



# THE NEWSLETTER

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



## Christmas lunch

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017.

Royal Canadian Legion, 223 Nichol St., Waterford.

11:30 a.m., socializing; noon lunch;  
entertainment by Dan Demeester.

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### Review of Nov. 14, 2017, meeting:

President **Murray Uren** called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. **Brian Cook** led us in our opening anthem. **David Judd** introduced his guest **Peter Vaughan**. **Nestor Rosa** introduced **Roy Havens**.

### PROBUS business:

- Christmas lunch: **President Murray** reminded members about our Christmas lunch. The bar will not be open for this event.
- Wellness: **Gerald Sheppard** offered condolences to **Gus Takacs** whose brother **William (Bela) Takacs** died on Nov. 9.
- Program: **Dan Pearson** has speakers lined up through March.
- Special events: **Dick Pearson** is arranging a July tour of Bonnieheath Estate lavender farm and winery.
- Treasurer: **Dave Montross** reported a few members need to pay their \$35 dues for 2017-18. We are in good financial shape.
- House: **Rick Middaugh** reported all is well.
- Newsletter: **David Judd** said our newsletters will feature photos of new members.
- Who-Am-I: **Gus Takacs** is working on speakers for January, February and March.

**President Murray** read a thank-you letter for our gift to the Alzheimer's Society in memory of Pat Robinson, wife of Al Robinson.

## **Guest speaker: Mike McDonnell**

**Mike McDonnell** told us about some of the estimated 50,000 Canadians who fought in the American Civil War. Canada was not officially involved in the War Between the States (1861-1865) but many Canadians volunteered, including some from our area.

Mike, a retired police officer who lives in Waterford, has been fascinated with the Civil War since he was a boy. His hobbies include military history and photography.

Canadians mostly fought for the North or Union side in the Civil War. Twenty-nine were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Five Canadians were generals in the war — one general fought for the Southern Confederacy.

Canadians signed up for adventure or the enlistment money. Some fought to end slavery.

Most notable locally was **William Winer Cooke** from Mount Pleasant in Brant County. He was 17 when he signed up for the Union army, rising to the brevet (honorary) rank of lieutenant colonel.



**William Winer Cooke**



**Mike McDonnell**

Cooke rejoined the army after the war. He was adjutant to **Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer**. Cooke and Custer were among 272 men of the Seventh Cavalry killed at the Battle of Little Big Horn in 1876. Cooke is buried in Hamilton.

**Lieutenant Edward P. Doherty** of Quebec and his men tracked and killed President Abraham Lincoln's assassin, John Wilkes Booth.

**Private James Beach Moore** served in a New Jersey unit but he didn't fire a shot before he returned to Canada in 1862 to become a minister. At his death in Waterford at age 89 in 1931, he was the oldest active Baptist preacher in Ontario and Quebec.

**Private Theodore Sharp** (1837-1878) is buried in Waterford cemetery. He was wounded three times in one hour at the Battle of Gettysburg.

An estimated 400 to 750 women served in the Civil War disguised as male soldiers. **Private Sara Emma Edmonds** from New Brunswick is perhaps the best known female soldier. When she became ill in 1863, she deserted the army to avoid being exposed as a woman. Twenty years later she managed to get a pension.

**Dan Pearson** introduced our speaker and **Dick Pearson** thanked him.

