



THE NEWSLETTER

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

MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023

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

9:30 a.m. Book Exchange and Socializing

Guest Speaker

**Lorraine Deming,
First aid co-ordinator,
Canadian Red Cross**

Who-Am-I?

Bernd Mueller

**All retired and semi-retired people welcome!
Dues for 2023-24 now due — \$45 single/ \$80 couple**

Simcoe Probus Club welcomes women members

At the club's July 11 meeting, members voted to change its bylaws to admit everyone as members, not just men. Fifteen members were present for the vote. Twelve voted to change the bylaw. Two-thirds of the members present had to vote in favour of the bylaw for it to be carried.

"Congratulations to all on making this decision," wrote **Canon David Ricketts**, PROBUS Canada Director for District 6. "After so many years, I'm sure it wasn't easy but for the future I am sure it is the correct one."

Review of July 11, 2023, meeting

President Murray Uren called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. **President Murray** welcomed 15 members and **Brian Cook**, who is returning as a member. **Brian Cook** led us in our national anthem.

PROBUS business

Gerald Sheppard arranged a tour of the Unilever ice cream factory on July 28.

President Murray arranged a tour of Welsh Bros. corn operation on Aug. 17.

Guest Speaker: Karen Matthews

Karen Matthews is the executive-director of the Simcoe and District Chamber of Commerce. Many Probud members know Karen as the former general manager of Burning Kiln Winery for nine years and before that manager of the Norfolk County Fair for 12 years.

The **Matthews** family is well known in Port Dover. **Karen** studied events planning and marketing in college at Thunder Bay. She worked for the Festival of Friends in Hamilton, the Juno Awards, the Kinsmen and Kinettes and Haldimand-Norfolk REACH, which works with children.

The Norfolk County Fair was the last bastion of male privilege, **Karen** said. In her time at the fair, she proved a woman can make a difference, tripling revenues in 12 years. She also helped organize the highly successful Gentlemen of the Road stop in Simcoe by **Mumford and Sons**.

At Burning Kiln, **Karen** tripled revenue in nine years. She helped add concerts, weddings and a patio. A recent concert by jazz pianist and singer **Diana Krall** drew 2,500 people.

At the chamber of commerce, she aims to give back to the community. The chamber has added 15 members in her 18 months on the job. The chamber offers activities and services to help local businesses prosper.

Need a COVID test? The chamber has 30,000 tests to give away free by the end of the year. Just ask at their office at 10 Argyle St.

Gerald Sheppard introduced and thanked **Karen**.

Farewell, Keith Rumble:

Longtime Probud member Keith Rumble passed away on Aug. 7. He was 95. Our condolences to his wife Doris and family.



Proposed revisions to our club's constitution and bylaws

In the last year our club has updated its constitution and bylaws in accordance with guidance from PROBUD CANADA. The standard constitution is set by PROBUD 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.

There are three amendments to the Standard Constitution.



Karen Matthews

1. Article I.2.a is amended to read: The Club shall provide these activities to those interested as an option among several that may exist in the Club's geographic area.

2. Article II.2 is amended to read: All clubs accredited after July 14, 2023, shall be open to all genders. Any single-gender club accredited prior to July 14, 2023, shall be exempt from this requirement.

3. A new Article II.6 is added: The Club's membership roster may be distributed to the members in good standing. The membership roster shall not be used for commercial purposes nor distributed to third parties.

Two amendments have been made to the Suggested Bylaws for Probud Clubs:

1. Previous Article II.1 is deleted, as the issue of gender composition is now covered in the Standard Constitution for Probud Clubs Article II.2.

2. Article III.13 is amended to read, "The membership roster may be distributed to the members as determined by the Management Committee," as the issue of roster distribution legislative requirements and privacy is now covered in the Standard Constitution for Probud Clubs new Article II.6.

Tour of Unilever ice cream factory July 28:

Two groups totalling 22 Probud Club members and guests toured the Unilever factory on Union Street in Simcoe on July 28. The factory is the largest maker of ice cream in Canada. It also makes Popsicles, Magnums, Ben and Jerry's specialty ice cream and other novelties. Thanks to **Gerald Sheppard** for arranging the tour.



Morning tour from left: Bernd Mueller, Cal McDougall, Sandy Mueller, Zeke and Barb Gulabsingh, Juli Proracki and granddaughter Mara, Bob Proracki, John and Donna Lotus, Helen and Murray Uren.



Afternoon tour from left: Gerald and Judy Sheppard, Brian and Marion Cook, Auk and Tom Vandertuin, Don Lounsbury, David Howe, Colleen Cross and David Judd.

Tour of Welsh Bros. sweet corn operation Aug. 17:

Seven Probus members and guests toured the Welsh Bros. corn operation just south of Scotland, ON, on Aug. 17. Wayne Welsh showed how his family company harvests, packages and ships 500 acres of premium yellow and bi-colour sweet corn. Thanks to **Murray Uren** for arranging the tour. See more photos in the newsletters section at simcoeprobustclub.weebly.com.



Wayne Welsh shows sweet corn to Helen Uren (left) and Barb Gulabsingh. Zeke Gulabsingh looks on.