



THE PROBE

VOLUME 36 ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 2023

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF ST. CATHARINES

To stimulate interest and participation in activities at a time of life when one often welcomes new friendships and an atmosphere of sharing ideas and information.

The PROBUS Club of St. Catharines meets at 9:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Grantham Lions Club, 732 Niagara St., St. Catharines, Ontario.

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St. Catharines, ON
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Website: www.probusstcatharines.com

2023-2024

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President:	Ralph Steffen	289-929-9492
Vice President	Andy Redman	905-682-6029
Past President	Tim Kaye	289-362-2016
Secretary:	Herb Woods	905-401-9905
Treasurer:	Denis Woods	905-646-1285
Speakers:	Duncan McLaren	905-680-8115
Membership:	John Senn	905-329-5360
Spec.Evnt/Ed. Visits:	David Merritt	905-714-2120
Deputies:	Rick Kent/George Novis	
Probe Editor:	Hugh Learmonth	905-934-2268
Webmaster:	Russ Milland	289-362-3420
Probus Global	Peter Jennings	289-362-3159

NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023
GRANTHAM LIONS HALL
732 NIAGARA ST., ST. CATHARINES
(OR JOIN ONLINE AT 9 A.M.)

Our speaker will be Brooklyn Mercer from Crime Stoppers of Niagara discussing its partnership in the Elder Abuse Prevention Network's Be Aware...Take Care safety guide.



Out-going president Tim Kaye displays his Past-President plaque after he had handed over the ceremonial gavel and President's pin to in-coming president Ralph Steffen.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

Opening: President **Tim Kaye** opened the meeting at 9 a.m. with greetings to members and guests. Tim also advised that this was the Annual General Meeting and that the new Management Committee would be officially installed and that the year-end financial statement would be presented.

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O Canada: Bob Henderson led members in the singing of Canada's national anthem.

Memorial: Members were asked to remain standing for a moment of silence in memory of club members who had passed away this past year: *Malcolm (Mac) Gollert, Bob Hawkes, Len McClelland, Bill Loftus, Wayne Tester, Herb McKenzie, John Bullivant, and Glenn Sawyers.*

Guests: John Senn welcomed guests **Robert Latham** and **Gabe Bianco**.

Birthdays: Tim Kaye advised that members **Art Currie, Bob Halfyard, Bob Henderson**, and **Stan Oprendeck** were celebrating birthdays during September. Bob Henderson led the singing of *Happy Birthday*.

Outreach: Tim Kaye, in the absence of Bryan Brodie, advised that our Webmaster, **Russ Milland**, is still in hospital and struggling to recover from his leg surgery. **Ron Casselman** is also in hospital. Tim also advised that that a Celebration of Life is to be held for recently deceased Life Member, **Wayne Tester** on October 14, 2023, at 3 p.m. at Trillium United Church, 415 Linwell Road, St. Catharines. Further, Tim asked members to advise him, as the new Past President, of any sick or disabled members. Contact Tim at 905-362-2016.

Breakfast: **Jim Cameron** has handed over the coordination of the breakfast gatherings to Bryan Brodie. In Bryan's absence, Jim advised that the next breakfast will be held at Johnny Pastrami's restaurant on Lake Street on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 with arrival at about 8:15 a.m.

Romeo Lunch: Tom van Loenen reported that the next Romeo lunch is to be held at Johnny Pastrami's restaurant on Lake Street on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at about 12 Noon.

Tom reported that the Dalhousie Yacht Club is not available in September because of the pending birth of host Emily Fox's child and added that because of our attendance numbers the Yacht Club may not be available on Wednesdays in the future. A show of hands indicated support for moving the monthly lunches to the last Friday of the month. So, the October Romeo lunch will be on Friday, October 27 at 12 noon at the Yacht Club.

Car Rally: Due to insufficient signups, Herb Woods advised that this event has been cancelled and may be looked at for next year.

