



Doug Morrison (centre) explains the harvesting machine.

Tobacco farm tour

PROBUS members have seen the modern, automated way to grow tobacco. Doug and Deb Morrison on Sept. 18 gave a dozen club members and their guests a tour of their farm on Windham Road 10. Growing tobacco is no longer the hot, back-breaking, labour-intensive work of not so long ago. Modern technology and automated machines help four people do the work that took 10 people to do 40 years ago.

It starts in the greenhouse where plants grow in styrofoam trays that float on water. There are no more quotas. Growers need a contract from a tobacco company and a provincial licence. Two workers operate a mechanical harvester that plucks leaves and shoots them into a metal rack or bin. The bin drops onto a wagon and is taken to a bulk kiln to cure for about 10 days. The cured leaves are graded, baled and shipped to the tobacco company. Thank you, Doug and Deb, for a very interesting and informative visit.



Deb Morrison and Gerald Sheppard with a tobacco leaf.



Pinning leaves before placing a bin in a bulk kiln.



Grading tobacco leaves.



Doug Morrison with bales.