



THE NEWSLETTER

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



MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020

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

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

Guest Speaker

**A representative of
the Multiple Sclerosis Society.**

Who Am I?

Lawrence DePoorter

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Review of Jan. 14, 2020, meeting

President **Murray Uren** called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. He thanked **Liz Hooper** and **Cairn Morin** for filling in for **Rick Middaugh** and welcomed guest **Dave Baldock**. **Nestor Rosa** led us in our national anthem.

PROBUS business

Program: **Gerald Sheppard** has volunteered to be our program co-ordinator. **Dan Pearson** said our March speaker will be a representative from the Alzheimer's Society.

Special events: **Dick Pearson** would like suggestions for field trips.

Treasurer: **Dave Montross** reported our club is in good financial shape.

President Murray said our Christmas lunch was a success. He suggested having our next lunch after our meeting in March.



This one-man canoe weighs less than 30 pounds.

Guest Speaker: Bernd Mueller

So you want to go canoeing? PROBUS member **Bernd Mueller** showed photos of some of his canoe trips in Algonquin Park. He and his friend Paul go in the spring before the flies and crowds of canoeists come out or in the fall after they're gone.

Bernd and **Paul** each bring light weight one-man canoes and light weight equipment. **Bernd** showed us a kettle that weighs only five or six ounces and a wood-burning stove that sparks up with two AA batteries. **Bernd's** tent weighs three pounds.

Bernd and **Paul** bring freeze dried meals in pouches. All food tastes better in the woods. Cans and bottles are banned in the park. Water must be boiled or run through a small purifier. Tarps protect against wind and rain.

Bernd likes to bring a folding chair and a folding saw to cut wood for campfires. The park has no cell phone service. Park fees for seniors are \$10 a day.



Bernd and light weight gear.

The park has plenty of portages between lakes. One portage, known as the Devil's Staircase, is half a kilometre straight up. Stay clear of the moose. They're dangerous when riled.

Why go canoeing? **Bernd's** photos of magnificent lakes, fall colours, animals, birds, sunrises and sunsets were explanation enough.

President Murray introduced **Bernd** and thanked him for presenting to us the wonders of Algonquin Park.

Who Am I: Tom Vandertuin

Tom Vandertuin was born in the Netherlands in 1946. Just before his sixth birthday, his family emigrated to the Brantford area. When **Tom** arrived, he spoke no English but he soon learned it from the kids at school.

Tom grew up in Mount Pleasant and graduated from Brantford Collegiate Institute. **Tom** apprenticed and became a licensed electrician. In 1967, he married a Waterford girl named **Auk**. The couple have five children, four boys and a girl.

In 1971, **Tom** started his own business called Thomas Electric. High interest rates made it tough to survive. In 1986, **Tom** started a 25-year career as an electrical inspector, first with Ontario Hydro and later with the Electrical Safety Authority. **Tom** retired as supervisor of the Hamilton office, which covered a large area from Simcoe to Burlington.

In 1993, **Tom** and his wife bought a chicken farm on Townsend Concession 13, east of Renton. **Tom** knew what he was in for because his father had a chicken farm. **Tom** enjoys his farm. How long will he continue? One day, he'll wake up and say it's time to retire. But not just yet.

Our PROBUS club and guests had a great time touring the farm in September. **Tom** liked the people he met and asked if he could join. **Tom** is enjoying the club and its presentations. **Tom** also curls.

Welcome to PROBUS, **Tom**, and thanks for sharing your story.



Tom Vandertuin