

THE BIRTH OF PROBUS CLUBS IN CANADA

The word PROBUS is derived from the words PROfessional and BUSiness.

The first Probus club in the world was formed in England in 1965 when a recent retiree named Fred Carhill started meeting for coffee with several other ex-commuters. There were many retired men in this area with similar business and professional backgrounds and Fred decided to form a luncheon club. The local Rotary president organized the first meeting and with forty five men in attendance they established the Campus Club.

At about the same time in September 1965, Harold Blanchard, a member of the Caterham Rotary Club also retired. At his urging the Caterham Rotary club organized a meeting for retired professional and businessmen aged 60 and over in February 1966. Forty two prospective members attended and agreed to a monthly luncheon meeting. They adopted the name of Probus, taking the first three letters of **PRO**fessional and **BUS**iness. Harold is considered the 'father figure' of Probus in Great Britain.

Probus has since spread throughout the world and at the present time there are over 51000 clubs worldwide and the numbers are increasing steadily.

Probus Clubs were introduced to New Zealand in 1974, Australia in 1976 and Canada in 1987.

PROBUS IN CANADA



JOHN REYNOLDS MORRIS

More than 26,000 Probus members in Canada can thank John Reynolds Morris for introducing Probus Clubs to Canada.

John Reynolds Morris was the founder of Probus in Canada, the first president of Probus Centre-Canada and presently President Emeritus of Probus Centre-Canada. As President Emeritus, his wisdom and sage advice continues to be an invaluable asset to the Directors of Probus Centre-Canada.

He is a Rotarian since 1946, and Past District Governor of Rotary International 1976-1977 in an area covering Southwest Ontario and New York State. He was made a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary in 1976 and Rotary International Benefactor and was the personal representative of the president of Rotary International at five District Conferences.

During a trip to Australia and New Zealand in 1981, John saw at first hand the enjoyment people were experiencing through Probus membership. He felt that retired people in Canada could share the benefits of Probus and was determined to introduce it to Canada. He credits Probus South Pacific as playing an important role in the formation of Probus in Canada.

His acquaintances from Australia supplied him with documents and booklets including instructions on 'How to Form a Probus Club' which he rewrote modifying it into a document that would apply to the Canadian Clubs.

He scheduled several speaking engagements to Rotary Clubs. This was the impetus needed to organize the formation of Probus Clubs locally and eventually across Canada. During this period, he visited forty-three Rotary Clubs requesting their assistance in the formation of Probus with five visits to the west coast and four to the east coast.

In 1988, John recognized there was a need of protecting the Probus logo and after making an application, was successful in acquiring a trademark.

He realized there was also a need for liability insurance and with the assistance of Bert Klinkhammer of Galt, Ontario, was able to procure it.



BERT KLINKHAMMER

Deceased March 31, 2007)

In attendance at one of the speaking engagements was **BERT KLINKHAMMER** who, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Galt, was instrumental in forming Canada's first Probus Club, the Probus Club of Cambridge, on March 17, 1987 and became its first president.

Beginning in May 1988 Bert served for four years as the convener of semi-annual meetings of the few existing Probus Clubs in Ontario. These meetings were attended by club Presidents and Vice-Presidents who exchanged ideas on the development, improvement and the growth of Probus in Canada.

In 1995 he worked with Bernard (Bud) Crookes to incorporate **PROBUS CENTRE-CANADA** to guarantee continuance of the movement in Canada. He served as the first Chairman of the Board.



DORIS MORRIS

Doris Morris, John's wife, also took an active part in the formation of Probus and managed the finances. During the seven formative years of PROBUS in Canada, she became knowledgeable of PROBUS matters and assisted John in promoting the movement at many gatherings. By putting her secretarial skills and later her computer skills to work she helped in preparing correspondence, newsletters and pamphlets.

On many trips she shared the driving and was a constant source of encouragement.



BERNARD (BUD) CROOKES, C.A. COLLINGWOOD, ONTARIO

Past Chairman of Probus Centre (1997-98), formerly Treasurer, and then Board Chairman, Co-Publisher and creator of the first worldwide Probus Web Page

Bud was a Financial Manager, a life member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario, a Past District Governor in District 7070 of Rotary in Southern Ontario around Toronto, subsequently in District 7010 since 1983.

Like John Morris, during a visit to Australia and New Zealand in 1987, Bud became interested in Probus and was determined to introduce the concept to his community. In 1987, with the assistance of the Rotary Club of Collingwood, he was successful in forming the fourth Club in Canada, The Probus Club of The Georgian Triangle, now known as The Probus Club of Collingwood. Since that time, with his assistance and direction, Probus has expanded to nine Clubs in Collingwood. He also brought Probus to Wasaga Beach in September 1995 with the help of

Rotarian KARL FUHRE and The Rotary Club of Wasaga Beach. Wasaga Beach now has five Probus Clubs. Between Collingwood and Wasaga Beach, there are now over 2,600 members in fourteen clubs. He was also involved in the promotion of fifteen Probus Clubs from Barrie to Bracebridge including Midland and Penetanguishene and west to Port Elgin.

With the assistance of Bert Klinkhammer of Galt, Ontario, he helped incorporate PROBUS CENTRE-CANADA, INC. on August 1st, 1995, and managed national finances.

Bud Crookes, had acquired the constitution and bylaws of South Pacific Probus and revised them into suitable documents that would apply to Probus in Canada.



JUNE CROOKES

His wife June, a nurse, was named by the Toronto Don Mills Rotary Club as a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary in 1978. In 1996 Bud and June developed and published the first international Probus Web Page, www.probus.org, as a means of informing Rotary and Probus members of activities in Probus Clubs around the world.

