

VOL. 2 | ISSUE 9 | MAY 2026

# BATTLEFORDS PROBUS CLUB

*Official Newsletter of the Battlefords Probus Club*



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## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hello Battlefords Probus Club members. We are finally over this late spring weather and I am sure everyone agrees it's about time.

Our May meeting was moved to the Foyer of the Don Ross Centre, which was beyond our control, but it was a good trial. It looks like our attendance at meetings are growing and we might be looking at a bigger space. There were some good and bad reviews. Some positives were more space, easier to move around and the windows brought in a lot more light. The one comment that was prevalent was the noise seem to echo, and it was hard to hear sometimes. Our next meeting is room 102, which is slightly larger than our regular room so we will keep an eye on how all the rooms are working out.

This nicer weather is also making our field trips easier to attend. The water treatment tour was interesting and very informative. Numerous members mentioned they enjoyed attending. Our upcoming tour to the Northland Power Plant has 36 members signed up. In June we are trying to plan the Prairie Lily and the Berry Barn.

Our groups continue to do well. Our latest group, "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner"? was very successful. There were positive comments all around. There is also a sign-up sheet for a summer BBQ.

The Spades group continues to be active too and there is a wind-up lunch on June 15. Please sign up or let Leela know by June 1 if you would like to attend.

Our management committee, in my opinion, is doing a fantastic job managing our club. We have had excellent speakers, interesting topics, and our finances are doing well. So well in fact, that our dues next year will be reduced by \$5 to \$40 for the 2026/27 year. Our committee have also decided to get our members a Probus Lapel Pin. I hope our members will wear these to show off our Probus Club.

Becky and I are away in June, so we will not see most of you till fall. Have a great summer and looking forward to seeing everyone in September.

Next Probus meeting is June 16, 10:00 AM in Room 102



*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*

## MAY MEETING

The meeting began with George welcoming everyone. There were no new members or guests this time, but the familiar faces and easy conversations gave the gathering its usual warm atmosphere.

The morning quickly moved into group reports, each one offering a glimpse into the busy lives of club members. **The Travel Group** announced that their luncheon meetings at Beaver Grill continued to be popular, and excitement was building for their next gathering, which would feature a discussion on travel insurance along with a presentation about a trip to China. Across the room, members of the **Bridge Group** reminded everyone that lessons were still being held at Pioneer Hall on the second and fourth Mondays, completely free of charge.

**The Walking Group** shared that they continued to meet every Wednesday morning at ten o'clock in different locations before gathering for coffee afterward. Along with the invitation came a practical reminder to watch for ticks while out enjoying the spring weather.

**The Book Club** reported that they had wrapped up their season for the year, while the **"Guess Who's Coming to Dinner"** organizers spoke enthusiastically about the success of their first dinner held on May 7. Two members had hosted, and everyone agreed the evening had been a wonderful success. Members were reassured that no one ever needed to host in order to participate as guests, and a sign-up sheet soon circulated for the upcoming summer barbecue.

Barb and Terry Mitchell gave an update on their **haskap orchard**, explaining that the crop should be ready around the same time as last year — early July.

**The Cards Group** announced that Spades games continue on the first and third Mondays at Pioneer Hall. A wind-up lunch is planned for June 15, and members were asked to confirm attendance by June 1.

Before moving on, George offered thanks to Chris and Lorne for handling greeting duties and coffee service for the meeting. Volunteers, however, were still needed for next month.

Attention then turned to the upcoming field trip to the Northland Power Plant. George displayed a map and carefully explained directions, reminding everyone to arrive by 12:45 so the group could pass through security before the one o'clock tour. Plans for carpools began forming immediately among the tables.

Another highlight on the calendar was the Prairie Lily excursion. Thirty spots had already been reserved for the June 11 river cruise. Members learned the boat would sail at two o'clock, with boarding beginning at one-thirty, and afterward many planned to continue on to the Berry Barn together. Susan collected names and payments while the sign-up sheet made its way around the room.

*Continued on Page 3.*

## **MAY MEETING - CONT.**

George then shared several announcements of interest to members. Diabetics taking medication were reminded that annual eye exams are free. Club dues would be reduced in September from forty-five dollars to forty dollars, news that was met with approving nods. Members were also encouraged to keep meetings fragrance free out of consideration for those with allergies. The club would soon be ordering pins for all members, and a new microphone and speaker system would be tested in the fall.

An educational opportunity also caught attention: the 2026 Belairdirect scholarship, worth one thousand dollars, would be available to children and grandchildren of Probus members, with applications due by June 30.

Community events rounded out the announcements. Art Club members would be participating in the Sizzler Sale at Chapel Gallery on May 22 and 23. Others planned to join the Walk for Alzheimer's at the museum on May 30, while movie lovers noted the free film screening at the North Battleford Library on June 3.

