



# The PROBUS Pilot



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

December 2023

Vol:15 No:4

**Tuesday, December 12**

## Refugee Support In Canada – Processes & Stories

The work of the Kanata Baptist Church Refugee Support Network and Matthew House

### Kanata Baptist Church Refugee Support Network

**Karen McMorine (left) and Rick Johnston (right) welcome a Rwandan refugee**

The Kanata Baptist Church (KBC) Refugee Support Network (RSN) was established in 2015 in response to the Syrian Refugee crisis. Since 2016, when the first family of seven arrived from Syria, the RSN has had the privilege of welcoming families from various countries. Karen is the Chair of the RSN committee and Rick acts as the interface between KBC and the Government by helping with the required paperwork.



Karen and Rick are members of KBC. Before retiring, Karen spent 32 years in education, in positions ranging from teacher, consultant, vice principal to principal. Rick spent 35 plus years as a Signal Officer in the Canadian Forces with postings in Canada, Germany and Cyprus.

Karen and Rick will discuss the processes involved in sponsoring a refugee and some of the support available in Ottawa, and share some stories of their experiences. They look forward to sharing this time with you.

### Matthew House Ottawa

**Brynn Brieda, Fundraising & Communications Coordinator –**

Brynn Brieda has been working at Matthew House Ottawa for 1.5 years. Brynn grew up in Windsor, Ontario and has been living in Ottawa since 2018. She is a graduate of Carleton University's Bachelor of Journalism program.



### Providing supports for Refugee Claimants

Matthew House Ottawa provides services to refugee claimants with no sponsorship or support from the government. In 2022, 1040 homes were furnished, and 79 refugee claimants were provided a bed, food and settlement support. This presentation will cover the support model used to provide services and community to refugee claimants, the most vulnerable to enter Canada, and how to help them leverage a meaningful life in a new country.

Probud clubs provide regular gatherings for semi-retired and retired people who appreciate and value opportunities to meet with others of similar interests. The morning begins at 10:00 am with a time for coffee and socialization followed by our meeting at 10:30 which includes a guest speaker.

Probud Western Ottawa meets the second Tuesday of the month at

Kanata Baptist Church,  
465 Hazeldean Road

### Upcoming Speakers

**Jan 9:** Dr. Irwin Waller  
"Reducing Crime in Ottawa/Canada"

**Feb 13:** Peter Rohe  
"My Experiences in Israel"

**March 12:** Peggy Blair  
"Experiences Publishing a Book"

# The Prez Sez



Hello everyone.

I was unable to attend our last meeting as I was self-isolating while recovering from Covid. I had to enlist Beth Sweetnam to act as emcee and ensure she, and other executive members involved in running the meeting, were fully informed of each others' roles and extra duties given my absence.

This was a situation where a Vice President would easily have been able to step in and take over my tasks. But it's frustrating that no one seems willing to take on one of the easiest roles on the committee. Perhaps this reticence is because there is an expectation that a VP would take on the President's role in the following year. Although it would be desirable for a VP to make such a commitment, it's more important that there be someone to at least fill the vacant position.

So why become a part of the Executive Committee? It's an opportunity to meet once a month for a planning meeting with a group of people who share in the vision of Probus and take pleasure in working together to fulfill that vision.

Even if you can't make a monthly commitment, organizing an outing or a lunch can be taken on as a one-time event with support from other committee members provided as needed. Of course, suggestions for speakers, places to go, or things to do are always welcome.

**Will you help?** Our vacancies are shown in the table above. If you are willing to help, or just have a question about any role, email me at [president@probuswesternottawa.ca](mailto:president@probuswesternottawa.ca) or speak to me, or any Executive Committee member, at one of our meetings. You are also welcome to join one of our planning sessions, with no commitment assumed, to see how we operate.

