



# PROBUS CANADA

“NEWSLETTER”

Published for the Members of PROBUS CLUBS in CANADA

by: **PROBUS CANADA**

**JANUARY, 2016**



**MURIEL DODGE  
PRESIDENT**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“**HAPPY NEW YEAR**” ... well, another year has come and gone. The years seem to be getting 'shorter' and 'faster'.

There have been some changes in our organization over the past few months. The most important change is our name. We are now called **PROBUS CANADA**. There was a lot of work and time spent on this change as it was necessary to interact with Government...which, sometimes, of necessity, can be a lengthy process. I want to emphasize that although our name has changed, that is all that has happened. We are still incorporated as a Not-for Profit Fellowship organization and we operate under the guidelines and rules of Industry Canada and are up to date with all of their recent changes.

I welcome the new Clubs that were formed in 2015... (TORONTO; CALEDON; LIGHTHOUSE-COLLINGWOOD) There has also been a steady increase in our number of individual Members. We are, however, always actively recruiting potential new PROBUS Clubs and additional new Members.

One way we can 'advertise' our existence is by promoting **NATIONAL PROBUS MONTH** which will be happening again in March. Steve Campbell (a Past President of PROBUS CANADA and our Atlantic Region Director) has been working tirelessly to stimulate the PROBUS Clubs in Canada to advertise and promote PROBUS nation-wide. Steve would like each and every PROBUS Club to send him the name of a contact person for **NATIONAL PROBUS MONTH (NPM)**. In that way, he can send out information pertaining to the event. (Steve can be contacted at [skcampbl@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:skcampbl@nb.sympatico.ca)).

After much consideration and interaction by the Ontario PROBUS Directors, the PROBUS Clubs in Ontario have been 'rearranged' geographically to assist the Directors in their endeavours to easily contact and visit their respective Clubs. The PROBUS Directors have been putting forward many new ideas for the improvement and sustainability of PROBUS across Canada. You will find a listing of our Board of Directors elsewhere in this Newsletter and any one of us will welcome your contact with your question or your suggestion for the betterment of our organization. Your input is important to us as we work toward making PROBUS in Canada what you wish it to be.

In closing, **I wish each and every PROBUS member in Canada a very happy and healthy 2016.**

Very Sincerely,

**MARCH IS NATIONAL PROBUS MONTH ACROSS CANADA !!**

**LET'S TELL RETIREES IN CANADA WHO WE ARE AND INVITE THEM TO JOIN WITH US TO SHARE IN THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING A MEMBER AND ENJOYING OUR FELLOWSHIP !**

**CURRENT OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS  
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- President .....** **Muriel Dodge**, Salmon Arm, B.C. (B.C.#3)  
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**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](http://www.johnson.ca/medoc)**

**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 and 25 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 2855 Olympic Road, Qualicum Beach, B.C V9K 2L8 or by email at [rwhynott@shaw.ca](mailto:rwhynott@shaw.ca) ... or by phone at (250) 757-8026.*



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To access the various suppliers and to view the products available go to the website [www.probus.org/canada.htm](http://www.probus.org/canada.htm) and on the bottom left side of the Canada page see the block entitled "PROBUS Merchandise" and click on the supplier of choice depending on your particular requirements. You will also find instructions for ordering .

**HAVE YOU CHECKED THE PROBUS  
CANADA WEB SITE LATELY ?  
THERE IS NEW INFORMATION DAILY ....  
INCLUDING THIS NEWSLETTER IN FULL  
CO LOR FOR YOUR READING & SHARING !**

**[www.probus.org/canada.htm](http://www.probus.org/canada.htm)**

**PLEASE NOTE :**

**Included with the mailing of this Newsletter you will find a copy of your Third Party Liability Insurance Renewal Certificate for 2016.**  
**Please keep this certificate in a safe and readily available place in case of an unfortunate incident or in case you wish to refer to it for information purposes !**

## MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

### WHERE ARE WE NOW

Since our last newsletter we have chartered two new PROBUS Clubs and regretfully we have to advise that a Club of long standing has surrendered their Charter for a variety of reasons. The PROBUS Club of Ingersoll, Ontario .. # 95 .. which was chartered in Aug., 1999 ... was unable to carry on their activities with low numbers which led to difficulty getting persons to fill a number of important roles.

Fortunately, we also have two new Clubs to present to you and we hope you will do your best to make them welcome to the PROBUS family. They are:

#### **THE WOMEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF CALEDON, ONT.**

(Women) # 245

17402 Centreville Creek Road, Caledon, Ont. L7K 2L5

Email: 382joycen@gmail.com Fax: none

55 Members (Sponsor Women's PROBUS Club of

Brampton- Flower City)

Charter Members 55 10/01/15

CALEDON MEET Caledon Community Complex ,  
6215 Old Church Rd., 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed., 10:00 AM

President Joyce Norris (905) 584-1514

Secretary Carol Maxwell (905) 584-4803

#### **THE LIGHTHOUSE PROBUS CLUB, COLLINGWOOD, ONT.**

(Combined) # 246

c/o 4 - 115 First St., Suite 437, Collingwood, Ont. L9Y 4W3

Email: lighthouseprobus@gmail.com Fax: none

174 Members (Sponsor PROBUS Club of Mountain View)

Charter Members 174 11/28/15

LIGHTHOUSE MEET Cranberry Resort, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs., 9:00 AM

President Fred E. Devellano (647) 293-7784

Secretary Cindy Bailey (705) 445-5659

The Caledon Club will be part of Ont. Dist. # 3 &  
The Lighthouse Club will be part of Ont. Dist. # 5.

There are now 237 active PROBUS Clubs in Canada with approximately 33, 000 individual Members. A good size family indeed !

