



The Probus Letter

Published for the Members of PROBUS CLUBS in CANADA

by: PROBUS CENTRE-CANADA, INC.

2855 Olympic Road, Qualicum Beach, B.C. V9K 2L8

June, 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Beth Hickerson
President

This year has been an exciting and rewarding year for me. As I travelled around the country visiting the Clubs, I was amazed at how different each Club is, but all fulfilling the Probus experience with fun and fellowship. I enjoy receiving and reading your Club newsletters and am impressed by the high quality of speakers we are having at our meetings.

Last month I attended the B.C. conference held in Salmon Arm. The Shuswap Club and its committee are to be congratulated for an outstanding conference with lots of Probus fun, fellowship and friendship. Also, some learning with an excellent morning workshop. More and more Clubs are organizing and attending Regional or District get-togethers, resulting in an exchange of ideas, speakers, trips and discussing problem areas to all groups.

To date 2007 has not seen a big increase in new Clubs being formed. I have heard of several new Clubs planning to start up in the Fall. Let's try for 200 Clubs by the end of 2007. Don't forget the contest for the Club that starts the most new Clubs in 2006-2007. Let's put your Club name on the winning banner.

Rendezvous 2005 was an outstanding success. The Probus Club of Saint John N.B. will host Rendezvous 2008 on Sept. 25-28, 2008. The format will be similar to the 2005 Rendezvous with sightseeing tours, workshops and more fun and fellowship for all. Our thanks to Bill Brydges (previous Probus Canada Director) and Lorne McGuigan, co-chairs of this event. Also, thanks to Art Buck (Probus Canada Vice-President) for his efforts as National Liaison and Chair of the Entertainment and Publicity Committee. **Plan now to attend !**

Most Clubs change their Management Committee during the May to October months. ***Just a reminder to all Presidents to review your individual Club's Constitution & Bylaws with your new Management Committee.*** You will be surprised at what you will learn and could eliminate some problems later in the year.

We are still celebrating the 20th anniversary of Probus in Canada. Take some time and visit the Probus Canada website. You will find information that could be used at a local Probus meeting (e.g. Do you know that?) Our thanks to Bernie Nadeau and Brian Kirkwood for the set up of the "History of Probus" now available on our website.

Some Clubs do not hold meetings in the summer months. I wish you a great vacation time and come back in the Fall with your batteries charged, ready to participate in your local meetings. To those of you who meet all year I wish you continued success in offering exciting and challenging summer activities for your members.

To you, the Probus members, a sincere thank you for all the courtesies extended to me as your President. You always made me feel welcome on my visits to your Clubs and truly carried out the Probus philosophy of fun & fellowship.

Every Community in Canada needs a Probus Club !

Our strength is fellowship, Our success is participation!

Let's make that dream of 200 Clubs by December 2007 a reality!

CURRENT OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF PROBUS CENTRE – CANADA, INC.

- President** **Beth Hickerson** , Ancaster, Ont.
Tel: (905) 304-9939
Email: bethhickerson@gmail.com
- Vice - President** ... **Arthur Buck** Moncton, N.B.
Tel: (506) 532-8408
Email: artsonbuck@yahoo.com
- Treasurer** **Gordon Springate**... Kelowna, B.C.
Tel: (250) 769-0664
Email: j12springate@shaw.ca
- Secretary** **John Adams** Wasaga Beach, Ont.
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Email: jadams2512@rogers.com
- Past-President** * ... **Maureen Huismans**, Newmarket, Ont.
Tel: (905) 895-0224 Fax: (905) 895-8667
Email: maureen.huismans@sympatico.ca
- (Appointed – Non-Voting)

DIRECTORS

- James Bracken** Winnipeg , Man.
Tel: (204) 269-6484
Email: jbracken@mts.net
- Tim Haitsma** Belleville , Ontario
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- John Leonard** North Vancouver, B.C.
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- Heinz Puersten**..... Bracebridge, Ontario
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- Len Rosenberg** Cambridge, Ontario
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Tel: (905) 681-2204
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Tel: (306) 751-0379
Email: gordonsmith@sasktel.net
- Keith Trail** Nanaimo, British Columbia
Tel: (250) 751-1055
Email: ektvrt@shaw.ca

Non-Voting Appointees

- President-Emeritus**.... **John R. Morris**, Alliston, Ont.
Tel: (705) 435-3963 Fax: (705)435-6487
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- Web Page Publisher** .. **Bernard Nadeau**, Wasaga Beach, Ont.
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- Financial Manager** .. **Gordon Hutton**, Qualicum Beach, B.C.
Tel: (250) 752-4805
Email: vanislegord@shaw.ca
- Managing Director** ... **Reg Whynott**, Qualicum Beach, B.C.
Tel: (250) 757-8026 Fax: (250) 757-8036
Email: rwhynott@nanaimo.ark.com
- If your Club is in need of assistance or guidance with any Probus related item please do not hesitate to contact any of the Officers or Directors listed above.**

PROBUS CANADA ELECTIONS – 2007

In keeping with the Constitution and Bylaws, elections were held to select persons to serve on the Board of Probus Centre-Canada for the next three years. There were calls for nominations to the Board with vacancies to be filled in each of the four regions of the country.

