



THE NEWSLETTER

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



MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, July 11, 2017

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

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

Guest Speaker

Gord Christmas

Columnist,

Simcoe Reformer.

Canada Day

How did you celebrate?

~ ~

Review of June 13, 2017, meeting

President **Murray Uren** called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. **Brian Cook** led us in our national anthem.

PROBUS business

Past President **Frank Brock** conducted a brief business session.

Wellness: **Gerald Sheppard** reported **Bob Banning** has been in the hospital.

Program: No report.

Special events: No report.

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

House: **Rick Middaugh** reported all is well.

Newsletter: **David Judd** reported our website at simcoeprobusclub.weebly.com is being well visited.

We will meet in July, take a break in August, and resume meeting in September.

Guest Speaker: Stuart Rusk

Cigarette lighters have fascinated **Stuart Rusk** since he was a wee lad in Glasgow, Scotland. Back in the 1940s, it seemed everyone smoked, including **Stuart's** parents and relatives. Young **Stuart** was drawn to the lighters' mechanisms and their variety of designs and shapes.

Stuart has collected lighters — the ones that operate on lighter fluid, not butane — for 50 years. He now has 400 lighters displayed on shelves in his home. He brought about 50 lighters to display at our meeting.

He buys lighters at antique stores and on the Internet. Most are inexpensive but they can sell for up to \$1,000.

President Murray introduced and thanked **Stuart**.



Stuart Rusk with a table-top Zippo lighter.



Lighters advertised many products.



Lighters come in all shapes.



Stuart would gladly walk a mile for this 1930s camel lighter from a Shriners' get-together.

Who-Am-I: Don Lounsbury

Don Lounsbury was born 79 years ago in Tillsonburg. After the Second World War, his father ran a garage in Langton and 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.

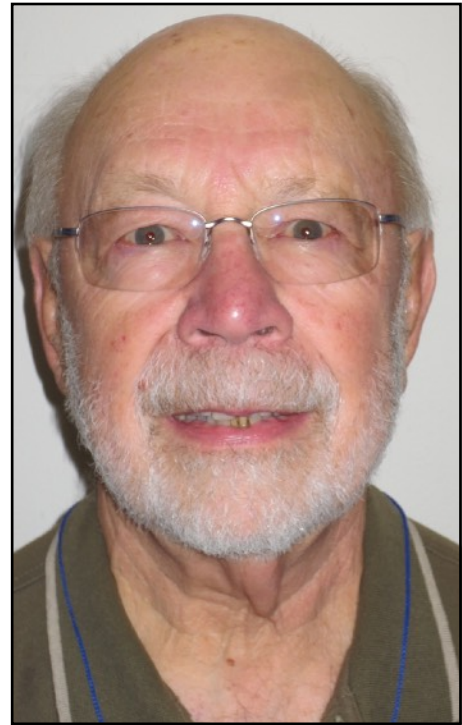
In 1968, Don and a couple of friends got a licence to provide cable TV service to the Town of Simcoe. Don was appointed Clearview Cable's first managing director essentially becoming Simcoe's first "The Cable Guy."

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 has flown about 2,000 hours since he 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 walked away from the crash. The airplane has been repaired and Don and his wife Paula continue to fly recreationally, taking their plane south to their condo in Winter Haven, Florida, each winter. Thanks, Don, for telling us your story.



Don Lounsbury



Don and his wife walked away after their plane crashed in a muddy field in Illinois in December 2010.