

# GRIMSBY PROBUS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 27 NUMBER 2

Peter Zwart, Editor



FEBRUARY 2026

grimsbyprobus@gmail.com



OUR NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026 @ 10:00 a.m.

Speaker: Daniel Vieira, Para Sport Strategic Initiatives Engagement Manager.



This presentation aims to raise awareness about people with disabilities and provide listeners with a better understanding of disability in our society. It will also highlight parasports in the Niagara Region and across Ontario, sharing opportunities for individuals who may be interested in participating in or supporting these programs. The presentation will begin with an overview of disabilities and their social context, followed by an introduction to parasports, the parasport sector in Ontario, and the benefits of participation for people with disabilities. The presentation will finish with a detailed overview of Para Sport Ontario and an opportunity for questions and discussion.



## FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### Program Committee - Report of the January 20, 2026 meeting

David Shaw, who chaired the meeting, introduced the speakers from the new Grimsby

Hospital, the first of whom was **Catherine Duffin**, the site manager whose health professional training is in nursing. Catherine said that the new hospital, which had its ribbon cutting last November 14th, has 55 beds (5 more than the old building) including 6 obstetrical beds. There are 3 operating rooms (1 more than before), 19 clinic rooms, and 16 emergency department places (much larger). The ambulance

bay will also be covered. All patient rooms are private, and have both patient lifts electronics access, and sleeping accommodations for family. Labour, delivery, and recovery will all be in the same room for infants and parents. The old building will be leveled in a few months and in its place a parking lot will be completed by late summer. Services include all those of the previous facility plus neurology and others.

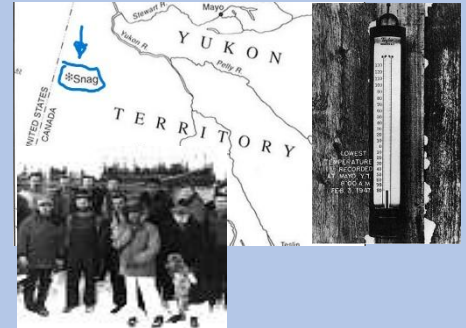


**Fred Lilley** gave us a history of the hospital auxiliary, of which he is the chair. It was founded in 1944 with the purpose of raising funds for equipment. Since 2010 it has raised 2 million dollars. One hundred auxiliary volunteers contribute 27,000 hours per year, the equivalent of 13 full-time positions. They help to transport patients and provide conversation, assist with clerical tasks, staff the gift shop, and ensure that newborns receive a gift.

**Dara MacLeod** from the hospital foundation spoke next. She described the various fund-raising activities of the foundation including special events such as golf tournaments and campaigns to solicit major donations of various sorts. Since 1983, over 22 million dollars has been raised for the hospital, including 7.5 million as part of the 50 million dollars required by the Province. David thanked Catherine and her colleagues.



**Dennis D'Alessandro** told a memorable story he heard from a nun. It involved the importance of letting go of dark emotions from the past, and staying in the present, which is the only time and place one can in fact act for good. Dennis commented that one learns little from life while thinking that only they themselves are right.



## Canada's lowest recorded temperature is as cold as Mars.

One of the least surprising facts of Canada is that it can get plenty cold in the winter (anyone who's ever had to chisel their car out of a block of ice in the morning knows this to be true.. The average low for the month of January in Ottawa is -14.4 C (6.1 F). That is cold! However a temperature recorded in 1947 in Snag, Yukon makes the rest of Canada's winter weather seem like a relaxing beach vacation. A temperature of -63 C (81.4 F) was recorded in the small **village of Snag** on February 3, 1947. That is roughly the same temperature as the surface of Mars!



**Valentines Day** is celebrated in honor of Saint Valentine. In 496 AD Pope Gelasius declared **February 14** as "Valentine's Day". In the course of time, Valentine's day came to be celebrated as love, and not just romantic love. Did you know that Valentine greeting cards and poems were popular as far back as the Middle Ages, though written Valentine's didn't begin to appear until after 1400. The oldest known Valentine still in existence today was a poem written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt. Today an estimated 1 billion cards are sent all over the world,



**Bruce Herdman** presented his bio. Bruce has been a member of PROBUS for twenty-six years. He was born in Toronto, the third of eight children, and eventually became a chartered accountant. The Toronto Argonauts had Bruce play in two exhibition games. Bruce now has four children, nine grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. After living in Grimsby while he worked in



Toronto, Bruce was transferred to Philadelphia for five years, having the misfortune to be mugged. His company then transferred him to Oakland, California for eight years and the experience of several earthquakes. Bruce returned to Grimsby in 1981 and "retired" in 1990. Along the way, he sang in a barbershop group for 40 years, learning to play the guitar, mandolin, and banjo. Immediately after retiring, his company asked him to return for a year to commute to Calgary for accounting purposes. After "finally" retiring in 1991, Bruce was asked in 1994 to do accounting for TransCanada in Tanzania. After re-retiring in 1998, he was asked to do more accounting in 2016 at age 78 for a community living organization. Sadly, Bruce's wife passed away from cancer in 2019. Shortly after, the husband of a couple who were good friends passed away. Bruce and Carol then became closer and since 2021 have traveled together extensively.

