

## ARTICLES PUBLISHED ABOUT THE CLUB

During our first year we had a number of articles about the club published in the local press. Here are some, in date sequence:

### *The Town Crier - October, 2014*

## Start your own activities at new club for midtown retirees

**SHAWN STAR**  
Retirement Living

If you're in midtown, retired and looking for things to do, John Agnew might have an answer for you.

The retired management consultant is starting up a Probus club, meant as a sort of social club for retired professionals. Agnew says he wanted to start a group for midtown-area people after he was looking to join one himself, only to discover there were none in central Toronto.

In July, he contacted a Probus organizer and found out the organization was, in fact, looking to start one in midtown

as well. Soon after, Agnew and seven others had Holy Rosary Parish Hall at 320 St. Clair Ave. West booked for Nov. 12, the new club's first meeting date.

"I really think there is a need for this," he said.

A typical Probus meeting starts with a half hour devoted to club business, followed by a half hour coffee break, and finishing with an hour-long address by a guest speaker.

But there's more to a Probus club than monthly meetings, Agnew says. It's also about finding people with like interests, and starting your own activities from there. Different clubs have been known to have groups interested in playing cards, while others take



GET IN ON THE ACTION: John Agnew, left, tells Elaine Morgan, centre, and Terry Noll about the Probus club he is starting in central Toronto.

SHAWN STAR/TOWN CRIER

trips to destinations such as Stratford, a local theatre or a brewery.

"It's all really member driven," he said. "It's a vehi-

cle for communication and it's a good social activity too."

Agnew likens a Probus club to the workplace —

but without the work.

"Once a month you get to meet a whole bunch of people and renew that social activity so many

people miss when they retire," he said.

"You would have your circle of acquaintances and friends at work, and here you have a circle of acquaintances and friends that get together once a month."

Given the success of other clubs in Toronto, including three in Etobicoke with a total of 626 members and four in Scarborough with 547 members, Agnew says he thinks the success of his start up will be "a done deal."

Come the first meeting, he's expecting a decent turnout.

"Happiness is 30-50," he said. "But I would not be surprised to see 100 folks show up."

### *The Town Crier - November, 2014 - Front Page*



# Midtown getting a Probus club chapter

**SHAWN STAR**

News

It's official: the Probus Club of Toronto has been formed.

The social meetup club for retired professional business persons adopted its name and a management team at its inaugural meeting on Nov. 12. About

50 turned out for the event at Holy Rosary Parish Hall on St. Clair Avenue West.

John Agnew, who kick-started efforts to launch the midtown-centred club, was elected president, while Joseph Henein becomes vice president, Bev Mahler is secretary and Lynda Ferreira is treasurer.

The group also selected

its committee chairs, with Jan Forstner in charge of membership, Robert Horwitz running programs, Nuala MacDonald heading the social aspect and Caryl Hamilton handling the newsletter.

The group's next meeting is Dec. 10 at Holy Rosary Parish Hall at 356 St. Clair Ave. West.

## **INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF TORONTO**



John, Marylyn and Patricia



Probus District Director Richard and John



Probus Newmarket Executive, supporters  
of the new club

Last month saw the formation and inaugural meeting of The Probus Club Of Toronto. Probus is PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS men and women who have retired from their jobs or business and want to maintain a social network with others who have similar interests. The club met in the Holy Rosary Parish Hall on St. Clair Ave West. At the well-attended meeting, the club elected their eight person management team, adopted their name, and put out an invitation for Charter Membership Applications, which will be accepted until December 10th. There was also time for visiting and socializing at the meeting. For further information, please visit [www.probus.org](http://www.probus.org) or e-mail [probus.toronto@gmail.com](mailto:probus.toronto@gmail.com)

*Event by Bruce Redstone  
Website code: pezx4h*



Linda and Kathy



Probus District Director Richard addresses the meeting

Jan 20, 2015

## **New Probus Club of Toronto offers retirees an opportunity to get together**



### **Probus**

Staff photo/JUSTIN SKINNER

*Retirees get together Jan. 14 at Holy Rosary Church for a Probus event.*

City Centre Mirror

By [Justin Skinner](#)

After finishing a lifetime of work, many retirees find their days difficult to fill.

A new club is looking to help bridge that gap by bringing retired business men and women together for social events, presentations by guest speakers and more.

The Probus Club of Toronto offers monthly meetings with coffee and guest speakers, plus get-togethers and outings between those meetings, giving seniors and the retired a chance to meet others with similar interests.

“We don’t have an age limit, but most everybody is 50-plus,” said club founder and president John Agnew. “It’s largely a social club and it’s member-driven, so it’s not just me saying ‘do this, this and this.’”

