

PROBUS NEWS

Probus Club of Hamilton #34

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Meetings are held, 2nd Tuesday each month at:
The Scottish Rite
4 Queen Street South, Hamilton, ON

President	Alan McPherson	905 648-8908
1 st V.P.	Ted Priestner	905 304-7301
2 nd V.P.	John Dinsmore	905 945-5744
Secretary	Bill Wilson	905 304-1365
Treasurer	Ernie Brunton	905 648-4189
Newsletter	Jim Dow	905 383-6169
Program	Al Gunn	905 304-9108
Telephone	Bill Cooper	905 525-8680
Director at large	Bob King	905 648-3142
Past President	Cy Armstrong	905 315-1659

Next meeting

Annual General Meeting Tuesday, September 14th, 2010

Breakfast (\$10) - 8:15 a.m.

Meeting Commences – 8:45 a.m.

Speaker – Councillor Lloyd Ferguson

Subject - "Pan Am Games – Stadium"

With a well timed story and a couple of good jokes President Alan McPherson opened the August meeting.



Allen asked if you were willing to volunteer as a driver to assist a member that would like to attend our monthly meeting.

To help us co-ordinate this program please give us your name. Thank you.

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Fred Simpson. Fred died on August 6th. Our sympathies go to his family and friends.

The trip to Stratford ("Evita") scheduled for Oct 21st is in question. To date we only have 31 people attending and only 6 have made payment (\$110/person). To finalize arrangements we need your commitment & payment by Sept 17th.

Getting It Right at Mohawk College

Our guest speaker, introduced by Allan Greve, was Jim Vanderveken who is Dean of the Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies at Mohawk College.

Jim's comments started with a nice story connecting his family to Probus. In short Jim was visiting the Netherlands and his stepfather, believing that Jim would be expecting to be shown around, explained that could not happen as he was very busy preparing a presentation to Probus on the topic of "time".

Major physical change is happening at Mohawk as part of a \$40 million renewal of old and much stretched facilities. The Fennell Campus improvements will create an even better environment for learning. Those lands and buildings have now graduated over 85,000 students, including 4,000 this past June.

Jim spoke of the future issue of not enough young people to fill the shoes of retiring baby boomers – a 50,000 job issue for Hamilton alone by the end of the decade. Mohawk sees itself in a leadership role in restocking Hamilton's talent pool with highly skilled and future ready college graduates.

The College's strategic plan is based on the priorities of quality, sustainability and innovation.

Quality includes a quality education for students delivered by a first class faculty and appropriate spaces for students to connect, collaborate and create.

Jim explained that sustainability as a strategic priority means that Mohawk's decision making is based on a triple bottom line of financial, environmental and social responsibility. They have a balanced budget for the next three years. To reduce cars driving to and from the campus each day, starting this fall all students will get discounted transit passes. They recognize responsibility for fighting poverty and for

September Birthdays

Brian Arthur
Ernie Brunton
Frank Cooke
Robert Hadden
Don Hitch
Fred Inglis
Gabriel Jeremias
Donald McLean
Larry O'Neill
Les Souter, Tom Van Zuiden
Bill Vaughan, Leo Steinnagel



Happy Birthday!

access to education and have specific strategies addressing those important issues.

He asserted that Mohawk has earned a reputation for teaching students first rate technical skills and now are posed to add skills making their students "future ready" and that brought Jim to the innovation priority. Recognizing that our knowledge based and innovation driven economy puts a premium on problem solving, team building, creativity and leadership skills, Mohawk is focused on immersing students in a culture of innovation. The expectation is to turn the College into a hotbed for entrepreneurship creating students known for their curiosity, creativity and courage.

Jim pointed out the education centre understands the power of partnerships and they have over a thousand partners across every sector of the economy and throughout the area.

In my view Jim presented himself as an impressive spokesperson for Mohawk College and demonstrated how they are not sitting on their laurel but rather are looking to community needs and developing strategies for nurturing graduates who are well prepared for the ever evolving jobs of the future.

by – Bob King



As we move into a new year of PROBUS fellowship, consider inviting a friend to our monthly meeting. Currently we have 143 members in our club and we would warmly welcome new members.

Who Am I ? -- John Gillies

Hail "the chief"!

He started at the bottom of the heap but, resplendent in the Gillies' tartan and bow tie, John pointed out that with the passage of his father he became Chief of the Gillies of Corriehanisdal Clan.



Around the turn of the last century his grandfather immigrated to Montreal. The family moved on to Vancouver and John was born there in 1938. His father was a chemist and his employment opportunities kept the family on the move – Stewart B.C. on the Alaskan border, Trail B.C., back to Vancouver when his dad was overseas, Rossland B.C., Kimberly B.C., and finally Noranda, Quebec.

Being athletic helped John make new friends during all these transitions and football brought him into contact with a "blonde haired and blue eyed cheerleader." He and Betty have now been married for 50 years so sometimes it is good to take your eyes off the ball.

Over the next few years John worked in the Noranda Mines smelter, took a break to pick up a Commerce degree from Dalhousie, returned to work in the mine, earned a CMA accounting designation and moved on to Falconbridge Mine. John did well at Falconbridge moving up the ranks to CFO before he retired. He was enjoying retirement and golf when enticed by a friend to join Arbor Memorial Services (funeral homes and cemeteries across Canada) where he served as CEO for three years. As he stood in a distinguished way at to podium in dark suit and bow tie it was easy to see John in that business.

John now resides in Oakville, plays golf at the Hamilton Golf and Country and is blessed with 4 children and 8 grandchildren.

by – Bob King

A Homeless Man's Funeral

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Kentucky back country. As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost and, being a typical man, I didn't stop for directions. I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man. And as I played 'Amazing Grace,' the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head hung low, my heart was full. As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen nothin' like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

Apparently I'm still lost....

PROBUS Annual Dues

Last month you received a notice for payment of annual dues; if you have made payment **Thank You** .

Due date for dues is September 14th.