

GRIMSBY PROBUS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 27 NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2026

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OUR NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY JANUARY 20, 2026 @ 10:00 a.m.

Speaker: Catherine Duffin, Director of Community Programs and Site Administrator at Health Sciences West Lincoln Memorial Hospital.



Catherine Duffin leads a broad portfolio of community-based services and oversees hospital operations, with a strong focus on patient-centered care, addressing local health needs, and supporting the continuation of excellence as West Lincoln Memorial Hospital transitions into its new hospital.

Bruce Herdman will present his biography. Spouses / Partners are welcome at this meeting.

FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Membership Committee

Our Grimsby PROBUS Men's Club has 51 members. 27 Members and 9 guests attended the December 16 meeting.



Increasing 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.

Program Committee

Report of the December 16, 2025 meeting.

David Shaw chaired the meeting. Members sang O Canada, and introduced spouses and partners who had joined them for this meeting's entertainment. Ron Mauro



introduced James Alan, a very well-regarded magician. Mr. Alan performed numerous tricks, for example, with rings, coins, rope, salt, balls and cups, scarves, and thimbles. He told us that he had been a mathematics major in university. He then chose John Davis in order to conjure a "life path number" of 32 from John's birthdate. Mr. Alan then



drew a magic 4 X 4 matrix that had the numbers for the month, date, and last two digits of John's birth year in the corners, and filled in the blanks with other numbers. Magically, all rows and columns added up to 32.



After a break, Dennis D'Alessandro presented the question, "What is Canada's national flower?" Fortunately, he made it a multiple-choice question, and the answer was **Bunchberry**, a type of creeping dogwood (*Cornu canadensis*) that is native to North America. He also offered a thought of the month from Leo Tolstoy: I will be as happy as I allow myself to be. Murray Clarke indicated that our January meeting is open to spouses and partners, and will include a presentation about the new Grimsby hospital. John Murphy described the excellent Christmas Gala at the Innsville Restaurant where 38 people attended. David wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

John Davis

February 17 Program – Speaker: Daniel Vieira, Strategic Initiatives & Engagement Manager at ParaSport Ontario.

Growing up, Daniel always had a passion for sports and helping others, leading him to study Sports Management at Brock University. After completing his Bachelor of Sports Management, he went on to pursue his Master of Business Administration at Brock.



JANUARY's Flower, the Carnation, comes in several different colors to convey different meanings, much like roses. A pink carnation means affection, while a red carnation means 'I love you.' White carnations mean pure love, striped carnations mean regret that a love is not shared, and yellow means rejection or disappointment. The other January flower is the snowdrop, which used to be considered bad luck due to the fact that it would always seem to appear to grow in graveyards. Nowadays, it signifies hope and beauty.



JANUARY is the first month of the year. It is named for Janus, a Roman god. Roman legend has it that the ruler Numa Pompilius added January and February to the end of the 10-month Roman calendar in about 700 B.C. Pompilius gave the month 30 days. Romans later made January the first month. In 46 B.C., the Roman statesman Julius Caesar added a day to January, making it 31 days long. The Anglo-Saxons called the first month Wolfmonth because wolves came into the villages in winter in search of food.



Program Feb. 17 cont'd - After completing his Bachelor of Sports Management, he went on to pursue his Master of Business Administration at Brock.. His event experiences include working with the Toronto Blue Jays and Rogers Hometown Hockey Events. He has also worked with marginalized communities through coordinating sport programming for people with disabilities.



JANUARY 2026

Birthdays

Larry Pearson – 21
 Ron Radkowiec – 19
 Frank Trevieri - 24

FEBRUARY 2026

Birthdays

Tom Clark – 01 Ted Stark – 05
 John Stainby – 08 Bram Radic - 10
 Robert Corsini – 20 Doug Crane – 21

Anniversaries

Ron & Rhona Radkowiec - 14

Fun & Philosophy

The Smart Son-in-Law

A very successful businessman had a meeting with his new son-in-law.

“I welcome you into the family,” **said the man.** “To show you how much we care for you, I am making you a 50/50 partner in my business. All you have to do is go to the factory every day and learn the operation.”

The son-in-law interrupted. “I hate factories. I can’t stand the noise.” “I see.” **replied the father-in-law,** “Well, then you’ll work in the office and take charge of some of the operations.”

