



**PROBUS Club of Uxbridge**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.**

**In Attendance:** Uxbridge Management Team and Membership

**WELCOME AND OPEN MEETING:** Kathy Clulow, our President, opened the Annual General Meeting (“AGM”) at Wooden Sticks Golf Club by welcoming members to the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Uxbridge PROBUS Club.

1. **WELCOME GUESTS:** The President introduced our honoured guests, namely, Brenda Andrews, President of PROBUS Canada; Willie Popp, Deputy Mayor of Uxbridge; and Jim Anderson, incoming President of the Port Perry PROBUS Club (our sponsoring Club of five years ago).
2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:** The President led us in the Land Acknowledgement: “Friends, we gather today on this sacred soil of the Mississauga’s of Scugog Island and other First Nations of the Williams Treaty. For thousands of years people have lived on this land, honouring the Creator. We acknowledge their stewardship and relationship with the land, its plants, animals, lakes and streams. Today, we renew our commitment to listen, learn and love our neighbours.”
3. **GREETINGS FROM GUESTS:**
  - Willie Popp, Deputy Mayor Of Uxbridge: Mr. Popp welcomed the members and indicated that he had not spoken to a group as large as ours before. He reviewed the tragedies that our Town has endured, namely Covid, the Tornado last year, as well as a fire on our main business section. Another enduring event was the culvert project for which he was responsible and spoke hopefully of seeing more rejuvenation in our downtown area soon. He spoke about retirement, referring to an adage that retirement used to mean the end – when in fact it is nowhere near the end. Whereas we all lived to work, now we work at living and enjoying many things that we could not do previously. He acknowledged how vital and vibrant our Club is to the Town of Uxbridge and presented a Township scroll to our President on behalf of our PROBUS Club, from the Township, wishing us well for the future. He also offered to be available for any questions from the membership if anyone wished to speak to him.
  - Brenda Andrews, President of PROBUS Canada: Brenda congratulated our Club on its fifth anniversary celebration of our charter since 2018. She acknowledged her own love for PROBUS and the enjoyment it has brought to her own life. She

oversees the largest District in Canada, which is within Ontario. Brenda thanked Kathy, our current President, and Chuck Heroux, our Past President for their dedication to the Club, and remembered Brenda McGowan, our first President. Brenda strongly feels that every member should volunteer at least once during their membership of their Club.

- Kathy acknowledged Jim Anderson, the incoming President for the Port Perry PROBUS Club. The Port Perry Club was our sponsor and mentor Club. We still look to them for support and ongoing direction.

#### 4. BUSINESS:

- **SECRETARY:** Linda Abate advised that the Minutes of the 2022 AGM had been posted on our club website and the Newsletter had advised the membership of that for their review. Hard copies were available as well at the meeting if anyone wished to pick one up. Linda advised that the Minutes from the 2022 AGM had been motioned and approved at the Management Team meeting of June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. Minutes are not accepted as approved until the Membership does so. It is prudent to approve the Minutes soon after the AGM as time does dull the memory of events, and sometimes members are no longer in the Club. Once the minutes for the present AGM are approved at the next Team meeting on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, they will be sent to the membership as a pdf document for their record and information.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES MOTION:** Linda proposed that the Minutes from the AGM of June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, be approved as distributed and reviewed.

**MOVING PARTY:** Nancy Emo

**SECOND:** Carolyn Hicken

**MOTION CARRIED**

- **FINANCIAL REPORT:** Wayne Brasseur reported. Bank Balance as of May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, was \$33,366.76. Club Income was \$10,911.00. **Note:** Income received for 2023-2024 renewals has been accrued to next year so is not showing in this club income amount. Social Event Income was \$58,179.00. Total Club Income after expenses was \$69,090.00. Club Expenses were \$12,082.04. Social Event Expenses were \$64,505.63. Total Club Expenses were \$76,587.67. There was discussion that the present bank balance should reflect a balance of somewhere in the \$10,000.00 range. Considerations as to why the balance is high, was the inactivity of the Club during COVID and presently members are paying for social events coming up for which no expenses have been incurred yet.

