

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In spite of the many twists and turns that COVID 19 has thrown our way, Probus Perth has weathered the storm and remains a robust club. Without face-to-face meetings, your Management Team has tried very hard to keep you informed and connected to our great club. We communicated with you through emails, the Website, and the Probian. Later Zoom General Meetings allowed us to “see” each other.

Of course, nothing can replace meeting our friends face-to-face and celebrating those special occasions. February 7, 2021 marked the 25th Anniversary of Probus Perth and a *25 Years* marker on the Website masthead had to suffice for now.

So, let's take a look in the rearview mirror and see what the past 12 months looked like:

Although the Management Committee couldn't meet in person, we did connect regularly by email and then via Zoom that enhanced our discussions and efficiency in decision-making.

When we were comfortable using Zoom for Management meetings, we started exploring how we might use Zoom for General Meetings. Thanks to our A-V facilitator, David Batchelor, Probus Perth held its first Zoom meeting on April 7. It was quite well attended and deemed successful. Since then we've had three more virtual meetings, including a mid-summer meeting as a way of keeping in touch.

During the bleak winter months, a COVID 19 Team (Gail Read, Derek Cooke, David Farquharson, Bill Michie and Colin Stephenson) posted helpful information and contact details to a dedicated COVID 19 section on the Website. That inspired another initiative “From the Pens of Probian” that resulted in many wonderful stories being posted for members' enjoyment.

The Social Committee (Mary Kilgour and Gail Read) provided opportunities for members to get together while ensuring that safety protocols were respected.

The Speakers' Committee (Chaired by David Farquharson/John Byers) continued to source speakers in order to be prepared when we would be able to hold meetings. Their speakers have transitioned extremely well to Zoom presentations. David chaired the Speakers Committee for a number of years and stepped down as Chair in June. Thank You David for your dedicated service to Probus Perth! And Thank You to John for assuming the role.

Membership Committee (Aline McRory) has done an excellent job of keeping track of our membership and being in touch with those wishing to join.

You will hear more from the Committee Chairs at the AGM.

I want to give a huge “Thank You” to the Management Team. They are a wonderful group of women and men who have worked throughout this difficult time to keep you

engaged and connected. A special “Thank You” to Liz Leonard, Past President who stepped up to fill the vacant Vice President role.

In addition to those mentioned above, Bill Mitchie, Secretary, keeps us on track and Graeme Rutledge, Treasurer (Tony Thompson as alternate) keeps our finances in order. This year the Treasurer facilitated the use of e-transfer for payments to Probus Perth.

The Website, maintained by Webmaster Colin Stephenson, is a wealth of timely information. Colin is also responsible for distributing club emails to the membership. Rob Leonard, Editor of the Probian provides excellent reading on everything from club highlights and interesting features to humour.

I also want to thank Jamie Doolittle, our District 1 Director and the Past President of Probus Canada for his support and for bringing the District 1 East Presidents and Vice-Presidents together to share information and ideas. This year the District meeting was held via Zoom. A number of topics were discussed with particular emphasis on managing our clubs during the pandemic. Probus Perth will host the 2023 District Meeting.

Most of all, I want to thank you, our members for offering encouragement and sharing your thoughts and ideas with your management team. It's your club, your opinions are much appreciated!

We look forward to hearing from you and to seeing you either virtually or in person when it is safe to do so.

Warm regards,

Lois-Anne Brebner