



The PROBUS Pilot



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

March 2025

Vol:16 No:7

**Join us at 10 am on Tuesday, March 11 to hear
Tom Zagon speak on**

**Ice Conditions Along the Northwest Passage: From
Franklin to the Present Day and Beyond**

In 1846, Sir John Franklin's vessels HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror* became trapped in the sea ice of the Northwest Passage. However, today, in the 21st century, vessels transit the Northwest Passage on a regular basis. These regular sailings are possible not only because of changing ice conditions, but also due to other factors such as improvements in ice and weather forecasting, in satellite communication and in navigation technology.

In his talk, Tom will demonstrate the role that our modern understanding of sea ice patterns played in shaping the search for Franklin's ships. He will also examine how navigation along the Northwest Passage has changed from the 19th century to the present and look at the implications of changing ice conditions for those travelling both on and through the sea ice.

Our Speaker:

Tom Zagon is a geographer. After graduating from the University of Waterloo in 1995 he joined the Research

and Development Section of Canarctic Shipping. He worked mostly on navigation support for vessels operating in both Arctic and Antarctic waters, but also on shipping feasibility studies where sea ice is present. In 2008 Tom joined the Canadian Ice Service (CIS) which is part of Environment and Climate Change Canada. The Mission of CIS is to provide timely and accurate information about ice in Canada's navigable waters.

Currently he works as an Advisor to the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Meteorological Service of Canada.

Between 2010 and 2016 Tom was a member of the Franklin Search Team that successfully located HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror*.



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 meeting 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 the Farm Boy plaza). Visitors are welcome.

Website: www.probuswesternottawa.ca

**Don't Miss Our Upcoming
Speakers**

April 8: Lola Reid Allin, "Highway to the Sky: Women in Aviation History"

May 13 : Mike Bulthuis, "How can we preserve and expand affordable housing in Ottawa?"

June 10: Victoria Woodhouse: "Reviving the Route: Pollinator Habitat Restoration on Rights-of-Way"

GUEST SPEAKER



The Prez Sez

Signups to our many Special Interest Groups also increased. A summary of current status may be found on page 6. As these groups get underway, I hope we will see some reports of their activities published in this newsletter.

We make time available at the start of our meetings for members to introduce themselves (in 2 minutes or less) as a way of encouraging more connections among our members. At our last meeting Louise LeBlanc spoke of her passion for gifting dolls to children in shelters. Her story and appeal for help may be found on page 5. Also, our VP, David Lee, gave an extended presentation of his life story

designed to show a range of possible techniques that one might use and to encourage others to volunteer their stories. Please consider taking advantage of this opportunity.

Have a Happy St. Patrick's Day (March 17).

Ray Jones

president@pobuswesternottawa.ca

Hello everyone.

Word about Probus and our club continues to spread, likely thanks to members telling their friends and families about us. In February, we had 12 visitors and 5 new members taking our membership total to 186.



Executive 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
	Vacant
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](#).

Book Swap Table



**Bring a book ...
...Take a book
Check it out at every meeting**

After the meeting

Join us for lunch

Join us for lunch after our March meeting.



Often our speaker agrees to join us. This month we will be at : Busters Bar and Grill, 420 Hazeldean Road

www.bustersbarandgrill.ca/

March 2025 Events

Tuesday, 20 March

Temples Sugar Bush
1700 Ferguson's Falls Rd (Regional Rd 15)
(Between Carleton Place and Perth)
Meet at 11 am



Temples has a unique 200 seat timber frame hall where we last had a wonderful lunch before Covid and also last year. It also has a nature trail if the weather cooperates.

Sign up at the March meeting (Limit of 30).

www.templeessugarbush.ca

Driving instructions: From Kanata: Head west on the 417, exit on 145 – Carleton Place/Toronto, continue west on Hwy 7 for 34 kilometers, turn right onto Ferguson's Falls Rd/Lanark County Rd 15, continue 6 kilometers until you arrive at Temple's on the right.

March 14

Probus Euchre Players

12:30 for social time – coffee and snacks
1 p.m. – the games begin!

Hope to see you on the 14th!
Barbara and David Stafford

*If you're a Probus member and would like to learn how to play Euchre,
Please contact Barbara & David at
bbole@sympatico.ca for more information.*



In Memoriam



Marie Armstrong

03-Jan-1949 - 27-Feb-2025

Obit

Marie spent eight years on our Management Committee providing lunch outs with her husband Ron.

