



MEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF NEWMARKET

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday December 18th, 2024
Newmarket Legion Hall

- **Opening** *Grant Campbell*
 - Grant opened meeting at 10:00.
 - Welcomed members and found no guest attending today's meeting.
 - Informed membership of Doug Wrigglesworth recent passing and acknowledged his years of service with our club.
 - Announced the recent resignation of Bob Thivierge from the club, and his agreement with the Management Committee to assume the position of President for the remaining 8 months of the fiscal year, to July 31st.
 - Explained that there are now two vacant positions, Vice President and Assistant Secretary and that any members interested in filling these positions should come forward and make it known in January.
 - Induction of new members Dean Yeats and George Steeves was to take place but neither were in attendance.

- **Minutes & Correspondence** *Brian Keddy*
 - Minutes of the October 16th and November 20th General meetings reviewed, with minutes now posted on the club's website.

- **Membership Report** *Warren MacRobie*
 - Membership now stands at 79, with 37 attending today's meeting.

- **Treasurer and Website Report** *Sunny Lau*
 - Sunny reported that our financials are in good shape and that the report is available if anyone would like a copy.
 - Announced to the members that beginning in December the Legion has increased our monthly rent by \$100, which is an unbudgeted surprise and that we are looking at ways to offset this, and may need to look at increasing the annual dues in the next fiscal year.
 - Recommended that members visit the club's website to review all the information regarding Jim Parks 100 Event that has been posted.

- **Marketing Report**

Dick Furlong

- Next Marketing meeting will be a ZOOM meeting at 9:00 am this Thursday December 19th, anyone interested in joining meeting should approach Dick during the coffee break or at lunch after today's meeting.
- Focus of the meeting will be: Membership Satisfaction, and Recruiting.
- Dick then delivered a Tribute to Doug Wrigglesworth
 - Born in Brampton, worked for the Board of Education.
 - Was an avid Military Historian who actually drove a tank. Member of the Royal Canadian Military Institute since 1950, which was known as his home away from home.
 - A Sherlock Holmes enthusiast, belonged to the Sherlock Holmes Society.
 - Was a very active PROBUS member having held multiple Management Committee positions in our club including President in 2013-2014. Did numerous presentations to PROBUS clubs around the world on his favourite topics, military history and Sherlock Holmes.
 - Celebration of Life to be held May3rd.

- **Programs Report**

John Vanderwielen

- January: Taivi Taylor, Estate Planning for Seniors.
- February: TBD as Annemarie Hagan presented at December 18th meeting.
- March: Lianne Harris Racioppo, A View of Native Life.

- **Who Am I** Gary Williams gave an interesting account of his life. Born in Deep River area of Northern Ontario. His father was a doctor and moved the family to Ottawa shortly after Gary was born. He was the Canadian junior champion in the 800 meter track and field event. He worked for the federal government from 1973 until he retired in 2007. He is currently Treasurer with the Newmarket Soccer organization, has done multiple cruising vacations and gets most of his enjoyment spending time with family including his five grandchildren.

- **Guest Speaker** Annemarie Hagan presented an informative story of the early Ontario Black Community The Lost Queen's Bush Settlement located near Drayton. She pointed out enslavement existed in Canada until 1833. How the Freedom Train, Harriet Tubman in the 1870's helped over 300 slaves escape from the United States, many of them settling in Ontario, and The Lost Queens Bush Settlement. Canada was viewed as the Promised Land in the mid 1800's but there was still significant Racism present.

- **Adjournment** Noon for Lunch at Fionn MacCools

