



# The PROBUS Pilot



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

May 2017

Vol:8 No:9

## The Prez Sez

*As we begin to wind up our club for this spring, with only two regular meetings left, I want to acknowledge the hard work carried out by our executive. By adding the upcoming Spring Fling event, which is about to take place, our executive team took on a significant amount of extra work, but everything has gone amazingly smoothly. Everyone has, happily, pulled his or her weight and cooperated well, which has made it a good experience for us all.*

*Every year, new people are added to our executive team and I would like to suggest that you consider joining for the next term, which starts next fall. It will be less work than this year (our club will not do a Spring Fling this coming year) but it will be a good way to get to know people and participate in interesting activities.*

*We need to have a new slate of people chosen by our June meeting, and the new team takes over in September. Talk to any member of the executive if you would like to know more about the various executive positions (also, there are job descriptions on our website).*

*I hope everyone will be able to enjoy our nice warm weather now that it is finally here.*

**Beth Sweetnam, President**

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

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

Randy Boswell – Tuesday 16 May

## Digital databases are the new tool to discovering our past

**his·to·ry:** (from Greek ιστορία, historia, meaning "inquiry, knowledge acquired by investigation")

The recent and ongoing imaging of millions of pages of historical newspapers – in Canada, the U.S. and beyond – has opened a remarkable portal to the past for scholars, genealogists and history buffs of all kinds.

Veteran journalist and Carleton University professor Randy Boswell, who conducts research using historical newspapers, has had a run of significant discoveries that have rewritten Ottawa's archaeological and environmental history, filled key gaps in the backstory of Canadian hockey and – in an article published last year by Rolling Stone – unearthed the origins of rock & roll's most influential song: Elvis Presley's Heartbreak Hotel.

Boswell will recount some of his sleuthing successes and invite others to immerse themselves in the digital databases that both preserve and liberate local, national and global history.

Randy Boswell was a long-time



**Randy Boswell**

reporter and editor with the Ottawa Citizen and Postmedia News before joining the full-time faculty of Carleton University's School of Journalism and Communication in 2012.

As a journalist, he developed the country's first national history beat in 2003, producing hundreds of stories about key discoveries, controversies, battles and initiatives involving Canada's past.

Boswell continues to write history-related news stories on a freelance basis and is pursuing various research projects that employ 19th-century newspapers to shed fresh light on political, scientific and journalistic issues and personalities of that era.

He recently edited a collection of essays related to the 200th anniversary of Sir John A. Macdonald's birth and co-authored two papers about an ancient aboriginal burial ground along the Ottawa River.



The RCMP Stables proved to be a highly popular visit on 13 April. We had 38 participants which probably set a record. The constables conducting the tour were very attentive and answered many questions.

## June meeting to focus on fraud and scams

Our meeting on 13 June will feature Brock Godfrey from the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre. He will speak on:

**“Mass Marketing Fraud and Cybercrime Awareness”**

## Probus has a web site

Our club has a web site to keep you up to date on speakers, activities, photos, our organization and other information. It can be found at:

[www.probuswesternottawa.ca](http://www.probuswesternottawa.ca)

Make sure that you bookmark this location so that you don't have to keep typing it in.

## Wednesday 7 June

### *Chateau Laurier tour now almost full*

Our tour of the Chateau Laurier and High Tea on Wednesday 7 June has proved very popular and there are only a few spaces left.

The Chateau Laurier is Ottawa's oldest and most famous hotel. But for many Ottawa residents this historic building is still very much a mystery and few have set foot in it.

After the tour there will be an



opportunity to have High Tea in the Chateau's Zoe's Lounge.

### *Euchre/Bridge group to hold pot-luck luncheon at June meeting*

Probus has an active euchre and bridge group. They meet monthly at

the Bells Corners United Church, 3955 Old Richmond Road (at Moodie).

It is a wonderful opportunity to socialize and meet Probus members. If you don't know how to play, they will teach you.

