



* *The Probud Letter* *

Published for the Members of PROBUS CLUBS in CANADA

by: PROBUS CENTRE-CANADA, INC.

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

April, 2011



Gordon Springate
President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Does it seem to you that winter may never end I'm sure it does to our good friends in the eastern sector of our country as record snowfalls over the months have kept them busy digging out and then digging out again. In the western part the spring flowers have found it necessary to grow up through the snow to be on view in their usual time. The good news is that our Probud Clubs continue to grow and meet regularly with warm hearts and lots of fellowship to keep each other in good spirits while they wait for the warmth of spring and the promise of summer.... which I trust will be here soon.

This past year we only chartered seven new Probud Clubs across Canada and this is slower than our normal growth pattern over the past few years. At the same time we continue to receive regular enquiries about starting up new Clubs. Comments like.. "we have a waiting list which some people have been on for over a year" ... or even more... cause me to be concerned.. is it really fair to ask people to wait so long to share in the involvement of Probud and our wide variety of activities ? Isn't there a way to bring them "on board" so they can be part of what I believe is a truly great

organization? Remember that sometimes it may be better to have an additional Probud Club in your area to accommodate those who are waiting to belong.....after all, we are not in competition with each other but I would rather think that we are more complimentary to, and supportive of, the Club next door or in the neighboring community. We do have the tools and the people to assist ! Through our Probud Canada Directors across the country or through our administrative office we can supply you with both information and materials to form a new Club at very little, if any, cost to you. May I suggest that you remember that at one point in time your Club was formed because some other body..... Rotary, or an existing Probud Club... sponsored you. I ask you ... I urge you ... to put this item on your Club agenda to open new doors for those on your "waiting list" or in your adjacent area who would like to be actively involved in Probud you'll be doing someone a real favor if you do and we'll be there to assist.

In the area of fellowship, the Committee responsible for the planning and development of "PROBUS RENDEZVOUS 2011" continues to work diligently, on your behalf, to bring you a program of interest and fellowship for this September in beautiful Vancouver, B.C. and I urge you to keep your Club Members advised as you receive reminders from Probud Canada as well as directly from the organizers. Their web site (www.probusrendezvous.com) is full of information and contact points for additional details. It would be truly wonderful to have at least one, if not more, representatives from each and every Probud Club across the country. Clubs who have been wondering what to do with those surplus funds you have developed may wish to give this event some serious consideration and have your representative in attendance to bring ideas and information back to your Club.

One area that has been somewhat frustrating to me over these past months has been the amount of time and energy spent by Members of your Board in trying to establish a part of our insurance coverage which will provide additional coverage for the local Club Management Committees. The "third party" liability policy certainly seems to be adequate but some Clubs feel that there should be more Directors & Officers liability coverage in the event of an incident involving Club Members and this has proven to be a bit of a problem. Several hours have been spent exploring different avenues and the efforts of the Directors are ongoing. We have had many suggestions from a variety of sources, including a few Probud Clubs and a number of insurance brokers, but when it comes right down to the detail items we are seeking, there seems to be a shortage available. However, not to be deterred, the Board Committee continues in their efforts and when we have the news we require we will notify you immediately. In the meantime, may I remind you once again that Probud Canada is now offering, through Johnson Inc., an excellent travel and health insurance program for Probud members. See the block in this newsletter for contact information and please share it with your Members.

As I have mentioned previously in my messages to you the Members of the Probud Canada Board of Directors, as well as our web site Publishers and our Managing Director, all of whom are listed elsewhere in this newsletter, are there to do their very best to be of assistance should you need it. They are there to assist and do so willingly so contact them at any time.

I thank you very much for the opportunity to serve as your President over this past term and I wish you the very best in your programs and activities in the weeks and months ahead. Sincerely, *Gordon*

FROM AROUND THE CLUBS: The following was published in the Probus Club of Victoria newsletter and is reprinted here with the permission of Mr. Bill Gibson, C.A.