Ray Jones

## Your 2023-2024 Executive

President:	<b>Ray Jones</b>
Vice President:	<b>Vacant</b>
Past President:	<b>Peter van Boeschoten</b>
Secretary:	<b>Marg Demers</b>
Treasurer:	<b>Bryan Wakeford</b>
Membership:	<b>Ruth Wakeford &amp; Annette Lindsay</b>
Speaker Program:	<b>Beth Sweetnam</b>
Lunches:	<b>Vacant</b>
Outings:	<b>George Steeves</b>
Newsletter:	<b>Kathleen Kelly</b>
Website:	<b>Vacant</b>
Policy Advisor:	<b>Peter Doyle</b>
Coffee Coordinators:	<b>Shanna &amp; Walter Lucas</b>
Member-at-Large:	<b>Vacant</b>
Setup Crew:	<b>Peter Durose &amp; David Stafford</b>
Euchre Club:	<b>Barbara Bole &amp; David Stafford</b>
Cards and letters:	<b>Betty Jean Bone</b>
Publicity:	<b>Vacant</b>

Details of these position responsibilities may be found on our web site [here](#).

## Probus Canada is Requesting Your Help

Probus Canada is asking all clubs to help with an article they will be writing and presenting to Zoomer magazine in order to get the Probus message out there. The theme is stories of reconnections through Probus. For example, grade school friends who meet up again at PROBUS and the like. If you have had such an experience, Probus Canada would like the names and email addresses of the people involved in the reconnection along with 2 or 3 sentences summarizing the reconnection story. They are looking for a few stories to include in this article and hopefully, will have enough for other articles. The writer would then connect with the chosen submitters in order to flesh things out. There are no guarantees that Zoomer would run with the article, but it is well worth a try. Please send any response to Ray Jones for forwarding by December 20 at [president@probuswesternottawa.ca](mailto:president@probuswesternottawa.ca) Thank-you.

## Welcome to our New Members

The following 10 new members  
joined Probus Western Ottawa in  
November:

Lyn and Jim Arsenault  
Sharon Bedier  
Rejane and Jim Darlow  
Louise LeBlanc  
David Lee  
Jim McCloskey  
Vaughan Reynolds  
Miriam Wygergangs

**Bring a book,  
... take a book.**



**Check out our book  
swap table at every meeting.**



## Euchre Players!

### Christmas Potluck Lunch

You just have to be a Probus member. We're a friendly group and play for enjoyment!

Hope to see you on **Friday, December 8 at NOON** for the Christmas potluck lunch. Bring a dish to share. Oven/microwave reheating will be available. Euchre begins at 1:00 p.m. following lunch. New members welcome!

The Probus euchre group meets monthly at Bells Corners United Church, 3955 Old Richmond Road (at Moodie).

For further information, please contact Barbara or David Stafford at [bbole@sympatico.ca](mailto:bbole@sympatico.ca) or phone 613-592-0296.



*After our meeting*  
**Join us for lunch at**  
**Busters Bar and Grill**  
**420 Hazeldean road**  
at noon

**Sign up** (via show of hands)  
**at the December meeting**

## Images from Our November Meeting



Joanna Lemke captivated the club with her personal account of growing up in the Nazi occupied Netherlands between 1940 and 1945. She recounts her story in her book, *Enemy Under Our Roof*.





Christmas Lunch  
at the Algonquin  
College  
Restaurant  
Internationale on  
November 28  
and November  
29 was enjoyed  
by all.



## Chuckle Corner

Some of us live thousands of miles away from most of our relatives and can't be with them during the holiday season. - Please don't be jealous.

What did one snowman say to the other? - Yeah, I smell carrots too.

Knock knock. Who's there? Olive. Olive who? Olive the other reindeer.

How can you tell that Santa is real? You can always sense his presents.

A man was speaking to his grown son on the phone and told him that he and the son's mother were divorcing. The son was shocked and told his father he was flying home the next day to sort this out. The father hung up the phone and turned to his wife, saying "Okay, he's coming for Christmas and he's paying for his own airfare".

How much does it cost to run Santa's sleigh? - Eight bucks, or nine if the weather is bad.

**Happy holidays!**

**Membership inquiries may be sent to:**

[membership@probuswesternottawa.ca](mailto:membership@probuswesternottawa.ca)

**Our website:**

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

**Newsletter comments or submissions:**

[newsletter@probuswesternottawa.ca](mailto:newsletter@probuswesternottawa.ca)

**PROBUS Canada Connections, our National Newsletter:**

<https://www.probuscanada.ca/news>