The club started in October 2014 and its first few monthly meetings saw membership jump from zero to 21 in November and 49 in December. It marks the first Probus club in the midtown area, though there are some 233 of the clubs across Canada, including some in Toronto’s suburbs and the GTA.

“It was surprising to me that there wasn’t one in the area,” Agnew said. “But I thought ‘if there isn’t, I’ll just start one and now here we are.’”

The group meets from 10 a.m. to noon on the second Wednesday of every month at Holy Rosary Church, at 354 St. Clair Ave., near Bathurst Street.

The guest speakers at these meetings lead discussions on issues that pertain to the club’s base.

“In February, we’ll have a specialist in exercise and kinesiology for older adults who will give a talk on fall protection,” said Probus Club of Toronto member Robert Horwitz, who is responsible for booking speakers. “She’ll give a talk on fall protection, which is important when you consider it’s one of the leading indirect causes of death in older people.”

Future speakers will include a humourist in May and – if possible – someone from the City of Toronto’s planning department.

“A lot of us have lived here for 40 or 50 years, looking at the downtown area and wondering what’s going on,” Horwitz said. “We base our speakers on what our members are interested in. It’s about having interesting topics that are well-delivered.”

The Probus Club of Toronto also brings interested members together for specific activities, from walking and swimming to theatre and jazz to travelling. Most importantly of all, however, it brings people together just to meet and socialize.

“I have a number of friends who are involved in other Probus groups, but there wasn’t one right in the city,” said member Patricia Elfer. “As soon as I heard there was one, I decided to join because it’s a great way to socialize and get involved with fun activities with a good group of people.”

For more information about the Probus Club of Toronto, email [probus.toronto@gmail.com](mailto:probus.toronto@gmail.com)

## **HOW TO AVOID FALLS AND PROTECT YOURSELF**



Members of the PROBUS Club of Toronto



PROBUS members chatting during the break

The PROBUS Club of Toronto is a group of PROfessional BUSIness men and women who have retired from their jobs or business and want to maintain a social network with others who have similar interests. Last month at their meeting they presented speaker Carolyn Blundell, who talked about How To Avoid Falls And Protect Yourself. Inspire of the cold winter weather we were having at the time, there was a good turnout for the meeting, including many guests and potential new members. The club meets on the second Wednesday of each month, from 10:00am to noon, in the Holy Rosary Parish Hall, at 356 St. Clair Ave. For further information, please visit [www.probus.org](http://www.probus.org)

*Event by Bruce Redstone  
Website code: per37e*



Acting President Robert and Bev

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***"Presented by PROBUS of Toronto"***

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Marilyn and Kelly work at the 50/50 Draw table



Adele and Lynda help set up the coffee



IT'S OFFICIAL: The Probus Club of Toronto celebrated its officialdom with a cake cutting May 13. On hand, from left, Newmarket president Graham Christopher, past president Doug Wigglesworth, Toronto founder John Agnew, regional director Richard Furlong and Toronto secretary Bev Mahler.

ALEXEI MALAKHOV/TOWN CRIER

# Official status granted to Probus Club of Toronto

Social club for retirees gets charter, continues to grow

**SHAWN STAR**  
Town Crier

The Probus Club of Toronto, based in midtown, was officially recognized as a club by Probus International on May 13.

Graham Christopher, president of the Probus Club of

Newmarket, presented Toronto president John Agnew with a certificate, making the Toronto club official.

Probus — a shortened form of “professional businesspeople” — is a social club for retired professionals, with various activities coordinated by club members.

The Probus Club of Toronto, now officially Club #244, is the only club of its kind in Toronto. It meets from 10 a.m. to noon on the second Wednesday of each month in the parish hall of Holy Rosary Church at St. Clair Avenue West and Bathurst Street.

The formation of the club

began with efforts by Agnew, who started circulating information last summer. By the end of the year the club was nearing officialdom, having exceeded its goal of 40 members.

The club now has 65 members, and is growing, according to Agnew who chuckled at the idea the club, mainly made up of seniors, was technically 65-plus.

Agnew thanked the members for coming and announced there was to be a celebration with cake — plus a little more.

“And the coffee is free!” he said to cheers and laughs.

## ***Snapd North Toronto - October, 2015***

THE PROBUS Club of Toronto welcomes PROfessional BUSiness men and women who have retired from their jobs or business and want to maintain a social network with others who have similar interests. The club meets on the second Wednesday of each month, from 10:00am to noon, in the Holy Rosary Parish Hall. Each monthly meeting includes coffee and snacks. Last month their meeting featured Jude Manson, who spoke about Navigating the Canadian Healthcare System. There was an excellent turnout for the meeting, with several new members in attendance. For further information, please contact [probus.toronto@gmail.com](mailto:probus.toronto@gmail.com) Photos by Bruce Redstone



*The new executive for PROBUS Toronto*