5. **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:** Elaine Stevenson - Membership Director. We currently have 275 members and a waiting list of thirty-two potential members. A reminder that membership renewals are due and may be paid by mail or e-transfer to the Treasurer no later than June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

6. **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT AND ACCLAMATION:** Kathy announced the Slate of candidates for the 2023/2024 Management Team which included three new members. The nominating committee introduced the slate of names at the May 10<sup>th</sup> General Meeting and advised that no further nominations had been put forward at that time. The slate is as follows:

**PROPOSED NEW SLATE**

- President: Kathy Clulow
- Past President: Chuck Heroux
- Vice-President: Vacant
- Treasurer: Margaret Blanchet
- Secretary: Linda Abate
- Membership Chair: Elaine Stevenson
- Social Co-Chair: Gail Heroux
- Social Co-Chair: Camille Scarlett
- Interest Group Chair: Betty Bignell
- Newsletter Editor: Bernie Beales
- Speakers Chair: Zina Bolak
- Website Manager: Gerry Bignell
- House Chair: Sally Kotsopoulos

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**

- Lynn Moore
- April Gilkinson
- Robin Dhillon

**RETIRING MEMBERS:**

- Carolyn Hicken
- Wayne Brasseur
- Deirdre Gibson
- Larry Nancekivell
- Brett Moore
- Gail Verwoerd
- Judy Fountain

Kathy advised that the slate has been “Declared by Acclamation” and will stand for the 2023/2024 election year. Kathy had the members of the Acclaimed Slate stand to be acknowledged. Kathy acknowledged all the retiring members for their time, dedication and support of the Management Team and club, we are all grateful for their time.

Brenda Andrews performed an Induction ceremony to the new members as follows:  
**“Members of the PROBUS Club of Uxbridge** - It’s a true privilege and pleasure for me to be asked to assist in this very special activity in the ongoing operation of your club.

The people who have agreed to serve as the executive and members of the management committee of your club have accepted the responsibility to carry out the directions and activities of the club in the year ahead.

In support of their willingness to serve, you as members also have a responsibility to support them in your endeavours and their planning of various activities and operations for the good of the club, and I urge you to do so as the year progresses.

At this time, it is my pleasure to induct your 2023/2024 president and executive.”

#### **BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING:**

In addition to the valuable contribution, you make to the community, volunteering has been proven to have many benefits for you as a volunteer.

##### **OPPORTUNITIES TO:**

- Learn new skills
- Expand horizons
- Maintain or establish a sense of belonging
- Expand social and business contacts
- Stay active

##### **REDUCTION OF:**

- Stress, anxiety, and depression
- Low self-esteem
- Social isolation
- Stress-related illness

7. **HISTORY OF THE UXBRIDGE PROBUS CLUB:** Chuck Heroux presented a wonderful history beginning with the early formation of our club and with his permission we are passing this on.

“ONCE UPON A TIME there was no PROBUS club in Uxbridge, but thanks to several talented, motivated, and intrepid volunteers, one got started.

Our club in Uxbridge began as an idea from Uxbridge people belonging to the Port Perry and Stouffville PROBUS clubs. Discussions regarding a new club began in December of 2017, and the first joint planning meeting took place on January 24, 2018, in Uxbridge. Judy Spring and Jayne Rees worked with Carolyn Hicken, Richard Furlong, Bob Ashdown and Chris Begg, to start this snowball rolling.

A meeting date of Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018, was announced for the Goodwood Hall, at 10:00 a.m. Ninety people showed up, and 82 signed up that day. A management team was struck, and the legal process began. Their first meeting was April 25<sup>th</sup> at Brenda McGowan’s home, and the first Management Team was struck:

President: Brenda McGowan

Honourary Past President: Jayne Rees (Port Perry PROBUS member)

Vice President: Gail Heroux  
Treasurer: Carolyn Hicken  
Secretary: Linda Abate  
Membership: Nancy Varley  
Social: Anne Gauvreau and Gail Heroux  
Interest Chair: Debra Lippay  
House Chair: Wanda Laing  
Newsletter: Gail Pimm  
Webmaster: Paul Hayward  
Speaker Chair: Chris Begg

The meeting date was set as the second Wednesday of each month, at Goodwood Hall, with the Foundation Meeting occurring on Wednesday, June 13, at 10:00 a.m.

On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, Gail made her first social booking for a Muskoka Lunch cruise out of Gravenhurst, for late August. Management Team meetings continued through May, finalizing the myriad details involved in creating a new club, so that everything was ready for the Foundation Meeting.

After the first meeting, we could count 112 members. By the end of October that had grown to 177 members!

