



# The PROBUS Pilot



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

June 2024

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## Tuesday 11 June

### 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month (except July & August) at

**Kanata Baptist Church**  
465 Hazeldean Road

### **Book Swap Table**



**Bring a book ...  
...Take a book**

**Take an extra book or two  
for the summer!**

### **Upcoming Speaker Schedule**

**September 10:** Gord Larose  
“Artificial Intelligence”

**October 8:** TBA

**November 12:** TBA

# The Prez Sez



Hello everyone.

This month is our annual general meeting where our 2024-2025 Management Committee lineup is submitted for member approval. The current status is at right. Please consider volunteering for the vacant positions, especially newsletter editor and VP.

**Newsletter Editor:** I've stepped in to prepare this newsletter but it's too much in addition to my other responsibilities. A basic familiarity with a word processing application is all that's needed. A "tips and tricks" document and mentoring 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. New people come with fresh ideas which allow us to make our club more interesting and dynamic.

Ray Jones

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



## 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.

## Next Year's Executive Committee Status

President:	Ray Jones
Vice President:	<b>Vacant</b>
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:	<b>Vacant</b>
Website:	<b>Vacant</b>
Policy Advisor:	Peter Doyle
Coffee Service	Shanna /Walter Lucas Anne/Stan Senkowski
Member-at-Large:	David Lee Ruth Brydon
Setup Crew:	David Stafford
Euchre Club:	Barbara Bole David Stafford
Cards and letters:	Betty Jean Bone
Publicity:	<b>Vacant</b>

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

## Welcome to our New Members

**Paddy Armstrong**

**Anne Gravel**

**Hugh McDowell**

**Maryetta McDowell**

**Solomon Sogbein**

**Tet Yeap**

**Our May speaker** (previously scheduled for June) was Dr. Tet Yeap who spoke on the topic: "Sustainable Agriculture: Mitigating Greenhouse Gas Emissions". This was an eye-opening presentation of the dangers posed to the earth's atmosphere by nitrous oxide emissions, a by-product of modern fertilizer use that is hundreds of times more harmful than carbon dioxide. His early research has demonstrated that, compared with the widespread Conventional Broadcast farming practice, a new practice called Enhanced Strip-til can achieve more than a 90% reduction in nitrous oxide emissions, a 33% reduction in fertilizer use, and a 26% increase in yield.



**Tuesday 11 June****Year-end luncheon  
In the Church Hall**

After our June 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

**The deadline for reservations was June 1, so tickets are no longer available.**

**Euchre Players  
Reminder!****Friday, June 14****End of Year Potluck !**

Bring a dish to share (ovens/microwave available to reheat)

12:30 for lunch

Followed by Euchre games at 1:00 pm !

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

Please RSVP so we have an idea of numbers! Hope to see you on the 14th!

Barbara and David Stafford  
[bbole@sympatico.ca](mailto:bbole@sympatico.ca) or 613-592-0296

**Wednesday 19 June****Probus Golf Outing – 9 holes, all par 3s**

**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)

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

COST - \$22.00 (They will permit the use of a limited number of golf carts for \$11:50).  
FOLLOWED BY AN A LA CARTE LUNCH @ 1:00PM IN THEIR IRONSTONE GRILL  
(ON THE VERANDA, DEPENDENT UPON THE WEATHER)

Register at the June meeting or email Walter at [wlucas3887@gmail.com](mailto: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 June or September meetings or email George at [outings@probuswesternottawa.ca](mailto:outings@probuswesternottawa.ca)**

Following the tour, we will enjoy lunch at the [1000 Islands Brewery](#), 65 King St. West, in Brockville, at **12:30 p.m.**







The Mississippi Valley Textile Museum tour group enjoying a follow-up lunch at Cafe Postino on May 23.

### OLD FOLKS HOME NEW RULES

### Chuckle Corner



On her first day at the senior complex the new manager addressed all the seniors pointing out some of her rules: "The female sleeping quarters will be out-of-bounds for all males, and the male dormitory to the females. Anybody caught breaking this rule will be fined \$20 the first time."

She continued, "Anybody caught breaking this rule the second time will be fined \$60. Being caught a third time will cost you a fine of \$180."

Are there any questions?"

At this point, an older lady named Betty stood up in the crowd and inquired: "How much for a season pass?"

### Insurance Deals for Probus Members

Probus Canada has worked with **Johnson Inc.**, a national benefits provider, to offer **Health and Travel** plans for our members. The plans include



- Standalone Trip Cancellation ~ Interruption Travel Insurance
- Guaranteed Life Insurance
- Term Life Insurance
- MEDOC® Travel Insurance



Probus Canada has teamed up with **Belairdirect** to score special deals on **home-and-auto** insurance that's tailored just for you with

- enhanced home coverage
- great car insurance add-ons



### In Memoriam

#### Gordon Walt



The executive of Probus Western Ottawa regrets to announce the passing of Gordon Walt, a 10-year member and former executive of this club, who died peacefully on Monday, May 6. A memorial service is planned for Saturday, June 29 at 3:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Kanata. [Obit](#)

### Things You Learn if You Live Long Enough!

- Being a little older, I am very fortunate to have someone call and check on me every day. He is from India and is very concerned about my car warranty.
- Nothing spoils a good story more than the arrival of an eye witness. (Mark Twain)
- It turns out that when asked who your favorite child is, you're supposed to pick out one of your own. I know that now.
- If you dropped something when you were younger, you just picked it up. When you're older and you drop something, you stare at it for just a bit contemplating if you actually need it anymore.
- I just read a book about marriage that says treat your wife like you treated her on your first date. So tonight after dinner I'm dropping her off at her parent's house.
- Driver: "What am I supposed to do with this speeding ticket?" Officer, "Keep it. When you collect four of them, you get a bicycle."
- I told my physical therapist that I broke my arm in two places. He told me to stop going to those places.
- When I was a kid, I used to watch the 'Wizard of Oz' & wonder how someone could talk if they didn't have a brain. Then I got Facebook.
- Apparently RSVP'ing to a wedding invitation with "Maybe next time" isn't the correct response.
- A guy walks into a lumberyard & asks for some 2x4s. The clerk asks, "How long do you need them?" The guy answers, "A long time. We're gonna build a house."
- I just burned 1,200 calories. I forgot the pizza in the oven.

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)