



THE NEWSLETTER

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



President's message:

Hello, fellow PROBUS members:

Well, by now all of you should've received your first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and, hopefully, many of you have received or are booked for the second dose so that we can start to return to normal.

It is my understanding that no one in our PROBUS family has contracted COVID and we all have been safe throughout all the waves of this pandemic, which, of course, is wonderful news.

Our objective with things returning to normal is to have our first meeting in September. The plan for our first meeting is to go without any speakers and just give us all a chance to socialize with one another and to tell a few jokes. If anyone wishes to speak about their experiences during this COVID lockdown, we would be happy to hear from you by letting David Judd or myself know for scheduling.

Since this meeting is in early September, I thought some of you who have been busy gardening all summer may want to bring in some of your bounty for display and discussion. This may include vegetables and/or flowers you have grown, or you may prefer to just bring in pictures. Some of you may have other things you have made or created that you wish to share with us as well.

That wraps it up for my update. I look forward to seeing you all in September. Be safe and stay in good health.

Murray Uren

Our condolences:

Our condolences to Don Lounsbury and family following the passing of his brother, Richard Lounsbury, on May 3.

A look back:

While our club takes a break from meetings, we look back at some highlights of past events. This month we look back at our tour of Tom Vandertuin's chicken farm on Sept. 5, 2019.

Fourteen PROBUS members and guests toured **Tom Vandertuin's** chicken farm on Sept. 5. Tom retired after 25 years as an electrical inspector with Ontario Hydro. He grew up on a chicken farm. He and his wife bought their farm





Wilma Lichach (from left), Helen Uren, Paul Lichach, Dick Pearson and Murray Uren hear about chickens from Tom Vandertuin.

on Townsend Concession 13 in 1993.

The Vandertuins get newborn chicks from a hatchery just down the road in Townsend. They raise between 30,000 and 35,000 birds at a time on two floors of a modern, automated barn. It takes just 38 days to bring the chickens to their full size of 2.2 kilograms, perfect for KFC and Swiss Chalet. The Vandertuins grow chickens in six cycles a year. That's an annual total of 180,000 chickens.

Food, water and temperature are regulated automatically. An alarm system notifies if the barn has problems.



The chicks are a mixture of males and females. When chicks arrive at the barn, the heat is set at 90 degrees. As the chicks grow, the temperature is gradually reduced into the 70s.

On the day of our visit, the chicks were 17 days old, or nearly halfway through their growing cycle.

Chicken farms operate under a marketing board system which assigns quota to farmers. The Vandertuins sell their chickens to Maple Lodge Farms near Brampton. Maple Lodge Farms processes them for supply to KFC and Swiss Chalet. Between crops, manure is cleaned from the barn.

The barn is pressure washed and fumigated once a year.

When is the biggest demand for the Vandertuins' chickens? At Mother's Day when families give moms a break from cooking. When is the least demand? At Christmas when everyone eats turkey.

Thanks, Tom, for an interesting and educational tour.

