



The PROBUS Pilot



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

November 2020

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The Prez Sez



To all members of Probus Western Ottawa.

October has come and gone and the COVID situation has not improved. However, we will move on and deal with things as they are presented to us.

The fall walk was interesting and we were enthusiastic but the weather could have been more cooperative.

Our management team has evaluated the Zoom event hosted by the Alta Vista Club and decided not to continue Zoom presentations with speakers at this time. The Zoom environment is not as socially friendly as we would like with large groups. We are considering smaller group virtual meetings with specific groups (e.g. Euchre), so they can keep in touch. It has been also suggested that we could have members send in book reviews that could be added to our Newsletter. We will announce that when it has been finalized.

We are still waiting for someone to step forward to help with Social activities.

In the meantime, stay safe and think positive!

Ron Armstrong, President

Free Fun Activities to do while at home.

- 12 famous museums from all around the world are offering [virtual and online exhibits](#)
- Virtual tours of [17 national parks](#)
- Free online cookbook to [eat well on just \\$4 a day](#)

Quote of the Month

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

- Eleanor Roosevelt

A Good Probus Zoom Meeting Example

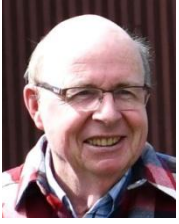
The Beaver Valley Probus club has posted a recording of their September meeting on Facebook (link below), a technology many of you are likely quite familiar with. You might like to check it out as an example of a well-run Zoom meeting with an interesting speaker and topic.

Featured Speaker: Dr. Robert Galway. "**Comparing the Pandemic of 1918 to COVID-19**".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVgrFJEIJok>



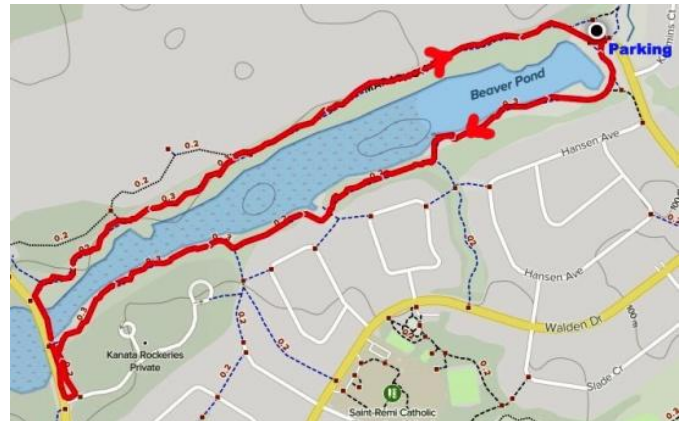
October Outing – October 13



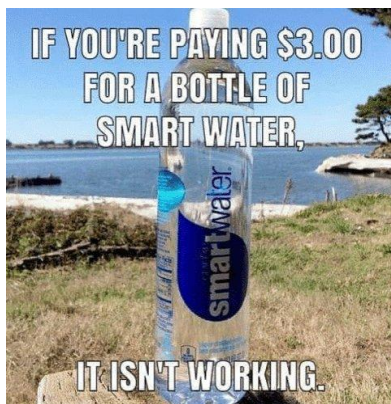
Tuesday, October 13 was a cool and drizzly day. But to show that Probus is a hardy group, eight of our members took the challenge and walked around the Beaver Pond. What a wonderful day it turned out to be. Only a light drizzle and despite the odd puddle the leafy trails were smooth and easily managed. The colours on the trees maintained their brilliance. While the Canada Geese had departed there were still ducks and squirrels to keep us entertained.

There was consensus that we should do this again in the spring when the trilliums are in bloom.

- Peter van Boeschoten, Vice-President



Chuckle Corner

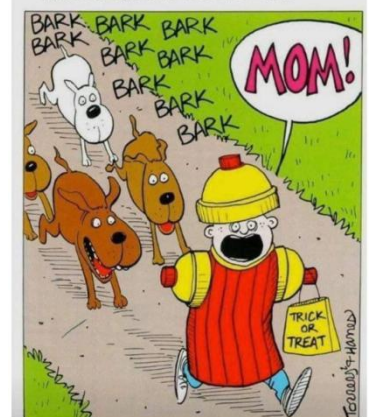


A married man's honest confession :



"I always read my wife's horoscope to see what kind of day I am going to have..."