**Murray Clarke** reported the next meetings speaker topics:

**March 17 - Skills Ontario**

**April 21 - Cognitive ageing**

**May 19 - Audiology**

**June 16 Sue-Ann Staff Winery**

In lieu of the January speakers fee a \$100 donation will be made to the WLHM Auxiliary.

**Nomination Committee John Murphy encouraged applications to him or David Shaw for secretary and events committee roles.**

**Membership Committee** Our Grimsby PROBUS Men's Club has 51 members. 46 Members and guests attended the January 20 meeting. **In-**

**creasing our membership is important. It needs the help of all the members. Together we thrive, and friendship, fellowship, and fun are key as we keep our minds active, expand interests and enjoy new friends. We encourage all to invite a family member, retired or semi-retired professional**

**or business friend, or neighbor to our next meeting. Together we can make it happen.**



### THE HISTORY OF DRONES

Unmanned aerial vehicles (**UAVs**) are aircraft with no on-board crew or passengers. They can be automated 'drones' or remotely piloted vehicles (RPVs). UAV's can fly for long periods of time at a controlled level of speed and height and have a role in many aspects of aviation. The first pilotless vehicles were developed in Britain and the USA during the **First World War**. Britain's Aerial



Target, a small radio-controlled aircraft, was first tested in March 1917 while the American aerial torpedo known as the **Kettering Bug** first flew in October 1918. Although both showed promise in flight tests, neither were used operationally during the war.

During the inter-war period the development and testing of unmanned aircraft continued. In 1935 the British produced a number of radio-controlled aircraft to be used as targets for training purposes. It's thought the term 'drone' started to be used at this time, inspired by the name of one of these models, the **DH.82B Queen Bee**. Radio-controlled drones were also manufactured in the United States and used for target practise, training and recreation.

The service life of drones varies depending on a number of factors, including quality, manufacturer, environment of use, and maintenance. In general agricultural drones can last up to five years. The battery of those drones is also an important consideration.. Depending on their capabilities, prices range from \$5,000 to \$20,000 or more. These drones are equipped with specialized sensors, heavy payload capacities and long-range capabilities.



### FEBRUARY 2026

#### Birthdays

Tom Clark - 01      Ted Stark - 05  
Bram Radic - 10      Robert Corsini -  
20 Doug Crane - 21

#### Anniversaries

Ron & Rhona Radkowiec - 14

### MARCH 2026

#### Birthdays

Bud Barkwell - 02      Rick Quirk ---15  
Don Roberts - 21      Al Straitton - 16  
David Shaw - 29

#### Anniversaries

Jim & Margaret Bowman - 16

#### Fun & Philosophy

##### A mix-up

A new business was opening, and one of the owner's friends sent flowers for the occasion. But when the owner read the card with the flowers, it said. "Rest in Peace"

The owner was little upset and called the florist to complain. After he had told the florist about the obvious mistake, the florist said, "Sir, I'm really sorry for the mistake, but rather than getting angry, you should imagine this: Somewhere there is a funeral taking place today, and they have flowers with a note saying, "Congratulations on your new location."

##### Success

"To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; to leave the world a little better; whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is the meaning of success."

-Ralph Waldo Emerso

##### So they say .....

"When I look at the congregation, said the preacher, I ask myself: "Where are the poor". But when I look at the collection, I say to myself: where are the rich."

Paul Marcus



Have you talked with one of your family, friends or neighbours about the Grimsby PROBUS Men's Club? How you heard about it, went to a meeting and became a member? And how you have enjoyed its programs, and your friendships made?

## Do It Now!



Let them know that together we thrive, and friendship, fellowship and fun are key as we keep our minds active, expand interests and enjoy new friends.

PROBUS is a local, national, and international association of retired people who come together in non-political, non-sectarian, non-profit autonomous clubs which provide regular opportunities for members to meet others in similar circumstances, with similar levels of interest, make new friends, and maintain and expand their interests.