“I hate office work,” **said the son-in-law.** “I can’t stand being stuck behind a desk.”

“Wait a minute,” **said the father-in-law.** “I just made you half owner of a money-making industry, but you don’t like factories, and won’t work in an office. What am I going to do with you?”

“Easy,” **said the son-in-law.** “Buy me out.”

Judgment Call

Boss: “I can’t believe you’re just standing there leaning against that crate. How much are you getting a week?”

Young man: “Me? Ah, about \$150.”

Boss: “Here’s your \$150. Now get out! You’re through!”

As the young man hurried out, the boss turned to a worker.

Boss: “Since when has that fellow been with us?”

Worker: “Never, that I know of. He just delivered package from the printer.”

So They Say

“Don’t pray when it rains if you don’t pray when the sun shines”

Leroy “Satchel” Paige (1905 - 1982) baseball player.

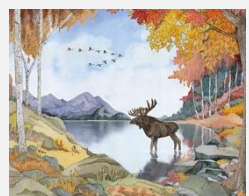
In the beginning of this new year I went to our club’s newsletter archives. The first newsletter was circulated in November 1999. The members of the first Newsletter Committee were Phil Dechman, Rodger Allan, and Bud Boone. The newsletter was, and is now, 2 pages. Following is copy of “Phylling space ...” taken from the January 2000 newsletter, 26 years ago.

P.Z. Phylling space All together now:

This is the dawning of the age of Uh, well, to me and most other living beings on the planet who have better things to do than argue about a missing zero, it’s the age of a new Millennium. Some, however, who insist on telling us – over and over again – that, no, this is definitely not the dawning of a new age. The new millennium will not arrive for almost a year: on January 1, 2001 Well, allow me to quote Nero Wolfe: *pfui.* What, I often ask myself (I have to converse with somebody who’ll pay attention} what is the gist of this overdone argument? Actually, what’s the point of it would be a better question, but whether or not if it’s needed, the debate goes on.



So now I am equally guilty. A few years ago, for instance, when I turned 40 I meant I had completed four decades on this planet and had been around for 40 years. So how, I asked myself can a culture in its 2000th year not be 2000 years old? Well being an anti-Luddite, I turned to that fount of human knowledge, the Internet. I ignored billions of options, I present one by Walter Schittek of somewhere out there in cyberspace. His full presentation is titled, not surprisingly, *The New Millennium Starts 2001.* Its subtitle, surely helping to emphasize the twit level of all us doubters is *Simple facts, described for everyone (from school girl/boy to professor).* Mr Schittek is willing to concede that turning the odometer on all those zeros is a reason to celebrate, but, he adds, “we’re going to have two great celebrations!” – the real millennium of course being the second one. Happily, he quickly explained his rationale (and, I presume, that of all you folk on that side of the fence): “When you count years, you begin with the year 1”



Huh? I, for one, didn’t start off, 1 year old. If I had, then I presume I would have turned 40 even earlier. No, I’ll admit I don’t get it. There is, to be sure, a lot of historical stuff. For instance counting of the years “after the birth of Christ” (A.D.) was apparently defined in 525 A.D. by a fellow named Dionysius Exiguus, and the Gregorian Calendar was created in 1582.



But before Exiguus, there was the varronic era (apparently not capitalized), which reportedly began at the Founding of Rome. Now, the story goes, that era led to the varronic year 753 being 1 B.C. and year 754 being 1 A.D. thus proving that there was no year 0. Well, I don’t buy it. Neither did astronomers as Schittek acknowledges; their chronology included a year 0. And why not. The point to me is that the current calendar was not created until 1582, and we started counting forward at that time. We also started counting backwards then; after all there weren’t any Romans back then arguing about whether it was the year 0 or the year 1. And why does it matter so much to some people (after wasting all this space on meaningless drivel)



Writer of this Philling space... is not known

Flasbulb Memories

Early winer 1941. The Sunday service had just concluded. As their father linnlgered at the little north-country church, my dad and his siblings walked the short distance home. When their father came up the snowy hill to the farm house, he was crying. He’d just learned Pearl Harbour had been bombed. His sons - my dad Included – would be going to war. He always recalled the moment in vived detail. Researchers call such events “flashbulb memories”. Moments seared in our minds. Think of 9/11, or the day you lost someone close. Think too of your most joyous experience. “Flashbulb memories” with eternal significance. **Tim Gustavson**