



The PROBUS Pilot

Published by the PROBUS Club of Western Ottawa – serving the western half of the National Capital Region
Vol.5, No. 8 – April, 2014

THE VICE PREZ SEZ:

As I write this the calendar says we have reached Spring, but when I look out of the window I am not so sure! Now, I am a born optimist and I am certain that by May 27 we will have Spring. How do I know this, and why May 27? Because that's the date for PROBUS to have its Spring Fling, where clubs across Eastern Ontario get together for an enjoyable day out. And this year it is being held at The Orchard View Conference Centre, which is a beautiful setting and only a 30 - 40 min. drive to the south of Ottawa. We have to let the organizers know by May 1 how many of our members are coming, so our next meeting on April 8 will be the last opportunity for you to sign up and pay your \$35 for the cost. We got a very good response at the March meeting so I am sure there will be a good turnout from our club.

Now, being a born optimist, I am sure that there are many members who are eager and willing to help the Executive Committee keep our club running smoothly for next year, starting in

September, 2014. But what I have realized is that most people are too shy to put themselves forward! So, at the April 8 meeting there will be sheets out where you will be able to nominate members that you think will be able to help us. You do not have to identify yourself as you nominate somebody else, so please don't be shy! The opportunities to help are described in the newsletter below.

We had an excellent turnout at the March meeting even though it was held during March break, so you may have to get to the April 8 meeting a little early to make sure you get a good seat to hear Dave Brown reminisce on his lifetime's experiences. I look forward to seeing you there.

Vernon Sulway
Vice President

This month's meeting: Tues., April 8

Guest Speaker this month:
Dave Brown



His topic:
"After 10,000 columns"

Dave Brown retired from the Ottawa Citizen in 2003, after a 38-year career producing daily columns about the nation's capital at street level. He wrote more than 10,000 columns or more than 7.5 million words (equal in word count to the Encyclopedia Britannica) and on retirement the Ottawa Citizen called him "a legend" because of his consistent high readership. He continues to write columns appearing bi monthly on Mondays.

On his retirement the Citizen wrote that he possessed "a priceless journalistic commodity: he is a contrarian, one who does not ride with the pack." He has produced columns on subjects ranging from ethics shortcomings among the professions to excesses of the child protection system. He focused on the horrors of war through the eyes of veterans.

Dave started his journalism career at age 15 writing a high school newsletter on Manitoulin Island. His work caught the attention of the editor of the weekly Manitoulin Expositor and at 16 he began taking freelance assignments. On completing high school he went to work for the weekly for a year and then accepted a job in 1957 as reporter-photographer with

the Sudbury Daily Star. Three years later he moved to the Ottawa Journal as night police reporter.

In 1966, after working almost all beats in the capital from court to City Hall to Parliament Hill, he began writing a column called *Below the Hill*, focusing his attention on Ottawa at street level. In 1978 the Ottawa Citizen hired him to write daily for that paper under the title *Brown's Beat*. In 1993 the National Newspaper Awards selection committee named him best columnist in Canada.

In 1996 the Ottawa Citizen gave him the title of "senior editor" in recognition of his long service and high readership.

May's Guest Speaker:
Guy Thatcher

"Mud, Mountains, and Mindfulness on the Camino de Saint-Jacques"

The PROBUS 2014 Spring Fling

This year the annual Spring Fling is being organized by the Ottawa - Rideau Valley PROBUS club. It will be held on Tuesday, May 27 at the beautiful Orchard View Conference Center just east of Manotick south off Mitch Owens road. This is a chance to meet and socialize with members of PROBUS clubs across Eastern Ontario. You can be sure of an enjoyable day out with an excellent lunch (choice of salmon, or chicken in a white wine sauce, or top sirloin of beef) in splendid surroundings.

The cost for this is \$35 per person and a sign-up sheet will be available at the April meeting. Make cheques payable to "PROBUS Ottawa West" and the club will send one cheque and the sign-up sheet to the Ottawa - Rideau Valley club on May 1st. This means that, if interested, you will need to sign up and pay at the April meeting.

Opportunities to play a part in the smooth running of our club.

Although the snow is still on the ground, your Executive Committee is thinking about the operation of our club for our new year starting in the fall of 2014. This is an opportunity to bring in new people with new ideas for the following positions:

Recording Secretary - to take the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings that take place each month one week after the club meeting;

Activities Organiser(s) - one or more people to organise the visits to various places that club members enjoy about once per month while the club is meeting;

Vice President - help out at meetings, look after things if the President is away and (hopefully) become Club President in the following year.

There is also one other vital job that really helps the social aspect of our club and that is the organisation and **preparation of coffee** for the monthly meeting. Ruth Howes has done an excellent job of this for a number of years and now feels it is time to give someone else a chance.

If you think that you might know someone that could play a part in any of these opportunities please talk to anyone on the Executive Committee or write down your suggestion on the sheets that will be set out at the April Meeting.

Right after our meeting.....

Let's all get together at The Brew Table restaurant

(corner of Robertson Road and Moodie Drive in Bell's Corners.)

UPCOMING FUN EVENTS

For April we have arranged visits to the Queensway Carleton Hospital. There are three dates for the tours – Wed. April 16th (full), Wed. April 23, 4 pm (9 spaces left at the time of printing), and Fri., April 25th (full). Parking chits will be given to members by the tour guide and the group will meet inside the front entrance of the hospital.

On Monday, May 19th you are invited to a special cooking demonstration which will include a four course meal with accompanying wine for \$65/person. Where? At Cabottos on Hazeldean Rd.

We welcome and encourage members to suggest events they think would be of interest to our members at large. Please contact us at either: sponech@rogers.com or mickywalker@rogers.com

Lunch Outs

The Thursday, April 17th lunch out will be at noon at the Panda Garden Buffet on Hazeldean Road.

On Thursday, May 22 we will gather at the Canal Ritz on Queen Elizabeth Drive for our lunch out.

The lunch out in June will be replaced with a year-end wrap up event following the June meeting. We plan to bring in finger food on platters rather than ask members to contribute to a pot luck as has been done in the past. The cost will be \$5.00 per person and a sign-up sheet will be available in May. This will save members from spending time preparing and/or buying food for the lunch.

+++++

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

We have four more new members (two couples) in our club. Please welcome.....

Don and Susan Reed and Robert Jelking and Karen Saer!

The PROBUS Web Site

Our club has a web site to keep you up to date on speakers, activities, photos, our organization and other information. It can be found at:

www.probuswesternottawa.ca

Make sure to bookmark this location so that you don't have to keep typing it in. The left side menu lets you go to any of the featured pages.

Please Email Beth Sweetnam if you have any suggestions for upcoming speakers or email pictures that can be used as part of a backup speech in case a speaker cannot attend our meeting: beth@pbcsweetnam.com.

Are you a Euchre or Bridge player? Or would you like to be?

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. Why not come out and join us on Friday, April 4 and, except for July and August, each month thereafter? For further information please contact Pat Stoate at 613-820-0174.

VISITORS WILL ALWAYS RECEIVE A WARM WELCOME

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

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.