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BATTLEFORDS PROBUS CLUB

Official Newsletter of the Battlefords Probud Club



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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I am pleased to share this President's Message for April—and what a lively month it has been for our club.

Our last meeting filled the room with energy, conversation, and connection. It is clear our membership is thriving. Groups like walking and spades continue to be as active as ever, and our newest addition, Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, has already sparked plenty of enthusiasm. I suspect we will be hearing some memorable stories once those first dinners take place.

There are a couple of exciting field trips on the horizon, including visits to the water treatment plants and the Northland Power Station. And when the idea of returning to the Prairie Lily in Saskatoon was raised, the show of hands made one thing clear—it is an experience many of us would like to try.

For those who enjoy a bit of friendly competition, we may soon be organizing a Kaiser tournament within our membership. Judging by the number of card players in the room, it could be a terrific addition to our activities.

Our recent meeting also featured some excellent presentations. Johanne provided valuable insights into taxes and seniors, while Gerry took us on a fascinating journey through the universe, exploring time, space, and the countless wonders beyond our world.

We were also fortunate to hear from Fire Chief and Director of Protective Services, Lindsay Holm, who delivered an outstanding presentation on Community Safety Officers. It was so well received that we have invited him back as our June speaker—a first for our club.

With club business and such engaging presentations, the time seemed to fly by—perhaps a little too quickly. A helpful reminder was shared that, from time to time, we all appreciate a short break. Rest assured, we will plan accordingly for future meetings.

There was also a comment made to me about allergies. We ask that you remain fragrance free at our future meetings. Thank you.

Before we know it, May will be here. Please remember that our next meeting will take place in the foyer beside the gym.

I look forward to seeing you all there.



George Plews

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

George Plews
President

Evelyn Skotniski
Vice President

Deb Breiman
Secretary

Johanne Stolz
Treasurer

Becky Stroo
Membership Chair

Chris Pollard
Speaker Chair

Susan McLean Tady
Events and Activities

Adele Wiegers
Sunshine Person

**George Plews
Lane Jackson**
Webmasters

Gerry Walker
Past President

APRIL MEETING

The room gradually settled as George stepped up and tapped the microphone. A quick test—success—it was working. With that, he welcomed everyone and walked the group through the day's agenda, setting the tone for another full and lively meeting.

Becky followed, taking a moment to warmly acknowledge the new faces in attendance. She explained the membership fees and, with a mix of honesty and encouragement, shared that she would be stepping down from her role next year. She invited anyone interested to consider stepping forward, assuring them she would be happy to help them get started. To make the newcomers feel even more at home, she presented four new name tags.

George then introduced the management committee before turning things over to updates from the various groups that make up the heart of the club.

Johanne spoke first on behalf of the Travel Club, teasing an upcoming presentation on a trip to China at the next meeting. Rick brought news from the Walking Group, who planned to explore Finlayson Island the next morning at 10 a.m.—rain or shine, with the Field House as a backup and coffee to follow either way.

Leanne shared that the Book Club had wrapped up for the season and would return in September, while Leela described the steady popularity of the Card Group. Spades, played on the first and third Mondays at Pioneer Hall, sometimes draws up to twenty players and will wrap up in June with a well-earned pizza party. Barb added that Bridge continues the second and fourth Mondays, offering a welcoming, no-cost environment focused on teaching new players before they join the club.

One of the most talked-about updates came from Joanne Higgs, who introduced the new dinner club, Guess Who's Coming to Dinner? The concept sparked curiosity and excitement: hosts would prepare a main dish and open their homes, while guests—drawn randomly—would each bring a side dish. No one would know who was attending until the evening itself. Couples would stay together, and the first dinner is set for May 7. Questions arose, including how to handle allergies, but for now, the group agreed to try it once and see how it goes.

As the meeting continued, a call went out for volunteers to help with coffee and greeting at the next gathering. Chris and Lorne quickly stepped forward.

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APRIL MEETING - CONT.

Attention then turned to upcoming field trips. A visit to the Water Treatment Plant on April 28 will be limited to twenty participants—and attendees were warned to be ready for plenty of stairs. Another trip to the Northland Power Station is planned for May 27 at 1:00 p.m., with no limit on group size.

There was also interest in trying the Prairie Lily in Saskatoon, with ticket sales beginning in May. Because water levels can affect the experience, June was suggested as the ideal time. More details will follow.

Looking further ahead, September will bring a “+1” membership drive, encouraging members to bring along a friend or two—with prizes to add to the fun.

Gerry then took the floor, asking if there was interest in space and astronomy. The response was encouraging, and he explained about short presentations every second meeting. He gave a preview with a fascinating talk on Sputnik, capturing the room’s attention.

Johanne followed with an informative presentation on income tax for seniors, offering practical insights that many found both helpful and timely.

Chris reminded everyone about the upcoming Mosaic Concert on May 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the Legion in Battleford, while another unique local event—the Indian Relay Race—was highlighted for May 17 and 18.

George noted that the next guest speaker would be Richard Pratchler from the Power Station, and that the next meeting would take place in the foyer. Lane added that from April 22–27, supplies would be provided for a city-wide cleanup effort.

Information was also shared about the SaskPower Energy Assistance Program, which offers free home assessments and energy-saving items like light bulbs and digital thermostats.

Finally, the meeting wrapped up with guest speaker Lindsay Holm, Fire Chief and Director of Protective Services. His presentation on Community Safety Officers was both engaging and informative, prompting thoughtful questions from the audience. It left such a strong impression that many agreed—it would be well worth inviting him back again.

As the meeting ended, there was a shared sense that time had passed quickly, filled with ideas, plans, and a strong sense of community.

APRIL GUEST SPEAKER

Lindsay Holm has served as Director of Protective services for the City of North Battleford since 2019. Within his role he holds the positions of Fire Chief and Chief of Police. Lindsay has an extensive emergency services background with a total of 33 years of service.

Lindsay began his career as an Emergency Medical Technician in 1992 and served in that capacity until 1997 where he attended the Manitoba Emergency services college graduating from the Public Fire Protection Program in 1998.

Lindsay joined the North Battleford Fire Department as a probationary Fire Fighter in 2000, was promoted to Captain in 2015, Deputy Chief of Operations in 2017 and promoted to Chief in 2019.

Lindsay gave an excellent presentation on the Community Safety Officers in our community. It was so well done that he will be invited to our June meeting.



GROUP UPDATES

Walking group walks every Wednesday at the Field House at 10am with coffee at 11am in places TBD.

Spades meet the first and third Monday of every month at 1pm at the Pioneers Association building.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner? The first dinner is set for May 7.

Book Club had their final meeting at The Flats and they had some great books to review.



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Brian
& Lane



Thank you, Brian and Lane, for making coffee, greeting members, and cleaning up afterwards.

Next month, Chris and Lorne have offered to volunteer.



THANK YOU

Thank you to Aidan, our designer, for the time and effort you put into every newsletter.

You're Very Welcome! :) Aidan

NEXT MEETING

Location: Don Ross, Gym Foyer

Date: May 19th, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM



FIELD TRIP REMINDER

Location: Water Treatment Plant

Date: April 28th, 2026

Time: 2:00 PM

NEXT SPEAKER

Our next speaker will be Richard Pratchler from the Northland Power Station.