



The PROBUS Pilot



Probus Club of Western Ottawa – serving the western half of the National Capital Region

December 2017

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Tuesday 12 December

Charlotte Gray: *The Promise of Canada*

As we come to the end of our sesquicentennial celebratory year, who better to talk to us about our 150 year history than Charlotte Gray. Charlotte is one of Canada's best-known writers and the author of ten acclaimed books. The most recent is *The Promise of Canada* subtitled *150 Years – People and Ideas That Have Shaped Our Country*.

She writes that the stories in the book reflect the evolution of Canada over the past 150 years, and the potential for this process to continue into the future.

She is also the author of *The Massey Murder*, which won major Canadian non-fiction awards. Her award-winning bestseller *Reluctant Genius: Alexander Graham Bell and the Passion for Invention* is in production as a television miniseries. The television miniseries *Klondike*, broadcast on the Discovery Channel, was based on Charlotte's 2010 award-winning bestseller *Gold Diggers, Striking It Rich in the Klondike*.

Charlotte was born in Sheffield, England, and educated at Oxford University and the London School of Economics. She began her writing career in England as a magazine editor and newspaper columnist. After coming to Canada in 1979, she worked as a



PHOTO BY VALBERG IMAGING

Charlotte Gray

political commentator, book reviewer and magazine columnist before she turned to biography and popular history.

Charlotte appears regularly on radio and television as a political and cultural commentator. She was a celebrity panelist, championing Jane Urquhart's novel *Away*, in CBC Radio's annual battle of the books, *Canada Reads*, with Jian Ghomeshi. In 2004 she was the advocate for Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first prime minister, for the CBC series: *The Greatest Canadian*. In 2014, she was short-listed as "Author of the Year" by the Canadian

Booksellers Association.

Charlotte has been awarded five honorary doctorates, from Mount St. Vincent University, Nova Scotia, the University of Ottawa, Queen's University, York University and Carleton University.

An Adjunct Research Professor in the Department of History at Carleton University, Charlotte is the 2003 Recipient of the Pierre Berton Award for distinguished achievement in popularizing Canadian history. She is former chair of the board of Canada's National History Society, which publishes the magazine *Canada's History*. She sits on the boards of the Ottawa International Authors Festival, the Art Canada Institute, and the Sir Winston Churchill Society of Ottawa.

Charlotte is a member of the Order of Canada and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Note that Charlotte will be available to sign the books purchased following the meeting.

The Probus Club of Western Ottawa is part of the international organization of Probus Clubs designed to serve retired and semi-retired professional and business and like-minded people. The morning begins at 10:00 am with coffee and a time for socialization followed by a guest speaker.

Western Ottawa Probus meets at
Kanata United Church, 33 Leacock Dr.

Visitors are welcome.

Merry
Christmas

from your

Probus
Management
Committee



Welcome to the following new members who joined our Probus Club in November:

Harry Armstrong
Evelyn Armstrong
Barbara Sue Baker
Sam Bakewell
Sheryl Bakewell
Jim Bondar
Sheilagh Murray-MacDonald
Guy Painchaud
Neville Reid
Lynda Reed
John Scarddino
Cleo Scardino

Free goodies at the 12 Dec. meeting

To celebrate the Christmas season the Management Committee has again decided to provide Christmas goodies to enjoy with your coffee prior to our December meeting.

Come early to get your share.



The Red Lobster was the venue for November lunch-out. This was the second time we have returned to this restaurant and we will likely come back again in the future.

Tuesday 5 December

Probus Christmas Luncheon sold out

For our Christmas luncheon we are returning to the popular Restaurant International at Algonquin College. Tickets are sold out with a large number attending.

The luncheon starts at noon and the restaurant opens a half hour before that.

The map below provides some

directions as shown with the dashed red line. Take Woodroffe Ave. South from Baseline and the first road to the left is Navaho Drive. The restaurant is in Building H. Parking is free in Lot 4 but it is usually full. Thus plan on using Lot 10 across the street which provides pay parking with a credit card.



Health info is January speaker topic

Our speaker for the 9 January meeting will be Peter Harmer. Peter is the Executive Director of the Ottawa Valley Health Team in Almonte.

Peter has extensive experience

working with Electronic Medical Records (EMRs) and what they mean to us as patients.

Come to our January meeting to hear all the details.

Probus parking can be hard to find in winter

Parking in the Church lot can be a challenge as it fills up quickly. Now that we have winter and with more snow it will likely get worse.

Please do not park in the marked Church Reserved slots.

