



# THE NEWSLETTER 2019

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

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## MEETING NOTICE

**Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2019**

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



**Guest Speaker  
Heather Walters,  
Trekking in Peru  
and the Inca trail to Machu Picchu.**

**Who Am I?  
Bernd Mueller**

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### **Review of our Dec. 11, 2018, Christmas lunch:**

President **Murray Uren** welcomed 30 members and their guests to our annual Christmas lunch at the Hi-Way Restaurant at noon. **Gus Takacs** led the singing of O Canada.

**Dick Pearson** led a moment of silence in memory of founding PROBUS member **Ken Keegan** and **Doria Ellington**, sister of treasurer **Dave Montross**. **David Judd** offered a toast to the ladies and **Dick Pearson** said the grace.

President **Murray** thanked our club's executive and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2019.

# Look who was there!



**From left, Dick Pearson, Olive Middaugh, Doug Barber, Rick Middaugh, Jack Beemer, Zeke Gulabsingh, Barb Gulabsingh and Helen Uren.**



**From left, Gus Takacs, Wilf Wiedersprecher, Margaret Brock, Frank Brock, Nestor Rosa, Mike Kite, Phyllis Kite, Stuart Rusk, Joyce Rusk and Julia Takacs.**



From left, Bruce Bowyer, Ann-Marie Cordner, Keith Rumble, Doris Rumble, Colleen Cross, Ed Cordner and Beatrice Bowyer.



ABOVE: Bernd Mueller.



ABOVE RIGHT: Judy and Gerald Sheppard.



RIGHT: Don Korba.

## **Farewell, Ken Keegan**

Founding PROBUS member **Ken Keegan** died Dec. 5 at age 95. Our condolences go to his wife, **Margaret**, and family. Some of our members remember Ken as head of the physical education department at Simcoe Composite School. He was also a veteran. Ken served in the RCAF from 1942 to 1945. He flew 36 missions with the 420 Bomber Squadron and received the Distinguished Flying Cross from **King George VI**.



Ken was the focus of a Norfolk News story about the 2016 Remembrance Day service at the carillon tower in Simcoe. Here's what reporter **Jeff Tribe** wrote about Ken:

*The number of World War veterans may slowly be dwindling, but one of the largest crowds Ken Keegan could remember attended Friday's Remembrance Day service at the Carillon Tower in Simcoe.*

*The 93-year pilot served in the Royal Air Force from 1942-45, flying 36 missions for Bomber Command, piloting Lancaster and Halifax aircraft over Germany and occupied Europe.*

*A group meeting of all aircrew preceded each trip during which the night's objective would be discussed. A half-hour prior to takeoff, all participating planes would marshal on the runway, ample time to consider the dangers lurking across the English Channel.*

*"We just did our job and that was it," Keegan said following Friday's service. "You had no time to be concerned about too many things, you had to think about what you had to do." Every trip was scary, he added, but danger was a thing taken for granted, in part through the indestructible attitude of youth.*

*"We were all 19, 20, 21 years old," he said. "You were at the age when you dismissed that kind of thing."*

*Keegan had too many close calls to count, but was one of those fortunate to return home to friends and family. He has attended every Remembrance Day service since, and while wartime contains its share of sad memories, he typically also thinks of his crew, "the other six guys," who are all gone now.*

*Keegan sat quietly in a position of honour with other veterans as Remembrance Day traditions were observed — the flag party, honour guard, prayers, bagpipes, reading of In Flanders Fields, playing of The Last Post and laying of wreaths.*

*Keegan said the fact the tradition is not only being maintained, but appears to be growing, is "excellent."*