SNOWBIRD SEASON

If you are a Canadian resident and not a US citizen or a green card holder, you might still be considered a US resident alien – a status most snowbirds would like to avoid since it means you will have to file a US resident tax return – a requirement imposed upon US citizens and residents (or, those deemed to be residents for tax purposes).

The US has what is referred to as a substantial presence test. It used to be that people were considered US residents for tax purposes if they spent 183 days in the country (that's basically 6 months plus a day). While this part is still true, it is only part of the substantial presence test which is a two-step process as follows:

Step 1: Were you physically present in the US for at least 31 days in the current year? If the answer is "yes" (and it certainly would be if you spent 183 days in the country), you then proceed to step 2 which is a bit more complicated.

Step 2: Using the following formula, does the weighted total number of days spent in the U.S. over the last three years equal or exceed 183 days? The formula has you add all the days spent in the US in the current year plus 1/3 of the days you spent in the US last year plus 1/6 of the days spent in the US the previous year.

So, if you spent at least 31 days in the US in the current year (Step 1) and if the formula in Step 2 results in an answer of 183 days or more over the last three years, you will be considered a US resident alien.

This is easier to understand with a simple example where, for example, you spent 130 days a year in the US for each of 2008, 2009, and 2010. In this example the formula in Step 2 would result in 195 days of presence in the US – this year's 130 days plus last year's 130 days divided by 3 plus 2008's 130 days divided by 6. The result is $130+43+22=195$. In this example you do meet the substantial presence test in 2010.

If you play with the numbers a bit, you'll see that if you spend more than four months (122 days) every year in the US, you will meet the substantial presence test after the third year and annually thereafter.

So, if this is your situation, you should be seeking some professional advice to understand your options more thoroughly since this article can not go into all the details. Briefly, however, if you spent less than 183 days in the US this year, you can consider asking for a "closer connection" exemption using US form 8840 which, if successful, will let you avoid filing a US resident tax return. There are instances however where this will not exempt you from filing a return which is why you need some advice.

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For those spending more than 183 days in the US this year, you can not claim a closer connection exemption however you may be able to claim a tax treaty exemption which is then filed with the US tax return that limits the amount of taxes you will owe.

The bottom line is that Snowbirds should be focusing on 122 days – not 183 – if they want to avoid a lot of paperwork and professional fees.

Bill Gibson, C.A. of Gibson & Roberge Wealth Management Group is a Vice-President and Investment Advisor with RBC Dominion Securities in Kelowna. Phone at 1-877-862-0718 or visit his web site at www.gibsonwealth.com. RBC Dominion Securities is a member of the Canadian Investor Protection Fund.

ALSO FROM AROUND THE CLUBS.

Probus Club of Cambridge

Last November the Probus Club of Cambridge hosted their 2nd Annual Recognition Dinner in honour of those members who have served in the Armed Forces. All Probus Club of Cambridge member veterans were guests of the Club. All others were invited to join the gathering at noontime at the Galt Country Club. Other Cambridge Probus Clubs were invited and were well represented.

The event was outstanding in every respect. It is expected that this will be an annual event in Cambridge. Other Probus Clubs across Canada, if not already doing so, might wish to consider staging an event to honour their members who are veterans. What prompted us to bring this event to the attention of other Clubs was the level of appreciation expressed by our Veterans.

Our Probus Member Veterans were out in force. Military guests representing current Army, navy and Air Force units were present. The Guest Speaker was Dave Sopha, a local artist, noted speaker and activist in supporter of our Canadians Veterans .

Any attempt to summarize what we saw and heard from this remarkable man would be wholly inadequate. Please note the website www.portraitsofhonour.com published in conjunction with Kin Canada. For those with access to the internet a visit via Google to "Dave Sopha" is well worthwhile.

Probus Club of Guelph The Probus Club of Guelph will be hosting a "Harvest of Ideas" conference entitled "How to make Volunteering Easier and Smarter" for all Clubs in Ont. District # 4 , or wider if interested. The date is Monday, Sept. 26, 2011 and space is limited.

Contact: Shirley Brownlee – csbrownlee@hotmail.ca .

