



The PROBUS Pilot



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

May 2024

Vol:15 No:9

Tuesday 14 May

Dr. Ian MacKay: “What Happened to Amelia Earhart?”

Many of us know of Amelia Earhart only as a flyer who disappeared sometime in the first half of the 20th century, and that her fate is a great, enduring mystery. There are also a sizable number of conspiracy theories explaining that mystery, ranging from a popular one based on the plot of the 1943 movie starring Rosalind Russell and Fred MacMurray to the usual suspects: aliens and foreigners.



The truth is more straightforward. Today, there is an enormous weight of individual but interlocking pieces of evidence that precisely outline her fate. What is more shocking is that quite a number of influential people had strong suspicions within days of her disappearance as to where she ended up – and they were right – in plenty of time to have rescued her and saved her from a truly miserable fate. But incompetence, prejudice, lack of communication, and the hierarchical nature of command let her down. This story is a classic case of the truism “Never attribute to conspiracy what can be explained by ego, stupidity, incompetence and bad luck.” The evidence that pointed to her location in 1937 still points there, but is supplemented by a great deal of evidence discovered in 1940, plus a wealth of evidence assembled in the past 30 years. Join us for a story full of twists and turns and many surprises.

Ian is retired from a 40-year career as a professor in the Department of Linguistics, University of Ottawa, where he taught in both official languages. Much of his research involved the acquisition of pronunciation when learning a second language at various starting ages. He also taught a graduate seminar on the origins of human language.

For more than a decade Ian has been closely following developments in the search for answers to Amelia Earhart's fate. While textbook writing is no tutorial for novel writing, he is attempting to write a historical novel based on the famous venture during which Earhart disappeared. While a novel demands at least some fiction, Ian's talk on Earhart sticks to the facts as best they can be determined.

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. Our meetings begin at 10:00 am with 30 minutes for coffee and socialization followed by a guest speaker. Probus Western Ottawa meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month (except July & August) at

Kanata Baptist Church
465 Hazeldean Road



After the meeting **Join us for lunch**

Often our speaker agrees to join us. This month we will be at:

Busters Bar & Grill

420 Hazeldean Road

www.bustersbarandgrill.ca/

Upcoming speaker schedule

June 11: Dr. Tet Yeap
“Climate Conscious Farming”

September 10: Gord Larose
“Artificial Intelligence”

October 8: TBA



Hello everyone.

Next month we will be presenting our 2024-2025 Management Committee lineup for member approval. The current status is at right. Two vacancies in particular are most concerning...:

Newsletter Editor: With no one identified, I've stepped in to prepare this newsletter and it's too much in addition to my other responsibilities. Please volunteer. A basic familiarity with a word processing application is required. A "tips and tricks" document is available.

Vice President: I would appreciate having a co-leader to help me next year (my third and last as president) and hopefully take on the President's role in the following year.

PLEASE HELP YOUR CLUB

Many current committee members have served for years. But new people come with fresh ideas which allow us to make our club more interesting and dynamic.

Ray Jones

president@probuswesternottawa.ca

The Prez Sez

Next Year's Executive Committee Status

President:	Ray Jones
Vice President:	Vacant
Past President:	Peter van Boeschoten
Secretary:	Marg Demers
Treasurer:	Bryan Wakeford
Membership:	Ruth Wakeford Annette Lindsay
Speaker Program:	Tom Lukowski, Peter Rohe, Lyn/Jim Arsenault, Jim Bondar
Lunches:	Suma Abraham
Outings:	George Steeves
Newsletter:	Vacant
Website:	Vacant
Policy Advisor:	Peter Doyle
Coffee Coordinators:	Shanna /Walter Lucas
Member-at-Large:	David Lee Ruth Brydon
Setup Crew:	David Stafford
Euchre Club:	Barbara Bole David Stafford
Cards and letters:	Betty Jean Bone
Publicity:	Vacant
Details of these position responsibilities may be found on our web site here .	



Making Connections



At each monthly meeting we provide some time for three members to introduce themselves in a 2 minute (or less) presentation of their history and interests. The idea is that, as people learn more about each other, they are likely to discover common interests or experiences, thereby encouraging a connection. Content is at the discretion of the volunteer and could cover such topics as career, family, hobbies, interests and life experiences. Please consider taking advantage of this opportunity.

Welcome to our New Members

Andy Greiner
David Hobler
Suzanne Lee
Sue McCloskey
Philip McSkimming
Shafiq Siddiqi
Jane Tillson
Terry Wallace
Donna Wallace
Ion Webster



Eleven members had a good time at our April 17 lunch-out at the Lone Star on Hazeldean.



