



THE NEWSLETTER



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

MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2018

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

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

Guest Speaker

Mike McDonnell,

The U.S. Civil War, the war in New Mexico

PROBUS Extra

How Norfolk celebrated Armistice 1918

~~~~~

### Review of Oct. 9, 2018, meeting

Former President **Frank Brock** called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. **Brian Cook** led us in our national anthem. **Frank** welcomed new member **Ed Corder** and **Canon David Ricketts**, director of PROBUS District 6.

### PROBUS business

Treasurer: **Dave Montross** reported about 60 per cent of our members have paid their \$45 dues for 2018-19. We are in good financial shape.

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

Newsletter: **David Judd** reported our book exchange has added a few books discarded from Norfolk Public Library.

Christmas lunch: Members discussed possible locations and whether to continue having entertainment. **Dick Pearson** will discuss further with **President Murray Uren**.

## **Guest Speaker: Rick DeSerranno**

Retired police officer **Rick DeSerranno** told us about bicycle safety and the bike rodeo program in local schools. Rick served 15 years with Haldimand-Norfolk regional police and 10 years with the OPP. In retirement, bike safety continues to be a priority. Rick emphasized that parents must ensure their children's bikes are properly equipped and that children ride safely following the rules of the road.

New bikes often don't come with all the safety features required in Ontario. Bikes must have a bell or horn, a light and white reflecting tape at front and back. Riders younger than 18 years old must wear helmets.

Norfolk has had a bike safety program since 1972. **Rick** helps operate annual bike rodeos at elementary schools in Delhi, Langton and Houghton. Each rodeo takes 28 volunteers to set up and run. Bikes receive a safety inspection and riders are given a verbal test. Children are shown the correct way to wear their helmets. Then the kids tackle half a dozen riding challenges, testing their ability to steer, brake and make hand signals.

**Frank Brock** introduced **Rick** and **Dave Montross** thanked him.



**Rick DeSerranno**

## **A word from our director**

**Canon David Ricketts** of Dundas brought greetings from PROBUS Canada. **Canon Ricketts** is director of Ontario District 6 to which our club belongs. He is in the process of visiting all 19 PROBUS clubs in the district, which includes Norfolk, Brant, Haldimand, Hamilton and Niagara regions.

**David Ricketts** is one of the few lay people appointed as a canon in the Anglican church. Canon is an honorary title given for faithful and valuable service to the church.

He retired after 50 years in the insurance business. About five years ago, he gave a talk about his United Empire Loyalist heritage to the PROBUS club in Dundas. He knew some of the members and decided to join. In a short time he was the club's first vice-president. He later became club president and, more recently, a national director.



**Canon David Ricketts**

**Canon Ricketts** is proud of his UEL heritage. His ancestors include **Robert Hamilton**, who founded the village of Queenston, and Robert's wife **Catharine** for whom the City of St. Catharines is named. Another ancestor, **George Hamilton**, helped found the City of Hamilton.

**Canon Ricketts** said PROBUS is growing in all provinces, except Quebec where there are no clubs. Membership totals 235,000.

## **Where was I? Truro, Nova Scotia**

**David Judd** presented a photo tour of Truro, Nova Scotia. **David** recently tagged along with his wife, **Colleen Cross**, for a convention of Atlantic water well drillers. Truro is a historic town. Mi'kmaw First Nations lived in the area on the shore of the Bay of Fundy for hundreds of years. French Acadians established a village by 1727. The British expelled the Acadians to Louisiana in the 1750s and imported Presbyterian settlers from New England, founding Truro in 1759.

Truro is known as the hub of Nova Scotia. It is at the junction of the main railways and highways connecting to New Brunswick on the west and to Cape Breton Island to the northeast. Today Truro is a prosperous town about the size of Simcoe in population. It features many handsome wooden Victorian homes and impressive brick public buildings.

Three things to see if you visit:

- Stanfield's underwear factory outlet is in a large 19th-century brick building near the downtown. Family-owned Stanfield's has been in business for 160 years and still employs 400 people at its Truro factory.
- Victoria Park is a beautiful 400-acre park right on the edge of town. It features walking trails to two waterfalls, along with kilometres of trails for hikers and cyclists.
- The tidal bore is a famous natural phenomenon that occurs like clockwork twice a day where the Salmon River meets the Bay of Fundy. The bay has the highest tides in the world. The tidal bore is a wave of water that pushes from the bay into the river, reversing the river's current. Although not spectacular, the bore is interesting and draws many visitors.

~~~~~

Farewell, Jay McKiee

Norfolk lost a community leader and philanthropist in the passing of **Jay McKiee** on Oct. 8. For 35 years, **Jay** owned and operated McKiee and Farrar insurance. He was involved in many organizations, including PROBUS, Rotary, Simcoe and District Chamber of Commerce, Norfolk Historical Society, Norfolk Community Foundation, St. Paul's Presbyterian Church and the Lynn Valley Trail Association. He was a key person in raising money to rebuild Simcoe Composite School's gymnasium after a devastating fire.

Jay is survived by his first wife, **Jocelyn**, and children **Jane** and **Jackson**. He was predeceased by his second wife, **Irene**. A detailed obituary can be found at ferrisfuneral.com.



Jay McKiee