



# THE NEWSLETTER

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



## MEETING NOTICE

**Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022**

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

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

### Guest Speaker

**David Judd,  
Vimy Oaks.**

### Who Am I

**Dave Montross.**

## Annual General Meeting

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### Review of Oct. 11, 2022, meeting

Treasurer **Dave Montross** called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. Members sang our national anthem and observed a moment of silence in memory of longtime member **Gus Takacs**, who passed away on Oct. 7. **Dave** welcomed 14 members, including new member John Lotus. About 20 members have paid their \$45 membership dues for 2022-2023.

### Guest Speaker: George Araujo



**George Araujo**

The United Way of Haldimand-Norfolk will give \$140,000 this year to 14 non-profit agencies, who will help about 20,000 people build better lives. That's 54 people every single day.

United Way is all about creating measurable impact, said Executive Director George Araujo, a former general manager of the Norfolk County Fair. United Way has three pillars of focus:

1. From Poverty to Possibility funds services that provide opportunities for those living in poverty to realize a brighter future through better employment, tutoring to upgrade literacy skills and assisting those with developmental disabilities to find and keep employment.

2. All That Kids Can Be helps put children and youth on a path to success. They receive guidance to achieve educational goals, create a sense of well-being and better equip them to transition to adulthood.

3. Healthy People, Strong Communities advocates for the right to decent and productive employment in conditions of freedom, equity and human dignity. This is particularly challenging for those with disabilities or mental illness.

United Way jumped into action during the COVID pandemic. Many children had been receiving their only meal of the day through their school lunch program. United Way gave funding to food banks to make sure their shelves were stocked. It funded agencies to assemble food hampers and partnered with local farmers to provide fresh food hampers and then funded multiple agencies that delivered thousands of food hampers to families in need.

Mr. Araujo told our club about Ontario 211 Services, a non-profit organization, supported by United Way, that works with many partners to improve access to services. 211 is a free, confidential helpline that simplifies finding support and non-emergency community services. For example, 211 can connect to home support for callers who need help caring for cancer patients at home.

“Through collective action, our United Way responds to urgent needs with one goal in mind — to improve lives across Haldimand and Norfolk,” Mr. Araujo said.

“We are incredibly grateful to our committees’ donors who believe in and invest in the people of Haldimand and Norfolk. We are better when we work together.”

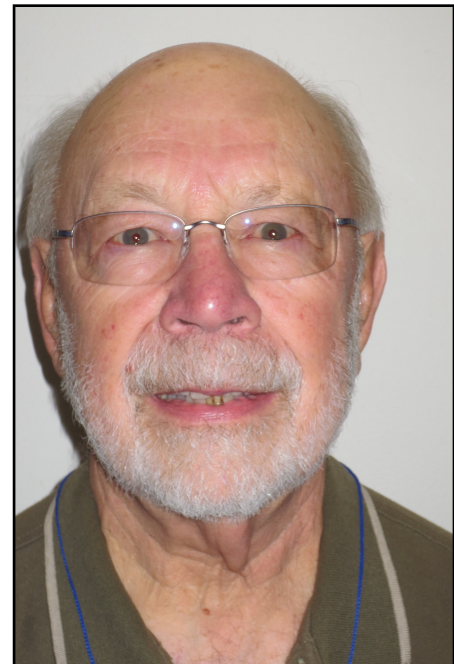
Mr. Araujo reminded us “What we raise here, stays here.” Dave Montross thanked our speaker.

### **Who Am I: Donald Lounsbury**

**Don Lounsbury** was born 84 years ago in Tillsonburg. After the Second World War, his father ran a garage in Langton, built the community’s first fire truck and became the first fire chief. A nearby farmer let young **Don** drive his pickup truck and tractor during harvesting. **Don** enjoyed Boy Scouts, model airplanes, and army cadets at high school in Tillsonburg and cadet summer camps at both Ipperwash and Borden.

The Lounsburys moved to Hamilton and **Don** took electronics at Westdale Collegiate. At age 17, **Don** began working for Northern Electric converting Bell Telephone offices’ switching systems from rotary dial to push button technology. In 1959, **Don** moved to a new Northern Electric plant in London, Ont., and bought a 110-acre farm near Putnam.

In 1968, **Don** and a couple of friends got a licence to provide cable TV service to the Town of Simcoe. **Don** was appointed Clearview Cable’s first managing director essentially becoming Simcoe’s first “The Cable Guy.”



**Donald Lounsbury**

From 1984 to 1988, **Don** managed Shaw’s cable systems in both Colorado and British Columbia, returning to Simcoe in 1989 to be closer to his sons **Dale** and **Jeff**.

**Don** bought a former tobacco farm near Rattle Snake Harbour, built an airstrip and converted a barn into a hangar for his airplane. **Don** got his pilot’s licence in 1971.

In 1990, Clearview Cable was sold and **Don** took an early retirement. In addition to travelling, **Don** volunteered with an organization called Operation Migration from 1993 to 2010. This organization was started by **Bill Lishman** (aka Father Goose) using ultra-light aircraft to try to teach Canada Geese and, later, whooping cranes to migrate. During actual migrations, **Don** would assist by keeping an eye on things from his plane circling above.

In December 2010, during a bird migration, the engine on **Don’s** airplane quit, forcing him to crash land in a muddy farm field in Illinois. Although the plane was seriously damaged, **Don** and his wife **Paula** walked away from the crash. The airplane was repaired and **Don** and **Paula** continued to fly recreationally, taking their plane south to their condo in Winter Haven, Florida, each winter.