We continued to meet at Goodwood Hall until an email was received from Mill Run Golf Club in December of 2018. Their new General Manager, Ryan Tracy, wanted to offer his ballroom for our monthly meetings, and after several meetings an equitable rent was decided upon, that included coffee and snacks, and an option for lunch to be served for a nominal rate. They wanted to improve their visibility in the community by sponsoring us in this way, and it was certainly a great opportunity for us to have a premium meeting space.

Tragedy struck our club in 2019. In the early months, Brenda McGowan, who had proven to be a terrific leader, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and asked for volunteers to take over for her. Kathy Clulow, Larry Nancekivell and I stepped forward, and the rest is history. Brenda passed away in August 2019.

Our relationship with Mill Run Golf Club continued quite successfully until March of 2020, and we all know what happened then. The COVID pandemic shut down all in person meetings, and we very quickly became ZOOM experts. The March meeting was cancelled, and Management Team met by ZOOM on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at which point they cancelled all social interest groups and meetings until the end of May! We met several times in the ensuing months to re-calibrate, and do everything possible to keep the club functioning, at least on some level. Refunds were paid for cancelled events, a second monthly newsletter was started, and we all adapted to the new reality.

Our first full meeting was held on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020, and was a hybrid at Mill Run Golf Club. A very small audience consisting of the Management Team, and members without computers, was present with the speaker, Dr. Carlye Jensen, and the meeting was broadcast on ZOOM to the full membership for the first time. Although all went smoothly, it was decided that if the pandemic continued, we would offer ZOOM meetings to the membership monthly, and they would be recorded and posted on YouTube for subsequent viewing. That proved very successful.

COVID offered the biggest challenge a social club can face—no social gatherings—but somehow, with a lot of imagination, collaboration with other clubs, and pure force of will, we were able to keep our club together. When vaccinations became available in early 2021, we made them mandatory for any face-to-face gatherings, because some of our interest groups were starting back up in real meetings. Social events also picked up, from ZOOM-based trivia nights to socially distanced outdoor coffee events, and even a car rally in September of 2021. We also participated in the Optimist Fantasy of Lights for the first time in December of 2020, building an imaginative display based around a blue and yellow bus with famous Canadians caricatured in the windows.

Meanwhile, back at the golf club, new management and new priorities happened, and we could no longer afford the rent they wanted, so we looked for another meeting place, and the Uxbridge Legion came to our rescue.

When we started back to live meetings, in November of 2021 at the Legion, we attempted to simultaneously broadcast them on ZOOM and record them for YouTube but ran into more technical challenges than we could cope with, so after a few tries we went to just recording them for YouTube and continued that through the summer of 2022. By then we were filling the hall and decided to end the recordings.

Membership fell off through COVID, but once our regular activities began again it shot up. We set a cap at 275, partly because our meeting hall could not handle any more than we were getting, around 100 per meeting. We reached that milestone last fall and have been running with a waiting list ever since.

So ultimately, this is a success story, for Uxbridge, for seniors, for PROBUS, and, hopefully for a long future ahead.”

Thank you so much Chuck for this Memory Lane history.

**COFFEE TIME AND FELLOWSHIP and REMINDER TO PURCHASE SHARE THE WEALTH TICKETS. TWO PAIRS OF BLUE JAY TICKETS HAVE BEEN GENEROUSLY DONATED by SCOTT and MARIE McEACHNIE, AS WELL AS THE CASH PRIZES FROM SHARE THE WEALTH.**

8. **INTRODUCTION OF MAIN SPEAKER:** Kathy introduced our key speaker, Dr. Mike Daley who has a PHD in Musicology, as well as being a guitarist and singer based in Toronto. A professional musician for over thirty years, Mike has toured Canada, the United States and England, and has recorded extensively in a variety of musical styles. His musical coverage for today is Leonard Cohen.

Leonard Cohen was one of Canada's greatest musical and literary artists. He had two remarkable careers, first as a celebrated young poet and then as a singer and songwriter. In this fascinating and humorous presentation, Dr. Mike Daley tells Leonard's life story and performs a few of his songs.

9. **SHARE THE WEALTH:** Dr. Mike Daley assisted with pulling the winners:

- First place – Don Thomas – Blue Jay Tickets
- Second place – Bert Dawson - \$180.00
- Third place – Louise Thomas - \$90.00
- Fourth place – Barb Leenheer – Blue Jay Tickets
- Fifth place – Bob Prince - \$90.00

The next General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. to be held at the Uxbridge Legion. Meeting adjourned.

