

VOL. 1 | ISSUE 4 | JAN. 2025

# BATTLEFORDS PROBUS CLUB

*Official Newsletter of the Battlefords Probus Club*



[www.battlefordsprobus.ca](http://www.battlefordsprobus.ca) | [battlefordsprobus@gmail.com](mailto:battlefordsprobus@gmail.com) | Facebook: Battlefords Probus Club

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I want to start out by mentioning our meeting on the 21st of January. It was apparent as indicated by the buzz in the room that seating at round tables has added to the interaction between our members. It may be my wishful thinking but I believe there was a sense of belonging among our membership that has reached a new level.



Adding to that was a guest speaker that brought the house down. She was passionate about her subject, completely knowledgeable and very well spoken. I have been involved in choosing guest speakers for over ten years and Linda Shynkaruk was among the very best. Thanks to Chris for arranging this event.

I was also pleased to see the enthusiastic response to the idea of a field trip to Saskatoon to enjoy a river cruise aboard the Prairie Lily. This boat which looks a lot like a Mississippi paddle wheeler can accommodate 54 people, so a strong response from our membership will almost fill the boat to capacity. Depending on the number of our members who want to go, we may open the event up to inviting guests. Stand by, as we work on the details we will report back. Their website states that reserving early is a wise policy as it is a very popular attraction and reservations are hard to come by later in the spring.

If you are enjoying your experience as a Probus member and you think this will only get better, then think about inviting a friend to a meeting. Guests are always welcome although there is a limit to the number of meetings a guest can attend before we ask them to become a paying member.

See you in February!

*Gerry Walker*

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**Gerry Walker**  
*President*

**George Plews**  
*Vice President*

**Deb Breiman**  
*Secretary*

**Johanne Stolz**  
*Treasurer*

**Becky Stroo**  
*Membership Chair*

**Chris Pollard**  
*Speaker Chair*

**Susan McLean Tady**  
*Events and Activities*

**George Plews**  
**Lane Jackson**  
*Webmasters*

*Vacant*  
*Past President*

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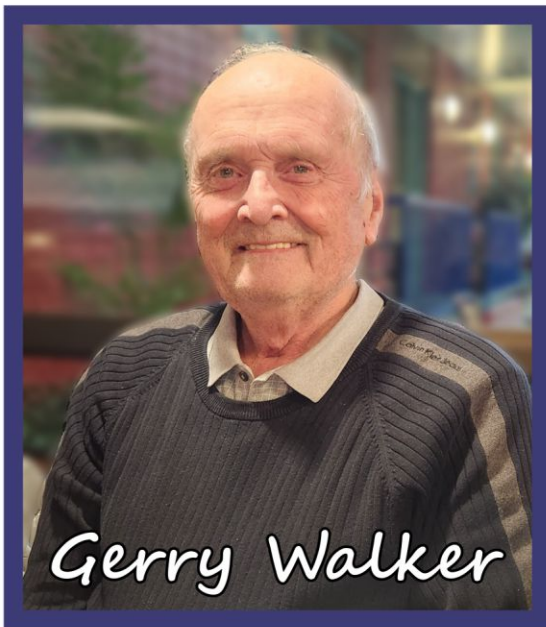
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## PRESIDENTS BIO



We would like to start introducing our management committee members. Our first two will be our President, Gerry Walker, and Vice-President, George Plews. Our bio's will also be available to view on our Probus Members webpage.

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I have experienced what might be called a 'varied' career, beginning in the mid sixties as a fighter pilot with the RCAF, flying the F104 Starfighter.

Following my four year tour in Germany from 1966 to 1970 (where I met my wife Carol who was a contract teacher to the military children), I was posted to Reese AFB in Texas, teaching American Airforce pilots to fly advanced fighter aircraft. From there, a short tour at the Defence and Civil Institute of Environmental Medicine in Toronto followed by my resignation from the RCAF.

I then began flying as a Captain with AirTransit until the airlines went into a recession and dozens of pilots were laid off.

In a complete change of career I became the General Manager of a Canadian Tire franchise store in Mississauga Ontario followed in about four years with obtaining my own franchise store. That led my wife and I eventually to North Battleford in the mid 80's as the franchisee of the Canadian Tire store here. In 1993 I gave up my franchise and together with North Battleford's former mayor, Glen Hornick I bought an A&W franchise on Vancouver Island which I operated for just about 30 years, retiring in 2012.

Our return to the Battlefords happened in 2023 when we moved back to be near our daughter and her family and to help with the care of our special needs granddaughter.

