



THE NEWSLETTER

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

NATIONAL
PROBUS
MONTH

MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

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

Guest Speaker

Toby Barrett

MPP for Haldimand-Norfolk.

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Review of Feb. 13, 2018, meeting

Former President **Frank Brock** called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. and wished everyone a happy Valentine's Day. **Dick Pearson** led us in our national anthem. **David Judd** introduced his guests **Robert Judd, Mike McDonnell, Dave Stelpstra** and **Peter Vaughan**.

PROBUS business

Wellness: Former member **Bob Beam** remains in hospital.

Special events: **Dick Pearson** is arranging a tour of Bonnieheath Estate Lavender Farm and Winery.

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

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

The basic purpose of PROBUS is to provide its members with regular opportunities to keep their minds active, expand their interests and to enjoy the fellowship of new friends. If you are an active retiree, you may like to join a social club to enjoy friendship, fellowship and fun. PROBUS can offer a great avenue of interests and new horizons.



A storyboard in downtown Delhi honours area men who died in the First and Second World Wars.

Guest speaker: David Judd

David Judd told us about Norfolk Remembers and its 2017 European battlefield tour. Norfolk Remembers is a committee of volunteers whose job is to remember Norfolk’s sacrifices in the First World War. The group’s first project was publication of the book Norfolk Remembers the Great War, which tells the stories of the 255 men and one woman who were killed in the war.

The group also is publishing a series of six booklets containing letters written by Norfolk soldiers. All the books are edited by historian Grant Smith. You can buy the books at any branch of the Norfolk Public Library.

The committee last fall helped install a storyboard near the cenotaph in downtown Delhi. The storyboard presents photos and basic information about the men from Delhi and area who were killed in the First and Second World Wars. Similar storyboards are planned for Waterford this year and for Port Dover and Simcoe in the future.

Local quilters made two beautiful quilts currently on display at the library in Simcoe. One quilt features scenes of the First World War while the second quilt replicates the Norfolk men’s signatures.

Last May, 30 people took part in a 12-day tour of battlefields in France, Belgium and the Netherlands where our Norfolk men had fought. The tour began with a weekend of sightseeing in Paris. It moved to Normandy, site of the D-Day landings. Then on to First World War sites in



One of two memorial quilts.



Commonwealth cemeteries resemble gardens. All graves are treated alike.

northern France and southern Belgium, including the Vimy Memorial. The tour wrapped up with a few days in Amsterdam.

The sight of hundreds of Canadian graves brought home the sacrifice of our men. Commonwealth cemeteries look like beautiful gardens with flowers and well trimmed grass. Near each entrance is a Stone of Remembrance. Toward the back stands a Cross of Sacrifice. All graves are alike. They are



The Stone of Remembrance and Cross of Sacrifice.

inscribed with the person's name, unit, date of death and, usually, a message chosen by the person's family. Tour members placed small flags at each Norfolk grave they visited.

Robert Judd told about the Vimy Memorial. It was designed by Canadian sculptor Walter Allward, who also designed the Bell Memorial and the war memorial in Brantford. Twin towers, 100 feet high, represent Canada and France. Twenty figures present the memorial's themes of grief, the breaking of militarism and hope for peace.

The Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate in the Belgian city of Ieper (Ypres in French) was a highlight of the tour. The ceremony, which is similar to our Remembrance Day service, has



The Vimy Memorial is dedicated to the end of militarism and hope for peace.

taken place every night since 1928. About 1,500 people took part on the night that our tour visited. Bob Castles of Simcoe spoke the invocation. Tour members laid wreaths on behalf of Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 79, Simcoe, and Norfolk Remembers.

The tour concluded in Amsterdam, an ancient city of canals and bicycles.

Dave Stelpstra told us another battlefield tour similar to last year's is being organized for Sept.

14 to 25, 2018. For information, go to <http://www.etravel.com/et/norfolkremembers2018> or call Ellison Travel at 1-800-265-7022.

Dan Pearson introduced David and Dave Montross thanked him.



The Menin Gate at Ieper (Ypres), Belgium, bears the names of nearly 55,000 Commonwealth soldiers who have no resting place.