



# The PROBUS Pilot



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

November 2019

Vol: 11 No: 3

**Tuesday, November 12, 10am, Kanata United Church**

## ***The UN mission to Haiti***

### **Colonel Claude Desgagné, Director of Capability Analysis**

Colonel Desgagné will speak of his experiences as Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander to the Military Component Commander, during a United Nations Peace Support Operation in Haiti in 2017. His talk will include the UN mission in general, Canada's participation in it, and the events of 2017 which led to the termination and withdrawal of the military mission.



Colonel Claude Desgagné grew up in Ottawa and joined the Canadian Forces in 1987. He graduated from the Royal Military College in Kingston in 1991 with a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering degree, subsequently earning his Navigator Wings in 1992.

Colonel Desgagné has served on the CH124 Sea King operationally, as a primary flight instructor, and as a flight test and evaluation officer, as both a Tactical Coordinator and an Acoustics Sensor Operator. Highlights of his career include serving two operational tours with 423 Maritime Helicopter Squadron, with several major deployments, notably with NATO to the Adriatic Sea and with a US Navy Carrier Strike Group in the Arabian Gulf, and serving as the Commanding Officer of 406 (Maritime) Operational Training Squadron at 12 Wing Shearwater. Most recently, he deployed and served as the Military Component Chief of Staff to the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

Throughout his career he has served in staff capacities at the Maritime Helicopter Project Management Office, at 1 Canadian Air Division Headquarters, at the Strategic Joint Staff, at the Canadian Joint Operations Command Headquarters, and within the Air Staff in the Directorate of Air Requirements for Maritime Aviation and as Director Operational Implementation for the new Cyclone Maritime Helicopter.

Colonel Desgagné is currently employed in Chief of Force Development, as the Director of Capability Analysis.

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## **At our October Meeting**

Tony Atherton - reporter, editor, columnist and senior writer for more than three decades, including over 20 years at the Ottawa Citizen, gave a well attended and fascinating discussion of the decline of the daily newspaper from its golden age when many journalists presented local and international news, to the present day when "news" (real or fake) is available from many sources on the web and papers present mainly opinion pieces from a limited cadre of syndicated writers.





# The Prez Sez

Occasionally I visit the Military Cemetery in Beechwood. I have two military graves at which I stop. One was a private in WW2 who survived the war but could not escape the memories. For 27 years, this man remembered with tears his fallen comrades. Enlisting in the army in 1939 at the age of 17, he spent the war overseas and came home demobilized in 1946. From his return to Canada, until his death in 1972 he would disappear for months at a time. Retreating into his memories and alcohol he struggled to maintain a "normal life".

The second grave I stop at has a shorter story and a shorter life. This young man died at the age of 22. He was, even at the age of 13, determined to become a member of the military. He reached his goal. This kind, generous, thoughtful, compassionate kid finished high school and joined up in time to be sent to Afghanistan. He and his sergeant were killed in a fire fight outside Kandahar on October 14, 2006.

Marg

## An Afghanistan Hero

I saw you standing next the wall  
And can't get you out of my head.  
One hand in your pocket and one on your dog:  
I gasped at the life you have led.  
Your eyes spoke of sadness and fear,  
Your voice didn't tremble at all !  
You quietly spoke of the trauma you've faced  
As I stood there, truly in awe.  
Training. Response. Yes, but Courage  
Before; in the war, but now, too !  
To pick up your life and move on day by day  
You make me feel humble. You do.  
I know not your name nor your rank.  
I'll never forget what you shared.  
"Bravery", you said, " No, a part of my life.  
We just proved to the world that we cared."

## Membership Fees Due

Annual membership fees are due **NOW**. They are \$20 for those receiving the newsletter by email and \$30 for members receiving the newsletter through the postal service. The higher fee covers the cost of mailing.

**Please make cheques payable to "The Probus Club of Western Ottawa".**

## Quote of the Month

"Whether we live together in confidence and cohesion; with more faith and pride in ourselves and less self-doubt and hesitation; strong in the conviction that the destiny of Canada is to unite, not divide; sharing in cooperation, not in separation or in conflict; respecting our past and welcoming our future."

—Lester Pearson



Welcome to the following new members who joined in October

**Roberta Ostler Balmer**

**Lorraine Thomas**

**Tom Wileman**

**Moe Wright**

**Don & Marlene Zogalo**

## Lunches (email: Marie Armstrong & Ruth Mackenzie via [lunches@probuswesternottawa.ca](mailto:lunches@probuswesternottawa.ca))

### October Luncheon Event

On October 10<sup>th</sup>, 10 members attended the Central Bierhaus in Kanata Centrum.



