

THE NEWSLETTER



The PROBUS Club of Simcoe & District

Meets second Tuesday of each month at St. James United Church hall

MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019

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

Guest Speaker

Dr. Stephen Maltais, Port Dover naturopathic doctor, Laughter is the best medicine.

Who Am I? Ed Cordner

Review of Jan. 8, 2019, meeting

President **Murray Uren** called the meeting to order at 10 a.m and welcomed everyone. **Keith Rumble** led us in our national anthem.

PROBUS business

Special events: **Dick Pearson** is checking on a tour of Simcoe's waste water treatment

plant.

Treasurer: **Dave Montross** reported 30 members have paid their dues for

2018-19. Our club is in good financial shape.

House: **Rick Middaugh** reported all is well.

Newsletter: **David Judd** encouraged members to bring magazines to our book

exchange.

Wellness: Gerry Sheppard said Gus Takacs hopes to be back at PROBUS soon.

Guest Speaker: Heather Walters

Heather Walters took us on a hiking tour of Peru's awe-inspiring mountains, jungles and Inca cities. Heather, a freelance writer and photographer who lives near Port Ryerse, made the three-week trip, along with 10 other women on an organized tour in July 2015. Many of the places she visited were breath-taking — literally — as mountain trails climbed as high as 14,000 feet. The group flew to Lima, Peru's capital, then travelled on to Cusco, the oldest continuously inhabited Inca city in South America. Cusco is a city of stone walls and narrow streets. From there, Heather and her companions hiked four days into the mountains to the ancient city of Machu Picchu. Then it was down into the Amazon jungle for five days, followed by three nights on Lake Titicaca.

The Peruvians that Heather met were shy, gentle, honest people. Many of them maintain their Incan heritage. The Incas built a remarkable civilization. They transported stones for miles to building projects. Some of their roads, walls and aqueducts were fitted together so precisely without mortar that they have survived for hundreds of years, including earthquakes.

Machu Picchu was built about 1450 AD and it was abandoned about 1572 during the Spanish conquest. It was uncovered in the jungle during the 20th century. A highlight for Heather was seeing the sun rise through the city's stone gate. Although Machu Picchu was crowded with tourists when Heather was there, other Incan sites on her tour were empty.

At Lake Titicaca, Heather stayed with natives who live on islands made of rushes. The lake is stocked with rainbow trout donated by Canada.



Heather Walters

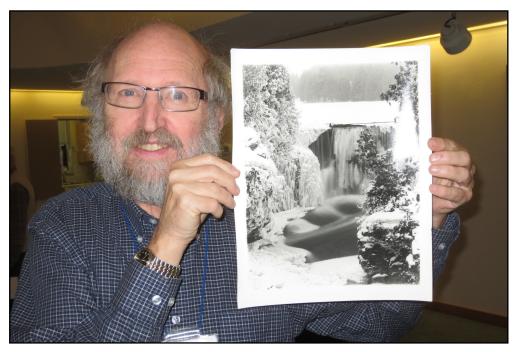
Dan Pearson introduced Heather and David Judd thanked her.

Who Am I: Bernd Mueller

Bernd Mueller joined our PROBUS Club about a year ago. He was born in Germany and at age 12 in 1967 came to Canada with his family, settling in Kitchener-Waterloo. He worked for 30 years in the printing industry operating presses. He and his wife Sandy have been married for 14 years. They live in Vittoria.

Over the years, Bernd's hobbies have included astronomy, photography and canoe tripping. He belongs to three astronomy groups. In October 2018 he showed us several stunning photos as part of a presentation about astronomy with **Tim Philp**.

Thank you, Bernd. You are a valuable member of our club.



Bernd Mueller shows one of his winter photographs in large format black and white.