



THE NEWSLETTER

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

FACTORY FIELD TRIP

Tuesday, Sept. 13

Essex Furukawa Magnet Wire,
20 Gilbertson Dr., Simcoe.

Meet at St. James Church parking lot at 10 a.m to convoy to factory where plant manager David Deming will give us a tour. Spouses and guests welcome.

Review of July 12, 2022, meeting

President Murray Uren called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. Nestor Rosa led us in our national anthem. President Murray welcomed 18 members and guest John Lotus.

PROBUS business

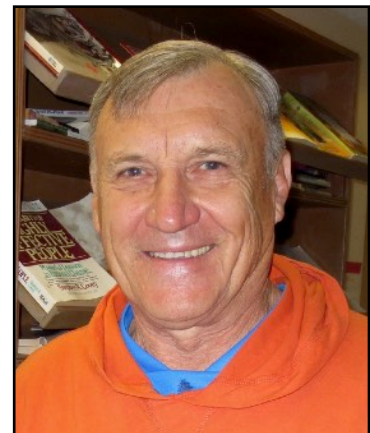
President Murray thanked Tom Vandertuin for becoming our director looking after Who Am I speakers and memberships. Members are invited to tell our club about their hobbies or interesting adventures.

Treasurer Dave Montross reported our club is in good financial shape.

Congratulations, Bob Proracki

Bob was inducted into the Norfolk County Sports Hall of Recognition on July 16. He was recognized as an outstanding athlete and official in a variety of sports. Most notable was Bob's success as a pitcher in the sport of fastball over 44 years. Bob was a member of several championship teams, including one with the London Major League which earned a provincial AA championship.

Bob was named to the hall of recognition as a 2019 inductee. The COVID pandemic delayed his induction until this year.



Bob Proracki

Guest Speaker: Tom Cheel

Tom Cheel is a Senior Support Unit Volunteer with the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre. He drove from Barrie to encourage our members to protect themselves from all kinds of scams. **Tom** volunteers for the centre after 30 years as a detective on the Toronto Police Force and working in security for the Bank of Nova Scotia and ICICI Bank.



Tom Cheel

The centre started as OPP Phonebusters in the 1990s. It was the first anti-fraud organization of its kind in the world. Today it is a joint effort by the RCMP, OPP and the federal Competition Bureau. Its headquarters in North Bay has 30 full-time staff and 35 senior volunteers. Less than five per cent of fraud victims call the centre. In 2021 the centre received nearly 105,000 calls involving the potential loss of \$379 million. Seniors accounted for nearly 13,000 of the calls. The centre does not investigate but helps law enforcement by making connections among seemingly unrelated cases.

Two of the biggest frauds involve investments (\$38 million) and romance (\$19 million).

There are dozens of other scams by phone calls, email or in person.

If you think you're a victim of fraud, call police and your bank immediately. Then call the anti-fraud centre at 1-888-495-8501 or report the fraud on the centre's website at www.antifraudcentre.ca.

Some tips:

- Don't open email from sources you don't know.
- Don't answer phone calls from people or businesses you don't know.
- Don't give out any personal information in an email or when chatting online.
- Don't carry your Social Insurance Number or birth certificate in your wallet. When was the last time you had to use them?
- Don't pay any upfront fees to collect a prize or lottery win.
- Canada Revenue Agency does not threaten people with immediate police action for unpaid taxes.
- Canada Revenue and legitimate businesses do not accept payment by gift cards or bitcoin.
- Microsoft does not contact computer owners to warn about viruses and offer to get rid of them for a fee.
- Don't believe calls about "suspicious activity" with your Social Insurance Number.
- If you receive a scam call, hang up. Don't engage with scammers.
- Check your bank accounts regularly and review your credit rating once a year.

For more information, go to www.antifraudcentre.ca. **Gerald Sheppard** introduced **Tom** and **Murray Uren** thanked him.

Who Am I: Tom O'Neill

Tom O'Neill is the retired manager of the Norfolk Fruit Growers Association. He lives in Villa Nova with his wife, **Christine**. They have four adult children — **Caitlin, Tristan, Ariadne and Liam** — and two grandchildren, **Ava and Isla**.

Tom was born in Halifax in 1955. He is the eldest of seven children. He was educated in Halifax and attended Dalhousie University in 1973. He transferred to Nova Scotia Agricultural College in 1975 and earned a bachelor of science degree in agriculture, finishing his degree at the University of Guelph with a major in animal science in 1978.

For the next five years, he worked at farm jobs in Ontario and Nova Scotia. He and **Christine** married in 1980.

In 1983 he answered an ad for a senior management trainee at a long-established agricultural organization and started at the Norfolk Fruit Growers Association in May 1983. He worked with PROBUS member **Dick Pearson**. He was appointed production manager in 1985 and was promoted to manager in 1991. He retired as manager in June 2020 and retired completely in December of that year.

As manager, **Tom** travelled the world promoting export of Norfolk apples. The association was particularly successful selling to two large U.K. grocery chains, Sainsbury's and Tesco. The association also exported to the Middle East, India, Colombia and Indonesia.

Tom sat on the Ontario Apple Marketing Commission marketing committee and was in the apple section of the Canadian Horticultural Council. He also was chair of the Apple Marketers Association of Ontario from 1991 to 2020 and was a Canadian representative to the U.S. Apple Association from 1991 to 1996.

The Fruit Growers uses modern controlled-atmosphere technology to keep apples fresh. Markets have changed over the years with more varieties of apples grown. Gala varieties currently dominate sales but Honey Crisp is the most valuable variety. **Tom** personally prefers Ambrosias. McIntosh apples aren't nearly as popular as they once were.

Producers grow many more trees per acre than they once did and they're starting to grow trees on lattice, a method imported from Europe. In the future, robotics will pick apples without damaging them.

Welcome to PROBUS, **Tom**, and thank you for sharing your story.



Tom O'Neill

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 October.

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 prohibited 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 prohibited 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*:

1. 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.
2. 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 prohibited under Section I.3(1) of the Canadian Human Rights Act.***

3. 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.”

4. 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.