



THE NEWSLETTER

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



MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

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

Guest Speaker

Karen Matthews,

Executive director, Simcoe and District Chamber of Commerce.

Who Am I?

Bernd Mueller

An Important Vote

PROBUS members will vote on a proposal to make our club's membership open to men and women. Our bylaws would be changed to the following: "Membership in the Club is open to retired or semi-retired people, regardless of marital status, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other ground prohibited under Section I.3(1) of the Canadian Human Rights Act." Two-thirds of the members present at the meeting must vote in favour for the proposal to carry.

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Save the date: Friday, July 28

Gerald Sheppard has arranged for Probus members and guests to tour the Unilever ice cream plant in Simcoe on Friday, July 28. Tours will start at 10 a.m. More details to follow.

The Union Street factory is the largest maker of ice cream in Canada. It makes Breyers ice cream, popsicles and other frozen novelties.

Don't miss this chance to see how some of your favourite treats are made.

Review of June 13, 2023, meeting

Treasurer Dave Montross called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. and welcomed 20 members, including longtime member **Brian Cook**. **Nestor Rosa** led us in our national anthem.

This special meeting featured guest speakers on two topics, autism dog services and fire safety.

Autism dog services: Adele Alfano and Diana Usher

Autism Dog Services headquartered in Brantford supports families living with autism and related disorders by providing highly trained service dogs that offer safety, companionship and independence. Service dogs are matched with individual children and families who have been approved for service.

The volunteer organization was founded in 2007. Since then, it has placed 140 dogs with families with children aged 3 to 18. It receives no government funding.

Service dogs change lives, fund development manager **Adele Alfano** told us. It takes two years and costs \$25,000 to train an autism service dog. The dogs mostly are Labrador retrievers or Labradoodles. The dogs are provided free to families. The dogs retire at age 11.

Dogs are trained to handle all sorts of social situations. They are tethered to children who are flight risks. They calm children who are having a meltdown.

Parent **Diana Usher** said her son's service dog, **Ollie**, is amazing. With **Ollie**, **Diana** can take her son to the grocery store. The son holds on to **Ollie** using a handle so the dog and teen stay together in the store. Having a dog builds the son's confidence and self-esteem.

"We're really doing God's work," **Adele** said. For more information, go to autismdogservices.ca. **Gerald Sheppard** introduced **Adele** and **Diana** and **Dan Pearson** thanked them.



Adele Alfano (left) and Diana Usher with autism service dog Ollie.

Fire safety: Rick McCormack

Rick McCormack is a fire safety educator at Norfolk County's Waterford station. Norfolk operates 11 stations with 250 volunteer firefighters.

Rick offered these tips:

- The greatest cause of fires in Ontario is unattended cooking. Always stay in the kitchen when using the stove.
- Homes must have smoke and carbon monoxide detectors outside bedrooms. Make sure they're working properly. Carbon monoxide detectors must be replaced every 10 years.

- Lithium-ion batteries found in cell phones, tablets, laptops, electric bikes and other rechargeable devices can explode into flames if they're tampered with or you use the wrong charger.

- Lithium-ion battery fires are particularly dangerous because they cannot be extinguished.

- Do not charge e-bikes or scooters in the house or garage.

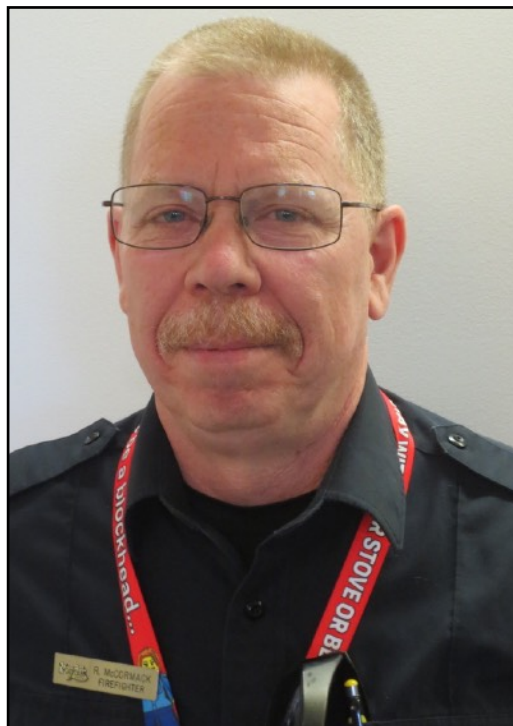
- Do not buy after-market rechargeable batteries from the Internet. Cheap knock-off batteries have caused many fires in rechargeable Dyson vacuum cleaners.

Some other tips:

- Encourage smokers to smoke outside. Extinguish cigarettes in large, deep ashtrays that cannot be knocked over.

- Check electrical cords for damage such as fraying or nicks.

Dave Montross introduced Rick and **David Judd** thanked him.



Fire safety educator Rick McCormack.