With the "last minute" cancellation of the Brockville tunnel tour, George arranged for a tour of the Reserve Hanger at the Canadian Aviation and Space Museum on April 25, followed by lunch at Perkins.

WELCOME TO EUCHRE for Probus Members!

New date: Friday, May 3

12:30 – social time
(coffee, light refreshments)

1:00 – Let's play Euchre!

Bells Corners United Church
3995 Old Richmond Road (south door)

Don't know how to play, but would like to learn? Contact David or Barbara at bbole@sympatico.ca or (613) 592-0296



Thursday 23 May

Lunch at "Café Postino" then a museum tour

Come join us for a luncheon @ 11:45 a.m. at Café Postino, 73 Mill St., Almonte (www.cafe-postino.com).

This will be followed by a tour of The Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, (\$5.00) located in the annex of the former Rosamond Woolen Company, 3 Rosamond St. East, Almonte. Constructed in 1867 this National Historic Site of Canada now features a blend of the old and new (<https://mvtm.ca>).

Sign up at the May meeting or email Shanna at slucas3887@gmail.com.



Sun Tech Greenhouses

Thursday 16 May

5541 Doyle Road, Manotick

Meet at 11:30 a.m.

Due to popular demand a 2nd visit to Sun Tech Greenhouses will take place on May 16, 11:30 a.m., 5541 Doyle Road, Manotick Ontario.

Sun Tech Greenhouses is a hydroponic greenhouse providing high quality local produce free of GMOs and spray pesticides. This is a family owned greenhouse supplying the Ottawa region with 3 types of tomatoes and seedless cucumbers.

Following the tour we will enjoy lunch at The Swan on the Rideau, 2730 River Road, Manotick Ontario. Reservations will be made for 1:30 p.m..

Fully Booked! Please email any withdrawals to George at outings@probuswesternottawa.ca.

Tuesday 11 June

Year-end luncheon In the Church Hall

After our June 11th meeting, we will have a catered luncheon to end the year. Our caterer will be Leatherworks, offering a variety of wraps, salads, desserts and coffee. The luncheon will be in the Church Hall on the other side of the foyer from the sanctuary.

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

Tickets are \$20 and will be available at the May meeting. Pay with cash, cheque or via e-transfer to membership@probuswesternottawa.ca (ETF instructions can be found [here](#).)

Reservations close on June 1st.

Wednesday 19 June

Probus Golf Outing

MARSHWOOD GOLF COURSE - The Marshes Golf Club, 320 Terry Fox Dr
TEE-TIMES STARTING @ 10:30AM ONE FOURSOME EVERY 10 MINUTES
TEE TIMES RESERVED FROM 10:30 UNTIL 11:40AM (8 FOURSOMES)
ONE ROUND OF GOLF (9 HOLES WALKING)

<https://www.marshesgolfclub.com/golf/marshwood>

COST - \$22.00 (They will permit the use of a limited number of golf carts for \$11:50).

FOLLOWED BY A LA CART LUNCH @ 1:00PM IN THE IRONSTONE GRILL (ON THE VERANDA, DEPENDENT UPON THE WEATHER)

Register at the May or June meetings or email Walter at wlucas3887@gmail.com



Brockville Railway Tunnel Visit

Rescheduled to Thursday, September 19 at 11 a.m.

Note: If you registered for the cancelled April tour you are considered registered for the September date. Please let George know if you wish to come off the list. A confirmation request will go out to all registrants in September.

The Brockville Railway Tunnel was Canada's first railway tunnel constructed between 1854 and 1860 as part of the Brockville and Ottawa (B&O) Railway.

The B&O tied the St. Lawrence River to the Ottawa River to take part in the lucrative timber trade. The B&O was chartered in 1853. The restoration of the historic tunnel was completed during 2016 - 2017 for Canada's 150th birthday.

Meet at the South Portal off Water Street at 11 a.m. City parking is nearby.

Sign up at the May, June or September meetings or email George at outings@probuswesternottawa.ca

Following the tour, we will enjoy lunch at the [1000 Islands Brewery](https://www.1000islandsbrewery.com/) Company, 65 King St. West, in Brockville, at 12:30 p.m.



Chuckle Corner



A Sunday School teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six-year-olds.

After explaining the commandment to 'honor' thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, 'Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?'

From the back, one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, 'Thou shall not kill.'

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note and posted on the apple tray: 'Take only one, God is watching.' Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, 'Take all you want. God is watching the apples....'