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BATTLEFORDS PROBUS CLUB

Official Newsletter of the Battlefords Probus Club



www.battlefordsprobus.ca | *battlefordsprobus@gmail.com* | *Facebook: Battlefords Probus Club*

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



I am now two months into my new role as President and it has been a very productive time. I have been working at learning my new role and making connections with some of our regional partners.

One of the highlights of this month was the flag raising of the Probus flag at the Battleford Town Hall. Many thanks to Mayor Leslie for allowing us to do this and for the kind words he spoke about the Probus Club. He has made a commitment to come back and speak to the group in the future when he has new information about town initiatives to share. We were also honored to have our Regional Director Roland Nordick, drive out to join for the morning. What a great turn out we had as Memberships came together to celebrate this event.

So, as we see the last leaves of autumn fall to the ground and Probus month comes to a close, we will continue the Probus spirit of Fellowship, Friendship and Fun. I look forward to continuing to make new friends, share new ideas and adventures as our club continues to grow.

Evelyn Skotniski



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Evelyn Skotniski
President

Vice President

Deb Breiman
Secretary

Johanne Stolz
Treasurer

Lane Jackson
Membership Chair

Chris Pollard
Speaker Chair

Susan McLean Tady
Events and Activities

Adele Wiegers
Sunshine Person

George Plews
Lane Jackson
Newsletter, Webmaster, and Communications

George Plews
Past President

OCTOBER MEETING

Evelyn opened the meeting and welcomed everyone for another gathering filled with fellowship, information, and plans for the months ahead.

Chris introduced two special guests from the Chamber of Commerce: Linda Machniak, who is retiring after 30 years as president, and Greg Kwong, the Chamber's new president. Linda spoke with deep emotion about her three decades of service, reflecting on the years she had devoted to the community and the experiences she had gathered along the way. Greg then shared his vision for the future, expressing his desire to help the Battlefords continue to grow and prosper. Following a question-and-answer period, Chris presented each guest with a gift on behalf of the club and thanked them for taking the time to speak with the members.

After a welcome coffee break, the meeting resumed with Evelyn introducing herself to the group. She then invited George forward to present him with his Past President pin, recognizing his previous service in that role.

The club turned its attention to a few items of business. A vacancy for vice president was announced, but unfortunately, no volunteers came forward. Evelyn welcomed the new people attending the meeting and reminded everyone that annual dues of $40 should be paid by those who had not yet done so.

There was good news to share about the recent flag-raising ceremony, which had been a success. The Regional Director and several club members had attended the event. After flying proudly for a week, the flag had now been returned.

Plans were also underway for the club's Christmas party, scheduled for December 15 at the Wildlife Building. The cost and menu were still being finalized, with payment expected in November. Members were reminded to notify the organizers of any food allergies so the caterer could make the necessary arrangements.

Finding greeters for the next meeting proved more difficult, as no one volunteered when the question was raised. Hopefully, someone will step forward next time!

The meeting continued with updates about the club's many activities and opportunities for members to enjoy one another's company.

The cards group meets on the first and third Mondays of each month at Pioneer Hall from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. The $5 fee helps cover the hall rental, and members will have an opportunity to sign up for the Christmas party at the next gathering.

The walking group meets every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., with members asked to arrive ten minutes early. The group explores different walking locations and then enjoys coffee together afterward. Thirteen regular members are currently part of this active and sociable group.

The travel group meets on the last Monday of each month at 1:00 p.m. at the Beaver Grill. Members had recently returned from an enjoyable trip to Quebec City, no doubt bringing back plenty of memories and stories to share.

Continued on Page 4.

OCTOBER MEETING - CON'T.

For those who enjoy good food and meeting new people, the Guess Who's Coming to Dinner activity will soon be getting underway again. A new sign-up sheet will be available for the dinner planned for mid-November.

Gerry then gave a short and thought-provoking presentation on artificial intelligence. He explained that AI agents can be assigned tasks and may be capable of recognizing one another, concealing themselves, and even lying. These developments have raised serious concerns among experts, some of whom are sounding the alarm about the potential risks. It was a reminder that, while technology continues to advance rapidly, there are important questions to consider about how it is used.

