



# The PROBUS Pilot



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

December 2015

Vol:7 No:4

## Editor's Notes

*As we approach the Christmas season and the New Year it is a time for reflection, celebration and acknowledgment of some of the changes in our organization.*

*First off, to celebrate the Holiday Season there will be free coffee and goodies for our socialization prior to the December meeting.*

*The decision to change our Christmas Luncheon to a restaurant venue has proved highly popular with 72 tickets having been sold. Details on how to get there and a map can be found on page 2.*

*This is the last function organized by Sandra Ponech and Micky Walker who have been doing our lunch-outs for many years. We are delighted that Marie and Ron Armstrong have taken on this role and they already have restaurants lined up for the new year.*

*Our Vice President, Beth Sweetnam, has been doing double duty by also organizing our speakers program. Again we are fortunate that Gordon and Heather Walt have stepped up and are transitioning to take this over.*

*The Management Committee thanks you for your support and would appreciate any comments or suggestions you may have.*

*Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.*

**Peter van Boeschoten, Editor**

The Probus Club of Western Ottawa is part of the international organization of Probus Clubs designed to serve retired and semi-retired professional and business and like-minded people. The morning begins at 10:00 am with coffee and a time for socialization followed by a guest speaker.

**Western Ottawa Probus meets at  
Kanata United Church, 33 Leacock Dr.**

**Visitors are welcome.**

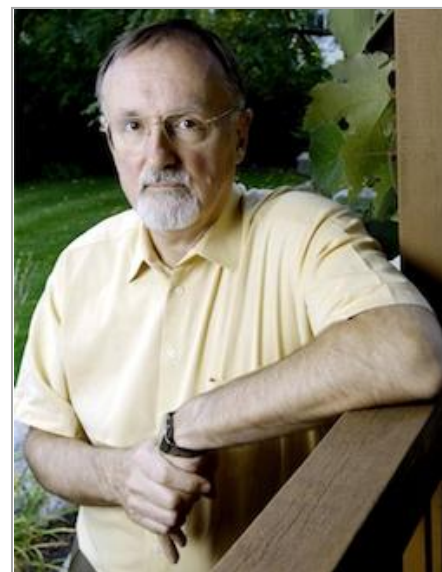
## Ian Smillie – 8 December

### **The blood diamond trade in Africa**

We are delighted to have Ian Smillie, considered to be one of the world's leading authorities on 'blood diamonds', speak to us on this topic.

Africa's diamond wars took four million lives. They destroyed the lives of millions more and they crippled the economies of Angola, the Congo, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. The biggest UN peacekeeping forces in the world – in Sierra Leone, Liberia, the Congo, and Côte d'Ivoire – are the legacy of "conflict" or "blood diamonds."

Ian Smillie has lived and worked in Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Bangladesh. He was a founder of the Canadian NGO, Inter Pares, was Executive Director of CUSO and is a long-time foreign aid watcher and critic. He has worked at Tufts and Tulane Universities and as a development consultant with many



Canadian, American and European organizations. He is the author of several books, including *The Charity of Nations: Humanitarian Action in a Calculating World* (with Larry Minear, 2004) and *Freedom from Want; The Remarkable Success Story of BRAC* (2009). *Blood on the Stone: Greed, Corruption and War in the Global Diamond Trade* was published in 2010.

Ian Smillie served on a UN Security Council Expert Panel examining the relationship between diamonds and weapons in West Africa, and he helped develop the 48-government 'Kimberley Process,' a global certification system to halt the traffic in conflict diamonds. He was the first witness at Charles Taylor's war crimes trial in The Hague and he chairs the Diamond Development Initiative.

Ian Smillie was appointed to the Order of Canada in 2003.





## Free Coffee and goodies at the 8 Dec. meeting

To celebrate the Christmas season the Management Committee has decided to waive the cost for coffee and tea available prior to our December meeting.

They will also lay on some goodies to get us in the spirit.

## Planning underway for activities and travel in 2016

While no activities are planned for January, Judy Makin and her team are busy researching options for later in the year.

Some possible activities include:

- A tour of the mint
- Tea at the Chateau Laurier
- The National Art Gallery
- The Aviation Museum
- An NAC rehearsal
- ...and more

Let Judy know of any other ideas or if you want to help.

## Thursday 10 December

## Probus Christmas Luncheon sold out

The plan to change our Christmas luncheon from a pot-luck after the meeting to a dedicated restaurant luncheon has proved to be highly popular.

Sandra and Micky have sold 72 tickets for our luncheon at the Restaurant International at Algonquin College at 12:00 on Thursday 10 December.

The map below provides some directions as shown with the dashed red line. Take Woodroffe Ave. South from Baseline and the first road to the left is Navaho Drive. The restaurant is in Building H. Parking is free in Lot 4 if there is room. If there is no room then Lot 10 across the street provides pay parking at \$2 per half hour.



## Constitution and bylaws available on web site

The Probus Club of Western Ottawa constitution and by-laws are now available in digital format. The

constitution was last updated when the name was changed from the Probus Club of Kanata. The by-laws were most recently changed at our June members' meeting and changed the maximum term of office for the President position to two years on an exceptional basis.

Both documents can be found in pdf form on the Management Committee Page of the Probus website.