In Atlantic Canada and the State of Maine, there were three candidates nominated for the one position on the Board in the persons of Trevor J. Atkin, Probus Club of St. John's Region; Arthur Buck , Probus Club of Greater Moncton; Moira Ducharme, Probus Club of Halifax. An election was carried out and **Arthur Buck** , Probus Club of Greater Moncton, was re-elected for a three year term.

In Ontario, there were elections to be held in two Districts, # 1 and # 4. In District # 1 there was one nomination received and **Tim Haitsma**, Probus Club of Belleville was declared as elected by acclamation for a three year term. In District # 4 , there was one nomination to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Nancy Troyak and **Len Rosenberg**, Probus Club of Cambridge was declared elected by acclamation for a two year term, the balance of Nancy's term .

In the region of N.W. Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta there was one nomination received and **Jim Bracken** , Probus Club of Winnipeg, was declared elected by acclamation for a three year term.

In British Columbia, District #2 , there were two candidates nominated for the one position on the Board in the persons of John Leonard, Probus Club of North Vancouver and Walter Sussel, Probus Club of Chilliwack. An election was carried out and **John Leonard** , Probus Club of North Vancouver, was elected for a three year term representing District # 2 .

President Beth Hickerson congratulated the new Directors and also expressed appreciation to all who had allowed their names to stand and complimented them on their willingness to serve as representatives of Probus across Canada. She also praised those who had completed their terms on the Board and thanked them for their many hours of unselfish contribution to Probus and to our growth and development over these past years They were: **Stone Avery** , Cobourg, Ont. ; **Allan Lee**, Edmonton, Ab.; **M."Pidge McBride** , Vancouver, B.C. ; and **Nancy Troyak** , Kitchener, Ont.)

Please check the listing of the current Board Members in the left column of this page and change your records accordingly.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS PROBUS CENTRE-CANADA, INC.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Board of Directors on the 23rd of April, 2007 the following Officers were elected for the year ahead:

President—Beth Hickerson; **Vice-President**-- Arthur Buck;
Treasurer – Gordon Springate; **Secretary** -- John Adams;
Past President - (Appointed – Non-Voting) Maureen Huismans

"SPEAKERS CORNER" Just a friendly reminder. If you are looking for an outstanding speaker ...or, if your Club has had one recently that you would like to recommend to other Probus Clubs go to the Probus Canada website **www.probus.org** ... and click on "National Pages and Contacts" and then on "Canada" and when the page opens go to the column on the right headed "Club Information" and click on "Speakers Corner ...it could be interesting !

IN MEMORIUM

ALBERT FRANCIS (BERT) KLINKHAMMER

Probus in Canada and, in fact, around the world, lost a great friend and supporter on March 31st of this year with the passing of "Bert" Klinkhammer, a Member of the Probud Club of Cambridge, Ontario.

"Bert" was the Founding President of the Probud Club of Cambridge, the first in Canada, and was also a former Chairman of the Board of Directors of Probud Centre-Canada from 1992-1997, having been one of the founding Members of that Board.

John Morris, Founder and President Emeritus of Probud Canada, stated that *"Bert was one of the finest gentlemen I have ever known and he believed very passionately in the value and contribution of Probud Clubs across our country and abroad. I shall miss him very much."*

Joining John at the Memorial service for Bert was our President Beth Hickerson and a number of Members of the national Board.

A special contribution was made by your national Board to the Cambridge Hospital Memorial Fund in "Bert's" name.

From Around the Clubs

The Probud Club of Cambridge celebrated their 20th Anniversary in great style with close to 200 people in the hall for a special luncheon. Guests from neighbouring Clubs, Probud Canada and Community dignitaries attended to bring their compliments and congratulations. Compliments went to the Committee of Past Presidents who were responsible for arranging the agenda and also to an excellent Guest Speaker. The Club Bulletin for April stated that "it was rewarding to meet the Pioneers who worked with such dedication in the formative years and today's leaders who strive to make Probud in Canada the place for retired and semi-retired people to enjoy peer group interaction."

Perhaps the Members of the Probud Club of Cambridge should also receive compliments for their own pioneering work as well as their twenty years of successful operation and programming. Like every Probud Club, it takes people who care and want to get just a little more from their retirement years working together to make things happen.

"CONGRATULATIONS CAMBRIDGE"

Probud Pins & Pocket Crests

Regular Probud 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 and 15 year pins are \$5.50 each regardless of number ordered and the President pin, the Probud Canada pin and the Past President pin are \$8.00 each regardless of the number ordered.

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@nanaimo.ark.com or by phone at (250) 757-8026.



WHERE ARE WE NOW !

In January, all Clubs were mailed a copy of the Directory of Probud Clubs in Canada which had listings for all of our Probud Clubs at the beginning of the year. Since that time we have added three new Probud Clubs and we draw your attention to the information below and ask that you add it to your Directory .

