



MEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF NEWMARKET

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES Wednesday October 16, 2024 Newmarket Legion Hall

- **Opening** *Bob Thivierge*
 - President Bob Thivierge opened today's special meeting at 10:00 am after the procession of our special guests were piped into the hall by Mike MacDonald.
 - The meeting was dedicated to the celebration of our very own, Major (ret.) Joseph James Parks One Hundredth Birthday Celebration.
 - Introduction of the many dignitaries and special guests seated at the head table and reserved seats.
 - Acknowledgement of the organizing committee for the many hours of work in putting together today's event
 - Thanked the major sponsors for making today's celebration possible: Magna, Roxborough Retirement Residence and TPE Productions.

- **Master of Ceremony** *Dick Furlong*
 - Dick did a wonderful job as Master of Ceremonies, introducing the speakers for the meeting and stressing the importance of adhering to schedule to bring the meeting to a timely conclusion.

- **This is your Life** *Dave Elms*
 - Doug Wrigglesworth and Dave worked on the presentation reviewing Jim's life that Dave did such a wonderful job delivering.
 - Jim was born September 22, 1924 and grew up in Winnipeg. He is a Canadian inspiration having received medals from Canada and countries like France and Germany. He joined the Winnipeg Rifles and with his brother Jack were headed to Juno Beach in 1944 to play an important role in the liberation of France from Nazi Germany. He went on to have a distinguished military career and continues to work with youth around the world participating in speaking engagements about his war experiences and the importance of the sacrifices made to be able to live our lives the way we do in this great country Canada.

- **Huron Heights Choir**

We were then entertained by Arlene Charter and C'EST JAZZ the Huron Heights Secondary School Choir, the winner of many competition awards, with 5 beautiful songs.

- **Master of Ceremony**

Dick Furlong

- Dick as Master of Ceremony then introduced each of the following Government Official/Representative and Dignitary as they thanked Jim for his service during the war, congratulated him on his 100th Birthday, shared a personal experience, and presented Jim with Certificates, Mementoes,

- Inspector Paul Hayle of RCMP delivered a message from King Charles, and a picture of King Charles speaking with Jim.
- Tony van Bynen MP Newmarket-Aurora; Certificate and message from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.
- Scot Davidson MP East Gwillimbury; Certificate.
- Dawn Gallagher Murphy MPP Newmarket-Aurora; Certificate and message from Premier Doug Ford.
- Virginia Hackson Mayor of East Gwillimbury delivered message from Caroline Mulroney MPP York Simcoe.
- John Taylor Mayor of Newmarket; Certificate.
- Charles Heroux PROBUS Canada,
- Alex Fitzgerald-Black Juno Beach Association; Video and Poster.
- Dave Elms Newmarket PROBUS Club; Plaque and PROBUS shirt.
- Scott Driscoll Councillor East Gwillimbury, (a military historian and former NHL official) announced that Jim will drop the puck at the opening of the Toronto Maple Leaf game on November 9th at the Scotia Bank Arena.
- The organizing committee of today's event was instrumental in working with the Parks family and Legion in establishing a Legacy Wall at the Mount Albert Legion for all the Plaques Awards that Jim has received over the years.

- **Adjournment** Lunch provided by the Newmarket Legion's Ladies Auxiliary.