



# The PROBUS Pilot

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## THE PREZ SEZ:

On Thursday October 20th, 11 people had lunch at the Heirloom Café in Almonte. Although it wasn't the best day, the food was delicious and the fun and fellowship was great! After lunch 8 of us did the Riverwalk Tour led by Gerry Sutherland. Several went shopping in some of the little shops. Almonte was Gerry's home town so he had many interesting stories to tell us. The rain held off until we were ready to head home. Thanks to Isabel, Margaret and Pam for planning this event. This is a great way to get to know people better and that, in turn, enhances our Club!

Respectfully,  
Ruth Howes, President

**This month's meeting: Tues., Nov. 8**

## **AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THIS YEAR'S MEMBERSHIP FEES**

As you may know, a new fee structure has been approved for Probus membership. That is, the cost of your 2011/12 membership is now due and has been set at simply \$20 per person.

If you haven't yet paid your dues please do so at your earliest

opportunity. All you need do is to visit the membership table before the meeting on Nov. 8 and make your payment(s) in cash or by cheque.

Thank you – your Probus Executive.

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## **GUEST SPEAKER THIS MONTH: VETERANS OMBUDSMAN – GUY PARENT**



His topic will be:

## ***The Duties and Mandate of the “Office of Veterans Ombudsman” of Canada***

Chief Warrant Officer Guy Parent was appointed as Canada's second Veterans Ombudsman last November.

He was trained as a Search and Rescue Technician and graduated in 1972 with qualification as Paramedic, Master Parachutist, Master Diver, Mountain Climbing Instructor and Survival Instructor.

Appointed as Chief Warrant Officer of Air Command in 1991, he advised on personnel and quality of life issues. In 1995 he was appointed as Chief Warrant Officer of the Canadian Forces which is the highest appointment for a non-commissioned member. In that capacity, he represented 47,000 non-commissioned officers and privates who are, or will soon be, the Veterans of today.

After retiring from the Canadian Forces in 2001, he was drafted by the Office of the Veterans Ombudsman where he served as Director of Research and Investigations until his appointment as Ombudsman. His experience with Veterans Affairs Canada has allowed him to gain significant knowledge about programs, policies, and procedures related to Veterans and to appreciate the importance of the Veterans Ombudsman mandate.

Married for 42 years and fluently bilingual, Chief Warrant Officer Parent now resides in Gatineau with his wife Helena Morris. They have 3 sons, 3 daughters-in-law and 7 grandchildren.

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**The speaker for our December 13 meeting will be Jamie Lunn of the War Amps of Canada who is a “C.H.A.M.P.” program graduate.**

The C.H.A.M.P. program offers financial and emotional support to child amputees and their families.

(Remember, too, that the Dec. 13 meeting will be our annual Pot Luck luncheon – more details in the next newsletter.)

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## SHE'S A VERY SPECIAL PERSON



Second from the left is **Mary Mills**, past President, receiving a life-time membership award for exemplary service from Larry Durst, immediate past President, and Ruth Howes, current President. Also at the presentation was our guest speaker in September, Max Keeping, formerly of CTV.

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## News from our Social Committee:

Isabel Balon, the head of this year's Social Committee, has reported that 27 members have now signed up for the Orpheus Production of *“White Christmas”* with 8 more on the waiting list.

The performance will take place on Friday, November 18.

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**And Here's a Unique Way to Celebrate the Christmas Season.....**



..... The Social Committee has organised a bus excursion, via Ottawa Valley Tours, to visit the beautiful **Chateau Montebello** on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.

So far 15 members have signed on but there is still time for others who may also be interested. If so, you are asked to visit the events table at this month's meeting and make arrangements. The cost is \$139.00 per person which includes transportation, dinner at the Chateau, and a tour of the major lighting displays around Ottawa.

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## **Probus Spring Fling 2013 Reminder.....**

It is our club's turn to host the district Spring Fling of 2013. This will mean hosting over 200 members from 10 Probus clubs for a luncheon, as well as entertainment and a fun get-together.

While it is more than a year and a half away we need to begin to prepare now. To start with, a number of committees will need to be struck including invitations, programme, set-up, sponsors, displays, decoration, publicity, name tags, registration, etc.

If you are interested in helping please contact Peter van Boeschoten at 613-591-5610 or email him at [pvanb2009@gmail.com](mailto:pvanb2009@gmail.com).

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## **After meeting clean-up volunteers needed.....**

We can always use a hand to put away tables, chairs and coffee materials at the close of each meeting. In that regard we wish to pay a special thanks to those who responded to our call last month and helped out—it really made a difference!

So, following this month's meeting and the speaker, please drop by the hall and lend a hand. Many hands mean only a few minutes to clean up and put things away.

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### **Find us on the Web**

To find us on the Web please go to [www.kanataseniors.ca](http://www.kanataseniors.ca), click on "Activities", then "Outside Activities" and then "Probus".

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**Do you like to play Euchre or Bridge?  
.....or would you like to learn to play?**

**Probus Club members host a Euchre and Bridge group on the first Friday of each month at 1 p.m. at Bell's Corners United Church.**

**It's fun and open to all - - - beginners to expert. For more information please contact Pat Stote at 613-820-0174.**

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### **Do you know something that you feel would be of interest to our membership?**

For instance, if you know someone we should congratulate or with whom we should sympathize, please contact Maggie Sheehan (613-825-4035), who will take appropriate action on behalf of the Club.

### **Got a good idea for a guest speaker?**

Please contact Zdenek Kvarda (613-592-2921) or another member of the Program Committee.

**Know of a great social outing?** Please talk to Isabel Balon (613-831-0057) or another member of the Social Committee.

## The Chuckle Corner



### The PARKING TICKET

Working people frequently ask retired people what they do to make their days interesting.

Well, for example, the other day Mary, my wife, and I went into town and visited a store. When we came out, there was a cop writing out a parking ticket.

We went up to him and I said, 'Come on, man, how about giving a senior citizen a break?' He ignored us and continued writing the ticket. I called him a 'jackass'. He glared at me and started writing another ticket for having worn-out tires. So Mary called him a 'twit'. He finished that ticket and put it on the windshield with the first.

Then he started writing more tickets. This went on for about 20 minutes. The more we abused him, the more tickets he wrote. Just then our bus arrived, and we got on it and went home.

We try to have a little fun each day now that we're retired. It's important at our age.

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The PROBUS Club of Western Ottawa meets on the second Tuesday of each month, September through June, at the Kanata United Church, 33 Leacock Drive in Kanata.

- 10:00: coffee and social time
- 10:30: VERY brief business meeting
- 10:45: speaker
- Following each meeting members and guests are invited to gather for lunch (at their own expense) at D'Arcy McGee's, corner of Robertson Road and Moodie Drive in Bell's Corners.

**VISITORS WILL ALWAYS RECEIVE A WARM WELCOME.**

### ***How do I find you to get this warm welcome?***

Exit Highway 417 at Eagleson/March Road. Just north of the exit take Campeau Drive west. At the first light turn right (north) onto Teron Road. At the first light, turn left (west) onto The Parkway. At the first (and only) stop sign, turn right onto Leacock Way. Follow Leacock Way to its end at Leacock Drive. Kanata United Church is in front of you, across the street.

PARKING at the church is limited. If full, please park in the large lot of the school next to the church or on the side of Leacock Drive where parking is permitted. ***In fact, unless you have difficulty walking, please consider parking away from the front of the building in order to allow those who may be physically restricted easier access and exit.***