Members also learned that June's guest speaker would be Fire Chief Lindsay Holm. The June and September meetings would be held in Room 102 at the Don Ross Centre, and everyone was reminded that June's gathering would be the last before the club's summer break until September 15.

After a short break and plenty of conversation over coffee, Chris introduced the afternoon's guest speaker, Richard Pratchler from the Northland Power Plant. Richard delivered an informative and engaging presentation that held the audience's attention throughout. Questions followed from nearly every corner of the room, showing just how interested members were in the operation of the plant.

Before concluding, Richard explained that because of the size of the group, the upcoming tour would need to be split into two smaller groups. He advised everyone to wear long sleeves and running shoes for safety, while assuring them that hard hats and safety vests would be provided.

As the meeting drew to a close, Chris thanked Richard warmly and presented him with a gift on behalf of the club. Members lingered afterward, chatting about upcoming trips, summer plans, and the many activities still ahead before the season ended.

## MAY GUEST SPEAKER



Richard Pratchler was born in Nokomis, Saskatchewan and raised on mixed farm near Govan, Saskatchewan. The mixed farm included Grain, Dairy Cows, Beef cows, sheep, pigs, and horses. After graduating High School, Richard attended the University of Saskatchewan, where he got his Mechanical Engineering Degree in 1990.

During the second year of university Richard helped three other students to start up the Air Cargo Club at the University of Saskatchewan. The competition was to see who could carry the greatest amount of cargo weight in a remoted controlled airplane. The University of Saskatchewan team won the competition in 1990 and set a new world record.

After graduation from university Richard worked for SaskPower, TransAlta, Mosaic Potash Mine, Sherritt Coal, and Northland Power. His career start with a focus on Plant Engineering/Maintenance Engineering and project management and moved into maintenance. Richard held various position from maintenance foreman to Maintenance Manager position. Richard has returned to his roots and now is the Engineering Manager for Northland Power at the North Battleford Energy Centre.

Richard is involved with the community, some are of the involvements includes past President of the Twin River Curling Club and Past Grand Knight for the Knights of Columbus.

Richard enjoys hunting, fishing, curling and wood working in his free time.

## BELAIRDIRECT SCHOLARSHIP

This year, Belair Insurance Company Inc. (belairdirect) will award 50 scholarships each valued at \$1,000, to students completing high school in 2026 and will attend a post-secondary educational institution in Canada in the fall of 2026.

Probus members with grandchildren are encouraged to have them apply for this scholarship. More information can be found online at:

**[www.belairdirect.com/en/scholarship](http://www.belairdirect.com/en/scholarship)**



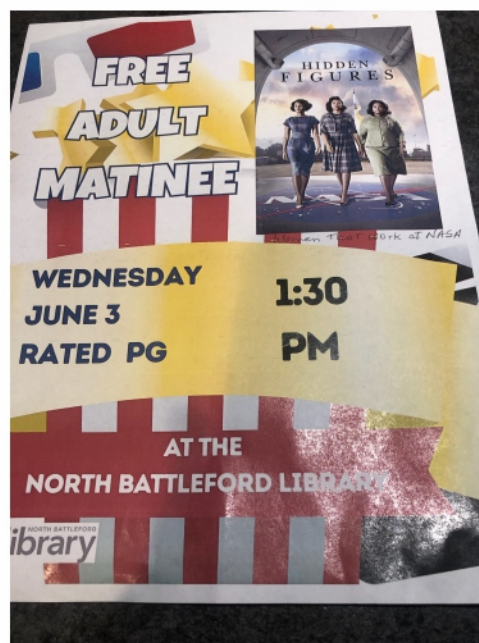
## PROBUS PINS

Our management committee has decided to purchase lapel pins for our members which should be available at our next meeting in June.



## LIBRARY MATINEE

One of our members wanted to share this free event that the North Battleford Library is offering on June 3 at 1:30 PM.



Water Treatment Plant Tour



Water Treatment Plant Tour



Mosaic Concert



## GROUP UPDATES

**Walking Group** walks every Wednesday at 10am in places TBD with coffee at 11am.

**Spades** meet the first and third Monday of every month at 1pm at the Pioneers Association building. A wind-up lunch is planned for June 15.

**Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?** The first dinner was May 7. It was a success!

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

**Travel Group** continues to meet on the 4th Monday of every month.

**Bridge Group** meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month at the Pioneers Association building



## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Chris  
& Lorne



Thank you, Chris and Lorne, for making coffee, greeting members, and cleaning up afterwards.

Next month, Leela and Louise 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*

## FIELD TRIP REMINDER

**Location:** Northland Power Plant

**Date:** Wednesday May 27th, 2026

**Time:** 1:00 PM and 2:00 PM

## NEXT MEETING

**Location:** Don Ross, Room 102

**Date:** June 18th, 2026

**Time:** 10:00 AM

## NEXT SPEAKER

Our next speaker will be Fire Chief and Director of Protective Services, Lindsay Holm. He will be doing a presentation on Community Safety Officers and Citizens on Patrol.