



# The PROBUS Pilot



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

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Tuesday 10 September

## 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 mind-boggling 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!

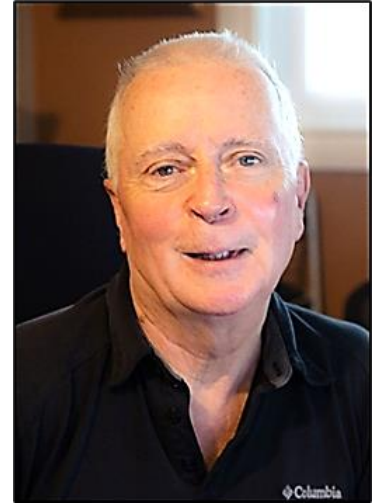
Since then, there has been remarkable technical progress as more companies jumped in and the capabilities expanded to images, video, and more. It's also a bit scary, raising profound economic, societal, ethical,

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 AI!

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 AI 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.

## The Prez Sez



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](mailto:president@probuswesternottawa.ca)

# 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

## 2024-2025

President:	Ray Jones
Vice President:	David Lee
Past President:	Peter van Boeschoten
Secretary:	Marg Demers
Treasurer:	Bryan Wakeford
Membership:	Ruth Wakeford Annette Lindsay
Speaker Program:	Tom Lukowski,
Lunches:	Suma Abraham
Outings:	George Steeves
Newsletter:	<b>Vacant</b>
Website:	<b>Vacant</b>
Policy Advisor:	Peter Doyle
Coffee Service	Shanna /Walter Lucas
Member-at-Large	
& Book Table:	Ruth Brydon
Setup Crew:	<b>2 Vacancies (urgent!)</b>
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 website [here](#).

## 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](mailto:outings@probuswesternottawa.ca)



## 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/](http://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](mailto:cards@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.

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**



## 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](mailto: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.



## 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"

Marg Demers and Annette Lindsay  
will be hosting the Probus table

# Kanata Expo 55+

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



**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 book ...

...Take a book



Visit our web site

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

Check out our swap table at every meeting

## ***Cranberry Farm visit set for Oct.***

UPPER CANADA  
*cranberries*

[www.uc-cranberries.com](http://www.uc-cranberries.com)

FARM: 613-798-6232      OFFICE: 613-822-6036

Sign up at the September or October meetings.

Newsletter comments or submissions  
[newsletter@probuswesternottawa.ca](mailto:newsletter@probuswesternottawa.ca)