



# The PROBUS Pilot



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

October 2021

Vol: 13 No: 2

**Tuesday, October 12, 10am, via ZOOM\***

## **James Powell: *The Assassination of D'Arcy McGee***

In the wee hours of April 7th 1868, a shot rang out on Sparks Street. Felled while putting his key into the front door of his rooming house, was Thomas D'Arcy McGee, a "Father of Confederation" and close friend of Sir John A. MacDonald. Who did it? Were the Fenians involved? Did Patrick James Whelan, the accused assassin, receive a fair trial?



Come listen to James Powell from the Historical Society of Ottawa speak via Zoom on the life and times of D'Arcy McGee, and on his assassination that shook the new Dominion of Canada.

Born in Bermuda, James is a retired senior officer of the Bank of Canada. He is the author or co-author of three books dealing with some aspect of Canadian economic history: *A History of the Canadian Dollar*; *The Bank of Canada of James Elliott Coyne: Challenges, Confrontation and Change*; and (with Jill Moxley), *Faking It! A History of Counterfeiting in Canada*. He also wrote a History of the G-20 Countries for the Group of Twenty, as well as two corporate books for the Bank of Canada, one focusing on the architecture and art of the Bank of Canada and another on Canada's currency collection. James is a Director of the Historical Society of Ottawa, and is the author of an Ottawa history blog called *Today in Ottawa's History*.

\* ZOOM meeting details will be emailed to members on October 10th.

## **The Prez Sez**



Well, it's October and some things stay the same. The leaves are turning colour and children have been back in school for several weeks.

What has not changed is COVID and its effect on all of us including we seniors. Seniors need social contact and mental stimulation the same way that our young people do and perhaps more so.

The seniors' cohort was among the first to be fully vaccinated. We are at the same time the most vulnerable. Despite Zoom, many seniors have been waiting a long time to see their friends again.

COVID is restricting seniors' participation in churches, legion branches, seniors centres and Probus -- each coping in its own way.

Unfortunately, the recent rise in COVID cases has forced the province and our venue to slow down the easing of restrictions. For us this means that our in-person meetings will now be delayed until February at the earliest.

This means that our monthly meetings will continue to be via Zoom with a varied and interesting list of speakers.

We continue to try to offer non-Zoom activities such as the Kin Vineyard luncheon held on September 30<sup>th</sup>. There is a fall colours walk around the Beaver pond on October 18<sup>th</sup> and a possible guided historical tour of the Beechwood cemetery in November (tentatively the 15<sup>th</sup>). As well, we plan lunches each month at nearby restaurants, as these activities afford the opportunity to see each other in person.

COVID may curtail or alter some activities, but it cannot diminish our enthusiasm.

Thank you to all those who have shown their support by renewing their membership. In particular, I would like to give special thanks to those members who have provided us with a donation in addition to their membership renewal.

Peter van Boeschoten, President

## At our September Meeting



Our speaker in September was Tim Moses speaking on “Preparing for End of Life”. This excellent presentation, touched on many topics as outlined in a handout issued with the September 12<sup>th</sup> Zoom email invitation. Tim’s experience in Financial Planning as well as in the funeral business allowed him to pass on insights that may not be readily available from a funeral home agent.

There were 3 main themes: wills, estate organizers and funeral/cemetery arrangements.

**Wills:** Tim repeatedly emphasized the importance of having a will. Without it, the Auditor General of Ontario will deal with your estate as per provincial legislation.

**Estate Organizer:** Lists all of one’s assets that an executor will need to know about in order to terminate one’s financial affairs. These will include online accounts and passwords. Simplify your estate if you can – e.g. getting rid of unnecessary credit cards & bank accounts. Sample organizing templates are freely available, either on the web or from funeral homes, which you can use as is or adapt to meet your needs.

**Funeral/Cemetery Arrangements:** typical costs were discussed throughout with many options available, Tim’s final slide listed local options for cemeteries and funeral homes.

The recording of Tim’s presentation (link issued to members in a September 16<sup>th</sup> email) will no longer be available after Tuesday, October 12.

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## Future speakers

Kanata United Church recently informed us that they will not rent to outside groups before January 15<sup>th</sup> and even that date may slip further. This impacts our planning as we must ensure our speakers for at least November, December and January agree to use Zoom.

Your executive is still discussing whether to record meetings once in-person presentations resume, especially when it is likely that constraints will, initially at least, be placed on the numbers allowed.

Following is our confirmed speaker for November.

### November 9 – Nicolas McCarthy (via Zoom)

*Beechwood’s 200 Year Journey to Becoming Our National Military Cemetery*

We are continuing our discussions with speakers for future meetings as we react to the latest KUC announcements. Here is a sampling of some of the topics planned...

- Money Laundering and Human Trafficking
- Writing Behind Bars
- Risk Management
- When Tobacco was King
- British Home Children

All Zoom meetings start formally at 10 am on the second Tuesday of each month. To allow time for informal socialization or just to ensure you have no technical issues with the ZOOM application, you will be able to join the call after 9:30 am.