THE MEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF LINDSAY , ONT. (Men) # 185

P. O. Box 265, Lindsay, Ont. K9V 4S1
 Email: bfaulkner@nexicom.net Fax: (705) 324-8462
 20 members (Sponsor Men's Probud Club of Newmarket)
 Charter Members 20 2/23/07
 MEN'S LINDSAY MEET Police Bldg, 6 Victoria Ave. N., 2nd Tues., 10:00 AM
 President Bruce Faulkner (705) 324-3301
 Secretary Pat Dunn (705) 324-7218

THE PROBUS CLUB OF GANANOQUE, ONT. (Combined) #186

Box 175, 279 Pelow Eoad, Gananoque, Ont. K7G 2T7
 Email: none Fax: none
 39 Members (Sponsor Rotary Gananoque, District 7040)
 Charter Members 39 2/23/07
 GANANOQUE MEET Gananoque Kinsmen Hall, 2nd Tues., 10:00 AM
 President Ron Casselman (613) 482-4900
 Secretary Rick Dunn (613) 342-8542

THE NORTH BURLINGTON WOMEN'S PROBUS CLUB (Women) #187

Box 80024, Appleby Postal Outlet, Burlington, Ont. L7L 6B1
 Email: jpcollins@cogeco.ca Fax: none
 156 Members (Sponsor Central Burlington Womens Probud Club)
 Charter Members 156 5/03/07
 NORTH BURLINGTON MEET Burlington Art Centre, 1st Thurs., 10:00 AM
 President Judith Collins (905) 335-4745
 Secretary Joan French (905) 634-6527

We welcome these new Clubs to the friendship and warmth of their colleagues in Canada and the State of Maine. We hope that you will also recognize those in your particular area and invite their participation in the various events involving opportunities for Probud Members outside of your own Club and please add them to your mailing roster for your bulletins, etc.

Through this kind of support you will be making a positive contribution toward their success as well as enhancing your own. After all, good fellowship is a major part of the reason for our success !

A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find a copy of the Review Engagement Report from BDO Dunwoody LLP on our financial activities during the past year, which is provided for your information. For the **Report from the Treasurer** for the past year which was presented to the Board of Probus Centre-Canada, Inc., and is in concert with the BDO Dunwoody report, please see below:

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PROBUS CENTRE - CANADA, INC.
TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT
For the year ending December 31, 2006

In 2006 the financial focus of Probus Centre-Canada Inc. was toward rebuilding our Equity Reserves and changing the financial reporting to more clearly show the status of our finances.

The following actions were taken to achieve cost reductions and revenue increases:

- No face to face Directors meetings were held, considerably reducing costs
- The honoraria allocation of \$0.80 per member was capped at 22,000 members.
- For additional members, the allocation was reduced to \$ 0.50 per member.
- Lapel pin prices were increased, restoring previous margins.
- Our GIC portfolio was restructured raising interest income.

The result of these and other changes, combined with membership growth, was a favorable balance of \$16,629 from 2006 operations.

We recognized that previous financial statements had overstated our Equity Reserves by approximately \$27,000. This was the result of a policy of taking 50% of membership contributions into Income, as received, instead of recognizing those funds as prepayments for the following year. This practice was changed in 2006, to a policy of deferring all membership contributions until the following year. Probus Centre has accounted for this change by retroactively restating the figures for 2005 for comparative purposes.

While this reduced the Net Assets at the end of 2005 to only \$7,204, it places Revenues and Expenses in the same operating period to accurately describe our financial position.

With the approval of the amendment to Bylaw 11, the 'Membership Fee' is now \$2.50 per member covering the full range of services to our member Clubs.. This is only a change of definition, as the total cost per member is unchanged. This change has allowed the accounting changes necessary to simplify our financial statements.

Competitive quotations were obtained to determine if we were getting the best value from the current insurance supplier. This was confirmed on review of the offers we received and our coverage was renewed for 2007.

At the suggestion of our auditors we changed to a 'Financial Review', rather than a full 'Audit', with attendant savings. In 2007, there will again be no face to face Directors meeting, to allow further rebuilding of our Equity Reserve position.

The above actions have placed Probus Centre in a strong financial position for the future and enabled us to support the planned 'Rendezvous 2008.

RENDEZVOUS 2008

Probus Centre - Canada Inc. and the Probus Club of Saint John, New Brunswick have agreed to the terms under which Probus Centre will support Rendezvous 2008. Probus Centre will provide start-up funding, as required and the Rendezvous Organizing Committee will provide quarterly progress reports. It is expected that Rendezvous 2008 will be self sustaining.

My term as a Director and Treasurer of Probus Centre is coming to an end. I would like to thank my fellow Directors and the Executive members for their support during the past years. I am particularly indebted to Bud Crookes and Gordon Hutton, our Financial Managers during my term as your Treasurer. On leaving office, I am confident that the future financial position of your Probus Centre is sound and the incoming Treasurer has strong support.

Allan Lee , Treasurer

* All figures have been rounded

Question ---- has your Club responded to the questionnaire distributed by the Organizing Committee of Rendezvous 2008 to be held in Saint John, N.B.,September 25 – 28, 2008 ???