George followed with a report on the Mature Driving Course he had attended. The main lessons were straightforward but important: avoid distractions and always drive defensively. He noted that representatives would be willing to speak at a future Probus meeting, giving members another opportunity to learn more about safe driving.

Attention then turned to a possible group outing to a Saskatchewan Roughriders football game. Since the schedule would be released in December, the group would wait until then to choose a game, determine how many people wished to attend, and arrange transportation. If 56 people signed up, the bus would cost $50 per person, with game tickets costing extra. It sounded like a fun outing for football fans!

George also offered to help expand the club's Handy Person List. Members who know someone who does odd jobs or provides similar services were encouraged to pass the information along to him so it could be included in the newsletter.

Leela invited everyone to join a local dance group that meets on the fourth Saturday of each month at the Legion in North Battleford. The dances run from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m., and admission is $15 per person. Everyone is welcome, whether they have a partner or prefer to come on their own. It was a lovely reminder that there are plenty of ways to stay active, socialize, and enjoy an evening out.

Gerry suggested another possible adventure for the club: a field trip to the Lorras Recycling Depot in Saskatoon. Members thought it might be worthwhile to combine the visit with another activity while in the city, making a full day of the outing.

Diane also brought the Pfeiffer Centre on Railway Avenue to everyone's attention. The centre welcomes book donations and offers books for sale at just $1 each, making it an affordable way to find something new to read while supporting the reuse of books.

Before the meeting wrapped up, members discussed whether a larger room might better accommodate the group. After considering the options, it was decided that the club would return to its old meeting room for the next gathering and see how that arrangement worked.

With plenty of activities to look forward to, ideas to explore, and opportunities to spend time together, the meeting came to a close. Evelyn and the members could look ahead to another busy season of learning, friendship, travel, and community involvement.

Continued on Page 5.

OCTOBER GUEST SPEAKERS



Linda Machniak has recently retired as Chief Operating Officer of the Battlefords & District Chamber of Commerce after a career of more than 25 years in the business community. She remains in support of the Chamber and the new COO Greg in a Senior Adviser role in the short term.

Born and raised in the Battlefords, she has lived her adult life enjoying many parts of Canada, including Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario. In the fall of 2000, Linda made the journey home to the prairies and has been residing here since. Her career has included management positions, in communications, retail, and business sectors.

Her move home has meant opportunities to reconnect with individuals and businesses in the community, leading to her joining the chamber in 2001. Linda appreciates the staff team and volunteers in the local chamber movement along with the business members, as none of the achievements at the Chamber are possible without them.

Machniak has represented Saskatchewan on the boards of directors for the Chamber of Commerce Executives of Saskatchewan and of Canada and has received the Chamber Executive of the Year in Canada award and the Roger Phillips Chamber Builder Award in Saskatchewan.

Linda is a graduate of the U of R and was the first in Canada to achieve the Diamond Accredited Chamber Executive (A.C.E.) designation. She is also being inducted into the prestigious Chamber of Commerce Executives of Canada – Council of Excellence next week at their annual conference in Victoria.

Congratulations Linda on your recent retirement and also for your induction into the prestigious Chamber of Commerce Executives of Canada – Council of Excellence next week in Victoria. Very well deserved.

Continued on Page 5.

OCTOBER GUEST SPEAKERS - CON'T.



Gregory Kwong recently started with the Battlefords & District Chamber of Commerce as the Chief Operating Officer. Congratulations Greg, on your new position!

Gregory was raised in North Battleford and completed his French immersion schooling through Notre Dame Elementary School, St. Joseph's Elementary School, and John Paul II Collegiate. Greg completed a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology and Bachelor of Education at the University of Saskatchewan and has worked in education for over 14 years, through École St. Margaret in Moose Jaw, Lawrence Elementary School in North Battleford, and North West College in Poundmaker Cree Nation. Greg also worked in various roles at North West College including Student Recruitment Officer, Marketing & Communications Officer, and most recently worked as a Basic Education Program Coordinator for the past 6 years.

