



THE NEWSLETTER

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



A look back:

While our club takes a break from meetings, we have a chance to look back at an earlier meeting and Who-Am-I. This month we look back at our meeting of June 2017.

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 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.

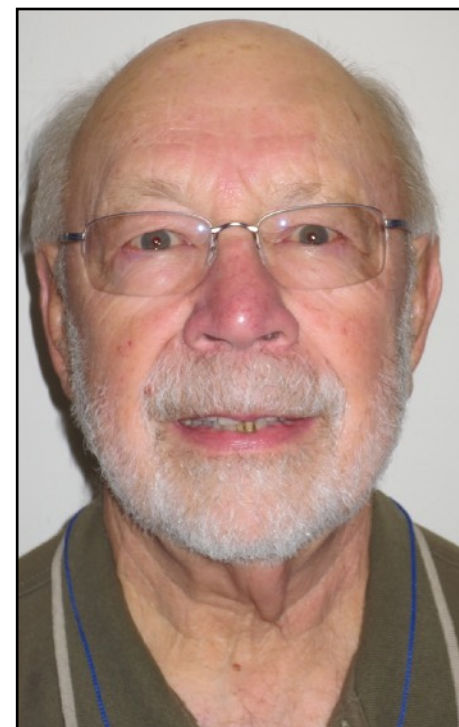
In 1968, Don and a couple of friends got a licence to provide cable TV service to the Town of Simcoe. Don was appointed Clearview Cable's first managing director essentially becoming Simcoe's first "The Cable Guy."

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, Don was a passenger in a plane flown by his wife Paula. The plane's engine quit, forcing them to crash land in a muddy farm field in Illinois. Although the plane was seriously damaged, Don and Paula walked away from the crash. The airplane has been repaired and Don and Paula continue to fly recreationally, taking their plane



Don Lounsbury

south to their condo in Winter Haven, Florida, each winter. Thanks, Don, for telling us your story.

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

Some observations:

So let me get this straight, there's no cure for a virus that can be KILLED by sanitizer and hand soap?

Is it too early to put up the Christmas tree yet? I have run out of things to do.

When this virus thing is over . . . I still want some of you to stay away from me.

If these last few weeks have taught us anything, it's that stupidity travels faster than any virus on the planet.

Just wait a second — so what you're telling me is that my chance of surviving all this is directly linked to the common sense of others?

If you believe all this will end and we will get back to normal once we reopen everything, raise your hand. Now slap yourself with it.

Another Saturday night in the house and I just realized even the trash goes out more than me.

Whoever decided a liquor store is more essential than a hair salon is obviously a bald-headed alcoholic.

Remember when you were little and all your underwear had the days on them? Those would be helpful right now.

The spread of COVID-19 depends on two factors: how dense the population is, and how dense the population is.

Remember all those times when you wished the weekend would last forever? Well, wish granted. Happy now?

Did a BIG load of pyjamas so I would have enough clean work clothes for this week.