[www.probuswesternottawa.ca](http://www.probuswesternottawa.ca)

## Probus sends cards for those in need

We consider our Probus Club members to be like family. As such we like to send a card when someone is ill, in times of sorrow or on the occasion of a significant milestone. We are thus delighted that Betty Jean Bone has volunteered as our new "card sender".

Betty Jean can be contacted at 613-721-5536 or via email at [bibone03@yahoo.ca](mailto:bibone03@yahoo.ca)



**Kanina Dawson** chats with Gerry Sutherland and other members prior to her presentation. Kanina gave an informative, emotional and highly appreciated talk on her experience of serving two tours in Afghanistan.



## 4 Dec. Euchre features pot-luck

The December activity will be a Christmas Pot Luck with a start time of 11:30. Hot and cold dishes can be brought as we can use the stoves. There will be a sit down meal before we play cards.

The Probus euchre and bridge group meets monthly at the Bells Corners United Church, 3955 Old Richmond Road (at Moodie). Meetings are usually held on the first Friday of the month.

This is mostly a casual and social monthly activity and some players play both euchre and bridge and fill in where needed.

Following are the dates for our upcoming meetings:

- Friday, 4 December
- Friday, 8 January
- Friday, 5 February
- Friday, 4 March
- Friday, 1 April
- Friday, 6 May

For further information call Pat Stoute at 613-820-0174



**New lunch-out coordinators.** We are delighted that Marie and Ron Armstrong have stepped forward to coordinate our lunch-outs starting in January with Graffiti's in the Holiday Inn.

## Join us for a lunch-out in 2016

**Thursday 25 January**

### Graffiti's

101 Kanata Avenue  
(in Holiday Inn)  
meet there at noon

Featuring modern Italian cuisine – Graffiti's® offers a variety of "Venetian inspired" menu selections, both new and old favorites, including our clay oven fired gourmet pizzas and tantalizing pastas, plus a full range of entrées, including Black Angus beef selections "hot off the grill".

[www.graffitis.ca](http://www.graffitis.ca)

**Sign up at the December or January meeting**



**Tuesday 23 February**

### Big Rig

2750A Iris Street  
(off Greenbank/Pinecrest)  
meet there at noon

Whether enjoying a Big Rig Brew on our sunny patio, a casual snack in the pub or a dining experience, Big Rig Kitchen and Brewery has you covered.

<http://www.bigrigbrew.com/>

**Sign up at the January or February meeting**



## Probus offers group travel insurance

Did you know that as a member of Probus you are eligible for voluntary benefit options available to you

including MEDOC Emergency Out-of-Country Travel Insurance, Trip Cancellation Interruption Insurance, and a Benefit Plan.

Find out more by going to our club web page and click on links or go directly to

[www.probus.org/instrvl2.pdf](http://www.probus.org/instrvl2.pdf)

## Our upcoming speaker lineup

**January 12:** Jane Madigan  
"Animal rescue organizations in the Ottawa area"

**February 9:** Lynn MacLeay  
"Candrive (Research initiative for vehicular safety for the elderly)"

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

**"In spite of the cost of living, it's still popular"**

Kathleen Norris,  
American poet



# Welcome

Welcome to the following new members who joined in our Probud Club in November:

**Mary Alexander**

**Barry Peart**

**Jean Peart**

## Parking can be tight

Parking in the Church lot can be a challenge as it fills up quickly.

Please do not park in the marked Church Reserved slots or in the "Speaker" slot which is usually the first one on the left.

We do have an arrangement with the school which permits us to park in their lot.



**The Urban Turban** was the venue for our November lunch-out. This was the last lunch-out arranged by Sandra Ponech and Micky Walker (shown respectively at front).

## Chuckle Corner

### How the weather thing works

The Indians on the Aamjiwnaang First Nation reservation in Grand Bend asked their new Chief if the winter was going to be cold or mild. Since he was a new Indian Chief in a modern society, he had never been taught the old secrets, and when he looked at the sky, he couldn't tell what the weather was going to be. Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, he replied to his tribe that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the village should collect wood to be prepared. But also being a practical leader, after several days he got an idea. He got out his cell phone and called the Environment Canada Weather Service and asked, "Is the coming winter going to be cold?" "It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold indeed," the meteorologist at the weather service responded. So the Chief went back to his people and told them to collect even more wood in order to be prepared. A week later he called the Environment Canada Weather Service again. "Is it going to be a very cold winter?" "Yes," the man at the Weather Service again replied, "it's going to be a very cold winter." The Chief again went back to his people and ordered them to collect every scrap of wood they could find. Two weeks later he called the Environment Canada office again. "Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?" "Absolutely," the weatherman said. "It's going to be one of the coldest winters ever." "How can you be so sure?" the Chief asked. The weatherman replied, "The Indians are collecting firewood like crazy!"

## After the meeting

## We go out for lunch

Join us for lunch with Ian Smillie after our meeting to socialize and discuss his presentation..

This month we will be at:

### **The Brew Table**

(NW corner of Robertson and Moodie)

This month our speaker is able to join us. At the beginning of the meeting we ask for a show of hands of those planning to attend so that we

*Merry Christmas*

*from your  
Probud  
Management  
Committee*