A link to the ZOOM session and further instructions will be emailed to the membership on the Sunday prior to each meeting. More information about each speaker will be provided in the newsletter for that month.

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

For past speaker info, see our newsletters at: [www.probuswesternottawa.ca](http://www.probuswesternottawa.ca)



**CORRECTION:** The September Newsletter incorrectly placed John Hardie’s name under a picture of George Steeves as Member-at-Large. The picture was correct, the name was not.

## October Outing – Beaver Pond Walk

Join us for another leisurely (45-60 minutes) 3 Km walk on a smooth trail to take us fully around the Beaver Pond. There should be lots of fall colours.

For a good preview of this trail see [here](#).

Please meet at the pond at the North end of Walden Drive (Note that the parking lot is closed – please park on the street)

Please meet at **10:30 a.m. on Monday, October 18.**

Bring your camera.

We will go rain or shine, so dress appropriately.

Please observe COVID protocols and ensure physical distancing.



## Luncheon Opportunity Wednesday, October 27



at [The Glen Scottish Restaurant and Pub](#), 6081 Hazeldean Rd., Unit 1010, Stittsville at **noon** in their heated tent.

Planning on attending? Please **sign up with Marie** via email to [lunches@probuswesternottawa.ca](mailto:lunches@probuswesternottawa.ca) by October 22<sup>nd</sup>.



Welcome to the new member who joined since our last newsletter:

**Beverley Anderson**

(total membership now 182)

**Prospective New Members,**

please contact Barbara Bole via [membership@probuswesternottawa.ca](mailto:membership@probuswesternottawa.ca)



## Kin Vineyard Outing - September 30

After rain forced postponement of our outing, 16 members met for lunch at Kin Vineyards on September 30. It was a nice fall day and everyone was glad to catch up after our lockdown. Two recent members, Ron Danielson and June Stewart joined us for lunch. June was previously a Probus member in North Bay and Ron previously a member in Oakville. Welcome to both of them.

Marie Armstrong, Lunches coordinator



## Chuckle Corner

### Puns for Educated Minds

- The fattest knight at King Arthur's Round Table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
- I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island. It turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
- She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.
- A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
- No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
- A dog gave birth to puppies near the road ... and was cited for littering.
- Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
- A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
- Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
- I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
- The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
- The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
- A backward poet writes inverse.
- When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
- If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine.
- A vulture boards an airplane, carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at him and says, 'I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger.'
- Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says 'Dam!'
- Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, 'I've lost my electron.' The other says 'Are you sure?' The first replies, 'Yes, I'm positive.'
- Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root canal? His goal: transcendental medication.



## Membership Dues Due By December 15

As of October 2, 37 members have paid.

Note that the payment deadline is December 15<sup>th</sup>, rather than Dec 31<sup>st</sup> as reported last month. We need two weeks to tally the final year end membership count in order to submit the appropriate fees to Probus Canada.

**Prospective new members** should first contact Barbara Bole at [membership@probuswesternottawa.ca](mailto:membership@probuswesternottawa.ca)

### PAYMENT METHODS.

Annual dues are \$25 per renewing member. Since we will not have any in-person meeting this fall, cash is no longer an option. Dues can be paid either

1. by e-transfer as set out below or
2. by cheque mailed to our Treasurer at the following address...

Desna Sulway  
2 Harwick Cres.,  
Nepean, Ont.  
K2H 6P9



If you do not renew your membership, your name will be dropped from our mailing list in January.

### USING E-TRANSFER



We have set up an account to accept e-Transfers via Auto-deposit so that your transfer will be deposited automatically without the need for a security question and answer. A confirmation email is sent automatically to the sender and an email notice of deposit is also sent to the recipient.

Auto-deposit has the same security features as the regular Interac e-Transfer service, one of the safest digital money transfer services in the world. The money is transferred through established and secure banking procedures that financial institutions have used for years to settle cheques, bank machine deposits and withdrawals.

To use e-transfer, the financial institution the member uses must support interac e-transfer. Please follow the steps below:

1. Sign into your online banking (speak to your bank about setting up online capability if required)
2. Go to interac e-transfer
3. First add the new recipient
4. When asked for a recipient name - enter **Probus Club of Western Ottawa**. (If you encounter character limitations, try **PROBUS West**)
5. For the recipient's email - enter [membership@probuswesternottawa.ca](mailto:membership@probuswesternottawa.ca), then **next**.
6. If you have more than one account, select the one from which you wish to withdraw funds.
7. Enter the amount you are withdrawing then click **send**.
8. You should see a notice that the recipient has enabled automatic deposit so that no security question is required.
9. In the message box, put the names of all persons for whom you are submitting fees (e.g. John and Jane Doe). Do not use any special characters such as "&".
10. Confirm your details and then **send**.
11. You will receive a confirmation email with a reference number should follow-up be required.