



The PROBUS Pilot



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

JUNE 2025

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Tuesday 10 June

Encouraging Monarch Butterfly Habitat

Pollinators carry pollen on their bodies and move it between flowers. This tiny act happens millions of times each day, allowing flowering plants to reproduce and supply at least one-third of our food.

Thousands of different species act as pollinators, including bees, flies, beetles, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds, and even some small mammals.

Across North America, pollinator populations are declining, and the loss of meadow wildflower habitat is a primary reason for this decline. Rights-of-way (roadsides, utility corridors, solar farms) offer a unique opportunity for supporting pollinators. Vegetation management on rights-of-way (ROW) can provide conditions similar to native meadow habitat, which is required for the Monarch Butterfly and other pollinators.



Some intensive ROW management practices such as mowing and frequent use of herbicides, harm pollinators. Adjusting vegetation management practices in support of pollinator habitat on rights-of-way offers multiple benefits through the reduction of maintenance costs, provision of ecological services (such as pollination, carbon sequestration, and resilience to invasive and noxious weeds), increasing biodiversity, and contributing to regional, national, and global sustainability goals.

Victoria Woodhouse will cover this in her presentation: **“Reviving the Route: Pollinator Habitat Restoration on Rights-of-Way.”**

Victoria is a Habitat Program Manager of Terrestrial Wildlife at the



Victoria Woodhouse

Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF), a registered charity dedicated to conserving and inspiring the conservation of Canada's wildlife. She manages CWF's Rights-of-Way programs in support of native meadow restoration for pollinators.

Victoria also holds the ENGO seat on the Rights-of-Way Stewardship Council, an accreditation program providing standards of excellence for environmental stewardship along rights-of-way.

Our June meeting

Our annual AGM

Our meeting on Tuesday 10 June, is the last one before our summer break. Before we hear from our speaker, we will conduct our Annual General meeting.

For this portion, we will have an overview of our 2024-25 activities and elect our new Management Board to oversee the activities of the club for the next year.

As you can see by the chart on page 2, we will still have critical vacancies that need to be filled. Please think about volunteering.

End-of-year luncheon after the meeting

After our June 10 meeting, we will have a catered luncheon to end the year. The luncheon will be in the Church Hall on the other side of the foyer from the sanctuary.

This is a great opportunity to socialize with other club members. Tickets are \$20 and are now only available via e-transfer to

membership@probuswesternottawa.ca
ETF instructions can be found [here](#)
(Reservations deadline extended to Tuesday, 3 June.)

The Probud Club of Western Ottawa is part of the international organization of Probud Clubs designed to serve the retired and semi-retired community.

The morning begins at 10:00 am with a time for socialization, followed by a guest speaker

Our Western Ottawa Probud Club meets at

Kanata Baptist Church
465 Hazeldean Road

The Prez Sez



Hello everyone.

Last month, our membership count reached 200, a record as far as anyone on the

executive can recall.

This month we'll provide a brief review of our club's activities in the past year and then seek member approval of our 2025-2026 Executive Committee (at right!). It will also be my last meeting as President. Assuming approval, David Lee will take over that position in September.

As can be seen, we still have vacancies to fill.

- **Audio/Video:** David will continue as our A/V operator as no one else has offered to help. But assuming the presidency in addition to this critical role is a lot to ask. Any help would be greatly appreciated and could be as

simple as adjusting microphone volumes during a meeting or assisting David with equipment setup and takedown.

- **Secretary:** Without a Secretary, someone else on the executive will need to take on this role, but that's not fair to someone who already has a role.

- **Outings:** Without volunteers to lead Outings, there won't be any.

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.

Please consider volunteering, even if you can't be available all the time. Role descriptions may be found [here](#).

You can contact me either in person at meetings or via email to: Ray Jones

president@probuswesternottawa.ca

Executive 2025-2026

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| President | David Lee |
| Vice-President | Vacant |
| Past-President | Ray Jones |
| Secretary | Vacant |
| Treasurer | Bryan Wakeford |
| Membership | Ruth Wakeford |
| | Annette Lindsay |
| Speaker Program | Tom Lukowski |
| Lunches | Suma Abraham |
| | Vacant |
| Outings | Vacant x2 |
| Newsletter | Peter van Boeschoten |
| Website | Peter van Boeschoten |
| Policy Advisor | Peter Doyle |
| SetupCrew | David Lee (Audio/Visual) |
| | Vacant x 2 |
| Euchre | Barbara Bole |
| | David Stafford |
| Coffee Service | Shanna/Walter Lucas |
| | Stan/Anne Senkowski |
| Member-at-Large | Ruth Brydon (Book Swap) |
| Cards and Letters | Betty Jean Bone |
| Publicity | Vacant |

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



Mary Jones was the recipient of a 20-year pin at our May meeting. Mary was our Club President in 2004-05 and again in 2007-08.

If you want our club to succeed in the fall, you need to volunteer

For want of a Card

We like to think that our Probus Club is much like a family. As such, we would like to send a card when someone is ill, hospitalized, in need of a comforting word or on the occasion of a significant milestone.

We are fortunate that Betty Jean Bone has volunteered to take on this task.

If you know of someone who could use a card, please call Betty Jean at 613-721-5536 or email:

cards@probuswesternottawa.ca



May speaker focused on affordable housing and land trusts

Mike Bulthuis, our May speaker, began his talk by outlining the shortage of affordable homes in Ottawa. To handle this shortfall, he emphasized that community housing is an economic necessity.