PROBUS CANADA ELECTIONS – 2011

In December, 2010 a call went out to various Districts/Regions across Canada for nominations to positions on the Board of Directors of Probus Centre-Canada, Inc. for the years ahead.

There were vacancies in four different areas and nominations were sought from the Clubs in each affected District/Region which included Ontario Districts #5 & #6; the Alberta Region and District #3 in British Columbia.

In all four areas there was only one nomination received and, the candidates being qualified, there were four persons who will be presented to the next Annual General Meeting in late April as "elected by acclamation" for a three year term on the Board of Directors of Probus Centre-Canada, Inc.

In Ontario District #5, there was one candidate in the person of John Flood, a Past President of the Wasaga Beach Probus Club, who will be declared as re-elected to the Board for a second three year term.

In Ontario, District #6, Ms. Nancy Kedzierski, a Past President of the Central Brant Women's Probus Club will be declared as elected to the Board for a three year term to replace retiring Director, Betty van der Ree.

In the Alberta (Prairie) Region, Mr. Barry Ashton, a Past President of the Calgary Probus Club will be declared as elected to the Board for a three year term to replace retiring Director Gordon Smith.

In British Columbia, District #3, Ms. Muriel Dodge, a Past President of the Shuswap Probus Club will be declared as elected to the Board for a three year term replacing retiring Director Gordon Springate.

Congratulations go out to those who were elected to serve on your national Board and they will be assuming their new roles at the upcoming Annual General Meeting in late April of this year. At the same time a heartfelt "thank you" goes to the retiring Directors who have served so well for the past terms.

Remember, those on the national Board of Directors of Probus Canada are Members nominated and elected by you to represent Probus, not just in your Club or district, but across Canada. They are the ones who promote and are available to be directly involved in the development of new Probus Clubs and provide guidelines and give support to Clubs already established. Contact information on the current Members of the Board is listed on this page for your information and use as needed.

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

President	Gordon Springate ...Kelowna, B.C. Tel: (778) 478-2515 Email: j12springate@shaw.ca
Vice-President	Keith Trail ...Nanaimo, B.C. (B.C.Dist. #1) Tel: (250) 751-1055 Email: ektvrt@telus.net
Treasurer	Judy Saunders ..Ancaster, Ont. (Ont.Dist.# 3) Tel: (905) 304-3748 Email: judysaunders2@hotmail.com
Secretary.....	Peter DoyleKanata,Ont. (Ont. Dist. #1) Tel: (613) 592-5253 Email: doylepd@rogers.com
Past-President*	Arthur Buck Moncton, N.B. Tel: (506) 384-8408 Email: artsonbuck@yahoo.ca * (Appointed – Non-Voting)

