



# The PROBUS Pilot



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

JUNE 2015

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## The Prez Sez

*As we come to the end of our 2014/15 year, we can look back on a series of stimulating talks, interesting trips and visits and convivial dining experiences. These are all due to the work of your executive committee, and I would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to the committee members for keeping everything running so smoothly.*

*As I look ahead to next year we have got some new blood coming on to the committee, but we need more! New people bring new ideas and approaches which help to revitalise our activities. If anybody is possibly interested in any aspect of the club activities, I would invite you to talk to whoever is doing that job. Newcomers are invited to work with the incumbent over a period of time to get to understand what is involved, with a view to taking on the job (if there is still interest) sometime in the future.*

*I am looking forward to another interesting year to come and I hope everybody has a good Summer.*

**Vernon Sulway, President**



## The NAC Orchestra

### The Past, Present and Future of the Orchestra on tour

The NAC Orchestra was formed in 1969 at the opening of Canada's National Arts Centre, and gives over 100 performances a year with renowned artists including Itzhak Perlman, Renée Fleming, James Ehnes, Emanuel Ax and Yo-Yo Ma.

In addition to a full series of subscription concerts at the National Arts Centre each season, tours are undertaken to regions throughout Canada and around the world, most recently to China (2013) and the UK (2014).

Getting the orchestra to China and the UK is a story all in itself. Just think of the logistics, travel, accommodation, transportation and so much more. At our Tuesday 9 June meeting Nelson McDougall is going to reveal all the behind the scenes activity which made these tours such a success.

Nelson McDougall has been Orchestra Manager of Canada's National Arts Centre Orchestra since October 2013. Previously, he held positions of Orchestra Tour Manager

and Personnel Manager which was Nelson's first position at the NAC, beginning in September 2004. As Tour and Orchestra Manager, Nelson planned and managed the highly successful China Tour, and most recently the UK Tour in October 2014, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War.

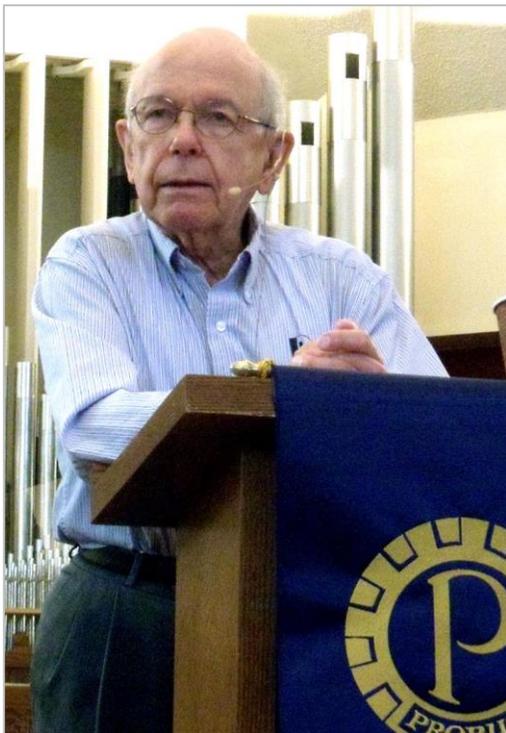
As a musician, Nelson has performed as a trumpet player in Canada's premiere orchestra ensembles, including the NAC orchestra, Toronto Symphony, Vancouver Symphony and Vancouver Opera Orchestra.

Nelson holds a Master's Degree of Performance in Trumpet from UBC, and an MBA from Carleton University.



**Nelson McDougall**

Next meeting:  
**Tuesday 9 June**  
10:00 for social gathering, sign ups,  
10:15 meeting start followed by our speaker  
**Nelson McDougall**  
Luncheon following for those with tickets



At our May meeting **Brian Hartley** spoke on his relationship with our first nations peoples and how why we need to bridge the chasm.

## ***End-year luncheon will move meeting start to 10:15***

After our June meeting we will again have a luncheon and it will be the same catered format that we used last December with enhanced quantity and quality.

This will necessitate a few changes for this meeting so that we can set up for the luncheon. We will advance the business meeting to 10:15 and coffee will not be available for our social gathering at 10:00.

Unfortunately since we had to advise our caterer ahead of time, only those who purchased tickets in advance will be able to attend.

## **Executive elections at our June meeting**

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:	<b>Vernon Sulway</b>
Vice President:	<b>Beth Sweetnam</b>
Secretary:	<b>Martha Maslen</b>
Treasurer:	<b>Maureen Donaghy</b>
Membership:	<b>Barbara Bole</b>
Speaker Program:	<b>Vacant</b>
Social Hospitality (co-chairs):	<b>Micky Walker</b> <b>Sandra Ponech</b>
Social Activities (co-chairs):	<b>Judy Makin</b> <b>Vacant</b>
Publicity:	<b>Pat Thompson</b>
Newsletter/Web Site:	<b>Peter van Boeschoten</b>
Past President:	<b>Peter Doyle</b>

While we particularly want to fill the two vacancies, The Management Committee is also looking for back-up to all these positions.

