



PROBUS CANADA

"NEWSLETTER"

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**PRESIDENT
JAMIE DOOLITTLE**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been an interesting and challenging few months since I wrote to you following my election as your President.

Your Directors and I have done our very best to keep you informed regarding our recommendations for re-opening, insurance coverage, A.G.M.'s, social distancing and a myriad of other concerns.

We continue to stress the importance of following the Federal, Provincial, Municipal and Health Department guidelines. We are buoyed by the resilience and innovative initiatives being undertaken by our great Members of PROBUS, all across the country.

Technology has proven helpful and given us the ability to stay connected as well as learning some new skills in a fun, but serious way. "ZOOM" meetings are occurring across the country with regular format meetings taking place, including guest speakers and some innovative and fun ideas.

I have read many newsletters from across the country and I applaud these editors and your Management Teams for continuing to provide PROBUS updates while at the same time issuing really fun publications. These include crossword puzzles, baby pictures, historical questions, cooking and baking tips, and lots and lots of pictures depicting our members in various states of work or enjoyment.

Happy news happened this week when I was invited to a Club meeting in August to be the guest speaker. The meeting is being held at a Lion's pavilion with members and guests arriving with their own chairs, beverages, face coverings etc.. There will be no cash being exchanged, hand sanitizers at the entrance and exit, and two metres of social distancing at all times. I am excited to be "Back in the saddle again."

Our age demographic has demonstrated a lot of common sense in these trying times. Let's continue to show our resilience, determination, and upbeat mentality as we continue to be in touch with one another and help those in our circle of friends, neighbours, acquaintances, and Probians whenever possible.

Please share this newsletter with all your members and remember when writing that **PROBUS CANADA** is always capitalized.

Please remember my personal slogan **BE A FRIEND -- BRING A FRIEND** and also remember that of **PROBUS CANADA**

GET CONNECTED – STAY CONNECTED !

Keep well! Keep safe! Keep in touch!

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

WHERE ARE WE NOW

Our number of PROBUS Clubs in Canada is now standing at 256 with over 39,000 individual Members, a number which changes daily. Since the last report to you by way of this newsletter we have not added any new Clubs for obvious reasons although our current Clubs have shown much initiative and enthusiasm as they have continued to maintain the PROBUS connection and keeping in touch has been one of the daily priorities. We have received many notes of appreciation for the contacts being made on a regular basis and we have been assured that this practice will continue until we are back to some sense of reality. Remember that your call to another Member will be remembered !

MEDOC Travel Insurance Plan

MEDOC is designed to combine all of the travel insurance needs of PROBUS Members in one convenient package, with plan options to suit the coverage you require as well as your budget. MEDOC balances the needs of travelers regardless of age or health status. It is important that you carry the coverage that gives you peace of mind while traveling. Know & understand the plan you purchase. Call Toll Free- **1- 866 - 60Medoc** or email www.johnson.ca/medoc

HOW MUCH DO PROBUS MEMBERS CARE

This year, in June, our Club (Bradford # 212) was supposed to be celebrating our 10th Anniversary. We had planned a luncheon for all of our Members in June and a party in the evening at a restaurant. We have a theme "STARRY STARRY NIGHT" with entertainment of a Hypnotist, we have all of our decorations made, table centrepieces, glitter stars hanging from the ceiling, and an 8 foot glittered moon to have pictures taken in front of. Well, you know what happened, the virus took over ! We didn't want the date to pass without celebrating in some way, so what we did was to order over 200 white roses, we wrapped them in cello and tied them with blue and yellow ribbon with a friendship poem attached. We then divided them up and our wonderful team of our Executives delivered the flowers to each of our Members. Our Members' response was priceless, they were very, very happy that they were thought of !

(Thanks to **Brenda Andrews of BRADFORD PROBUS** for sharing this wonderful story with us !)

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One of the “time fillers” that many Clubs have been using recently is one type or another of **TRIVIA** tests. It’s hard to wonder what the above gentlemen are discussing, but one can’t help but think that they may be enjoying each others company, which has been most difficult for many of us over the past weeks . In any event, it would be very surprising if you can’t identify the very famous persons above. Sorry, there is no prize for getting it right .. it’s all done in good clean fun. (Photo courtesy – Tom Craig, PROBUS Member

HELP NEEDED SOON !!

This is Buddy , I bought him as a surprise present for my husband but it turns out he's allergic to dogs . So unfortunately I'm going to have to find a new home for him , and I'm just wondering if anyone out there can help ? . His name is Alan, he's 61, great at DIY, drives a nice car and plans wonderful holidays.



WHY DID THE CHICKEN CROSS THE ROAD

Grampa : In my day, we didn’t ask why the chicken crossed the road if somebody told us the chicken crossed the road, that was good enough for us ..

Einsten : Did the chicken really cross the road, or did the road move beneath the chicken ?

Hemingway : To die in the rain. Alone !

Aristotle: It is the nature of chickens to cross the road.

Dr. Seuss: Did the chicken cross the road ? Did he cross it with a load ? Yes, the chicken crossed the road. but why it crossed I’ve not been told.

Sgt. at Arms I have no particular insight into the motivations of Chickens.

Chef: I have a wonderful recipe for chicken, but I’m not sure if it crossed the road or if it did why ?

(No offense to chickens intended)

A Warm Fact; As Marg Demers, President of PROBUS Western Ottawa, expressed her unhappiness with being housebound to her eleven year old Grandson Connor recently, she was taken aback when he replied very calmly
 “ We’re not stuck at home, we are safe at home.” Young Connor has a great future ahead of him !

WELCOME TO PROBUS CANADA

GET CONNECTED - STAY CONNECTED



Presently we have many Clubs in areas of Canada that are open for meetings without any restrictions as well as many Clubs that are able to hold meetings with some restrictions. These different scenarios have enabled me to reflect on some very good suggestions that I received for both kick starting and maintaining a Club. The suggestions are:

- * Get good speakers
- * Make meetings interesting and fun
- * Encourage new members to get involved
- * Recognize special members for their contribution each year
- * Have one member or a team focus on acquiring new members each year
- * Seek younger members who will be our future executive
- * Consider two or more members sharing an executive position
- * Encourage guests and recognize them
- * Have lots of activities/interest groups
- * Include lots of pictures and members photos in the newsletter
- * Visit other Clubs near you to acquire some new ideas or procedures
- * Share activities and buses with other Clubs
- * Twin new members with existing members
- * Encourage laughter at meetings
- * Have special social events such as parties for Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter with a parade of Easter bonnets
- * Have members outline their charitable or hobby or lifetime achievements
- * Increase communication with members
- * Use greeters for a warm welcome to the meeting
- * Have getting to know you activities/ice breakers
- * Have business cards or bookmarks to show potential new members
- * Sing O' Canada at the start of meetings
- * Invite the local press to a meeting for a write-up

Please try some of these at your in person or virtual meetings and share your experience with your PROBUS Director. We are a proven model of an association that enjoys gathering for fun and learning. Please remember to ask your new friends or acquaintances to join you at your next meeting to enjoy the PROBUS experience.

Yours in PROBUS, Jamie Doolittle-President