BOLTON AND DISTRICT PROBUS NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A WARM MONTH OF FRIENDSHIP, LEARNING, AND HEART-HEALTHY LIVING

I hope that when you receive this, the weather has improved. In Japan, Spring is evident and temperatures are in the mid teens. We left lots of daffodils and blossoms in the UK as well.

Thankyou to the board members who "stepped up to cover for me while I am travelling," especially Ian and Larry. President-Elect Ian will lead meetings through March, supported by the ever-reliable Speakers Committee, who have once more arranged an excellent presenter. I am looking forward to seeing everyone next meeting on **April 9th**. If you are celebrating Easter, enjoy it.

Graham Ferguson, President www.boltonprobus.ca gferguson222@outlook.com





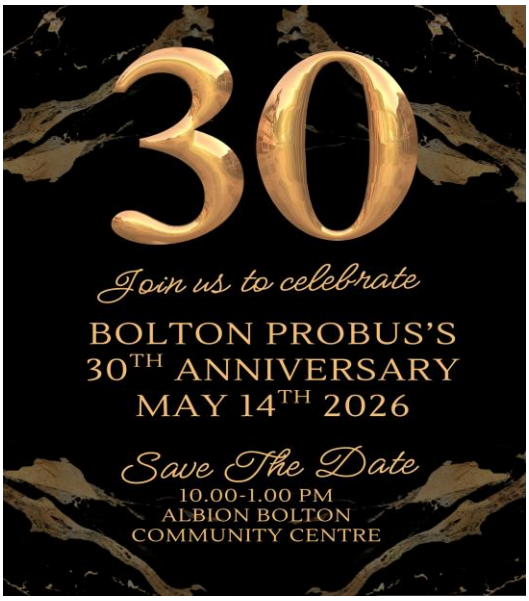


April Speaker Preview:

Barbara Robinson, M.A.Sc., P.Eng., is the president and founder of Norton Engineering Inc., and she will share a lively and engaging talk about sanitary sewers, the most important infrastructure in any City. She will share information ranging from the state of sewers in Canada today (poor!), basement flooding and how to prevent it, and lots of anecdotes about all things “sewer”. There is more to sewers than “Shit flows downhill and payday is Friday” (famous plumber saying), as you will find out. If you are lucky, she will share some war stories and tell you how to prevent rats from getting into your house through your sewer (true story).

A preview of the speaker talking to Steve Paiken of TVO:

https://www.tvo.org/video/the-sewer-lady-on-how-to-avoid-flooding



This is a milestone year—three decades of

“Fellowship, Friendship and Fun.”

Members are encouraged to mark May 14th in their calendars and consider volunteering to help make the celebration special.

The 30th Anniversary committee are doing a super job of planning this event.

We are looking for memorabilia and photos for the 30th anniversary. Do you know of any former members who might appreciate knowing about the event?

The Events and Social Committee are led by Grace Allison

EVENTS AND OUTINGS COMMITTEE

Grace Allison jhgallison@rogers.com

Edna Clark boltonclarks@gmail.com

Linda Thomas lindathomas08@gmail.com

April– ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS REQUIRING SIGN UP

***Sunday March 22nd John McDermott 2 pm Gibson Centre Alliston

Convenor: Christine Williams

Remember to look at the information table and sign up for the socials which interest you.

On going ones are:

Monday Night at the Movies https://www.theatreorangeville.ca/

There will be sign up sheets at the meetings for MNM in Orangeville.

Monday Night Movies. Orangeville Galaxy Theatre

$10 cash at door. Movie at 4:30. Dinner at 6:30

The films are usually excellent, and we socialise over a bite to eat afterwards.

Book Club Number 1

The Wednesday after the probus meeting … ie the third Wednesday of the month at the library. Run by Evelene Chapman and Micky Gravenish

April15/May 20/June17

Readamendations Book Club

For information: Tina Daalderop daalderopmt@gmail.com

Provisional dates: 24th March/21st April/26th May

Please contact the convenors if interested as space is limited.

The Speakers Committee - if you have any ideas…

John Palmer - johnnelvin.jp@gmail.com

Larry O'Donnell - lodonnc516@rogers.com

Graham Ferguson- gferguson222@outlook.com

Nathan Hiller - nhillerphoto@bell.net

Ron McNaughton- macnaughton@rogers.com

Fionna Ferguson- rotaryfionna@outlook.com

Ruth Hunt organises our lunch venue and social.

Look at: https://www.probuscanada.ca/

Our March Speaker: Dr. Jim Cairns-- Former Chief Deputy Coroner for the Province of Ontario

Dr. Cairns was the guest presenter at our March 12 meeting. Some of his background is outlined below:

Dr. Cairns received his Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery and Bachelor of Obstetrics in 1969. He received his Diploma in Obstetrics from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, London England in 1972 and received his College of Physicians and surgeons of Ontario Licence in 1973 after emigrating to Canada in 1972.

He was a Coroner for the Province of Ontario from 1979-1991 and was appointed to the position of Deputy Chief Coroner for the province in 1991. He was an associate professor in forensic sciences at the University of Toronto in 2000.

He has lectured regularly on death scene investigations, forensic medicine and the role of the Coroner's Office in Ontario to many professional groups and clubs.

He presented a detailed slide show presentation of a trip to Cuba in 1991 with a team of professionals. The main purpose was to investigate the suspicious death of an Ontario resident who was on holiday in Cuba and died. The team worked closely with the Cuban medical professionals to review their findings, documentation and the cause of death of this individual. This was a consultative process so after the team finished their work in six days and was able to enjoy the weather, hospitality and culture of Cuba. Dr. Cairns noted that Cuba is a communist country and the team had to take certain precautions to respect the integrity of their investigation as well as their own personal privacy. They met several generals and even Fidel Castro! He noted that professional information re the investigation was shared on the beach or in the ocean.

He shared with us that autopsies were performed in Cuba and Ontario, however. He noted that there was a wide discrepancy in the blood alcohol count in the Cuban autopsy report compared to the Ontario coroner's report. Dr. Cairns followed up with this major difference with the pathologist and the toxicologist in Toronto and the result was that the Toronto forensic lab had state of the art equipment to use but the lab in Cuba was using equipment from the 1950s era. This was the reason for getting a different result. The autopsy report and recommendations were shared with the Toronto police department and the attorney general's office.

Dr. Cairn's presentation was balanced between forensic science and his sense of humor! He stayed for the entire meeting and was available to answer many questions. His presentation was very interesting.

Submitted by Larry O’Donnell