



The PROBUS Pilot



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

April 2019

Vol: 10 No: 8

Tuesday, April 9, 10am, Kanata United Church

ACCIDENTAL FRIENDS - Stories from my life in community

Beth Porter: Member of the L'Arche Daybreak community for four decades.

Beth Porter had been teaching university students when she visited a L'Arche home in 1980. At that time, Daybreak, the first L'Arche in North America, was eleven years old. In 2019, it will celebrate its 50th anniversary. L'Arche is the movement of communities started by Jean Vanier, where people with and without intellectual disabilities share life together.



Beth Porter & Friend

Beth was born in Winnipeg and did her undergraduate work at the University of Winnipeg. She holds an MA from Queen's University and an M.Div. from the University of Toronto.

Beth taught overseas with CUSO for two years, and then in Canada. When she learned of L'Arche, she was teaching at the University of Guelph but searching for a way to live a less compartmentalized life. Her heart was quickly won over by the people she met on an initial visit to a L'Arche community. One person she met on that first visit was Michael, who asked her to "Come back!" and with whom she was stranded overnight in a snowstorm a few months later. When Beth retired two years ago, after nearly 40 years at L'Arche, she began to pull together some of the many stories of the life she shared with others there in a recent book, entitled [Accidental Friends](#). Her adventure with Michael is one of those stories.

Beth Porter will be accompanied by **Daniela Bara**, the Community Leader at L'Arche Ottawa, who will tell us about the local Ottawa L'Arche.

The Prez Sez

WE are very pleased to celebrate "Probus Month" during the month of April. Everyone attending our April 9, 2019 Probus Western Ottawa meeting will receive a very nice Probus Pamphlet filled with information and photos about our very active Probus Club. As well, past Probus Canada President Peter Doyle will share some interesting Probus history.



May your home be blessed with the joy and gladness of Easter, and all your life be filled with peace.
Happy Easter



Mark Darroch, President

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.

It meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month* at Kanata United Church, 33 Leacock Dr.

Visitors are welcome.

The morning begins at 10:00 am with a time for coffee & socialization followed by a guest speaker at 10:30 am.

* Except July & August

Planning for our 2019-2020 PWO Executive

We are delighted that many members of the current executive have indicated they are willing to return to serve another year. We very much appreciate their willingness to give of their time for the benefit of the Probus Club of Western Ottawa. Barbara Stafford has completed her year as Past President and is looking forward to returning to sitting in the audience and enjoying the speakers.

We are looking for some new folk to join the executive. We will definitely require a new **Programme Director** as Beth Sweetnam is stepping down. Beth has completed scheduling speakers for the fall sessions and is willing to work with and assist anyone who chooses to come forward to fulfill this critical role for our club.

We are delighted that Marie Armstrong is willing to continue to be our Hospitality Chair but she would like a **Hospitality Assistant** to join her as Ron will be unable to continue in that role next year. His new position will be announced in May. More announcements of those returning and those accepting new positions will be made in May and our final slate of officers will be presented in June.

Maureen Donaghy is retiring as Member-at-Large and George Steeves has been persuaded, not only to continue to make our morning coffee, but to serve as a Member-at-Large as well.

We are looking for one other **Member-at-Large** to serve on the board. It is an easy way to get to know the administrative team and learn how the club is managed.

If you know of someone interested in serving in any of the positions on the board please contact them and either Mark Darroch or Marg Demers through the Probus website Info@probuswesternottawa.com or at our meeting in April or May 2019. There are no criteria for any position other than a willingness to keep our club running as effectively as it has in the past.

At our March Meeting

Although **Tony Atherton** was scheduled to speak on the Decline and Fall of the Daily Newspaper, his wife became quite ill early in the morning and had to go into hospital. Tony felt badly about missing our meeting and has now agreed to speak at our October Meeting.

To make the most of the situation, Beth read a long newspaper article, written by Tony, about his most embarrassing moment. This was followed by a call for volunteers from the audience to present an embarrassing or significant moment in their lives. Mark, Beth and Marg lead off with other contributions coming from Betty Bole, Roger Champagne, Gordon Walt, Alice Vera and Brenda Jamieson (not a complete list).



Presentation to **Marianne Gibson** of her 10-year membership pin by Marg Demers, Vice-President and Mark Darroch, President.



Anniversary Spring Fling

The Probus Club of **North Grenville** invites you to help celebrate their 20th Anniversary on **Wednesday, May 15, 2019** at the North Grenville Municipal Centre, 285 County 44, Kemptville.

Check-in starts at 10:45 am – Bar opens at 11:00 am – lunch at 11:45 am
Entertainment in theatre at 2:00 pm

Menu includes stuffed chicken breast with feta cheese, basil & yellow peppers or baked filet of salmon with maple glaze or roasted veggie stack. All main entrees are gluten-free. Desserts, tea and coffee.

