

Vol:16 No:1

SEPTEMBER 2024

<u>Tuesday 10 September</u> AI: it works! Now what?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been thought about for at least a century and has worked behind the scenes for a decade without garnering much attention. Then it exploded in 2023 following the release of ChatGPT, a publicly accessible bot with mindboggling capabilities.

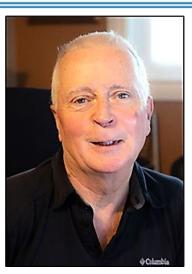
Want, say, a poem about spring written from the point of view of a dog? In Spanish? From a Golden Retriever and not a Jack Russell? Want to ace pre-med exams or the SAT? No problem!

Since then, there has been remarkable technical progress as more companies jumped in and the capabilities expanded to images, video, and more. It's also a bit scary, raising profound economic, societal, ethical, philosophical, and even existential questions.

Join us to learn a bit of history, the current state-of-the-art, and the fascinating possibilities and issues for the future of Al!

Gord Larose is an Ottawa native who spent his career in the world of high-tech.

An electronics engineer by training, he worked in telecommunications hardware and software during the Nortel/BNR era, and transitioned to software security, Digital Rights Management, and innovation in the latter part of his career. He has been retired for a few years but still does occasional consulting on software security. He has dabbled with Al technology for a long time and



Gord Larose

after decades of disappointment is excited that now it actually works!

On the personal front, Gord likes to keep fit, play the markets, drive fast cars, hang out with dogs, keep the household garden beautiful, and travel with his wife Ruby.



Hello everyone. Welcome to a new year of fellowship, friendship and fun. I hope you all had a great summer. Our activities

are starting up and the newsletter is the best way to find out what's planned.

Your current executive is listed on the next page. As can be seen, there are vacancies.

Of most concern is the Setup Crew positions (i.e. Audio/Video). Both of our previous volunteers served us for many years, but now family and medical priorities mean that they can not continue. We've prevailed upon one of them, Peter Durose, for our September meeting and our current VP for October through December, but sickness or other commitments could leave us with no A/V support. We need at least two people filling this role. There is documentation available that describes various setup scenarios and the necessary training will be provided.

Please speak with whoever is at the A/V controls if you wish to know more, or email me if you feel you can help.

We also need a newsletter editor.

We are grateful that our past president is filling in. However, he has given our club many years of service and would appreciate someone else taking over this task. A basic familiarity with a word processing application is all that's needed. A "tips and tricks" document (written for Microsoft WORD) and mentoring is available. The job basically entails organizing others' submissions onto the various pages.

PLEASE HELP YOUR CLUB! Ray Jones president@probuswesternottawa.ca

SEPTEMBER 2024

The PROBUS Pilot

Your 2024-25 Management Board



(Back) Annette Lindsay, George Steeves, Walter Lucas, David Stafford, Bryan Wakeford, David Lee, Peter van Boeschoten (Front) Barbara Bole, Marg Demers, Ray Jones, Ruth Wakeford, Shanna Lucas

(Missing from photo) Peter Doyle, Tom Lukowski, Suma Abraham, Ruth Brydon, Betty Jean Bone

Brockville Railway Tunnel visit

Thursday 19 September Meet at 11 a.m.

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. Following the tour, we will enjoy lunch at one of the restaurants in Brockville.

Meet at the South Portal off Water Street. Large City parking lot nearby. Sign up at the September meeting or email

outings@probuswesternottawa.ca

Free Pancake Breakfast Seniors Centre Open House

The Kanata Seniors' Centre will be opening its doors to all area seniors the morning of Wednesday 4 September.

The Open House will include a free pancake breakfast from 8:30 until 10:00. At the same time and continuing until 11 am there will be displays and demonstrations by the various clubs, organizations and activities available at the Seniors' Centre. Everything from the photo club, to bridge, to fitness classes, discussion group, crafts, euchre and much more.

This is an opportunity for seniors to better appreciate all the activities which are available at the centre.

President: Ray Jones Vice President: David Lee Past President: Peter van Boeschoten Marg Demers Bryan Wakeford Ruth Wakeford Annette Lindsay Speaker Program: Tom Lukowski, Suma Abraham **George Steeves** Vacant Vacant Peter Dovle Shanna /Walter Lucas Ruth Brydon 2 Vacancies (urgent!) Euchre Club: Barbara Bole **David Stafford** Cards and letters: Betty Jean Bone Vacant Publicity:

Details of these position responsibilities may be found on our website here.

After the meeting Join us for lunch

Join us for lunch after our September meeting. Often our speaker agrees to join us. This month we will be at:

Busters Bar & Grill 420 Hazeldean Road www.bustersbarandgrill.ca/



We like to send a card when someone is ill, hospitalized, in need of a comforting word or on the occasion of a significant milestone.

