



THE NEWSLETTER

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



FIELD TRIP TO EARTHSHIP HOUSE

SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2017

MEET AT ST. JAMES CHURCH AT 10:45 A.M. SHARP!

To carpool to Craig and Connie Cook's house

See directions on Page 3.

Guests welcome!



The earthship house supplies its own electricity, heat and water.

MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

10 a.m., Muriel Bridge Room, St. James United Church, Simcoe.

9:30 a.m., Book Exchange, Socializing and Coffee.

Guest Speaker

James Christison,

Curator, Waterford Heritage and Agricultural Museum,

What's in your attic — antiques or junk?

Who Am I?

Murray Uren.

Guest Speaker: Dave Stelpstra

Dave Stelpstra has been researching “Policing in Norfolk County 1878-1998” for the past three years. Dave served close to 25 years with the former Haldimand-Norfolk Regional Police and 10 years with the OPP.

His research began as a tribute to longtime officers **Jim White** of Port Dover and county officer **Alex “Scotty” Robb**, then expanded until now he has files on 450 officers who served on town, county and provincial police forces. PROBUS member **Al Robinson** has helped identify some of the officers in old photos.

The Municipal Act of 1878 and the Constables Act of 1879 made incorporated towns responsible for their own policing. Simcoe’s police force began in 1878, followed over the years by Waterford, Port Dover, Port Rowan and Delhi.

Simcoe has had a courthouse and jail since the 1830s. Vagrancy, drunkenness and disorderly conduct were the most common offences in the 19th century. A spectacular crime was the 1883 heist of \$10,000 in jewelry from Darling’s store.

In late 1908 Simcoe Police Chief **Archibald Malone** shot his constable, **William Wilkins**, five times and left him for dead in Lynnwood Park. The chief sought to kill the constable for fear he would reveal that the chief and constable — Simcoe’s entire police force — had been breaking into stores, stealing goods and setting fires to cover their tracks. Wilkins managed to crawl to Norfolk Street and later identified the chief as his attacker. The chief was arrested, charged and convicted and served time in Kingston Penitentiary before being released into the Canadian army in 1918. Malone survived the war. Years later, he was buried in a Burlington military cemetery with full honours.

In 1922, during Prohibition, a rum-running ship, the City of Dresden, ran aground in a storm at Long Point. The boat’s cargo of \$65,000 worth of illegal liquor disappeared before police and licence inspector Richard “Dickie” Edmonds could get to the scene. (Licence Inspector Edmonds was a member of St. James Church. His son, Harold, was injured at the battle of Vimy Ridge and died three weeks later. His name is inscribed on a stained glass window in the church sanctuary.)

Dave told us about several police officers, including **Charlie Robinson**, **Al Robinson**’s father. In 1936, Charlie was night constable driving Simcoe’s first official police car. In the 1950s, he looked after the town’s parking meters.

Constable **Frank Hare** of the Port Dover police is believed to be the first officer killed in the line of duty in Norfolk. His car collided with an LE & N train in 1951. Constable **John Verral** was killed during a performance of the OPP’s Golden Helmets Precision Motorcycle Team at the Simcoe fair in 1971. OPP Constable **Duncan McAleese** was shot and killed in Delhi in 1980.

Dave is working on a book that he hopes to have out in three or four years. **Dan Pearson** introduced Dave and **Frank Brock** thanked him.



Dave Stelpstra

Review of March 14, 2017, meeting

President **Murray Uren** called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. and welcomed guest **Mike McDonnell**. **Keith Rumble** led us in our national anthem. During a brief business session, **Dan** and **Dick Pearson** gave details of our April 8 visit to **Craig** and **Connie Cook**'s earthship house. More on the earthship house is in our March newsletter at simcoeprabusclub.weebly.com.

Our condolences:

To the family of Ruth Loughton, widow of longtime PROBUS member Arthur Loughton. Mrs. Loughton passed away on March 24.

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DIRECTIONS TO THE EARTHSHIP HOUSE

Dick Pearson has provided the following directions from Simcoe.

•Leave Simcoe via Highway 24 South and then west through the reforestry farm to the intersection with Highway 59 (Busy Bee service station).

•Go straight through at the stop sign and the road becomes Norfolk County Road 60.

•Go west about four miles to the stop sign at the town line between Houghton and Walsingham townships.

•Go straight ahead onto the 7th Concession ENR Houghton, which bears left after about 100 yards.

•Follow this road south for about 2.25 miles to # 227, 7th Concession ENR, on the right.

You will know you are close when you see a windmill tower on your right.

There is a small electrical substation on the left side of the gravel driveway. You can't see the house from the road.

In case you need help, Craig and Connie Cook can be reached at 519-586-7122.