Financial Reports: Treasurer **Denis Woods** provided a Power Point presentation of the highlights of the Financial Statement, Budget and Forecast. Detailed copies were available at each table. The annual audited reports and 2023/24 budget were unanimously approved including an annual dues increase from \$40 to \$65, and an initiation fee in-

crease to \$30 effective immediately. Denis also presented a copy of a letter of approval from former Chartered Accountant, Tom Lewis, who had audited the financial statements.

Management Committee Installation: Tim Kaye advised that in line with the club's bylaws the following members are to be installed as the management committee for 2023-2024:

President:	Ralph Steffen
Vice President:	Andy Redman
Past President:	Tim Kaye
Secretary:	Herb Woods
Treasurer:	Denis Woods
Guest Speaker Chair:	Duncan McLaren
Probe Editor:	Hugh Learmonth
Events & Ed. Visits:	David Merritt
Webmaster:	Russ Milland
Probus Global:	Peter Jennings

President's Remarks: **Tim Kaye**, as retiring President, made his closing remarks thanking the members of the management committee and members in general for their support during the year after he was thrust into the position after the untimely death of Herb Mackenzie. Tim then handed over the gavel and President's pin to incoming President **Ralph Steffen**.

New President: Ralph thanked Tim for his leadership of the club during a difficult year and urged all members to become actively involved in helping to increase the club's membership numbers. Former President John Senn handled the duties of presenting the Past President's pin to Tim.

Attendance: John Senn reported attendance of 35 members representing 45% with no Zoom connection available for this meeting.



Management Committee members, from the left, front row, Denis Woods, Andy Redman, Hugh Learmonth, George Novis. Back row, Herb Woods, Tim Kaye, John Senn, Ralph Steffen, Duncan McLaren.

Alcohol played role in life of soldiers during war of 1812

Duncan McLaren introduced guest speaker Jesse Abbott whose topic was the life of soldiers on the Niagara Frontier in the war of 1812.

Jesse's presentation, which consisted of a portion of his thesis presented to the University of Waterloo for his Doctor of Philosophy in History, looked mainly at the role alcoholic consumption played in the conduct of soldiers.

Jesse pointed out that, in general, soldiers of that period were held in very low regard by officers. He quoted the Duke of Wellington, speaking of the army under his command, saying it was "composed of the scum of the earth. The British soldiers are fellows who have enlisted for drink".

Jesse's thesis argued that alcoholic consumption, both real and perceived, played a key role in the construction and negotiation of masculine identities within the British army in the Canadas during the early 19th century.

Jesse's research indicated that although heavy drinking was common in that period, the reputation of some groups, especially the Irish, meant that all soldiers were labelled the same. He said that drinking and bad behaviour was not as common as many officers indicated.

He pointed out that the class system was much in evidence in the army. Soldiers faced flogging as a form of discipline for various incidents of bad behaviour and were generally held in disrespect and often believed to have joined the army to escape accepted life responsibilities. On the other hand, officers were often allowed to bring their wives and children to the battle area.

But alcohol certainly was in common use. Soldiers were granted daily rum rations including sometimes prior to going into battle. Rum was also provided to help cope with the severe climate. Jesse said that if army rations ran out, soldiers were often able to obtain spirits from outside sources and regularly gambled for spirits.

He said that at the time, Britain recruited soldiers as young as 13 and their lack of experience

and the style of fighting — solid lines of men firing muskets — sometimes contributed to the lack of discipline.

Jesse concluded his presentation with a quote from Dylan Thomas who said, "an alcoholic is someone you don't like who drinks as much as you do."

Following a question-and-answer period, Duncan thanked Jesse and presented him with an LCBO gift certificate.



Jesse Abbott

Greetings from new president

Thanks to Tim Kaye for his leadership during the past challenging year and to the membership for their confidence in me to lead the club into the coming year.

As you may know, our membership has declined from 134 in 2015 to our current membership of 77.

