



The PROBUS Pilot



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

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Editorial

We need to fill vacancies

The past year has again been another highly successful one for our Probus club. This is in large part due to the behind the scenes efforts of the members of your Management Committee.

At the June meeting you will be electing a new slate of individuals to manage your club next year. We have three upcoming vacancies that we need to fill:

- **Vice President**
- **Program Coordinator, and**
- **A second Travel/Activities Coordinator**

The Vice President backs up the President and assumes that position for one year next year.

The Program Coordinator is responsible for our Speaker Program. The Fall speaker line-up is already confirmed so the new Coordinator can ease into the position.

The Travel Coordinator organizes travel and activities together with Marg Demers who will be staying on.

These are the critical replacements that we need. If we share the load it only takes a few hours each month.

If you are interested in helping we ask that you take the initiative and advise a member of the Management Committee of your interest(s).

If you can't do it yourself, poke your spouse or a friend in the ribs and get them to volunteer.

We also need members to assist with set-up, audio/visual, the web site, making coffee, writing articles, acting as greeters, planning activities, taking pictures and much more.

It's time to step forward. We really do need your help.

Tuesday 11 April

Aging well at home ...what's your plan?

"It's getting harder to do the shopping, cooking & gardening now."

"My dad has dementia and I'm concerned about how my mom will care for him".

These are common concerns for older people and a common refrain is "I wish I could stay in my own home." The good news is that with the right help they can!

Join Jeannie Mathews, President of Seniors on Site and Caroline Midgley Director of Marketing to learn about the home care services and resources available to help seniors stay in their homes and remain independent as long as possible.

Jeannie Mathews founded Seniors on Site (SOS) in 2008 to provide in-home care services to seniors. She brings extensive experience in business and government to her family owned Ottawa- based company and is committed to hiring



Jeannie Mathews

Caroline Midgley

caregivers and workers who are 50+ years of age who share similar life experiences allowing them to build strong bonds and relationships.

Caroline Midgley helped launch SOS providing marketing and client relations management services. She brings a solid background in marketing and communications in the public and not-for profit sectors including three Canadian universities to SOS as well as experience in promoting wellness and aging in the community.

May meeting moved back for Spring Fling

The 2017 Spring Fling will be held in Kemptville on Tuesday 9 May. As a result we have rescheduled our May Probus meeting to a week later to 16 May.

The Spring Fling this year celebrates Canada 150 and brings together members from 14 Probus Clubs and is a very popular activity for our members.

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., Kanata**



The East India Company restaurant was the venue for the March lunch-out. Sixteen club members enjoyed an East-Indian menu in this Bells Corners restaurant which was formerly Al's Steak House.

Join us for an upcoming lunch-out

Wednesday 26 April

Black Dog Bistro

5540 Main Street, Manotick
(Manotick)

meet there at noon

Our menu allows for a quick bite or a more leisure dining experience. An irresistible array of menu choices prepared from the finest and freshest ingredients. www.blackdogbistro.ca



A wide variety of upcoming speakers

May 16: Randy Boswell,
Professor, Carleton University
"Early history of Ottawa"

June 13: Brock Godfrey
Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre
"Mass Marketing Fraud and
Cybercrime Awareness"



Rick Baker gave an informative presentation on the advocacy work done by CARP on behalf of the seniors' community. More information is available at their website [here](http://www.carp.ca).

Year-end luncheon after our June meeting to again feature catered meal

After our June meeting we will again have a luncheon to wrap up the year.

Last year we used a caterer to provide a more substantive menu and to reduce the organizational load on our volunteers. We will do that again this year.

This event is a great opportunity to close out our year and socialize with other club members before we break for the summer.

More information including cost will be available in the May Newsletter and perhaps at the April meeting.

Your 2016-17 Probus Management Board

President	Beth Sweetnam	Speaker Program	Heather Walt Gordon Walt
Vice President	Barbara Bole Stafford	Social Hospitality	Marie Armstrong Ron Armstrong
Past President	Vernon Sulway	Social Activities	Judy Makin Marg Demers
Treasurer	Maureen Donaghy	Publicity	Pat Thompson
Secretary	Martha Maslen	Newsletter Editor	Peter van Boeschoten
Membership	Bill Eng Jean Eng	Webmaster	Peter van Boeschoten



Euchre and Bridge remain popular

Probus has an active euchre and bridge group. They meet monthly at the Bells Corners United Church, 3955 Old Richmond Road (at Moodie). Meetings are usually held on the first Friday of the month at 1 p.m.

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

Following are the dates for our upcoming meetings:

Friday, 7 April

Friday, 5 May

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

Chateau Laurier tour planned for June

The Chateau Laurier is Ottawa's oldest and most famous hotel. But for many Ottawa residents this historic building is still very much a mystery and few have set foot in it.

Plans are now underway for a tour to look "behind the curtain" of this iconic hotel. While many details are still being worked out, the tour is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday 7 June.

After the tour there will be an opportunity to have High Tea in the Chateau's Zoe's Lounge.



