



The PROBUS Pilot



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

April 2020

Vol: 11 No: 8

Important Notice

Due to the COVID-19 virus and government restrictions on social gatherings, all Probus Western Ottawa Meetings and outings are cancelled until further notice.



The Prez Sez

At the time of writing, the province has just declared a State of Emergency. It is a rather unnerving situation to be in. As you read through the Probus Pilot for this month you will see we have cancelled all activities for at least April and will wait to see what the future brings.

Our Management Board met on a conference call March 17 and did not make these decisions lightly. We are a club of mostly seniors and the board did not wish to put any of our members in jeopardy. The Kanata United Church where we meet is closed until further notice. Our speaker for April on the topic of Risk Management, Genevieve LeDuc, has been told by her employer, the Bank of Canada, not to engage with outside groups for the foreseeable future. We will attempt to book her for some other time. Spring Fling is cancelled. The places we had planned to visit and lunch at have been told to shut down.

I encourage those of you with health issues to stay a few feet away from people and rely on others to help you out with grocery shopping and other chores. Indoor hobbies, once again, are going to be important to occupy your time. Borrow your grandchildren's coloured pencils and doodle or draw. Dig out the board games from the cupboard to play. Use the computer to learn new card games. Whist was popular in the 1800s. Put on your favourite recordings, tapes and CDs. I am so glad I kept the old record player. Eddie Fisher still sounds quite good on this miserable afternoon when I have to stay at home. Use the telephone to reach friends you haven't talked to in a while. Rogers Communication told us this morning that they are dropping all charges for long distance calls! Try out a new recipe or two. Bring out a craft you received as a gift and give it a try. Now might be a good time to sort through those old photographs. Stay busy but don't overload on news about the virus. Our emotions can only handle so much information so many times before one becomes fearful and depressed.

Our newsletter editor, Ray Jones, will keep everyone informed about what is going on with Probus Western Ottawa. All the management committee is thinking about you and concerned for you.
Sincerely, Marg

At our March Meeting – Sue & David Williams

Sue Williams has been a practising OT for over thirty years. In 2007-08, Sue with her husband David, both not yet retired and without having any blue water experience, set out to circumnavigate the Atlantic in a 39 foot sailboat. This was her husband's dream, but Sue did not like sailing and had no adventure-seeking desires. What finally convinced her to take the plunge was the thought that leaving their 3 teenage sons to their own devices would allow them to mature and discover their own way in life without parental interference.

David and Sue's journey lasted 373 days, covered 11,000 nautical miles and encompassed 14 offshore passages totalling 86 days at sea. They survived 9 storms and 14 breakdowns – the most serious being an encounter with a loose fishing net which fouled their propeller, tore their engine from its moorings and created a leak around the propeller shaft where it entered the boat.

Safely home, Sue studied the craft of writing and finally left the health care field in 2016 to focus on a book about their experience. Her memoir, *Ready to Come About*, was published by Dundurn Press in May 2019.

<https://www.dundurn.com/books/Ready-Come-About>



Anniversary Spring Fling - CANCELLED

Members who have already paid for a reservation will have their deposit returned.

Chuckle Corner

Commemorative jewellery
to always remember 2020





Did you know?
Betty Jean Bone will send a card for illness, sympathy or condolences upon request. Contact bjbone03@yahoo.ca *



* Cards are sent on behalf of Probus Western Ottawa and may go to either members or non-members

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

March Luncheon Event

The March 24th outing to Stanley's Olde Maple Lane Farm and Sugarbush is cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns.

April Luncheon Event

The April 27th outing to Graffiti's is cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns.



Welcome to the following new member who joined in March
Linda Miller-Nesbitt

As of March 10 we have 164 paid members.

Quote of the Month

“There is nothing so patient, in this world or any other, as a virus searching for a host.”

— Mira Grant, *Countdown*

Outings (email: Ruth & Bryan Wakeford via outings@probuswesternottawa.ca)

On March 4, 25 members of our club were warmly welcomed (read: supplied with coffee and doughnuts !) at the **Ottawa Valley Grain Products Mill**; a one of a kind mill in Eastern Ontario producing mainly pearl and pot barley. The staff at OVGP have many plans for their future and we wish them every success.



Our planned trip on April 24th to tour the Airport Firehall has been cancelled until further notice.

In hopes of a return to normalcy by May, we have booked a guided tour at the Bank of Canada Museum for Friday, May 29. If it proceeds, a confirmation and registration instructions will be sent to members.



Our Monthly Euchre/Bridge gatherings have been cancelled pending further notice.

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

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

Visitors are welcome.

Our Web site is:

www.probuswesternottawa.ca