



THE NEWSLETTER



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

MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2017

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

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

Guest Speaker

Mike McDonnell,

Canadians in the U.S. Civil War.

Who Am I?

Bill Hoskins.

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### Review of Oct. 10, 2017, meeting

President **Murray Uren** called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. **Brian Cook** led us in our national anthem. President Murray acknowledged a card from **Nancy Walker** thanking PROBUS for a gift to the Caring Cupboard in memory of her late husband, **Don Walker**. **Don Lounsbury** introduced his guest **Norm Ireland**.

### PROBUS business

**President Murray** urged members to take copies of our updated brochure to encourage new members.

- Wellness:           Our club has made a donation to Harmonize for Speech in memory of **Howard Clark**, who passed away on Oct. 6.
- Program:           **Dan Pearson** has speakers arranged until March.
- Special events:   **Dick Pearson** is lining up a tour of Bonnieheath Estate Lavender Farm and Winery in June or July. **President Murray** asked members to suggest future tours.
- Treasurer:       **Dave Montross** reported about two-thirds of our 43 members have paid their \$35 dues for 2017-18. We are in good financial shape.
- House:             **Rick Middaugh** reported all is well.
- Newsletter:       **David Judd** thanked **Nestor Rosa** for taking notes and photos of September's meeting.

## **Guest Speaker: Imam Abu Noman Tarek**

**Abu Noman Tarek**, Imam of the Brantford Mosque, introduced us to the basics of the Islam religion. He has served as an Imam, teacher, chaplain, educator and consultant in Canada for more than 10 years.

**Imam Tarek** holds three bachelor's degrees in Islamic studies; literature, arts and history; and computer science and engineering and a master's degree in Ulumul Hadith (the unchanged word of God as revealed to Prophet Muhammad) from renowned universities in Bangladesh and other parts of the world, including Canada. He is married and blessed with two daughters. He lives in Brantford.

The word "Islam" means peace and submission. It is a way to find peace by submitting to God. A Muslim is a person who follows Islam.

Muslims believe Abraham, Moses and Jesus were messengers from God. In addition, Muhammad came 1,500 years ago (610 CE) as a global and last prophet. The Quran is an unchanging message of God for humanity until the Day of Judgment.

No humans are divine. Some people do not submit to God fully and sometimes wrongfully interpret Quran to justify their sins and wrong acts such as ISIS. ISIS is neither Islamic nor has a state. Islam does not support any form of terrorism or extremism. The Quran says: "Whoever kills a person (unjustly) . . . it is as though he has killed all mankind. And whoever saves a life, it is as though he had saved all mankind."

Islam gives rights to women and respects them. Abuse of women arises from culture and not from Islam.

Some principles of Islam:

- There is only One God and Muhammad was the last messenger of God;
- People have freedom of choice and God knows everything;
- People are here to live good lives leading to eternal life;
- Every adult Muslim must pray five times a day;
- Muslims give to charity and fast from dawn to dusk during Ramadan;
- Muslims, if they are eligible, pilgrimage to Mecca once during their lives;
- God will judge people according to their good and bad deeds;
- Shia and Sunni Muslims are divided by politics.

**Dan Pearson** introduced **Imam Tarek** and **Frank Brock** thanked him.

To invite **Imam Tarek** to your events, please e-mail him at [info@brantfordmosque.ca](mailto:info@brantfordmosque.ca).



**Imam Abu Noman Tarek**

## Who Am I: Gus Takacs

**Gus Takacs** was born in 1934 about six miles outside Simcoe. His family moved to Lynnvile where his father was a sharecropper on the Windham tobacco plantation.

Gus and family returned to their homeland of Hungary for a short while then came back to Canada for good in 1938.

The family lived at Rodney in Elgin County then moved to Teeterville where his father again sharecropped. In 1946, Gus graduated from public school and, through a mixup, went to high school for a few weeks in Delhi. After things got straightened out, Gus went to high school in Waterford and Simcoe.

Gus took photography for three months at Ryerson Institute of Technology, but it failed to develop into a career. On Jan. 2, 1953, Gus joined the Canadian Bank of Commerce. He worked at banks in Mitchell and Long Branch then, in 1956, he came to the bank in Simcoe, where he lived “the exciting life of a Canadian banker” until his retirement in 1994.

Gus and his wife **Julia** have a daughter **Debbie**, son **Paul** and two grandchildren. Gus served on Simcoe town council from 1980 to 1981 and on Haldimand-Norfolk regional council from 1988 to 1994. Gus recalls his politician’s salary was \$5,000 a year.

Gus is a longtime PROBUS member. He is currently the co-ordinator of our Who Am I speakers. Thank you, Gus, for telling us your story.



**Gus Takacs**

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Christmas lunch, Tuesday, Dec. 12

PROBUS members and guests are invited to our Christmas lunch on Tuesday, Dec. 12, at the Royal Canadian Legion in Waterford. Meals are \$25 per person. Turkey and roast beef will be served. Entertainment by singer **Dan Demeester**. Please pay **Clarence Hurtubise** at our November meeting. The event needs a minimum of 25 persons.



Artist’s conception of Victorian PROBUS Xmas lunch.