He then provided one solution: The Ottawa Community Land Trust (OCLT). It is already in place and acquires homes and puts the assets under community ownership.

More details on the OCLT can be found [here](#).



Don't miss our amazing fall speakers

Sep 9: Laurence Wall
"Twentieth Century Canadian History Through the Magic of Radio"

Oct 14: Bruce Wallace "
Enabling Aging-in-Place: Supportive Smart Home Solutions "

Nov 4: *Speaker from the Canadian War Museum*
"Canadian WWII veterans"



The Probus Breakfast Group had its fourth outing, this time at the Eggspectation restaurant. If you want to join us for breakfast, please sign up on the Breakfast Club sheet at the June meeting

Preventing Falls info available

In Ottawa, falls are the leading cause of injury-related emergency room visits and hospitalization. Every year, approximately one fifth of adults 65 years or older who live in private homes fall, contributing to over 8,000 visits to emergency departments, 2000 hospitalizations and 90 deaths.

[You CAN prevent Falls](#) factsheet [PDF] is available, to assist older adult in making the needed adjustments to their home and lifestyle to help stay independent and safe. It includes a tool to assist in identifying hazards around the home, information about protective health behaviors to reduce personal risk, and an action plan to make changes. (Ottawa Public Health)



Wendy Adams
Jo-Anne Beckett
Marilyn Boucher
Joanne Jackson
Deepak Wanner

Special Interest Groups (SIG) update

Hello everyone,

Before we head into our summer break, there will be another opportunity at our June 10 meeting to add your name to our SIG signup sheets.

I will issue an update to each group about a week after the meeting and include a document summarizing past ideas and suggestions for groups to organize and get started.

Only 7 groups have prime contacts identified at this time. (Peter Weir and George Steeves have had to withdraw their commitments due to family and medical reasons respectively.) Please consider volunteering for your group.

To clarify the role again, the Prime Contact

- 1) maintains the email list of current SIG members
- 2) is aware of activities taking place
- 3) is the contact person for any request for more information about the group

The role is NOT to be responsible for all activities within the group. That is the shared responsibility of group members.

Ray Jones, President

| Special Interest Groups | | | | May 13, 2025 |
|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| SIG Name | # Participants | Participants Notified | Prime Id'd? | Prime Contact |
| Art Appreciation | 4 | Y | Y | June Stewart |
| Billiards | 1 | N | Y | Ellen Clare O'Gallagher |
| Bird Watching | 6 | Y | N | |
| Book Club | 6 | Y | N | |
| Bowling | 1 | N | N | |
| Breakfast Club | 21 | Y | Y | David Lee |
| Bridge | 6 | N | Y | Surinder & Bonnie Khana |
| Canoeing | 0 | N | N | |
| Cycling | 5 | Y | Y | George Steves / Peter Weir ** |
| Games Night | 6 | Y | Y | Nicola Jarvis |
| Gardening* | 1 | N | N | |
| Golf* | 0 | N | N | |
| Hiking | 20 | Y | Y | Peter Weir ** |
| Kayaking* | 0 | N | N | |
| Knitting | 2 | N | Y | Elaine Bradley |
| Paddleboarding* | 0 | N | N | |
| Pickleball | 5 | Y | N | |
| Sommelier & Wine Tasting | 2 | Y | N | |
| Theatre Nights | 23 | Y | N | |
| Travelers Club | 32 | Y | Y | Suma Abraham / Tom Wileman |
| Walking | 24 | Y | Y | Peter Weir ** |

* Sheet added in April

165 Red text indicates a change from April

** temporarily unavailable

Book Swap Table



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

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

Euchre

Join us on 13 June for our year-end Pot-Luck

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

**12:30 for lunch:
Games begin at 1 p.m.**

Everyone is welcome,
even if you have never
played!

Bells Corner United Church,
3955 Old Richmond Road
at Moodie Drive.

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



New Probus Canada Director to represent 16 Ontario District 1 clubs

At its April AGM, Probus Canada
elected a new Executive Committee
for the coming year. Our new
President is Martin Buscher, who
moved up from the VP position.

We welcome Bernetta Starkey as
our new District 1 Director. She
replaces Craig Greenwood who
looked after us for the past 3 years.

Bernetta is a long-time Probus
member who has belonged to
several clubs. She is Past President
of the Probus Club of Alta Vista.

In addition to looking after our
Club she is responsible for Belleville
(2), Brighton (2), Brockville (2),



Bernetta Starkey

Campbellford, Cobourg (2),
Gananoque, Kemptonville, Ottawa
(3), Perth, Picton, Port Hope, and
Trenton.

**Our Probus Club
does not meet in
July and August**

**See you in
September**

Chuckle Corner

The Usher

An elderly woman walked into the
local country church. The friendly
usher greeted her at the door and
helped her up the flight of steps.

"Where would you like to sit?"
he asked politely.

"The front row, please," she
answered.

"You really don't want to do
that," the usher said. "The
pastor is really boring."

"Do you happen to know who I
am?" the woman inquired.

"No," he said.

"I'm the pastor's mother," she
replied indignantly.

"Do you know who I am?" he
asked.

"No," she said.

"Good," he answered.



The Euchre Group had another fine turnout at its May session. The
June meeting is on Friday the 13th and will feature a Pot-Luck lunch.

Membership inquiries may be sent to
membership@probuswesternottawa.ca

Our Website
www.probuswesternottawa.ca

Newsletter comments or submissions
newsletter@probuswesternottawa.ca