We do have an arrangement with the school which permits us to park in their large lot.

Make sure that you pick the second entrance to enter or you will end up in the bus drop off lane.

The best thing is to come early, there will be lots of spaces and you can help us set up.



Euchre group meets monthly in Bells Corners

Probus has an active euchre group. They meet monthly at the Bells Corners United Church, 3955 Old Richmond Road (at Moodie). Meetings are usually held on the first Friday of the month at 1 p.m. (But see below).

This is mostly a casual and social occasion and some players play both euchre and bridge and fill in where needed.

Following are the dates for our upcoming meetings:

Friday, 1 December
(11:30 with Pot Luck)

Friday, 5 January

Friday, 2 February

Friday, 2 March

Friday, 6 April

Friday, 4 May

Friday, 1 June

For further information call Pat Stoute at 613-820-0174

Focus for 2018 speaker program outlined

We, once again, thank Heather and Gordon Walt for their dedication and delivery of an excellent Speaker series at our monthly meetings up to and including January 2018. We are grateful for the work of Peter van Boeschoten and Peter Durose who continue to work their magic to ensure that we can see the screened information and hear the speaker.

The Program focus for the upcoming year is "Members' Perspectives".

We have within our membership collective many years of experience, in many diverse areas and arenas, some on the job and some in personal lives. We hope to bring you a glimpse of their passion for their topic, their personal background that brought them to this work, and their perspective that keeps them engaged in their commitment. As well, we will act on member suggestions for other interesting topics and speakers.

Stay tuned for announcements at our monthly meetings, and for a monthly newsletter briefing from the speaker themselves that will entice you to come find out more.

Please provide Sylvia with your ideas for future program presentations by speaking to her at the next meeting.

Program Director / Speaker Coordinator
Sylvia McGee

Join us for the January lunch-out

Thursday 25 January

Chances R Restaurant

1365 Woodroffe Ave

This is a family institution for many years serving great food in a pleasant setting. It is located in College Square Mall near Algonquin College. www.chancesr.ca



The Vintage Wings Hangar in Gatineau drew a large contingent of Probus members to view the aircraft and the restoration process. We were divided into groups of 6, each with our own informative guide.

New Science Museum tour and lunch set for January

The Canada Science and Technology Museum is currently undergoing a renewal of its entire space. When it reopens, all 7,400 m² will feature new exhibitions.

To be among the first to experience this new experience join us for a visit on Friday 19 January. We plan to start our visit at 10:30 and to be followed by a restaurant lunch.

Sign up and pay in December or January. Cash or cheque \$12.50 for the special group rate.

Following the museum visit we will have lunch in Robbie's Restaurant. It is located just a few blocks north of the museum at 1531 St. Laurent Blvd. Their specialty is Italian food and we will arrange to meet there at 12:30.



The Crazy Kitchen



Robbie's Restaurant



BGen Ret'd. Greg Matte provided a highly informative talk in November on a program which helps former military members receive training for a career in civilian industry.

Chuckle Corner



THE BOTTLE OF WINE

For the ladies who are married, were married, wish you were married or wish you were not married, this is something to smile about the next time you see a bottle of wine:

Sally was driving home from one of her business trips, in Northern Arizona, when she saw an elderly Navajo woman walking on the side of the road.

As the trip was a long and quiet one, she stopped the car and asked the Navajo woman if she would like a ride.

With a silent nod of thanks, the woman got into the car. Resuming the journey, Sally tried - in vain - to make a bit of small talk with the Navajo woman.

The old woman just sat silently, looking intently at everything she saw, studying every little detail, until she noticed a brown bag on the seat next to Sally.

"What in bag?" asked the old woman.

Sally looked down at the brown bag and said: "It's a bottle of wine. I got it for my husband."

The Navajo woman was silent for another moment or two.

Then, speaking with the quiet wisdom of an elder, she said:

"Good trade . . ."

After the meeting

We go out for lunch

Join us for lunch after our meeting to socialize and discuss the presentation..

This month we will be at:

The Brew Table

(NW corner of Robertson and Moodie)

Often our speaker is able to join us.

At the beginning of the meeting we ask for a show of hands of those planning to attend so that we can reserve ahead.

Group insurance

As a member of Probus you are eligible for Group Travel insurance through the MEDOC program from Johnson Inc.

Find out more by going to our club web page and click on links or go directly to

<http://www.probus.org/instrvl2.pdf>

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Youth is wasted on the young."

— **George Bernard Shaw**