presidents, Vice-Presidents, etc. early in the year.
- b/ Have job descriptions for positions as orientation tool. Make it interesting as well as challenging,
- c/ Consider job sharing for "heavy duty" positions.
- d/ Have existing Officers develop back-ups during their term who can move up at term end. This is a key element of filling the openings.
- e/ At some point in the year have the current members of Management share a description of their position with the Membership.
- f/ Stress benefits of PROBUS Membership and even more the increased fellowship and personal growth of being part of the Management Committee.
- g/ Become familiar with new Members who may wish to settle in and learn about the Club more readily.
- h/ Be tenacious but not nasty --- don't give up easily.
- i/ It can be time consuming but --- you get out much more than you will put in--is a good convincing tool.
- j/ Remember, the Club only exists because of willing volunteers .. don't be afraid to suggest that their time is valuable but some should be for activities like their PROBUS Club. Key point ...**It is their Club!!**

**HAVE YOU BEEN TO YOUR PROBUS WEB
SITE LATELY ? THERE IS MUCH THERE
ABOUT PROBUS IN CANADA AND ALSO
OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD !**

GO TO THE CANADIAN SITE FIRST !

www.probus.org/canada.htm

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.

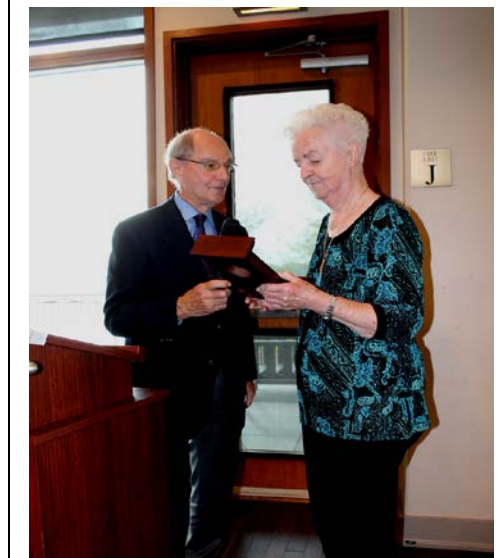
Call Toll Free- **1- 866- 60Medoc** or on line at
www.johnson.ca/medoc

JOHN R. MORRIS AWARD

The **John R. Morris Founders Award** was established to recognize major contributors toward the ongoing development of PROBUS in Canada. It is the highest honor which can be bestowed upon individual Members of PROBUS and recognizes truly outstanding contributions toward our successful and sustained activity in keeping with our primary objectives. On September 27, 2017.... following a nomination by the Women's PROBUS Club of Newmarket and with approval and support of the PROBUS CANADA Board of Directors, the Award was presented to Maureen Huismans, a Past President of her own Club as well as the first woman President of PROBUS CANADA, at a fantastic gathering of many supporters and admirers hosted by the Women's PROBUS of Newmarket under the super leadership of Co-Presidents Mary Jane Curtis and Jean Kelly, with support and assistance from Past President of PROBUS CANADA, Richard Furlong. Guests at the event included Mayor Tony Van Bynen of Newmarket and representatives of the local M.L.A. and M.P. for Canada and Members of area Clubs and PROBUS CANADA.



Supporters from PROBUS CANADA for the Award Recipient smilingly await sharing in the cake which was presented to Maureen at the conclusion of the presentations. From the left is Bob Boone, Vice-Pres.; Bob MacNair, Director; Beth Hickerson, a Past national President; President Bill Sexsmith; **Maureen** ; Reg Whynott, Managing Director; and Jamie Doolittle, Director.



PROBUS CANADA PRESIDENT BILL SEXSMITH PRESENTS THE MUCH COVETED JOHN R. MORRIS AWARD TO FORMER NATIONAL PRESIDENT MAUREEN HUISMANS FOR HER LONG & OUTSTANDING EFFORTS TO ENHANCE AND EXPAND PROBUS IN CANADA, INCLUDING BEING THE FIRST WOMAN NATIONAL PRESIDENT

OUR PRESIDENT AT WORK

On an invitation from District Director Jamie Doolittle, the President of PROBUS CANADA **Bill Sexsmith**, visited Northumberland PROBUS at a regular meeting on September 28th. Other Clubs from the Northumberland area were invited and were well represented – with many staying for lunch after the meeting.

Later in the day President Bill participated in an unveiling of a new sign added to the Cobourg gateway which listed many of Cobourg's volunteer organizations. Although PROBUS is not a service club, it seemed to be appropriate to let visitors know that PROBUS is active in the town.

The photo shows Jamie Doolittle, in the solid blue shirt and holding the ladder for President Bill along with local Club President John Draper (2nd from left) and other representatives of the Northumberland PROBUS team .

