



# THE NEWSLETTER

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



## MEETING NOTICE

**Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019**

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

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

### Guest Speaker

**Mike McDonnell,**

**Abolition versus the Fugitive Slave Law,**

**As a cause of the American Civil War**

### What's My Hobby?

**Frank Brock,**

**More memories of the CFL**

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### Review of Oct. 8, 2019, meeting

**President Murray Uren** called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. **Keith Rumble** led us in our national anthem. **Murray** welcomed new members **Lawrence DePoorter** and **Tom Vandertuin**.

### PROBUS business

Treasurer: **Dave Montross** reported 29 members have paid their \$45 dues for 2019-20. We are in good financial shape.

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

Newsletter: **David Judd** will continue sending e-mail reminders the day before meetings.

Wellness: **Gerald Sheppard** had no reports of illness.

Other business: Our Christmas luncheon will be held at the Highway Restaurant on Tuesday, Dec. 10.

**Dan Pearson** is stepping down as program co-ordinator. A volunteer is needed to line up speakers for 2020.

## **Guest Speaker: Gary White**



**Gary White with models of a skyrocket and a Roman candle.**

**Gary White** got interested in fireworks when he was about 10 years old growing up in Port Dover. His father made fireworks and so began **Gary's** love for black powder, fireworks and, as an adult, amateur rocketry.

Now in retirement, and living again in Port Dover, **Gary** continues to have a blast with his fireworks hobby. **Gary** has a licence to set off commercial displays. Last July 1, he helped set off Port Dover's spectacular Canada Day display, shooting off \$10,000 worth of fireworks in 20 minutes.

There are two types of fireworks. One is home fireworks, which anyone can set off in their backyard for Victoria Day and Canada Day. The second type is commercial fireworks, which can be bought and set off only by a licensed person like **Gary**. Commercial displays need a permit from Norfolk County or other local municipality.

Black powder (also known as gunpowder) was invented in China around 900 BC. It's

made of charcoal, sulphur and stump remover aka potassium nitrate. Today China is our source for black powder and fireworks. **Gary** explained how fireworks work, including skyrockets, Roman candles, fountains, flares, and multi-shot fireworks called cakes.

Fireworks can be lit with a fuse or electronically. Bigger displays, such as at Niagara Falls, could cost \$100,000. A Times Square display could cost \$500,000.

In decades of fireworks, **Gary** has never had an accident. "I'm still running fast enough to get away," **Gary** said.

**Murray Uren** introduced and thanked **Gary**. Thank you, **Gary**, for sharing your hobby with us.