



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 10, 2020

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

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

Our club celebrates 25 years!

Anniversary cake at 9:45 a.m.

Guest Speaker

Susan Cuming,

Alzheimer Society of Canada

Lunch

For members and guests

Simcoe Arms, 12:15 pm.

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Review of Feb. 11, 2020, meeting

Former President **Frank Brock** called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. **Brian Cook** led us in our national anthem.

PROBUS business:

- Treasurer:** **Dave Montross** reported our finances are in good shape.
- Speakers:** **Dan Pearson** has speakers lined up through April.
- Special events:** **Dick Pearson** is working on tours of the Breyers ice cream plant and the Woodland Cultural Centre in Brantford.
- House:** **Rick Middaugh** reported all is well.
- Newsletter:** **David Judd** noted a CD was donated to our book exchange.

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.

Guest speaker: Penny Burton

Canada has the highest rate of Multiple Sclerosis in the world. Some 77,000 Canadians have MS. The disease is often diagnosed in younger adults 20 to 49 years old. It also appears among children and older adults.

Penny Burton, the MS Society of Canada's regional director for central and southwestern Ontario, and **Dr. David Horton**, chair of the society's Grand Erie Chapter, told us about MS.

It's not clear why MS is so prevalent in Canada with 11 new cases diagnosed each day. It could be our climate, lack of sun in the winter, diet or lack of vitamin D, especially among children. Chatham and Sarnia have the highest rates in our area. Simcoe's rate is high, too.

MS is a neurological disease in which our body attacks our central nervous system. White blood cells attack the myelin, or insulating sheath, around nerves, interfering with our ability to control our body. Each person's experience of MS is unique. Some will experience loss of mobility or become unable to breathe unassisted. Some forms of MS progress slowly while others may be fatal.

Three factors are thought to align to trigger MS: an infectious agent, such as a virus, genetic predisposition, and environmental factors. MS may appear following an accident.

MS affects three times more women than men. Persons with MS are sensitive to heat and fatigue. Symptoms may include memory loss, difficulty with speech, vision loss, and problems with motor function, balance, bowel, bladder and sexual function.

Research has made great advances in recent years. Treatment can slow or stop progress of the disease. Government does not fund research. MS Society funding programs have raised \$170 million since 1949. The society also educates about MS, offers self-help groups and helps with equipment to keep people at home.

For more information, go to mssociety.ca.

Who Am I: Lawrence DePoorter

Lawrence DePoorter was born in 1932 in Petrolia, Ont. When Lawrence was six, his father died. His mother and five children moved to Delhi, where she married a tobacco farmer.

Lawrence says he was born to work. Over the years, his family worked on tobacco farms in Bloomsburg, Delhi and Vittoria. In 1950, he met **Cecilia** at the Belgian Hall. They married in 1954 and had a daughter, **Terrylyn**, who is a nurse in Bangor, Me., and sons **Lawrence Jr.**, who is a forester with Hydro One, and **Bradley**, who is a world traveller.

Lawrence worked in tobacco as a hired man. Between 1960 and 1966, he grew seven crops on shares. In 1966, he bought his own farm,



Dr. David Horton and Penny Burton.



Lawrence DePoorter

which he worked until 1994. He and **Cecilia** built a house on Lawrence Road, south of Vittoria, where they lived for 18 years.

In 2013, **Lawrence** and **Cecilia** moved to Mann Avenue in Simcoe, across the street from PROBUS treasurer **Dave Montross**, who became a friend. **Cecilia** died in 2017.

Lawrence recently joined our club. He is a Detroit Red Wings fan. Thank you, **Lawrence**, for sharing your story with us.