More details will be available in the May newsletter and possibly at the April meeting.

Our Probus Club has a 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 that you bookmark this location so that you don't have to keep typing it in.

The left side menu on the website lets you go to any of the featured pages.

The links page provides links to other clubs and seniors organizations.

Spring Fling promises to be highlight of Probus year

Response for the 9 May Spring Fling in Kemptville has been very strong. A few seats are still available and those interested can still sign up at the April meeting.

We can still also use some help with registration and set-up on that day.

To commemorate Canada's 150th birthday, who better to tell the tale than the man who was at the centre of it all: Sir John A. himself.

Brian and Renee Porter, wearing their 1880's finery, will do a presentation about Sir John A. Macdonald called Quips and Quotes. To get a sense of this important figure in Canadian history you will hear quotes from contemporaries of Sir John A. who saw him in action, along with some of his own quips and jokes. Renee will read some excerpts from Lady Macdonald's diary.

This was a man about whom British P.M. Benjamin Disraeli wrote in his diary that, "He is gentleman-

like, agreeable and very intelligent; a considerable man." He was a man with a great sense of humour, who was respected on both sides of the Atlantic. As biographer Richard Gwyn said, John A. was "the man who made us."

Brian and Renee have portrayed Sir John and Lady Macdonald for the past sixteen years, at numerous events in Eastern Ontario and as far west as Toronto and London. Brian portrays the "ghost of John A." in a film display at Fort Henry's visitors' centre. He was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal in 2012.



Excerpts from a Q&A with the Brockville Recorder

Brian Porter is a historical re-enactor known for his portrayals of Canada's first prime minister, Sir John A. Macdonald. His license plate reads "John A 2." Since his retirement from teaching at Commonwealth Public School, Porter has brought history alive for groups from young children to seniors.

Q. How did you start doing historical re-enacting?

A. Historical re-enacting came for me through the Brockville Infantry Company 1862. We have been doing that now for 20 years.

Q. How did you start doing Sir John A. Macdonald interpretations?

A. The John A. thing grew out of the Brockville Infantry Company. It was about 1997 or '98, it was suggested that John A. Macdonald should come and review the troops and that I should portray him. I found a top hat and a swallowtail coat. I was coming up to retirement at that time and thought I could do something with this, I could go into schools and teach about history first-person

Q. Have you done a lot of that?

A. I have done over 250 Sir John A. events.

After the meeting**Join us for lunch**

Join us for lunch after our meetings and often our speaker agrees to join us. This month we will again be at:

The Brew Table

NW corner of Robertson and Moodie

Group travel insurance

Did you know that as a member of Probus you are eligible for Group Travel insurance through the MEDOC program from Johnson Inc.

<http://www.probus.org/instrvl2.pdf>

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Our seniors' retirement should never rely on the bull of political promises or the bear of the market."

Barbara Mikulski, US Senator

Thursday 13 April**RCMP stables tour oversubscribed**

The proposed RCMP stables tour on Thursday 13 April proved so popular that we are attempting to organize a second conducted tour at the same time. We should have more information available at our regular April meeting.

This special tour of the Musical Ride Centre will include:

- the stables and visitor centre
- the Riding School
- the Farrier Station
- the Tack Room and;
- see the state Landau ("carriages") used in royal escorts of Her Majesty the Queen

The 2017 Musical Ride tour does not start until May so there will be an opportunity to meet the riders and horses.

The facility is located just outside



Rockliffe Park on 1 Sandridge Road. Take St. Laurent Blvd. north almost to the end and turn right on Sandridge.

We will meet there at 11 a.m.

PROBUS CLUB OF WESTERN OTTAWA

Spring Fling

CANADA 150



\$300 in Door Prizes

**9 MAY 2017
KEMPTVILLE**

Only \$35 includes choice of meal

- Stuffed Chicken Breast
- Baked Salmon Filet
- Veggie Stack

Tuesday 9 May

10:00 to 11:30
Registration
11:45 to 1:45
Luncheon
2:00

Move to Theatre
to hear



**NORTH GRENVILLE MUNICIPAL CENTRE
285 HIGHWAY 44, KEMPTVILLE**

SIR JOHN A. AND LADY AGNES MACDONALD

Brian and Renee Porter, wearing their 1880's finery, will do a presentation about Sir John A. Macdonald called Quips and Quotes. To get a sense of this important figure in Canadian history you will hear quotes from contemporaries of Sir John A. who saw him in action, along with some of his own quips and jokes.



www.probuswesternottawa.ca/springfling

Chuckle Corner**SOME THOUGHTS**

I had amnesia once -- or maybe twice.

All I ask is a chance to prove that money can't make me happy.

What is a "free" gift? Aren't all gifts free?

They told me I was gullible... and I believed them.

Teach a child to be polite and courteous in the home and when he grows up, he'll never be able to merge his car onto a freeway.

Two can live as cheaply as one, for half as long.

Experience is the thing you have left when everything else is gone.

I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure.

The cost of living hasn't affected its popularity.

If swimming is so good for your figure, how do you explain whales?

Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.