*Gerry Walker*

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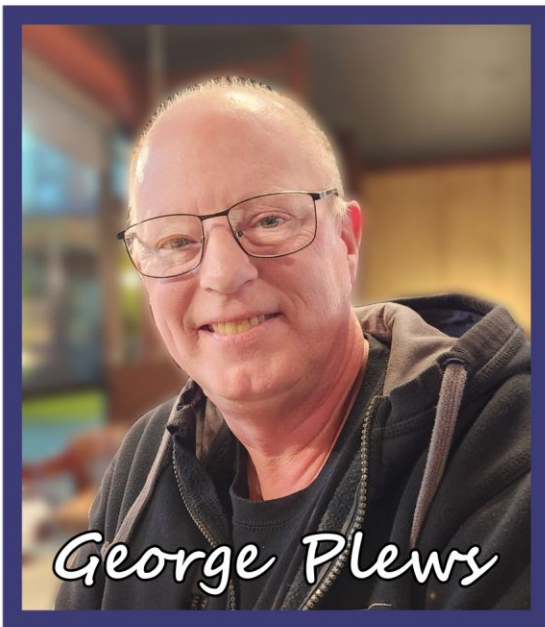
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## VICE-PRESIDENTS BIO



North Battleford has been my home for the past 36 years.

My wife is Becky Stroo and we have been together for 19 years. We have two children each. I have a son and daughter that still live and work in North Battleford. My son is a welder at Tecvalco and my daughter is a graphic designer at Nutec.

I grew up in Selkirk, Manitoba. At 18, I left home to take training as a Flight Service Specialist at the Nav Canada Training Institute in Cornwall, Ontario.

I was a Flight Service Specialist for 36 years. This job gave me the opportunity to work at many different airports in Manitoba, Nunavut, Saskatchewan and Alberta. My most northerly station was Resolute Bay, NU. Resolute Bay is

actually north of the magnetic north pole. I was also stationed in Nanisivik, which is by Arctic Bay. Nanisivik was located on the northern tip of Baffin Island and it was a zinc and silver mine. It is now abandoned.

After I retired from Nav Canada, I became a Letter Carrier for Canada Post. I delivered mail door to door for 4 and half years.

My interests are travelling, gardening, walking, a little bit of golf, astronomy and anything that Becky and I can do together.

I joined Probus to meet new people and get involved with new activities. So far, it's been fun and I'm looking forward to seeing Probus grow in The Battlefords.

*George Plews*

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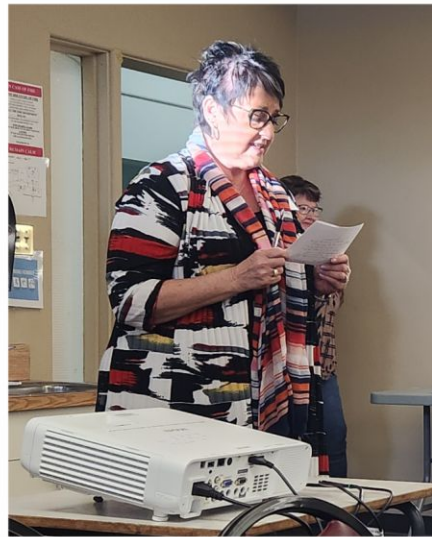
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## JANUARY GUEST SPEAKER

Chris introduced our January guest speaker, Linda Shynkaruk, newly retired Director of Saskatchewan Health North Battleford (SHNB). Linda gave a history of the hospital starting in 1879 and took us up to the present day. It was VERY interesting. A short question period followed her presentation. Chris then thanked her and gifted Linda with a stained glass tiger lily from the club.



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## JANUARY MEETING & 50/50 DRAW

A new seating arrangement using round tables was well-received, as it encouraged a more inclusive and interactive atmosphere. The round tables were a big hit, as it helped everyone feel included and made it easier to talk to each other. Members liked how it created a relaxed, friendly atmosphere where everyone could join in the conversation.



At our January meeting, the Battlefords Probus Club held the first 50/50 draw, and it was a success!

Total cash entries was \$170, with \$85 to the club.

Congratulations to our first 50/50 draw winner of \$85 to Rick Hertes!



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## What does PROBUS Canada Do for its Clubs?

- Provides the structure from which all clubs can operate autonomously.
- Provides club representation on the PROBUS Canada board of directors through Directors elected from each District.
- Provides a Standard Constitution for Probus Clubs and Suggested Bylaws.
- Provides an online Club Reference Guide (CRG) where clubs can access information, resources, and support.
- Maintains a national website, which includes the CRG, as well as a Knowledge Base, a Speakers Catalogue, and contact information for clubs.
- Manages compliance with Corporations Canada regulations and requirements for non-profit organizations.
- Provides Commercial General Liability (CGL) Insurance and Management (formerly Directors and Officers) Insurance for members, directors, officers, and volunteers.
- Negotiates group rates for optional insurance plans, including Health and Travel, Auto and Home.
- Retains and oversees three part-time contractors (General Manager, Financial Manager, and Webmaster) who manage PROBUS Canada's routine operations.
- Engages in strategic planning for PROBUS Canada's and clubs' future success.
- Develops marketing tools to be used at the national, district, and club levels.
- Trains Directors in concrete ways to support their District clubs.
- Provides funds to support District Director visits to clubs and District meetings.
- Offers interest-free short-term loans to support the founding of new Probus clubs.
- Provides several national awards and provides certificate templates for District and club use.
- Provides free access to PROBUS Canada's SurveyMonkey account for clubs to conduct their own membership surveys.
- Provides a simple website page, on request, to clubs who do not have a website.
- Provides free access to Google Meet as an alternative to Zoom through Google Workspace for Non-Profits.