In 1999, he visited Leon, Mexico to encourage the expansion of Probus in Mexico. Probus has since grown into several clubs in Mexico.

In 1997 Bud became Chairman of Probus-Centre (Canada) Inc., and developed a promotional program for Rotary with 44 Past Governors and other Rotarians across Canada, to inform and assist Rotary in new Probus club formation, with the objective:

"Every town and city in Canada needs a Probus Club."

In 2005, Bud came out of retirement to assist Probus Centre-Canada as Financial Manager. He retained that position until a suitable replacement was found in 2006.



BILL EDWARDS

Southampton, Ontario

Bill Edwards, a Past President of Port Elgin Rotary Club in Southampton, Ontario, founded the Probus Club of Port Elgin and District (now The Probus Club of Saugeen Shores). After serving as President of that Club, he succeeded Bert Klinkhammer as the convener of the semi-annual meetings of the PROBUS CLUBS of Ontario and held the position for two years.

He was responsible for initiating and promoting the concept of assessing every member of every club \$1 to support PROBUS CENTRE-CANADA.

Bill has made a continuing effort to extend PROBUS in Bruce & Grey Counties.



CARL INGEBERTSON

Carl Ingebertsen, a Past President of the Rotary Club of Brampton, persuaded the Rotary Club of Brampton to sponsor the PROBUS CLUB of Brampton and served as the first President.

He has assisted with the formation of the Womens' PROBUS CLUB of Brampton and other new clubs at Mississauga Centre and Bolton.

He has served as a Director, President and Past President of Probus Centre-Canada.

Carl suggested it would be appropriate to add the sentence ***“OUR STRENGTH IS FELLOWSHIP, OUR SUCCESS IS PARTICIPATION”*** to the Probus Centre Motto, ***“EVERY TOWN AND CITY IN CANADA NEEDS A PROBUS CLUB”*** His suggestion was approved and adopted by the Board.



COLIN SMITH
White Rock, B.C

Awarded the Rotary Foundation Citation for outstanding service, and the Distinguished Service Award. On his return from an extended holiday in New Zealand during 1987 and contact there with PROBUS CLUBS, Colin set about establishing the second PROBUS CLUB to be formed in Canada the White Rock/South Surrey Probus Club on September 9th, 1987.

In the fall of 1991 he assisted with the formation of PROBUS CLUBS at Chilliwack and Langley, B.C. He was a valued member of the PROBUS CANADA COUNCIL and provided valuable advice about the liability insurance program started for the protection of all PROBUS CLUBS that subscribed.

BRUCE FERGUSON (no Photo Available)
Calgary, Alberta...

An active Rotarian, Bruce helped organize Probus Clubs in Edmonton, Calgary, Camrose and Lethbridge in Alberta.

Admitted to the Alberta bar in 1962 and appointed a Queens Council in 1981, he has offered wise counsel in connection with protecting the good name and use of our trade mark name "PROBUS".



GEORGE GRUMMETT
BURLINGTON, ONTARIO
(DECEASED - 2000)

A Past President of the Rotary Club of Burlington and past President of The Probus Club of Burlington. He was responsible for organizing the three PROBUS CLUBS in Burlington and assisted with the formation of clubs at Alliston, Hamilton, Brampton, Kitchener, Mississauga and Woodstock.

He served as an active Board member of Probus Centre - Canada until shortly before his death.



RON LAKE
Burlington, Ontario

As chairman of the association of PROBUS CLUBS of Ontario for two years, Ron Lake managed to visit many of the clubs to offer help and counsel from his term as President of the PROBUS CLUB of Burlington.

During his term the idea was developed of having Regional meetings of eight to ten PROBUS CLUBS held once a year, to be followed by an annual meeting of all clubs in Ontario. These have proven to be well received by many clubs as well as visits between clubs and an exchange of ideas that were developed during Ron's leadership.



HAL PASSMORE
Brockville, Ontario

A Rotary Past District 7040 Governor, Hal was responsible for the start of the PROBUS CLUB of Brockville in 1992.

His work in Eastern Ontario through addresses at Rotary meetings resulted in new PROBUS CLUBS at Cornwall, Ottawa-Rideau Valley, Perth and Kingston.



STAN STEEVES
Moncton, New Brunswick

Probus was brought to New Brunswick by Stan Steeves in 1990.

He joined Rotary in 1960, was President in 1984, and became District Governor in Rotary District 7810 for 1987-8.

His assistance was instrumental in the formation of the PROBUS CLUB of Moncton, New Brunswick in October 1990, following a visit from the Executive Director at the Rotary District Conference in 1989.

In 1992 he contributed to the successful founding of the PROBUS CLUB of Saint John, N.B.

He served as a member of the PROBUS CANADA COUNCIL for three years.

WOMEN IN PROBUS

It was not until October 1990 that women had their first Probus Club, The Women's Probus Club of Burlington, Ontario. The first president was **Barbara Newham**. The second president, **Mary Fraser**, served for *three years on the* PROBUS CANADA COUNCIL and assisted with the formation of the Womens' Probus Club at Kitchener-Westmount.

Of the 180 clubs in Canada in 2006, there are 34 women's clubs and 47 men's clubs. These are far outweighed by the 99 combined clubs.

PRESIDENTS PROBUS CENTRE-CANADA



John Morris - President 1995 – 1999



Reg Whynott -(Executive Director – Start 1997-)
President & Managing Director 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002



Carl Ingebertson - President – 2002 – 2003



Ken Leaney - President – 2003 – 2005



Maureen Huisman - President 2005 – 2006



Beth Hickerson - President 2006 – 2007

Probus has evolved into one of Canada's most successful organizations. It will continue to flourish because of the dedication of these people and many others who have offered their time and efforts selflessly on behalf of Probus.