Buffet Lunch served at Wooden Sticks Golf Club

#### **PROBUS NON-DENOMINATIONAL BLESSING**

Let us pray silently together, each one of us, according to our individual beliefs. Let us offer thanks for our food and the blessings of fellowship around us. Let us be the source of hope for those in need, and contentment for those who are lonely. Let us give gratitude for the opportunity to serve PROBUS. Let the feelings of love, kindness and a well-directed, yet gentle, spirit always be reflected in our actions.

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During Lunch, Brenda Andrews spoke about the history of PROBUS. We shared this story with our membership in last year's Annual General Minutes, and we would like to include it again for the benefit of our new members.

## **THE PROBUS STORY**

In 1965 at Welwyn Gardens City, United Kingdom, a retired Rotarian named Fred Carnill got the idea for PROBUS from coffee and conversation of retired men. There were eight of them, mostly retired. The conversation was always stimulating and the fellowship excellent.

Carnill thought there might be other men nearby who would enjoy the fellowship and persuaded the Rotary Club to bring them together in what became the CAMPUS Club. The next year 1966, Harold Blanchard of the Rotary Club of Caterham picked up the idea and started what turned out to be the first PROBUS Club.

The Club structure was simple. There were none of the constraints or obligations imposed by service clubs. The cost was to be kept to a minimum and Fellowship was to be paramount. The whole purpose was to get to know each other.

One of the more academic members produced the idea of PROBUS, - PROfessional and BUSiness. We were assured that Probus was a Latin word from which "probity" was derived, and the name was adopted with enthusiasm. There is a village in Cornwall called Probus and also there was a Roman Emperor of the same name who in his day was famous for his cultivation of the vine.

The aims of the first PROBUS Club were:

- Regular meetings; and
- For retirees who appreciated and valued the opportunity to meet with others of like circumstances and similar levels of interest.

Since 1966:

- There are 4,000 clubs worldwide, with a total membership of over 400,000.
- Clubs exist in Europe, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Canada.
- There are more PROBUS members than Rotarians in the United Kingdom.
- The Rotary Club of Galt in District 7080 sponsored a club in Cambridge ON, March 17, 1987, with fifty-two members and the Club has since grown to 154 active members.
- As of January 2022, there are 252 active PROBUS Clubs in Canada with about 37,000 members.

## **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- The purpose of the Club shall be to provide regular meetings, guest speakers, programs, and activities for retired and semi-retired persons with similar interests.



- Because many of its members may already be active in service to the community, the activities of the Club shall be directed solely towards acquaintance, fellowship, and learning:
  - The Club shall not be competitive with any other organization.
  - The Club shall be non-political and non-sectarian.
  - The Club shall not be, nor appear to be, a fundraising or service Club.

**CHARTER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE FOR THE 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF PROBUS UXBRIDGE**

**MEMBERS SINCE MAY 2018**

Linda Abate  
 Anne Gauvreau  
 Paul Hayward  
 Gail & Chuck Heroux  
 Carolyn Hicken  
 Debra Lippay  
 Nancy Varley

**MEMBERS SINCE JUNE 2018**

Anne Bath  
 Betty & Gerry Bignell  
 Ted & Zina Bolak  
 Cathy Chilton  
 Kathy Clulow  
 Margaret Downes  
 Nancy Emo  
 Elaine Fast  
 Gillian Iszard  
 Brian Keeling  
 Ian Kingston  
 Joan Mathieu  
 Bill McMahon  
 Marion & Ted Meyers  
 Bob & Jean Nixon  
 June O'Donnell  
 Janet Patterson  
 Marianne Patterson  
 Elaine Stevenson  
 Don & Louise Thomas  
 Gail Verwoerd  
 Jan & John Wilson  
 Norma Yeomanson

**MEMBER SINCE JULY 2018**

Wayne Brasseur  
Doris Campbell  
Sallyanne & Ross Etherington  
Carol Fraser  
Ann Hayward  
Karen & Doug Hoyle  
Robin John  
Shirley Kydd  
Brett & Lenore Moore  
Margaret Myers  
Judy & Bob Prince  
Kathleen & Peter Ravitch

**MEMBER SINCE AUGUST 2018**

Joy & Derek Freemantle  
Camille & Barry Scarlett