



The PROBUS Pilot

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THE PREZ SEZ:

I believe we can now say that Spring is really here, and we are getting our first glimpse at Summer. The tulips and the related festival were brilliant, and have paved the way for our summer flowers.

By the time you read this, more than 30 of our members will have enjoyed the Spring Fling, hosted by the Rideau Valley Probus Club, at the beautiful Orchard View Centre, south of Manotick.

The proposed Management Committee for our 2014-15 Club Year is listed elsewhere, and will be elected at our June 10 Club meeting. Please note that the Vice President position is still vacant. If you feel you'd like to put your name forward for this role, or have any questions, please contact Peter van Boeschoten or myself.

I draw your attention to the trips being proposed for the fall by our trip Co-Leaders, Sylvia McGee and Judy Makin. They have presented some

fascinating possibilities for our consideration.

This will be the last issue of the Pilot until late summer, prior to our first meeting in the fall on Sept. 9.

I wish everyone a pleasurable and enjoyable summer.

Peter Doyle

**This month's meeting:
Tues., June 10**

NO PRE-MEETING COFFEE

There will be no coffee available before this month's meeting so that we can set up for our annual luncheon. We will still have the opportunity to mingle and socialize as usual.

We could also use some help to set up tables and prepare for the catered luncheon. Thank you.

Guest Speaker this month:
Terry Currie



His Topic:

***"The Great Fire of 1870
which devastated the Ottawa
Valley"***

"The wind kept getting up," said Fitzroy township native Terry Currie who has written a book entitled "The Ottawa Valley's Great Fire of 1870".

The wind-assisted fire first spread north, missing Pakenham but reaching the outskirts of Arnprior and then Fitzroy Harbour, all in the morning, spreading at a speed difficult for people to avoid, with the wind blowing harder and harder. In the afternoon, the wind shifted and began blowing eastward, with the fire front increasing from the seven mile front experienced in the Fitzroy Harbour area to an 11 mile wide front when the fire reached

the Goulbourn/Stittsville/Bells Corners area. Stittsville was eradicated.

Terry Currie was raised on his family's homestead farm in what was then Fitzroy Township, Carleton County. He likes to say he was born in 1939 and raised in the 1920's because the lifestyle of his childhood was one of subsistence farming with horses, wood heat and coal-oil lamps for lighting. The Currie's lived on the farm settled in 1841 by their great-grandfather Pat, of County Fermanagh in Ireland. They lived in the house built by Terry's grandfather at the end of the nineteenth century. His family were great story-tellers and many evenings were whiled away telling incidents and occurrences from the deep past by the light of the lamps.

Terry embarked on a career as a high school teacher at Almonte District High School, where he was Head of the French Department and Head Coach of the Almonte Thunderbolts football team. He married Shirley Anne Jones of Britannia in Ottawa in 1965. They moved to the Currie farm with their four children and lived there a life that Terry describes as "idyllically happy".

During the 1990's Terry wrote two parish histories for local churches. In 2002, widowed and retired, Terry Currie fulfilled a life-long dream by returning to the University of Ottawa to obtain his Master of History degree. His Master's thesis became his first publicly distributed book, "*The Ottawa Valley's Great Fire of 1870*".

Since then he has written or edited two more books and a video documentary, "*St. Peter Celestine Roman Catholic Church, Pakenham: the Jewel of the Ottawa Valley.*" In 2011, as part of the Almonte Lectures series affiliated with Carleton University, he presented a lecture series at Almonte entitled "*A History of the Ottawa Valley*". It was very well received. At this writing, Terry is working on two projects: the first, a history of Chat Falls and Fitzroy Harbour, the second, a book version of his Ottawa Valley history.

September's Guest Speaker:

The Exec. Director of the Carp Fair

PLEASE NOTE....

As indicated on the first page, coffee will not be served prior to this month's meeting. But it will be available during the wrap up luncheon event that will follow the meeting. Sandwiches, salads, and other finger foods and desserts will be brought in for the wrap up. Tickets have been sold for this at the April and May meetings. A few tickets will be available on June 10th for those who were not able to get tickets prior to the event. There will be some door prizes offered as well.

Elections

At our June meeting we will be electing the Management Board for the next Club year.

The following have agreed to let their names stand for election:

President: Vernon Sulway

Vice President: (vacant)

Secretary: Sylvia McGee

Treasurer: Maureen Donaghy

Membership: Barbara Bole

Speaker Program: Beth Sweetman

Social Hospitality (co-chairs): Micky

Walker and Sandra Ponech

Social Activities (co-chairs): Sylvia

McGee and Judy Makin

Publicity: Pat Thompson

Newsletter/Web Site: Peter van

Boeschoten

Past President: Peter Doyle

Euchre & Bridge Pot Luck Luncheon

On **Friday, June 6, at 11a.m.** the Euchre & Bridge Pot Luck luncheon will take place at Bell's Corners United Church. Members will sit down to a hot/cold meal and the groups will then proceed to their tables for a final game before the summer recess.

We will provide the dishes and cutlery. Isabel Balon has volunteered to help and perhaps one more person could do so also. Thank you.

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.

Also, here are the dates for the Friday Euchre & Bridge games after the summer: Sept. 5; Oct. 10; Nov. 7 and Dec. 5 (again Pot Luck). For further information please contact Pat Stoate at 613-820-0174.

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PLEASE email Beth Sweetnam if, over the summer, 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.

PROBUS Club of Western Ottawa **Tripping Ideas for the Fall of 2014.**

Details will be available at the June meeting, where deadlines, final costs and information will be shared with all.

Colours and Haunts Day Tour – October 15, 2014

Join us for a fun afternoon filled with fall colours! We will be escorted from Ottawa on a motorcoach to see the brilliant fall foliage the Ottawa Valley has to offer, making interesting stops along the way in. We will then return to downtown Ottawa for a light meal followed by a 45- 60 minute “Haunted Walk Tour”.

Minimum 10 persons: Cost per person \$165.00 plus HST

Minimum 20 persons: Cost per person \$95.00 plus HST

St Jacob's ‘Sparkle Tour’ November 14-16, 2014

Visit the quaint village of St Jacobs for their annual village-wide Holiday Open House “Sparkle”.

Twinkling lights illuminate the village with lights, carolers, horse-drawn trolley shuttles, in-store promotions and holiday charm. Other opportunities would include visits to the St Jacobs Market, Antique Market, Model Railway, St Jacobs Gristmill and Beer Tour and Tasting.

Our tour departs Ottawa by motorcoach and we will stay at the Courtyard by Marriott (which is located next to the St Jacobs Market).

This tour includes breakfast each morning at the hotel, two dinners, services of a Travac Tours Director and baggage handling as well as shuttles to the many free activities St Jacobs has to offer.

Minimum 20 persons: Cost per person based on two sharing \$499.00 Single occupancy \$649.00 plus HST

Minimum 30 persons: Cost per person based on two sharing \$409.00 Single occupancy \$559.00 plus HST

\$ Optional Items:

2 shows: Snow White and A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline (matinee and evening performances) – approx. \$50.00 per show per person

Horse Drawn Mennonite Tour - approx. \$20.00 per person

The 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.
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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.