#### **MAY MEETING**

The May meeting will be on Friday 5 May at 1 p.m.

#### **JUNE POTLUCK**

The June Euchre/Bridge Pot Luck Luncheon will be held Friday, June 2.

We can do both hot and cold dishes for the Pot Luck as we can use the stoves and ovens. Come with your dishes around 11:30 a.m. in order to be able to have some punch and be ready to eat around noon. Then we can usually start cards on time at 1 p.m. so nobody is too late getting home.

A few early arrivals to help with set up would be appreciated.

For further information call Pat Stoate at 613-820-017.



**SunTech Greenhouses.** After the April lunch-out in Manotick a number of members participated in a visit to SunTech Greenhouses which produces year-round local tomatoes and produce.

Tuesday 9 May – (Regular meeting delayed to 16 May)

## Spring Fling features 225 Probians, with 60 from our club

Sixty members from our club will be attending the special Spring Fling for Probus Clubs on Tuesday 9 May. Recognizing that this is Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, our club took the initiative in organizing this activity. We are delighted to have Sir John A. Macdonald in the person of Brian Porter to help us celebrate.

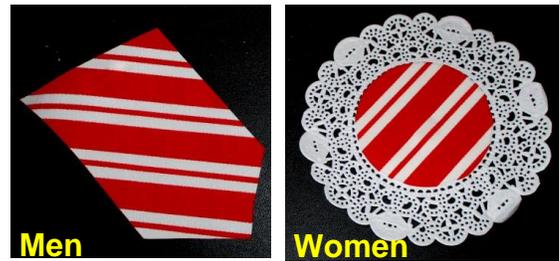
This will be the first Spring Fling since 2015 when it was an annual event hosted on a rotation by each club. As hosts, our club members will be assigned to tables and are requested to wear the host identifier you will be provided with at registration.

Rather than hosting in an Ottawa venue we thought a more central location for other clubs would be appropriate. It will thus be held at the Grenville Municipal Centre in historic Kemptville.

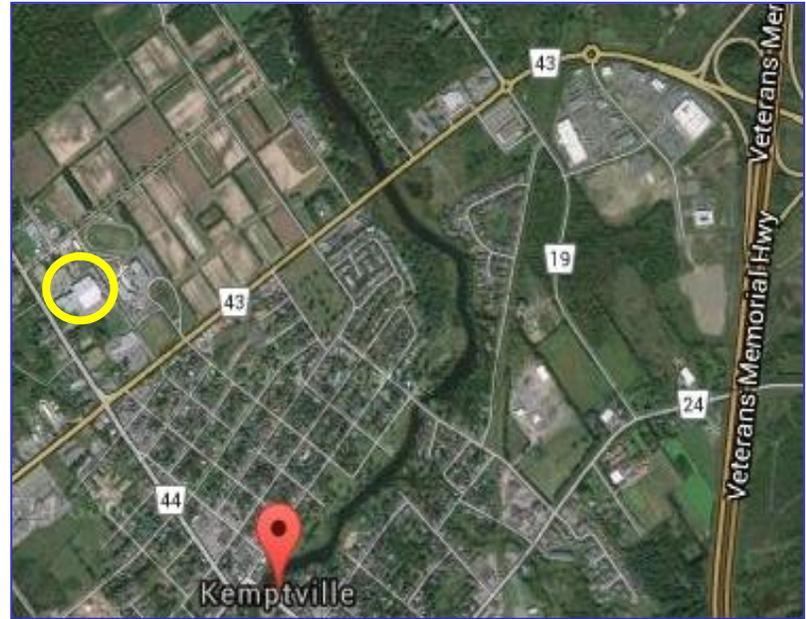
Registration begins at 10:15, the cash bar opens at 11:00, and it is requested that attendees be seated for lunch by 11:45.