**Do you have persons on a "waiting list" to become Members of PROBUS ... is the list getting longer ... should you be considering another option for those who want to share in the pleasure you enjoy from your participation. It really is not difficult to establish a new PROBUS Club ..... contact your Director (see list on page 2) and ask for some advice and assistance to get started .... you will find it to be a truly nice rewarding experience and gain a lot of satisfaction in knowing that you are sharing PROBUS with others .**

## HAVE YOU CHECKED THE WEBSITE LATELY?

*[www.probus.org/canada.htm](http://www.probus.org/canada.htm)*

Every Club has a dedicated web page on the PROBUS Canada website and, every Club has the opportunity to have its monthly newsletter posted to that web page for the information of not only its own members but for the information of prospective Club members and other worldwide PROBUS members.

If you don't already have your newsletter posted to your Club's web page, simply attach an electronic copy to an e-mail addressed to the Webmaster at:  
*[probus@probus.org](mailto:probus@probus.org)*

Take a few minutes to check out the wealth of PROBUS related information that resides within the website, you might be surprised at what you find and, as the Webmaster I am always ready to consider suggestions that might make the website more interesting and accessible for our members.

*Brian Kirkwood - Webmaster*

## PROBUS DISTRICT CONFERENCES

Over the past few months there have been a couple of truly interesting PROBUS events featuring idea exchanges .... information updates ... and just plain fellowship at its' best.

In Ontario District #4 , our Past President Maureen Irving reports that several members from a number of Clubs got together for a day of presentations and discussions hosted by The PROBUS Women's Club of Waterloo. Starting with a fellowship breakfast followed by a variety of workshops for information exchange and idea deliberations the attendees brought much to the tables and all left with at least one....or several ... ideas for consideration back home at their own Club.

In Ont. District #2, Director/Board Secretary Richard Furlong reported that a similar event was hosted by the Men's PROBUS Club of Newmarket and over 100 Members from more than 30 Clubs in the District also spent a very fruitful day of idea exchange and problem solving with many returning home to try new things at their own Clubs.

There is much information and detail on these events which can be made available to your Club or District either through the Board Members mentioned or through the host Clubs .... ask and it's almost certain that sharing will not be a problem.



Have you ever joined a community event like a Santa Clause Parade ? These ladies from the Wasaga Beach Sunbirds PROBUS Club did just that this year and from all happy appearances they had a real ball. As Dianne Dove, Past President says “We constantly promote our Club at every opportunity, which includes PROBUS MONTH, and it works for us. Our sign gives us a great identity and we have a lot of fun as well”. As Dianne also says.. “The only thing missing this year was the snow” !

### From the **PROBUS CLUB OF BROCKVILLE** ..... **A SURPRISE TRIBUTE TO VETERANS !!**

“**Free Parking**” by **Raul Cirne** ..... Ever wonder why some people have Veterans license plates on their vehicle, and what, if any, is the benefit? Vehicles bearing Veterans plates can park, without cost, at most parking spaces within the City of Brockville. This includes on-street parking meters and those on city-owned parking lots. Regretfully, this benefit doesn't apply at parking meters on 'private' parking lots, such as the Brockville General Hospital and St. Lawrence College.

How does one obtain these special plates? The Royal Canadian Legion has the application-form, which, after you have completed it, they send away for approval. You pay a one-time fee of \$5.00, and also provide them with a photocopy of your discharge papers/book and a stamped and self-addressed envelope. Upon receipt of their letter of approval, you can then choose a personalized plate, without further expense. Previous to my obtaining Veterans plates, I had purchased personalized plates, but at a substantial cost. It doesn't appear to matter which country's armed services you served in, or for how long — I served, for 3 years, in the British army (R.E.M.E.).

**Editor's Note:** I wonder how many other communities across Canada have a similar policy. **Raul** is the **Special Events Chair of the Brockville PROBUS Club.**

### From **The PROBE** .....**Newsletter of the St. Catharines PROBUS Club.**

A few years after I was born, my Dad met a stranger who was new to our small town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around from then on. As I grew up, I never questioned his place in my family. In my young mind, he had a special niche. My parents were complementary instructors: Mom taught me good from evil, and Dad taught me to obey. But the stranger ... he was our storyteller. He would keep us spellbound for hours on end with adventures, mysteries and comedies.

If I wanted to know anything about politics, history or science, he always knew the answers about the past, understood the present and even seemed able to predict the future! He took my family to the first NHL hockey game. He made me laugh, and he made me cry.

The stranger never stopped talking, but Dad didn't seem to mind. Sometimes, Mom would get up quietly while the rest of us were shushing each other to listen to what he had to say, and she would go to the kitchen for peace and quiet.(I wonder now if she ever prayed for the stranger to leave.)

Dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions but the stranger never felt obligated to honor them. Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our home — not from us, our friends or any visitors. Our long time visitor, however, got away with four-letter words that burned my ears and made my dad squirm and my mother blush. My Dad didn't permit the liberal use of alcohol but the stranger encouraged us to try it on a regular basis. He made cigarettes look cool, cigars manly, and pipes distinguished.

He talked freely (much too freely!) about sex. His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing. I now know that my early concepts about relationships were influenced strongly by the stranger. Time after time, he opposed the values of my parents, yet he was seldom rebuked ... and NEVER asked to leave.

More than fifty years have passed since the stranger moved in with our family. He has blended right in and is not nearly as fascinating as he was at first. Still, if you could walk into my parents' den today, you would still find him sitting over in his corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk and watch him draw his pictures. His name?... We just call him 'TV'. He has a wife now ... we call her 'Computer'.

Their first child is 'Cell Phone'. Second child 'I Pod'. And just born this year, a Grandchild — 'I Pad'.