



# 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 14, 2023**

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

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



### Guest Speaker

**Bobbi Ann Brady**

**Haldimand-Norfolk MPP.**

**Spouses and guests are invited to attend!**

### Lunch

**Barrel Restaurant at noon.**

**Spouses and guests are invited!**

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### Review of our Feb. 14, 2023, meeting:

President **Murray Uren** welcomed 35 members, spouses and guests to our Valentine’s Day meeting. **Norfolk County Mayor Amy Martin** spoke and answered questions. **David Judd** presented a brief history of Valentine’s Day and conducted a short quiz. Following the meeting, 25 members, spouses and guests lunched at the Blue Elephant restaurant.

### Guest speaker: Norfolk County Mayor Amy Martin

At 34, **Amy Martin** is the youngest mayor in Norfolk County’s 23-year history. She is a quick learner. Five years ago she knew nothing about local politics. In 2018, she was elected to Port Dover’s seat on county council. Last October she was elected mayor.

**Amy** is a native of Norfolk County and a graduate of Port Dover Composite School. She has a degree in psychology from York University. After university, she worked in the non-profit sector in Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk counties. Her husband, Andrew Gamble, is an OPP officer. Amy and Andrew live in Port Dover.

**Mayor Amy** likes to connect with people. She told us what she and county council have done in their first 13 whirlwind weeks in office.

On Nov. 15, councillors dove into their capital budget, deciding on projects to build roads and other infrastructure over the next 10 years. Next came water rates, which increased 8.5 per cent for 2023 and are planned to increase another five per cent a year for several years. Norfolk has



**Mayor Amy Martin**

started on a \$350-million plan to bring Nanticoke drinking water to Simcoe, Port Dover, Waterford, Delhi and Port Rowan. Fixing leaks in old water systems in Port Dover and Port Rowan will save \$330,000 in lost water each year.

Council reviewed its strategic plan, which emphasizes working with the provincial and federal governments to fund infrastructure. Other goals are better communication and customer service.

Ontario's push to build more homes faster poses challenges. Norfolk must add planning staff to meet tighter deadlines for decisions on housing development. The province also has told municipalities to reduce development charges, which help pay for new roads, water and sewer service and other infrastructure needed for growth.

In January, council increased residential property taxes for 2023 by 5.7 per cent. **Mayor Amy** was pleased the increase was less than the rate of inflation.

**Mayor Amy** and other Norfolk officials recently made pitches to several Ontario cabinet ministers during 15-minute meetings at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference in Toronto. They gave ministers information on water infrastructure, explained the need for a new Norfolk General Hospital and promoted Fanshawe College.

Norfolk's most contentious issue is West versus East, **Mayor Amy** said. The West kiboshed a proposal for a recreational hub in Simcoe. But Simcoe still needs a new arena and indoor swimming pool. Norfolk should be ready to cash in on the next federal or provincial grant to build new facilities for Simcoe, she said.

**David Judd** introduced **Mayor Amy** and **Gerald Sheppard** thanked her.