Greg has been active as an actor and stage manager with both Battlefords Community Players and Cochin Community Players since 2018. He has also worked 9 summers at Fort Battleford National Historic Site as a Heritage Interpreter and supervisor for the historic weapons program. Greg has previously volunteered to serve on the Board of Directors for Twin Rivers Curling Club and Cochin Community Players. He has also worked countless years as a volunteer at the Western Development Museum's Fright Night and the Rotary Club of the Battlefords' spudnut booth at Northwest Territorial Days. Greg also enjoys curling and longboarding.

Greg recently started with the Battlefords & District Chamber of Commerce as the Chief Operating Officer. He is proud to have an opportunity to serve the Board of Directors of the Battlefords & District Chamber of Commerce and to represent the Chamber members. Being from the Battlefords, he is excited to support the local business community in growing and being sustainable for many more years to come. Greg looks forward to advocating for their needs as the "voice" for businesses and to promote the local business interests in the Battlefords & District impacts of Covid and has tripled in size to 43 members as of August 2026.

LOCAL MEDIA COVERAGE STORIES



BATTLEFORDS PROBUS CLUB HELPS RETIREES FIND FRIENDSHIP AND COMMUNITY



BATTLEFORDS PROBUS CLUB CELEBRATES PROBUS MONTH WITH FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY

PROBUS CANADA IS PLANNING TO CELEBRATE ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2027

The planning to celebrate Probus Canada's 40th Anniversary in 2027 is progressing nicely. More on that will be relayed in the coming months.

One of the first, highly requested, components of our plan is to offer anniversary logoed merchandise via an online store. We have partnered with a small Canadian entrepreneur, Ladybug Designs, to offer the following logoed items: sweaters; hoodies and sweatshirts; t-shirts, polo shirts, baseball caps; coffee mugs; travel tumblers; tote bags; playing cards (as a bulk order). Collector pins will be offered in late October.

With Christmas approaching, you might wish to make a gift purchase for your favourite Probian. There is free shipping being offered on orders over $100, so it might be a good idea to partner up with a Probus buddy or two.

Visit the store today to see what is on offer and check back periodically to see any new items that have been added.

Begin your shopping experience by going to **probuscanada.ca** and clicking on: **40th Anniversary Merchandise**.

PROBUS CANADA 40TH ANNIVERSARY MERCHANDISE



Unisex 1/4 Zip Sweatshirt



Unisex Cotton/Poly/Spandex Pique Polo



600 ml (20 oz) Travel Tumbler



Unisex Nu Adjustable Cap



Heavy Cotton Canvas Tote Bag



Ladies Softshell Jacket



Probus 40th Anniversary Playing Cards



Unisex Softshell Jacket



15oz ceramic coffee mug



Unisex Full Zip Hooded Sweatshirt



Ladies Ring Spun Combed Cotton Crewneck T-Shirt



Unisex Crewneck Pullover Sweatshirt



Probus 40th Anniversary Lapel Pin



Ladies Cotton/Poly/Spandex Pique Polo



Unisex Ring Spun Combed Cotton Crewneck T-Shirt



Unisex Pullover Hooded Sweatshirt



HANDY PERSON + ODD JOBS RECOMMENDATIONS

Members who know someone who does odd jobs or provides similar services were encouraged to pass the information along here so it could be included in our newsletter.

ELECTRICIANS:

- LUXAN ELECTRIC - 306-481-6112

PLUMBING:

- HAWTIN PLUMBING SERVICES - 306-441-4158

MISCELLANEOUS CLEANING:

(Move-Out Cleaning, Spring Cleaning, Large Home Deep Cleans, Window Cleaning, Garbage Removal, Gutter Cleaning, Snow Removal, Yard Care Services., and more)

- READY AIM CLEAN - 306-445-3955











Quebec



Quebec



Walking Group



Spades



Flag Raising



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Becky

Thank you, Becky, for making coffee, greeting members, welcoming guests and cleaning up afterwards.

Next month, no one has 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

Welcome New Members

We would like to welcome our newest members:

Brian B., Gisel C., Cheryl C., Donna D., Marilyn G., Edward H., Jean J., Robert (Bob) J. , Karen K., and Audrey T.

NEXT MEETING

Location: Don Ross, Room 101

Date: November 17th, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM

NEXT SPEAKER

Our next speaker will be Shawn Haas, a veterinarian who is also on the board for the SPCA (Animal Shelter).