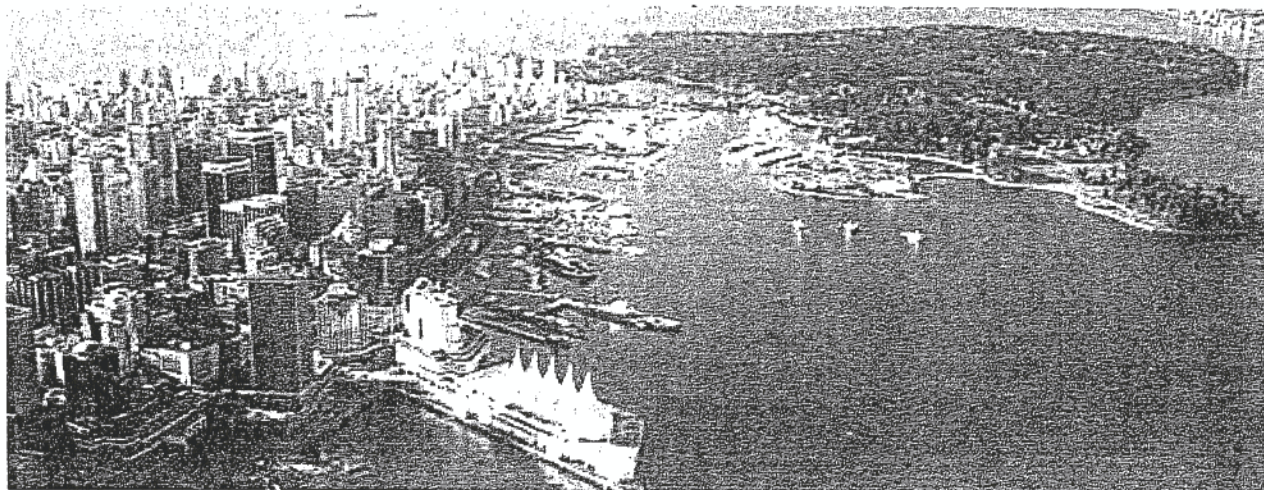
DIRECTORS

James Bracken	Winnipeg, Manitoba Tel: (204) 269-6484 Email: jbracken@mts.net
Steve Campbell	Moncton, N.B. (Atlantic Region) Tel: (506) 532-5541 Email: skcampbl@nb.sympatico.ca
John Flood	Wasaga Beach, Ont. (Ont. Dist. # 5) Tel: (705) 429-4935 Email: flashflood@rogers.com
Maureen Irving	Kitchener, Ont. (Ont. Dist. # 4) Tel: (519) 744-6727 Email: mirving6727@rogers.com
John Leonard	Vancouver, B.C. (B.C. Dist. #2) Tel: (604) 924-9286 Email: johnleonard@shaw.ca
Heinz Puersten.....	Bracebridge, Ontario (Ont. Dist. #2) Tel: (705) 645-3110 Email: heinzpuersten@gmail.com
Gordon Smith	Regina, Saskatchewan Tel: (306) 751-0379 Email: gordonsmith@sasktel.net
Betty Van der Ree ...	St.Catharines, Ontario (Ont. Dist. #6) Tel: (905) 682-9799 Email: bvanderree@cogeco.ca

Non-Voting Appointees

President-Emeritus.....	John R. Morris , Alliston, Ont. Tel: (705) 435-3963 Fax: (705)435-6487 Email: jdgbmorris@sympatico.ca
Web Page Publisher.....	Brian Kirkwood , Wasaga Beach, Ont. Tel: (705) 429-2406 Fax: (705) 429-5499 Email: brian.kirkwood@sympatico.ca
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. For administrative items or ordering of Probus pins please contact the Managing Director.



***Have You Booked Yet ?
Time is Fleeting !***

**Probus Rendezvous 2011
September 13-15, 2011
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
www.probusrendezvous.com**

Probus members worldwide are invited to attend the 2011 National Conference and to holiday in Vancouver, British Columbia, the "World in a City."

Vancouver is the port city where visitors can not only enjoy all the local attractions such as Grouse Mountain, Stanley Park, Capilano Suspension Bridge, VanDusen Botanical Gardens, Whistler, or whale watching but also can depart on a cruise to Alaska or a train through the Rocky Mountains to Banff, a ferry to Vancouver Island or motor to a wine tour in the Okanagan Valley.

Enjoy the fellowship of Probians from across Canada and abroad during three days of rewarding presentations, fine food, and premium accommodation all at a reasonable cost at the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre hotel located in the midst of Vancouver's cosmopolitan downtown and entertainment mecca.

Please encourage your members to put PROBUS RENDEZVOUS 2011 on their calendar and visit our website at www.probusrendezvous.com regularly for the latest program and entertainment information.

Malcolm Metcalfe, Marketing Chair, Rendezvous 2011

PROBUS TRAVEL INSURANCE

Planning to travel in the near future ? Need special insurance coverage ? Ask your Club President for details on coverage now available to all Probus Clubs and Members across Canada. Need more information ... call one of the special representatives at Johnson Inc. .. Lisa -1-888 412-8822 or Gary - 1-800 661-1973.

Probus members are now able to visit the www.johnson.ca/probus website and obtain a quote on-line for Medoc travel insurance. The cost of the travel insurance will be prorated so that members can determine exactly what the cost of the annual travel insurance would be if they signed up on the day they requested a quote. This site also provides an option to compare rates (ie. if you wanted to add a \$1,000 deductible or add a supplemental trip to your plan).