# Bolton and District Probus Club

## Goodbye Summer, Hello Fall!

*"Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go... except for good friends. Those, we keep."* 🍂

### 90 Years Young!

Some people just get better with age, and one of our founder members, Richard Hunt is proof of that! Several of us were able to join family and friends as they celebrated Richard's 90th birthday and the many stories, friendships, and memories gathered over nine remarkable decades.



For those unable to attend, here are the notes from the speakers:



Regional Councillor Mario Russo from the Town of Caledon spoke first at the bench dedication in the park that was named after Richard and Ruth and donated by Bolton Rotary.
He sent his speech:
*It is an honour and privilage to be here to reconginze Richard Nelson Hunt in a very special and lasting way. Thank you all for being here and for helping us celebrate this important occasion.*

*Before we begin, we would also like to extend a special thank you to Anwar from Mashric Cafe for generously donating the refreshments for today's celebration. We truly appreciate your kindness and support in helping us mark this special occasion.*

*Today, we recognize **Richard Nelson Hunt's** accomplishments, but more importantly, we recognize the impact **he** has had on people and on our community. This bench is more than a place to sit. It is a place to **pause, reflect, enjoy the park and make memories**, much like the memories Richard has created throughout his life.*

*It is a small but meaningful way to recognize a man who has been an important part of the lives of so many people.*
*For more than **20 years**, Richard served as the Founder and Chair of the **Bolton North Hill Residents Association**, working closely with the Village of Bolton, the Town of Caledon and the Region of Peel to protect and improve the community he cared so deeply about.*
*His commitment to the environment and our parks has also been remarkable. Through the **Bolton & District Horticultural Society**, Richard helped raise approximately **$360,000 for environmental projects**, including the planting of nearly **4,000 native trees, shrubs and wildflowers across Caledon**.*
*It is especially fitting, then, that **a tree is also being planted here in the park today** in recognition of Richard. Like the tree, his contributions have taken root in this community, grown over many years, and will continue to benefit generations to come.*
*Richard has always believed in the importance of community, especially when it comes to giving young people opportunities. For many years, he coached **baseball, hockey, soccer and power skating**, and he helped bring after-school programs such as volleyball and badminton to local schools.*





And from Paul, Richard's son in law…

*Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome.*

*We are gathered today for a truly magnificent milestone: celebrating Richard's 90th birthday, and honoring nine incredible decades of a life lived with purpose, heart, and undeniable passion.*

*Around Bolton, many of us know him by another title entirely: "Tree Hugger Hunt." And while it might have started with a wink and a smile, no nickname has ever been worn with more honor, earned with more dirt on his boots, or proven more accurate.*

*There is a classic saying: "A society grows great when wise people plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit." Well, "Tree Hugger Hunt" didn't just plant for future generations—at 90 years young, he has lived to see an entire town flourish under the canopy he fought to create.*

*When you look across Bolton today, you are walking through his living legacy. Through the Bolton North Hill Residents Association and the Bolton Horticultural Society, he had the foresight to look at developer lands and say: this belongs to the people. He championed the town's purchase of vital spaces—from the east side of Humberlea Road, to North Hill Park, Generations Park, and the parkland that so proudly bears his and Ruth's names today: the Ruth and Richard Hunt Park. He even stepped forward to reach out to the TRCA to help secure Bolton Camp as protected land for everyone.*

*True to his nickname, Richard backed up his love for nature with tireless action. As Environmental Projects Director, he was instrumental in raising over $400,000 in funding and in-kind donations to green our community. That vision put roughly 5,000 native wildflowers, trees, and shrubs in the ground, along with restored wetlands and fishways:*

*-192 trees at Dick's Dam Park*
*1Over 325 trees at North Hill Park*
*-Dozens of mature trees at Foundry Park*
*-Plantings from Bolton Mill Park to Sunkist Woods and the Animal Shelter grounds*

*He didn't stop at the forest edge, either. When the neighborhood needed safer streets, Richard teamed up with our local councillors and Peel Public Works in 2012 to make sure the Humberlea and King Street expansion prioritized safety and flow for everyday families.*

*Richard has received several Caledon Volunteer and Citizen Achievement Awards over the years, and every single one was well deserved. But looking around today, his real achievement isn't an award on a wall—it is the cool breeze through these leaves, the green spaces our families will enjoy forever, and the inspiring example of what one determined "tree hugger" can give to the place he calls home.*

*Richard, thank you for your vision, your endless energy, and your generous heart.*

*To Richard, Bolton's very own "Tree Hugger Hunt"—happy 90th birthday, and here's to many more walks under the trees you planted!*