Wednesday March 26 - 12pm

Next Monthly Luncheon will be at "Casa Mexico",
7 Kakulu Rd Kanata

<https://casa-mexico.ca/>

Sign up at the next meeting or
email Lunches@probuswesternottawa.ca



*** **NEW** ***

Probus Members 20% Discount

for printing at Staples
Details may be found [here](#)

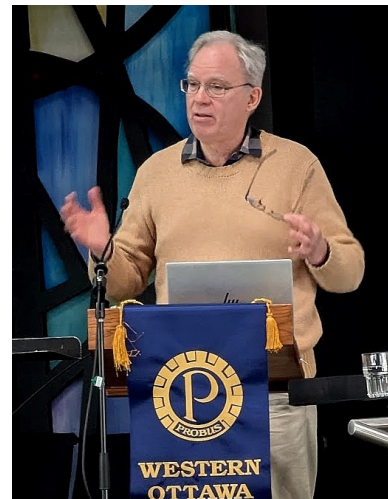
Membership inquiries may be sent to: membership@probuswesternottawa.ca

Looking Back

February's Speaker

At our February meeting James Powell delighted us with a number of rarely told stories from Ottawa's history. There were tales of missing and altered portraits, a hovercraft company that went bankrupt, a young Ottawa socialite who became a German Foreign Minister and was hanged post WWII, something called the chicken cannon, an aerial invasion from the USA and tons of European gold transported and stored in Ottawa. There are many more stories on the Historical Society of Ottawa [website](#).

Thank you James.



Wednesday, February 26

The East India Co.

Monthly Luncheon at The East India Co. was enjoyed by all that attended. Thank you Suma Abraham, our Luncheon Co-ordinator, for arranging the monthly event once again.



Tuesday, February 25

Lee Valley Tools 2nd Tour

The 2nd tour of the Lee Vally Facility was a great success and more of our members had a look inside the workings of another local business in Ottawa. Thank you George Steeves, our outing Co-ordinator for organizing this tour, we look forward to many more interesting tours this year.



The Doll Project

At our February meeting, Louise LeBlance introduced herself and spoke about one of her passions and her appeal for help. Here is what she had to say.

The Doll Project

When I was a little girl, I loved playing with my dolls. In my grownup years, I made doll clothes for my daughter and for other people's daughters and granddaughters. I enjoyed doing that. In 2023, I fell in love with an 18 inch doll I saw at a store. I absolutely had to take her home with me. Ever since then, I have collected 18 inch dolls for myself, but also for girls. I had the idea that a little girl who had to enter a shelter with her mom may get some comfort from having a doll to play with. When a woman and her children seek the protection of a women's shelter, the family is in crisis and I thought that if my passion for dolls could help bring some comfort to a girl, then I should do that. I buy gently used dolls, doll clothes, shoes, doll beds and accessories, and I am donating some of these to women's shelters. I sew doll clothes, and friends have generously made sweaters and blankets for dolls. But, it's a lot of work.

I would love to have help from anyone who can sew, crochet, knit, or who can do crafts with a glue gun. Also, I would love the assistance of anyone who could do repairs to or paint doll beds, as required. Some acquaintances have donated fabric and notions when they have cleaned out their sewing rooms. I have all sorts of patterns I can lend you.

If you'd like to help, please contact me, Louise LeBlanc, at louise444.11@gmail.com (those are two small "L's" and not two "ones" after the "444"). Thanks *Louise*



Products for Seniors

At our January meeting, Bevan Lindsay, who uses a walker, gave a short presentation on adaptive clothing and fall-protection products that he has found especially useful as a senior. Here are a couple of links that he recommended. Note that magnetic fasteners are NOT compatible with pacemakers.

<http://www.silverts.com> A wide variety of men and women's clothing for different levels of dexterity and ability issues. A Canadian company, but clothing is made in China. Some footwear such as slippers.

<http://www.ribcap.com/> Bucket style fall-protection helmet with chin strap.

Special Interest Group (SIG) News

At our February meeting, an additional nineteen signatures were received for our SIGs and three more Prime Contacts were identified. Details may be seen in the accompanying spreadsheet.

Copies of sign-up sheets for activities with less than 4 signatures are not distributed to signatories unless requested by a designated prime contact. Updates are distributed to all signatories if no Prime Contact has been identified. Otherwise, updates are sent to the prime contact and updating signatories only.

Refer to the January Prez Sez for some ideas on starting and running a Special Interest Group.