IT DIDN'T TAKE TIMMY LONG TO REGRET HIS CHOICE OF HALLOWEEN COSTUME.



Submitted by Chuck Eadie, Cornwall Probus Club Newsletter Editor

The Confusing English Language

For all of you who wonder why folks from other countries have a bit of trouble with the English language. This is a clever piece put together by an English teacher, who else??

- 1) The bandage was *wound* around the *wound*.
- 2) The farm was used to *produce produce*.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to *refuse* more *refuse*.
- 4) We must *polish* the *Polish* furniture.
- 5) He could *lead* if he would get the *lead* out.
- 6) The soldier decided to *desert* his dessert in the *desert*.
- 7) Since there is no time like the *present*, he thought it was time to *present* the *present*.
- 8) A *bass* was painted on the head of the *bass* drum.
- 9) When shot at, the *dove dove* into the bushes.
- 10) I did not *object* to the *object*.
- 11) The insurance was *invalid* for the *invalid*.
- 12) There was a *row* among the oarsmen about how to *row*.
- 13) They were too *close* to the door to *close* it.
- 14) The buck *does* funny things when the *does* are present.
- 15) A seamstress and a *sewer* fell down into a *sewer* line.
- 16) To help with planting, the farmer taught his *sow* to *sow*.
- 17) The *wind* was too strong to *wind* the sail.
- 18) Upon seeing the *tear* in the painting I shed a *tear*.
- 19) I had to *subject* the *subject* to a series of tests.
- 20) How can I *intimate* this to my most *intimate* friend?



Let's face it - English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in a pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat. We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth, beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, 2 meese? One index, 2 indices? Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it? If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?

Sometimes I think all the English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell? How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out, in which an alarm goes off by going on and in which we drive on a parkway and park on a driveway.

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all. That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

PS. - Why doesn't 'Buick' rhyme with 'quick'? AND If a male goat is called a ram and a donkey is called an ass, why is a "ram-in-the-ass" called a goose?

Lest We Forget...

You could have heard a pin drop.

- 1) In France, at a fairly large conference, Former Canadian Prime minister, Steven Harper was asked by a French cabinet minister if Canadian involvement in Afghanistan was just an example of "empire building." Mr. Harper answered by saying, "Over the years, Canada has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only amount of land we have ever asked for in return is enough to bury those that did not return." You could have heard a pin drop.
- 2) A Canadian Admiral was attending a naval conference that included Admirals from the Canadian, United States, English, Australian and French navies. At a cocktail reception, he found himself standing with a large group of officers that included personnel from most of these countries. Everyone was chatting away in English as they sipped their drinks, but a French officer suddenly complained that, whereas Europeans learn many languages, North Americans generally learn only English. He then asked, "Why is it that we always have to speak English in these conferences rather than speaking French?" Without hesitating the Canadian Admiral replied, "Maybe it's because the Brits, Canadians, Aussies and Americans arranged it so you wouldn't have to speak German." You could have heard a pin drop.
- 3) When Robert Whiting, an elderly Canadian gentleman of 83, arrived in Paris by plane at the French Customs, he took a few minutes to locate his passport in his carry-on.
"You have been to France before monsieur?" the customs officer asked sarcastically. Mr Whiting admitted that he had been to France previously.
The official replied, "Then you should know enough to have your passport ready."
The Canadian said, "The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it."
"Impossible, Monsieur, Canadians always have to show passports on arrival in France!"
The Canadian senior gave the French man a long, hard look. Then he quietly explained, "Well, when I came ashore on D-Day in 1944 to help liberate this country, I couldn't find a single Frenchman to show a passport to." You could have heard a pin drop.

And finally

- 4) In the early 1960's, a famous World War Two and Korean War veteran Canadian, Major General John Rockingham, who was not retired but out of uniform, attended an International Ski Federation meeting in Austria and at a cocktail reception was asked by a group of Austrian army officers in uniform what he did for a living. His response was, "I win wars, what do you do?" You could have heard a pin drop.

– Submitted by Marg Demers, Past President