### Chuckle Corner

My daughter asked me for a pet spider for her birthday. So I went to our local pet shop and they were \$70. Forget it, I thought, I can get one cheaper off the web.

I was at an A.T.M. yesterday. A little old lady asked if I could check her balance, so I pushed her over.

Statistically, six out of seven dwarfs are not Happy.

My neighbour knocked on my door at 2:30 am. Can you believe that! 2:30 am? Luckily for him I was still up playing my bagpipes.

The wife was counting all the nickels and dimes out on the kitchen table when she suddenly got very angry and started shouting and crying for no reason. I thought to myself, "She's going through the change."

My girlfriend thinks that I'm a stalker. Well, she's not exactly my girlfriend yet.

Probus Western Ottawa meets at 10 am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at Kanata United Church, 33 Leacock Dr.

**Visitors are welcome.**

Our Web site is: [www.probuswesternottawa.ca](http://www.probuswesternottawa.ca)

### Coming Up

Sign up for either or both of the following at the November meeting only or via email to [lunches@probuswesternottawa.ca](mailto:lunches@probuswesternottawa.ca)



Thurs. November 14 - [Stoneface Dollys](#)  
4456 Limebank Road, Gloucester @ noon



### Our Christmas Luncheon

Restaurant International, in Nepean, Ontario, is a restaurant that is part of Algonquin College's culinary school. The students of the school present the delicious dishes that are served for lunch and dinner.

**11:30 am – 2:00 pm, Monday, December 2**

**Address: H101 - 1385 Woodroffe Ave**

**Phone: 613-727-7691**

**Cuisine:** Turkey dinner with all the trimmings

**Website:** [Algonquin College Restaurant](#)

**Cost: \$30 per person when registering**

**Parking:** Parking lot 4 is immediately outside the Hospitality (H) Building. Parking is free for Restaurant International guests. Space is limited.

**Directions:** Coming from the 417

Take exit Woodroffe South, continue on Woodroffe past Baseline and take a left on Navaho. You will then take a right at the next lights and the restaurant will be directly in front of you. There will be a gate where you will enter and press the green button. Parking is free in this parking lot only. Otherwise you have to park in parking lots 8,9 or 12.



*After each meeting*

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

In Bells Corners

NW corner of Robertson and Moodie



## Our lineup of future speakers

Please pass ideas on to Charlie Boole via  
[program@probuswesternottawa.ca](mailto:program@probuswesternottawa.ca)

**December 10** – Brian Hull:

*Ending World Hunger from the Bottom Up*

**January 14** - Mags Gauden, Genealogist:

*The Power of DNA*

**February 11** - Dr. Judith Rygiel, Master Weaver:

*The Homespun Textile Economy of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Southern Louisiana.*

**March 10** - Sue Williams:

*Adventure at Sea & the Journey Within*

**April 14** - TBA

**May 12** – Paul Allen - *When Tobacco Was King*

**June 9** – Rachel Boere - *The Ottawa Tool Library*



Our Probus Euchre 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. Games usually last until 3:00 or 3:30 pm.

Following are the dates for our upcoming meetings:

**Dec. 6\*** Jan. 3 Feb. 7 Mar. 6 Apr. 3 May 1 Jun. 5\*  
**Sep. 4 Oct. 2 (may be changed) Nov. 6 Dec. 4**

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

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

## Outings (email: Ruth & Bryan Wakeford via [outings@probuswesternottawa.ca](mailto:outings@probuswesternottawa.ca))

### October Outing

Fourteen members enjoyed a stroll through some of the woods at the Baxter Conservation Area; along the boardwalk and Rideau river trail.

October's outing started out with light rain, for which we hardy walkers were prepared, but that quickly changed to just cloud and a light breeze.

We enjoyed walking through the fallen leaves, remarking on the bright green of the mosses and the many, we think, wild grape vines strangling numerous saplings and mature trees !

Following our walk we enjoyed lunch in Manotick at The Vault Restaurant (below).



### Coming Up

#### **Wednesday, November 20 – National War Museum ("Hidden Treasures")**

Our November 20th outing is a guided tour (cost \$16.00 per person). We will meet our guide at the Group Entrance in the Canadian War Museum at 9:45 am. The tour will include artifacts pertaining to WW 2 that have intriguing stories to tell. Following the hour tour, members will have some time on their own at the museum before joining the group for lunch at Kristy's Restaurant at 809 Richmond Road around 12:15 pm.

Questions: Speak to Ruth at our November meeting or contact her at [outings@probuswesternottawa.ca](mailto:outings@probuswesternottawa.ca)



**In Memoriam**  
**Sandra Ponech**

Sandra was a former executive member of our club who organized lunch outings.