Ray Jones
president@probuswesternottawa.ca

Special Interest Groups			February 11, 2025	
SIG Name	# Participants	Participants Notified	Prime Id'd?	Prime Contact
Art Appreciation	4	Y	Y	June Stewart
Billiards	1	N	N	Ellen Clare O'Gallagher
Bird Watching	5	Y	N	
Book Club	6	Y	N	
Bowling	1	N	N	
Breakfast Club	14	Y	Y	David Lee
Bridge	1	N	Y	Surinder & Bonnie Khana
Cross-Country Skiing	0	N	N	
Curling	0	N	N	
Cycling	5	Y	Y	George Steves / Peter Weir
Downhill Skiing	1	N	Y	Surinder Khana
Games Night	1	N	N	
Hiking	16	Y	Y	Peter Weir
Knitting	1	N	N	
Pickleball	5	Y	N	
Potlucks	0	N	N	
Snowshoeing	1	N	N	
Theatre Nights	18	Y	Y	Louise LeBlanc
Travelers Club	21	Y	N	
Ukulele Group	0	N	N	
Walking	17	Y	Y	Peter Weir
Wine Making	0	N	N	
Wine Tasting	3	N	N	
Total # Signatures:		121	Red text indicates a change from January	



Happy St. Patrick's Day
Monday, March 17



It was raining hard and a big puddle had formed in front of an Irish pub.

An old man stood beside the puddle holding a stick with a string on the end and jiggled it up and down in the water.

A curious gentleman asked what he was doing.

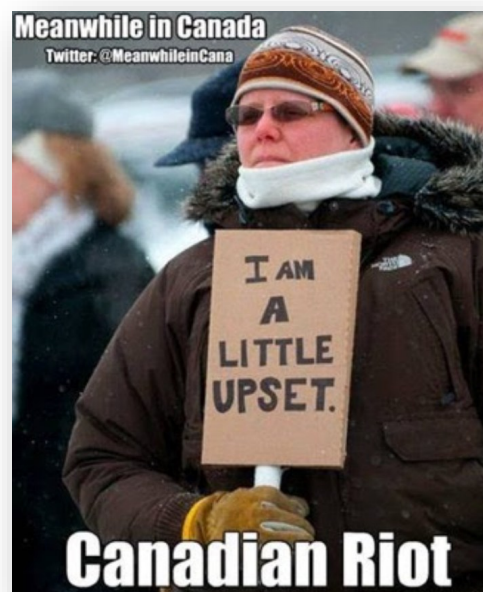
"Fishing", replied the old man.

"Poor old fool" thought the gentleman, so he invited the old man to have a drink in the pub.

Feeling he should start some conversation while they were sipping their whiskey, the gentleman asked, "And how many have you caught?"

"You're the eighth."

Chuckle Corner 



Upcoming April 2025 Events

We expect to tour the Karsh - Masson Gallery and the City Hall Art Gallery on **April 23rd**. There may be a possibility to tour the Ottawa Sport Hall of Fame. Further information and registration forms will be available at our April 8 meeting.

Karsh - Masson Gallery



Ottawa Sport Hall of Fame



City of Ottawa

<https://ottawasporthall.ca/>

This 1,500 square-foot gallery is proudly named after photographer Yousuf Karsh and painter Henri Masson in honour of their contributions to Canadian art. Exhibitions are selected once every two years by a peer assessment committee.

Karsh-Masson Gallery and City Hall Art Gallery are located on the main level at Ottawa City Hall, 110 Laurier Avenue West. Both galleries are open daily 9 am to 5 pm (excluding holidays) and are wheelchair accessible. Admission is free.

Exhibitions at Karsh-Masson Gallery and City Hall Art Gallery feature the work of professional artists working in all media and include solo, group and curated exhibitions, exhibitions from the diplomatic sector, and circulating exhibitions from other institutions.

Both galleries present a combined total of approximately 8 exhibitions annually, each of which lasts approximately eleven weeks. Annual programming consists of artist talks and tours and an exhibition featuring the City of Ottawa Art Collection. An exhibition related to the Karsh Award is presented every two years at Karsh-Masson Gallery and the next one will occur in 2026.

The Ottawa Sport Hall of Fame is a non-profit organization, which documents, curates and celebrates outstanding achievement in local sport heritage. The Sport

Hall is overseen by a volunteer Board of Directors to maintain and preserve our rich sporting legacies. Each year, the Hall of Fame Board receives nominations from the public and selects new inductees to be honoured in the Hall. Over 270 of Ottawa's finest athletes, builders and teams have been welcomed into the prestigious Hall of Honour. In 2005, the Hall was moved to the second level concourse at Scotiabank Place where it resided for six years before moving to Ottawa City Hall in 2023.

We anticipate enjoying lunch at Johnny Farina Italian Restaurant located at 216 Elgin St.

<https://www.johnnyfarina.com/>



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

Our Website www.probuswesternottawa.ca