Special thanks to our treasurer Denis Woods for his efforts as the club moved closer to a balanced budget with a modest increase in membership fees.

Our 2022-2023 management team has been busy attempting to increase our membership in a number of ways including the production of the pamphlet "Introduction to the Probus Club of St. Catharines", with some modest success.

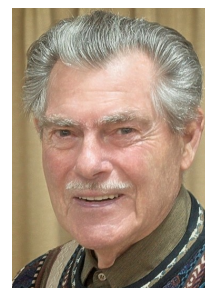
For 2023-24, this management team faces a challenging year to grow our membership further — perhaps even to 100.

But you all can help. I am certain that you all know friends, neighbours, past co-workers who may be in need of some fellowship or camaraderie. I plead with you all to participate in our membership drive for the coming year. With everyone's help, we shall reach the magic number of 100.

If you need more copies of the Introduction pamphlet to give to potential new members, let me or Herb Woods know.

Thank you.

— *Ralph Steffen*



Ralph Steffen



If you know of any member who is sick, injured or in hospital, will you please let me know. Contact me by email timpkaye1@gmail.com or phone me at 289-362-2016.

— *Tim Kaye Outreach Chair*

Membership dues

Membership dues for 2023-2024 are now payable and you have some options for making your payment if you have not already done so.

Cheques for \$65, payable to the Probud Club of St. Catharines, can be hand delivered at the October 10th meeting or can be mailed to membership chair John Senn at:

John Senn
13-30 Power Glen
St. Catharines, L2R 6P7

Payment will also be accepted by e-transfer to John Senn at jsenn8@cogeco.ca

Reminder: According to Bylaw #12, any member whose dues remain unpaid by December 15, 2023 shall be deemed to have resigned from the club.



Christmas Romeo Lunch



Once again the PROBUS Club of St. Catharines will be holding a Christmas Holiday Lunch at the Dalhousie Yacht Club.

Members, spouses or significant others are invited to join in the festival gathering on December 6 with refreshments at 12 noon and lunch at 12:30.

The menu will include the usual Christmas fare with all the trimmings. The cost has yet to be determined but will be announced shortly.

Tom van Loenen will have final details and a sign-up sheet at the October meeting.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

The following members celebrate birthdays in October. If you are not on the PROBUS birthday list, please contact membership chair John Senn.

Frank Parkhouse
Bob Trinder
Joe Vanderkooi
Doug Wright



SUB COMMITTEES AND SOCIAL EVENT CONVENORS

The following activities are approved and sponsored by the PROBUS Club of St. Catharines.

Romeo Lunch:	Tom van Loenen	905-937-0430
Men's Breakfast:	Bryan Brodie	905-932-4502
Golf:	Ralph Steffen	289-929-9492
Poker:	Denis Woods	905-646-1285
Theatre Visits:	TBD	
Outreach:	Tim Kaye	289-362-2016
Couples Bridge:	TBD	
Dancing:	Andy Reyes	905-937-2982

Celebration of life

Members are reminded that a Celebration of Life for former PROBUS Life Member Wayne Tester has been planned for Saturday, October 14 at 3 p.m.

The service will be held at Trillium United Church, 415 Linwell Road, St. Catharines.

10 reasons why English is weird

1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
2. The farm was used to produce produce.
3. The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
4. We must polish the Polish furniture.
5. He could lead if he would get the lead out.
6. The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
7. Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
8. A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
9. When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
10. I did not object to the object.



October 2023

International
Probud Day
October 1

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 	10  GENERAL MEETING	11	12	13  POKER	14
15	16	17 	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27  ROMEO LUNCH	28
29	30	31 				

FUTURE EVENTS: Christmas Romeo Lunch — December 6



Invite a friend. If you enjoy taking part in PROBUS activities, don't forget that in addition to the regular meetings the monthly Romeo Lunches at the Dalhousie Yacht Club or the men's breakfast gathering at Johnny Pastrami's are excellent opportunities to introduce a friend to the club.