



# THE NEWSLETTER

The PROBUS Club of Simcoe & District  
Meets second Tuesday of each month at St. James United Church hall



## MEETING NOTICE

**Tuesday, April 11, 2023**

**10 a.m., Muriel Bridge Room, St. James United Church, Simcoe.  
9:30 a.m., Book Exchange and Socializing.**

### Guest Speaker

**Brian Craig,  
Conservation in Norfolk County.**

### Who Am I?

**John Lotus.**

### Review of March 14, 2023, meeting

President **Murray Uren** called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. and welcomed 30 members, spouses and guests **Steve Hodgson** and **Dave Stone**. **Nestor Rosa** led us in our national anthem. After the meeting, 16 members and guests lunched at the Barrel Restaurant.

### Guest Speaker: Bobbi Ann Brady

**Bobbi Ann Brady** is carving her own path in provincial politics. The Haldimand-Norfolk MPP is the first woman to run as an independent candidate and win a seat in the Ontario Legislature. The last time a man was elected as an independent MPP (without previously being elected as a party candidate) was in 1905.

Not being a member of a political party gives **Bobbi Ann** a freedom to speak freely. She is conservative without being a **Doug Ford** Conservative.

**Bobbi Ann** was elected in the June 2022 provincial election. She previously was Conservative MPP **Toby Barrett's** executive secretary for 23 years.

**Bobbi Ann** grew up in Haldimand-Norfolk, graduated from Delhi District Secondary School, got a degree in broadcast journalism and was a



**Bobbi Ann Brady**

reporter and editor at the Delhi News-Record. Growing up, she played boys' hockey and excelled at kick boxing and karate. She and her daughter **Addison**, 22, and son **Carter**, 17, live in Lynedoch.

Amazing things happen in Haldimand-Norfolk, the greatest place in Ontario, with the best food and people, **Bobbi Ann** said. She also paid tribute to **Queen Elizabeth II** and her life of service inspiring people to work together.

**Bobbi Ann** said her troubles last spring winning Haldimand-Norfolk were a blessing in disguise. Denied the Conservative nomination, she went on to become an independent voice in the Legislature.

That's allowed her to criticize **Premier Ford's** effort to impose contracts on teachers and school workers. She has questioned the federal gun buyback program, pushed for bail reform and put forward a private member's bill to protect farmland. Although the Conservatives defeated her bill, **Bobbi Ann** predicts the government will adopt the bill's ideas in its own legislation.

As an independent, **Bobbi Ann** has her chance like all MPPs to ask questions, make statements and serve on committees. Currently, she is a member of the finance committee. She said it's too early to say if provincial taxes are well spent.

**Bobbi Ann** has three conditions before she would join the Conservatives. First, the leader would have to ask her. Second, the party would have to clean up its culture of disrespect for voters and no longer take people's votes and taxes for granted. And third, the people of Haldimand-Norfolk would have to say they want her to join a party.

**Premier Ford** has created a toxic environment within the party and the Conservatives have done things that are not conservative, **Bobbi Ann** said.

**Bobbi Ann** opposes development of a new city at Nanticoke. She said people should not live in an industrial park. She also opposes developing parts of the Greenbelt.

Education tax dollars are not used properly, she said. Schools have too many social justice conversations.

**Gerald Sheppard** introduced **Bobbi Ann** and **Murray Uren** thanked her.



**Simcoe's  
American Can  
factory depicted  
on a postcard  
around 1930.**

*Courtesy of  
Dave Montross.*