Entertainment by Tony Davy – music from the crooner's era

Last opportunity to Pre-Register (and select meal) is with our VP, Marg Demers, on **April 9**
Ticket Price is \$38 (by cheque payable to **Probus Club of North Grenville** please)



Marg Demers

Special Lunch-outs (email: Ron/Marie Armstrong via hospitality@probuswesternottawa.ca)

March Luncheon Event

At Fulton's Pancake House & Sugar Bush
March 21



Chuckle Corner

A woman went to the emergency room, where she was seen by a young new doctor.....

After about 3 minutes in the examination room, the doctor told her she was pregnant. She burst out of the room and ran down the corridor, screaming.

An older doctor stopped her and asked what the problem was. After listening to her story, he calmed her down and sat her in another room.

Then, the doctor marched down the hallway to the first doctor's room. "What the hell's wrong with you?" he demanded. "This woman is 68 years old, she has two grown children and several grandchildren, and you told her she was pregnant?!!"

The new doctor continued to write on his clipboard and without looking up asked....."Does she still have the hiccups?"

Coming Up



Noon, Thursday, April 11, 2019

Address: 2130 Robertson Road, Bells Corners

Phone: 613-808-8346

Cuisine: schnitzel, pierogies, beef goulash, beef rouladen, home made cabbage rolls

Website: <http://www.dunabistro.com>

Signup at the April meeting.



Noon, Wednesday, May 29, 2019

Address: 54 Springbrook Dr, Stittsville
(the Amberwood Golf Club)

Phone: 613-831-2442

Cuisine: <http://aleottawa.ca/lunch-menu/>

Website: <https://aleottawa.ca/>

Signup at the April or May meetings.



Welcome to the following new member
who joined in March

Marilyn Sloan



After each meeting

**Join us for lunch
at the Brew Table**

In Bells Corners

NW corner of Robertson and Moodie

Quote of the Month

"Easter combines the best of the present
with the traditions of the past – like Cadbury
cream eggs with hunting and gathering."

- Melanie White

Probus has a web site

Our club has a web site to keep you up-to-date. There you can find a history of speakers and activities going back to 2011, photo albums of all events, a description of our organization, useful links and other information.

The site is: www.probuswesternottawa.ca

Our lineup of future speakers

Here are some of our upcoming speakers (subject to change). Please pass ideas on to Beth Sweetnam at

program@probuswesternottawa.ca

May 14 - Pam Thompson:
Canadian Art 101

June 11 - Terry Colfer:
Experiences of a past Canadian ambassador to Kuwait and Iran

September 10 - Michelle Davis:
Understanding Medical Cannabis

October 8 – Tony Atherton:
The Decline & Fall of the Daily Newspaper



Probus has an active euchre group. The group meets monthly at 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 occasion, starting at **12:30 pm** for refreshments and conversation followed by cards at 1 pm.

Following are the dates for our upcoming meetings:

April 5	May 3	June 7*	Sept. 6
Oct. 4	Nov. 1	Dec. 6*	

(* The June & December sessions are pot luck meals starting at 11:30)

Outings (email: Ruth Wakeford via social@probuswesternottawa.ca)

March Outings

Wednesday March 6 – Lee Valley tour #2

This second tour of **Lee Valley's machine shop** had 18 people split into 3 groups. Our club's tours of this facility are the first ever held by Lee Valley and our hosts seemed to enjoy the experience as much as our members did.



Thursday, March 21 – Mill of Kintail

Five members enjoyed an early spring walk at the Mill of Kintail. The weather cooperated, the Indian River was flowing beautifully and we all came away determined to revisit this lovely conservation area come summer and fall.



Coming Up

Wednesday April 24 – Lee Valley tour #3

Our third and last tour of **Lee Valley's machine shop** (at 1000 Morrison Dr.) is booked for Wednesday, April 24 at 10 am. **Closed toe shoes are required. Safety glasses will be provided.**

Those on the list will receive a reminder email/phone contact about a week before the tour. Presently, the tour is fully booked but we do have a short waiting list. If interested or cancelling, please contact Ruth at social@probuswesternottawa.ca or at our April meeting. Following the tour, lunch will be at Big Rig's Kitchen, close by at 2750 Iris Street at 11:30 am

May & June Outings

A mid-spring walk is planned for the morning of **Thursday, May 16** at the [Chapman Mills Conservation Area](#) along Prince of Wales Drive in the south part of the city. This walk is about one kilometre long and hugs the shore line of the Rideau River.

Our last outing for the season will be a visit to the historic town of **Perth**; planned for **mid-to-late June**.

More details on both of these outings will be available at the April and May meetings.