The Grenville Municipal Centre is located at 285 County Rd. 44, Kemptville (north of Highway 43). Take Highway 416 south from Ottawa to Kemptville, exit at Highway 43, go thorough 2 traffic circles and proceed to the second set of lights and turn right on County road 44 and follow the signs to the Municipal Centre. (See map at right, Municipal Centre circled.)

**Please remember to wear your name badges.**



Men Women  
Host identifiers



## Year-end luncheon after our June meeting features catered meal

After our June meeting we will again have a luncheon to wrap up the year.

This year we will be using a caterer for a more substantive menu and to

reduce the organizational load on our volunteers.

The luncheon will be in the Church hall immediately after our June meeting.

Since we have limited seating we have had to cap the number of tickets. In order to break even on cost we have had to raise the ticket price to \$13.00. When you consider that it includes the meal, desert as well as hot and cold beverages it is still a good deal.

This event is a great opportunity to close out our year and socialize with other club members before we break for the summer.

Since tickets are limited you should sign up and pay at the May 16 meeting.

Many thanks to Ron and Marie Armstrong for again making the arrangements.

## Beware of "free" travel offers

This travel scam variation involves fraudulent offers of free or discounted vacations using company names like Expedia, Air Canada, Transat, West Jet and others. The potential victim receives a cold call, usually automated, advising that they have won a destination vacation. Alternatively, they are advised they are a "preferred customer" and have been awarded a credit or discount on a destination vacation if booked immediately.

Once the potential victim proceeds with the call, they will be asked to provide personal information to book the vacation and a credit card number to make a deposit/payment to guarantee the trip.

### Warning Signs — How to Protect Yourself

- An unknown caller tells you that you won a contest you didn't enter.
- You receive a call advising you have won a free vacation but have to provide a credit card number to cover taxes prior to receiving the vacation.
- Ask for the caller's name and for a call back number. If they won't provide one, red flag.
- Never give out personal information or credit card information over the phone.

Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or report online at <http://www.antifraudcentre.ca>



The Black Dog Restaurant proved to be a popular venue for our lunch-out in April with a large number of club members taking part.

*After the meeting*

**We go out for lunch**

Join us for lunch after our meetings to socialize and discuss the meeting topic. Often our speaker is able to join us.

This month we will be at:

**The Brew Table**

NW corner of Robertson and Moodie

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

Aging is not lost youth but a new stage of opportunity and strength

Barbara Friedan

**Still looking to fill 2 vacancies on the Management Board for next year**

At the June meeting members will be electing a new slate of individuals to manage your club next year.

We are delighted that Alison Green has stepped up to take on the second Travel Coordinator position.

We still have two upcoming vacancies that we need to fill:

- **Vice President**, and
- **Program Coordinator**

The Vice President backs up the President and assumes that

position for one year next year.

The Program Coordinator is responsible for our Speaker Program. The Fall speaker line-up is already confirmed so the new Coordinator can ease into the position.

These are the critical replacements that we need. If we share the load it only takes a few hours each month.

If you are interested in helping we ask that you take the initiative and advise a member of the Management Committee of your interest(s).

*Chuckle Corner*



**Knocking on Heaven's Door**

When everybody on earth was dead and waiting to enter Heaven, God appeared and said, "I want the men to make two lines: One line for the men who were true heads of their household, and the other line for the men who were dominated by their women."

"I want all the women to report to St. Peter."

Soon, the women were gone and there were two lines of men.

The line of men who were dominated by their wives was hundreds of miles long and in the line of men who truly were heads of their household, there was only one man.

God said to the long line, "You men should be ashamed of yourselves; I created each of you to be the head of your household! You have been disobedient and have not fulfilled your purpose! Of all of you, only one obeyed. Learn from him."

God turned to the one man, "How did you manage to be the only one in this line?"

The man replied, "This is where my wife told me to stand."



At our April meeting **Caroline Midgley and Jeannie Mathews** provided an informative and timely presentation on the considerations and options available for staying in your own home.