



THE NEWSLETTER

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



MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, May 10, 2022

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

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

Guest Speaker

Howard Crocker,

Bonnieheath Estate Lavender and Winery,
Regenerative Soil Management.

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Review of April 12, 2022, meeting:

President **Murray Uren** called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. and welcomed 16 members and two guests, **Tom O'Neill** and **Bob Proracki**. We sang our National Anthem.

PROBUS business:

Our club is in good financial shape.

President Murray presented drafts of a new constitution and bylaws as required by PROBUS Canada. Members will vote on the constitution and bylaws at our May meeting.

Thank you, **Frank Brock**, for taking notes in absence of Secretary **David Judd**.

Guest Speaker: Dave Stelpstra

Dave Stelpstra is a retired police officer and has spoken to us in 2017 and 2019 about policing in Norfolk County. Dave also is chair of the volunteer committee, Norfolk Remembers, which is dedicated to remembering the men and women from our county who served in the First and Second World Wars.

The committee has just published a 470-page hardcover book called Norfolk Remembers the Second World War 1939-1945. It profiles the 159 individuals who gave their lives in the war. One hundred and fifty-two names are on a plaque on Simcoe's Carillon Tower. The book adds a further seven names.

Dozens of volunteers, including some elementary school students, researched and wrote the profiles and other information about the war. Each profile includes a photo and the individual's signature as well as details about his life.

David Judd and his wife, **Colleen Cross**, edited the book

The book is on sale at all branches of the Norfolk Public Library for \$50. A copy is available to borrow in our club's book exchange.

Some facts:

First to die — **Sgt. Pilot James Miller** of Woodhouse, March 28, 1940, age 26.

Last to die — **Sgt. Leonard Osborne** of Delhi, Oct. 8, 1945, age 25.

Youngest to die — **Private Carson McDaniel**, age 17.

Oldest to die — **Hugh Allan** of Port Dover, Canadian Merchant Marine, age 56.

Most to die in one day — Six died on Aug. 19, 1942, at Dieppe, France.

Most popular — **Private Tommy Flew** of Simcoe, age 19.

Local fatalities — **Warrant Officer Marvin Herron** of Rockford, in a plane collision at Dunnville; and **Leading Aircraftman George Winfield** of Port Rowan in air crash in Haldimand County.

Most deaths in one family — **Three Wagner brothers** of Teeterville, **Ivan, Harry and Howard**.

Fifty-five men from Simcoe gave their lives in the war.

Dave mentioned the village of Ry in France, which each year remembers the deaths of two Canadian liberators, Trooper Bryce Foster of Port Rowan and Trooper Robert McEwan of Owen Sound. A group from Norfolk Remembers took part in the ceremony at Ry in 2019.

For more information, go to norfolkremembers.ca. Project 44 (www.project44.ca) is a good source for Canadian military war diaries starting with D-Day on June 6, 1944. Aircrew Remembered (www.aircrewremembered.com) has information on the RCAF and Allied air forces.

President Murray Uren introduced and thanked **Dave**.



Dave Stelpstra

Who Am I: Cal McDougall

Cal McDougall is an original member of the Simcoe PROBUS Club. He was born in 1934 in Ormstown, Que., southwest of Montreal. He grew up in a family of six on a dairy farm. As a young man, he worked for the railway for a few years. In 1953, he went to work at a Shell Oil refinery and retired after 32 years in 1986. He has been collecting a pension from Shell for 36 years.

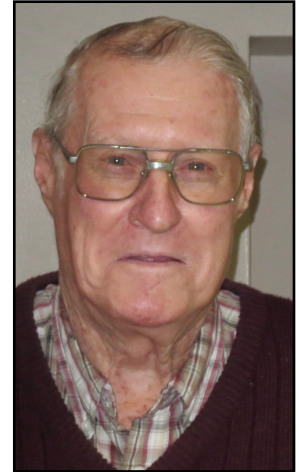
Cal and his first wife, **Doreen**, had two daughters, **Elizabeth** and **Sandra**. **Cal** and **Doreen** moved to Simcoe in 1986. **Doreen** died in 1992. **Cal** married **Linda** 12 years later. **Cal** has four grandchildren.

Cal started growing roses and over time accumulated 250 bushes. It took an hour a day just to deadhead them. He showed them at fairs in Tillsonburg, Aylmer, Paris, Caledonia and Simcoe. A fungus known as black spot started to attack them and that was the end of **Cal's** rose garden. He has six bushes left.

Cal started making wine and joined a wine club in Paris. His wines have been entered in fairs at Paris, Binbrook, Rockton, Ancaster and Simcoe. He has ribbons and plaques to illustrate his success. **Cal** was kind enough to bring red and white samples and some lucky members took a bottle home. His hobby has come to an end and will be over when he consumes 180 bottles of red and 35 bottles of white wine.

Cal ran out of time to talk about his third hobby. He makes beautiful stained glass art pieces. Twenty-five pieces are displayed on his sun porch.

Cal gives his Who Am I talk every nine years. He will be pushing 100 when he takes the stage again. Thanks, **Cal**, for your refreshments and your stories.



Cal McDougall