If you know of someone who would appreciate receiving a card, please call Betty Jean Bone at 613-721-5536 or email:

cards@probuswesternottawa.ca

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. Probus Western Ottawa meets at

Kanata Baptist Church 465 Hazeldean Road



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2024-2025

Secretary: Treasurer: Membership: Lunches: Outings: Newsletter: Website: Policy Advisor: Coffee Service Member-at-Large & Book Table: Setup Crew:

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Join us for monthly Euchre

Join us the second Friday of each month, beginning

Friday, September 13. Where: Bells Corner United Church, 3955 Old Richmond Road at Moodie Drive.

Time: 12:30 for social time, coffee: Games begin at 1 p.m.

Everyone is welcome, even if you have never played!

Easy to learn and we will teach you! You just have to be a Probus member!

For further information, feel free to contact Barbara or David Stafford at (bbole@sympatico.ca)

Monday 16 September Marshes fall golf outing

Join us for a golf outing at the Marshes Golf Club. This is a par 3, 9-hole easy walking course. We are planning tee times starting at 10 am

and one foursome every ten minutes. Cost is \$22. A limited number of golf carts are available at

\$11.50 and push carts at \$6.

Our outing will be followed by lunch at the Ironstone Grill (hopefully on the patio).

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

Sign up at the September meeting.

Marg Demers and Annette Lindsay will be hosting the Probus table



Friday, 13 September 12:30 to 3:30 pm Mlacak Community Centre 2500 Campeau Drive

Drop by and say hello

Learn about programs and services offered for older adults

Hosted by Cathy Curry Kanata North Councillor

Visit our web site www.probuswesternottawa.ca



June Luncheon. We had a good turnout for our catered luncheon in our meeting hall after our final meeting last year.

Let's keep this going



Bring a bookTake a book





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Upcoming speakers bring variety

Oct 8: OPP Staff Sergeant Chris Sturgeon "Fighting Fraud"

Nov 12: "RCAF — 100 years"

Dec 10: Dr. Andra Smith "Who Knew! Understanding and training your brain is one answer to managing your stress response and aging well"

Check out our swap table at every meeting

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The PROBUS Pilot

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| Probus Club of Western Ottawa Financial Statement - Fiscal year 2023-24 | | |
|--|---------|-------|
| | | |
| Receivables | | |
| Membership | \$3,840 | |
| Xmas lunch | \$1,920 | |
| June Lunch | \$1,260 | |
| Badges | \$420 | |
| mail requests | \$20 | |
| Total | \$7,460 | |
| | | |
| Expenses | | |
| Speaker honoraria | \$1,100 | |
| Speaker lunches | \$175 | |
| Probus Canada | \$400 | |
| KBC fee/donation | \$1,000 | |
| BCUC donation | \$500 | |
| Web hosting | \$360 | |
| Xmas lunch | \$1,920 | |
| June Lunch | \$1,260 | |
| Badges expenses | \$750 | |
| Coffee | \$185 | |
| Miscellaneous | \$307 | |
| Bank charges | \$30 | |
| Total expenses | \$7,987 | |
| Fiscal year surplus/deficit | -\$527 | |
| Bank balance July 31, 2024 | | \$495 |

Thursday 17 October Cranberry Farm visit set for Oct.

Join us in October for a visit to the Upper Canada Cranberry Farm. It is the only commercial cranberry grower in Eastern Ontario and only one of 3 in the province.

In 2008, the Farm introduced a small line of delicious and unique-tasting



cranberry products under the Slate's brand - Cranberry Sauce, Cranberry Jam, Cranberry Chutney and Cranbee - a refreshing cranberry drink. Then came dried cranberries, and so much more.

www.uc-cranberries.com

2283 Stagecoach Road, Greely, Ont., just a twelve-minute drive south of the Ottawa International Airport

Meet at 10:30am.

Lunch to be determined at a later date. Sign up at the September or October meetings.

<u>Did you know?</u> There are 242 Probus clubs in Canada.

Membership fees are due

While we had a small financial loss last year, your executive has decided to update your email address and to keep dues at \$25 per member.

So now it's time to renew your membership. Payment may be made dues is via e-Transfer to either by cheque or with cash. Cheques should be made out to Probus Western Ottawa. Treasurer Brvan Wakeford will be there before and after the meeting to accept your

payment. This is also a good time other particulars.

Another alternative is to pay your membership@probuswesternottawa.ca Detailed e-Transfer instructions can be found HERE. Make sure to indicate the names of all persons for whom you are submitting fees.

Chuckle Corner

For over 40 years, my grandfather put in long hours at his job, so I was more than a little curious about the way he filled his days since his retirement. "How has life changed?"

A man of few words, he replied, "Well I get up in the morning with nothing to do, and I go to bed at night with it half done."



Our June speaker was Dr. Ian MacKay and his research on the fate of Amelia Earhart. For many years the mystery of Amelia Earhart's final voyage has intrigued Dr. Mackay. Combining evidence from radio transmissions, skeletal analysis, possible wreckage sightings and geographic proximity to her final destination, Dr. MacKay gave us his theory that Amelia Earhart crash-landed on Gardner Island some 350 miles south of her original destination.