



The PROBUS Pilot



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

December 2024

Vol:16 No:4

Merry Christmas



The Executive would like to wish everyone and their families a Safe
and Joyous Holiday Season.

We wish you Prosperity and Health for the
upcoming New Year

Hello everyone.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

The Pres Sez



Last month I introduced the topic of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) as a way to establish new relationships. I listed 23 examples (selected from a list of 74) used by other Probus clubs in Ontario.

I am aware of the difficulty in trying to find other members with similar interests in a group our size. So starting this month you will find SIG signup sheets in the church foyer. Some have been pre-titled (e.g. Book Club). Other sheets have blank titles so you can fill in your own special interest. You may provide your contact information on as many sheets as you like.

Once 4 names or more have been collected on a sheet, your executive will forward a copy of this sheet to whomever has identified themselves as willing to be the primary contact by checking the appropriate box on the form. If no contact person is identified, a copy of the sheet will be sent to all signatories with a request that a primary contact be identified so that future interested parties may apply to join, subject to existing group restrictions.

Once initiated, it is up to each group to collectively organize themselves in any way they choose: e.g. in determining meeting locations, dates/times, agendas, meeting frequency, etc.

If any assistance is required, please email: president@probuswesternottawa.ca

Still Looking

We need someone to assist with marketing our club (aka **Publicity**). Probus Canada has developed, and is developing, a number of marketing tools and suggestions, so there is no end of ideas. But help is needed to put some of those ideas into practice.

For the technically inclined, we also need support for the **Audio/Visual** team and **Website**,

In Other News

We had 165 members pay their fees by the deadline of November 12. Those who did not rejoin were removed from our mailing list and were then notified and asked to re-consider their departure. We also requested feedback on their reason for leaving and for any suggestions they might have to help us improve our programs and our organization in the future.

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday season.

Merry Christmas!

Ray Jones

president@probuswesternottawa.ca

Our speaker program—upcoming speaker on December 10th

Title: "Passionate Mothers, Powerful Sons; How Mothers Make a Difference"

Summary of Talk:

In 1854, two formidable American women were born in New York. Jennie Jerome (future mother of Winston Churchill) and Sara Delano (future mother of Franklin Delano Roosevelt) grew up with incredible privilege, but refused to settle into the predictable, sheltered lives as the little-known wives of prominent men. Instead, they lived life on their own terms. Their personalities and choices could not have been more different, but both enabled their sons to reach the epicenter of political power on two continents. Acclaimed historian Charlotte Gray breathes new life into the stories of Jennie and Sara, arguing that the mothers were crucial in shaping the habits and careers of their sons.



Our Speaker:

Charlotte Gray is one of Canada's best-known writers of non-fiction. Born in England, and a graduate of Oxford University and the London School of Economics, Charlotte moved to Canada in 1978 but has also lived in Tokyo, Boston and New York City. She worked as a political commentator, book reviewer and magazine columnist before she turned to biography and popular history.

Passionate Mothers, Powerful Sons is Charlotte's twelfth best-seller. Her previous books include *The Massey Murder*; *Reluctant Genius: Alexander Graham Bell and the Passion for Invention*; and *Gold Diggers, Striking It Rich in the Klondike*. *Gold Diggers* was the basis of both a US Discovery Channel docudrama and a PBS documentary.

Charlotte is vice-president of the Sir Winston Churchill Society of Ottawa, has chaired the boards of both Canada's National History Society and the Art Canada Institute, and has frequently served on juries, including for the Weston International Non-fiction Prize, the Cundill International History Prize, Scotiabank Giller Prize, and the RBC Taylor Prize.

An adjunct research professor at Carleton University in Ottawa, she holds five honorary degrees, and is a member of the Order of Canada and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. Her work has appeared in all major Canadian newspapers, the *Guardian*, and the *Smithsonian Magazine*, and she is a regular book reviewer for the *Wall Street Journal*.

Welcome to the folks who joined
the club at the November
meeting:

Bill MacMillan
Gerry McGregor
Evelyn Metcalfe
Joanne Rohe



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

We would like to thank Dr Richard Mayne for his fantastic talk about the 100th Anniversary of the RCAF and highlighting the contribution of many fine airmen and airwomen that have served over all those years. Based on the questions posed to our speaker, he has kindly provided the following references.

1. The three books that have been provided by DND in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the RCAF

<https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-national-defence/maple-leaf/rcaf/2024/08/celebrating-century-royal-canadian-air-force-get-your-hands-three-centennial-books-now.html>

2. How to get Canadian military records of family members.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-national-defence/services/contact-us/military-records.html>

Many thanks.



Executive 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:	Peter Weir
Website:	Vacant
Policy Advisor:	Peter Doyle
Coffee Service	Shanna /Walter Lucas
Member-at-Large	
& Book Table:	Ruth Brydon
Setup Crew:	David Lee
	Gord Larose
Euchre Club:	Barbara Bole
	David Stafford
Cards and letters:	Betty Jean Bone
Publicity:	Vacant
Details of these position responsibilities may be found on our website here .	