Job descriptions can be found on the link on the web site on the Management Committee page.

<http://probuswesternottawa.ca/managementcommittee/index.htm>



The "**Great Fire**" tour with Terry Currie stopped for a picnic lunch at Pinhey's Point, on the Ottawa River, followed by a tour of the old graveyard and ruins of the original St. Mary's Church.

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

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

Visitors are welcome.

## **Our Probus Club has a web site – bookmark it**

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



**The 2015 Spring Fling** hosted by the Probus Club of North Grenville was held in Kemptville last month. These are some of our 25 members who participated along with more than 200 from other clubs. Unfortunately there will be no 2016 Spring Fling.

## *Wine Tasting and June, Summer, September Tripping Activity*

**Tuesday, June 23 4pm** at Magnotta Wines followed by dinner at Robbie's Italian Restaurant

We have 15 people who are paid up for attending the Magnotta activity. Sign up still possible at the June meeting.



### **Summer Ideas for Independent Activity:**

**Hop-on hop-off double decker bus tours of 75+ Ottawa Landmarks**

<http://www.grayline.com/things-to-do/canada/ottawa/>

**Beachburg, Ottawa River Sunset Dinner Cruise**

<http://www.jamiesontravel.com/day-trips2.html>

**July Celfest in Almonte**

[www.almontecelfest.com](http://www.almontecelfest.com)

**July Boat tours: Kawartha, Ottawa, Canals & rivers of Eastern Ontario**

<http://capitalcruisesottawa.com>

**August PuppetsUp in Almonte**

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

**August North Lanark Highland Games**

[www.almontehighlandgames.com/](http://www.almontehighlandgames.com/)

Watch for upcoming Tripping Activities for next year:  
Another bus tour with Terry Currie



## Pot Luck for June Euchre and Bridge

June Euchre/Bridge Pot Luck Luncheon **Friday, June 5**, at 12:30 p.m. at Bells Corners United Church.

Bring your pot luck dish, hot or cold, we can use the ovens to keep things warm, and we will supply the rest.

We will have punch, tea & coffee, and fun and laughter. So come well prepared for a great time with your card-playing buddies.

Please mark on your calendars that **Friday, Sept. 11** we will resume cards after the summer, at 1 p.m.

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

## **Our Fall speaker lineup shows variety**

**September:** Cheryl Cooper  
"Living on tall ships"

**October:** Marc-Andre Bernier  
"The Franklin discovery"

**November:** Kanina Dawson  
"My Afghan War experience"

**December:** Ian Smillie "The blood diamond trade in Africa"

**Note:** This program has been set up by Beth Sweetnam along with some other possibilities into 2016. With Beth vacating this position we really do need someone to learn with Beth with the aim of taking it over.

### **QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

**"Failure is just life trying to move us in another direction."**

*Oprah Winfrey*



**Probus members** went for another hike in the South March Highlands in May with our guide Judy Makin.



**The April restaurant luncheon** was at 1951 West (Kitchen and Grill) in Bells Corners.

## *Changes coming for Probus Christmas luncheon/dinner*

The Management Committee has now decided to proceed with a change to our Christmas luncheon format and venue.

Sandra and Micky have begun looking at options which may include a restaurant or hall and also whether it should be a luncheon or dinner format.

Many other Probus Clubs have a

sit down Christmas luncheon or dinner at a restaurant or hall.

The current arrangement of what used to be a pot-luck and now a catered finger food get-together in the Church Hall has many downsides.

There is a lot of work by our members for the set-up and

arrangements and the whole affair can only last 45 minutes due to the availability of the hall. The seating is crowded and the line-ups for food are long.

If we were to change to a full sit down Christmas luncheon or evening dinner it would undoubtedly cost more but it would be much more enjoyable and rewarding in so many ways.

We will keep you informed as our planning progresses.



**Peter Durose** has been looking after our Probus sound requirements for more than a decade.

## *Chuckle Corner*

**THE POND**

An elderly man in Louisiana had owned a large farm for several years. He had a large pond in the back. It was properly shaped for swimming, so he fixed it up nice with picnic tables, horseshoe courts, and some apple, and peach trees.

One evening the old farmer decided to go down to the pond, as he hadn't been there for a while, and look it over. He grabbed a five-gallon bucket to bring back some fruit. As he neared the pond, he heard voices shouting and laughing with glee.

As he came closer, he saw it was a bunch of young women skinny-dipping in his pond. He made the women aware of his presence and they all went to the deep end. One of the women shouted to him, "We're not coming out until you leave!"

The old man frowned, "I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim naked or make you get out of the pond naked."

Holding up the bucket he said, "I'm just here to feed the alligator."  
Some old men can still think fast.