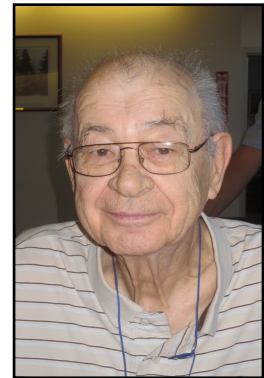
A year ago, **Don** decided to sell his plane for medical reasons. It went to a new owner in Southern California. He was sorry to see it go. Last December, **Don** and **Paula** sold their Florida condo. They plan to spend their winters in Costa Rica

Thanks, **Don**, for telling us your story.

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**Farewell, Gus Takacs**

**Gus Takacs** passed away on Oct. 7, 2022. He was one of the longest serving members of the Simcoe PROBUS Club. We appreciated his sense of humour. Gus was a retired bank manager. He served on Simcoe town council from 1980 to 1981 and on Haldimand-Norfolk regional council from 1988 to 1994. We extend our condolences to his wife, Julia, and family.



**Gus Takacs**



**Bruce Bowyer**

**Farewell, Bruce Bowyer**

**Bruce Bowyer** passed away on Oct. 15. He was a retired dentist and keen fisherman and outdoorsman. He manned one of the boats that accompanied Annaleise Carr on her record-breaking swim of Lake Ontario. Bruce always had a joke to tell at PROBUS. We extend our condolences to his wife, Beatrice, and family.

## **Proposed revisions to our club's constitution and bylaws:**

In May of this year our club updated its constitution and bylaws in accordance with guidance from PROBUS CANADA. The standard constitution is set by PROBUS CANADA. Club bylaws are set by each club but should not contradict the constitution.

The national organization recently approved updates to both documents. Our club will vote on the updates at our Annual General Meeting in November.

The proposed changes are presented here for your information.

Most changes are minor as you can read in the motion from PROBUS CANADA below.

An exception is the second change to the constitution. It eliminates wording specifically allowing clubs to be men only or women only. New wording says membership is open to "retired or semi-retired people, regardless of marital status, gender identity, or sexual orientation, or any other ground protected under Section I.3 (1) of the Canadian Human Rights Act."

The motion suggests similar wording be approved for club bylaws.

**President Murray Uren** and **Secretary David Judd** are suggesting the following wording to amend our club's bylaws: "Membership is open to retired or semi-retired men, regardless of marital status, gender identity, or sexual orientation, or any other ground protected under Section I.3 (1) of the Canadian Human Rights Act."

This wording makes clear our club will continue as men only while respecting the Canadian Human Rights Act.

With this one exception, President Murray and Secretary David recommend accepting the changes listed in the following notice of motion.

NOTICE OF MOTION: UPDATES TO CLUB GOVERNING DOCUMENTS July 8, 2022,  
PROBUS CANADA Board Meeting

Moved by Inga Thomson Hilton, seconded by Bob MacNair, THAT the PROBUS CANADA Board approve the amendments to the Standard Constitution for PROBUS Clubs and the Suggested Bylaws for PROBUS Clubs as detailed in the Notice of Motion circulated July 4, 2022.

MOTION CARRIED

## **Amendments to Standard Constitution:**

Amend the Preamble to read, "PROBUS is a local, national, and international association of retired and semi-retired people who come together in non-political, non-sectarian, non-profit, autonomous clubs which provide regular opportunities for members to meet others in similar circumstances, to make new friends, and to maintain and expand their interests.

Amend Clause II.1 to read, "Membership in the Club is open to ~~(men and women or men only or women only)~~ retired or semi-retired people, regardless of marital status, gender identity, or sexual orientation or any other ground protected under Section I.3(1) of the Canadian Human Rights Act.

Amend Clause II.3 to read, "Generally, application for membership, subject to approval by the Management Committee, shall be sponsored by a current member. Applications for

membership from members of the public who are not sponsored by a current member require only approval by the Management Committee. Founding members do not require sponsorship.”

Amend Clause IV.4 to read, “Meetings shall be conducted according to commonly accepted rules of parliamentary procedure in keeping with Robert’s Rules of Order. A motion that receives an equal number of affirmative and negative votes shall be considered lost.”

**Amendments to Suggested Bylaws:**

1. Amend Clause II.1 to use the same wording as in item 2 above.
2. Correct the bylaw cited in Clause II.7 and Clause II.8 to read “Bylaw VI.3.”
3. Amend Clause III.2 to read: “The Club shall be managed by a Management Committee consisting of a President, a Vice President(s), a Secretary, a Treasurer, the Immediate Past President, a Membership Coordinator, and such other persons as the Club deems necessary.”
4. Amend Clause IV.5 to read “All terms of Management Committee positions shall commence on the date the candidates for such Management Committee positions are elected or appointed. The terms of the President, Vice President and Past President shall terminate at the subsequent Annual General Meeting. All other terms shall terminate at the Annual General Meeting two years after the term commences. The term of any candidate elected or appointed to an interim Management Committee position shall terminate on the same date as the original term.”

Rationale: Since the two governing documents for PROBUS Clubs were adopted in August 2021, Directors and Clubs have suggested the above changes. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee agrees with these proposed changes, which require only the Board’s approval for implementation. For reference, both current documents are available on the PROBUS CANADA website.