Speakers/Presentations for January to March 2025

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

February: Victoria Woodhouse "Reviving the Route: Pollinator Habitat Restoration on Rights-of-Way"

March : Tom Zagon: "Ice Conditions Along the Northwest Passage: From Franklin to the Present Day and Beyond"

Check out our Website for more details.

<http://www.probuswesternottawa.ca/>

The joys of being a volunteer

Volunteering offers a unique sense of fulfillment that comes from making a positive impact in the lives of others. Engaging in community service allows individuals to connect with diverse groups, fostering a spirit of camaraderie and shared purpose.

Volunteers play a vital role in communities, bringing joy and hope to those they serve. Their selfless dedication often creates a ripple effect, inspiring others to contribute and fostering a sense of unity. Whether it's serving meals at a shelter, tutoring children, or participating in environmental clean-ups, volunteers not only support those in need but also find personal fulfillment in their efforts. The connection made through these acts of service can lead to lasting friendships and a deeper understanding of diverse experiences

Moreover, volunteering offers individuals the chance to grow personally and professionally. It provides opportunities to develop new skills, gain valuable experience, and explore different interests. The joy of making a difference can be incredibly rewarding, as volunteers witness firsthand the impact of their contributions. This sense of purpose enhances their well-being, creating a cycle of positivity that benefits both the volunteers and the communities they touch. In short, volunteering is not just about giving, it's about growing, connecting and making a lasting impact. It's a journey filled with heartwarming experiences and a chance to be a part of something greater than oneself

Mark Darroch, Volunteer, Queensway-Carleton Hospital and "In from the Cold" providing hot meals to the Homeless



Probus Euchre Players Reminder!

Please note the change in date:

DECEMBER 6: Christmas Potluck Lunch!

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

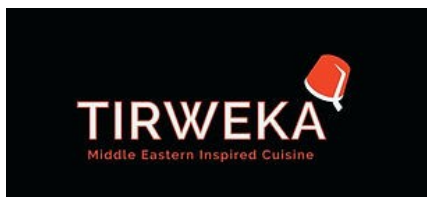
**12:15 for lunch (come a little earlier if you need to reheat something!)
Followed by Euchre games!**

**Please RSVP so we have an idea of numbers!
Hope to see you on the 6th!**

Barbara and David Stafford 613-592-0296 (euchre@probuswesternottawa.ca)



Our Website www.probuswesternottawa.ca



On November 20th 12 members ventured to the Tirweka Restaurant for Mediterranean food and good times.

All enjoyed the comradery and a great lunch which was once again organised by Suma Abraham (lunches@probuswesternottawa.ca).

Thank you to all those who attended.



Save the Date : Our Annual Christmas Buffet

Tickets to our Christmas Buffet outings on December 12 & 13 at Algonquin College are SOLD OUT!

Some additional e-transfers were received after reaching our seat limit. We will keep those folks on a waiting list should there be a cancellation. If you have paid and no seat becomes available, you will be reimbursed. We'll know the situation on November 30 and will contact those affected.

Please let Ron Armstrong know of any cancellations via email to ron.armstrong@sympatico.ca.



Our Outings Coordinator is working on a Backstage tour of the National Art Center followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant. **Details and dates to come at the December meeting and will be posted on our website by that time.**

Registration is required. If you're unable to attend that meeting, you may register via email to

["Outings@probuswesternottawa.ca."](mailto:Outings@probuswesternottawa.ca)

Please indicate if you wish to go to the restaurant as well as the tour.

Chuckle Corner



Book Swap Table

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

Check it out at every meeting



Newsletter comments or submissions newsletter@probuswesternottawa.ca



Who we are:

The Probus Club of Western Ottawa is part of the international organization of Probus Clubs designed to serve retired and semi-retired people. Our club meets on the second Tuesday of each month, except for July and August.

The morning begins at 10:00 am with coffee and a time for socialization followed by a guest speaker. Topics are varied, interesting and stimulating. Special social events occur throughout the year.

Western Ottawa Probus meets at Kanata Baptist Church,
465 Hazeldean Road (west of Farm Boy Plaza).

Visitors are welcome.

Website: www.probuswesternottawa.ca

Probus Club of Western Ottawa

Group Insurance Benefits

PROBUS Canada has worked with Johnson/Belair Direct, a national benefits provider, to offer a benefit plan custom-designed for our members. Options include:

- Home Insurance
- Car Insurance
- Extended Health Care (EHC)
- MEDOC Travel Insurance
- Trip Cancellation & Travel Interruption Insurance
- Dental Care Guaranteed or Term Life Insurance
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On October 9th, Mark Costales from Johnson/Belair hosted a Zoom call in which he reviewed these insurance plans for PROBUS club members. Probus Canada subsequently received many requests to get a copy of the presentation and Mark graciously provided the following link: [Johnson/Belair Zoom Call Recording](#)



Do one thing every day that scares you. - Eleanor Roosevelt

"Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else." - Fred Rogers