



The PROBUS Pilot



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

February 2022

Vol: 13 No: 6

Tuesday, February 8, 10am, via ZOOM*

Benoit Bazinet: THE BEES OF BEECHWOOD

Born in Cornwall, Ontario and raised in the Eastern Ontario towns of St-Albert and Casselman, Benoit Bazinet started working at local funeral homes at the early age of 16. In 1996, he graduated with full honours from the Funeral Services Program at Cambrian College/Collège Boréal in Sudbury, Ontario. As a licensed Funeral Director, he has made Ottawa his hometown since 1996.



In the mid 80's Ben's godfather tended and hosted a communal family garden on his farm land. It was here at the age of 12 that Ben was introduced to beekeeping. In the mid 90's, while at High School in Casselman, he looked after his biology teacher's apiary and thereby gained "hands on" experience as an apiarist.

In 2016, Ben proposed an urban beekeeping green initiative to Beechwood's Management and Board of Directors. His proposal was unanimously approved.

Ben's presentation will touch on the evolution, anatomy, social structure and behaviour of the modern honeybee colony, the importance of pollinators to our food chain, and contributing factors to the decline of bees and native pollinators. He will conclude with what we can do to help.

* ZOOM meeting details will be emailed to members on February 6th.



The Prez Sez

Part one

Covid19 is impacting us all, including our Probus Club.

Last week your Management Board met to look at how the pandemic has affected us and what the future might hold. We considered many factors including availability of venues and restaurants, the need for members to feel safe, zoom fatigue/phobia, small audience size, speaker availability, the cold weather, what's next after Omicron, uncertainty all around and many other factors.

Last week we looked at all options to be able to provide some certainty. We considered a number of options on how to proceed including pausing all our activities until next September. We finally decided to continue with our quality Zoom speakers with the likelihood that that format will likely take us through June. On the dining and outings activities we decided to explore outdoor events whenever possible. As restaurants, museums and venues begin to open we would once again increase our involvement with these activities, likely with some restrictions.

We owe you, the members, a heartfelt thank you for sticking with us during the pandemic. Returning to some kind of normal will take time but we will continue to strive to provide you with helpful social engagement and learning opportunities.

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Part two

Now we need a big favour from members that will affect whether our club continues beyond September.

Our Management Board has been relatively unchanged now for three years with many members having served even longer than that. They have asked for a break, and most will not be carrying on if we resume activities in September. That's a big IF.

We will be short a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Coordinator, Speaker Coordinator, Outings Coordinator and Publicity Coordinator.

Normally at our in-person meetings we can talk, encourage and arm twist members to take on these roles. Now without that personal contact that is not possible. We thus ask that members step up and volunteer without being asked, sooner rather than later so that we can ensure a handover.

As we have noted many times, a core Probus aim is to enhance social contact. Being a part of the Management Team provides yet another opportunity to make that happen.

Please give it some thought. The future of our club depends on it.

Peter van Boeschoten, President
president@probuswesternottawa.ca

Editorial

To add to Peter's remarks, it should be noted that existing executive members would be pleased to provide whatever assistance a prospective new applicant requires. Most titles are self-descriptive, but details of responsibilities may be found on our web site [here](#). Alternatively, you can contact any executive member for more information about their position by using the address format title@probuswesternottawa.ca.

Current Membership Count : We are now up to 134 members who have paid their dues.

January in Review

Speaker: Our speaker in January was Michèle Vinet, an award-winning Canadian writer and educator from Ottawa, who told us of her experience in bringing four writing workshops into the federal Women's Penitentiary in Joliette, Québec.

Michèle proved to be a superb story teller and her presentation was an eye-opening introduction to Canada's penitentiary system, illustrated with anecdotes of life-changing incidents with officials and women inmates.



A recording of this meeting is available on YouTube until Tuesday, February 8 (link provided in our January 14th email).

Important Notice about Outings and Lunches

No lunches or outings occurred in January. It is now clear that uncertainty and concerns regarding the Omicron Covid variant make it unlikely that future event planning can be undertaken in sufficient time to meet this newsletter's publishing schedules.

Our executive will continue to make whatever arrangements are possible. When government restrictions and the weather allow, we will notify our membership via separate emails if newsletter inclusion is not possible.

For example, we are hoping to offer a sugar bush event in March when warmer weather is expected.

Please submit any requests or suggestions to outings@probuswesternottawa.ca or lunches@probuswesternottawa.ca

Future speakers

Here is our speaker program for March to June...

March 8 – Jaqueline Gori. *Filling the Gap with Furry Feet*: the treatment of psychiatric and other mental health challenges using service dogs.

Note: Last month, our plan for March was to showcase John & Jan Milnes speaking about *The British Home Children*. Unfortunately, the Milnes do not wish to use Zoom, the only option currently available for our meetings. Charlie therefore prevailed upon Jacqueline Gori to give us an update to her presentation in March of last year which was entitled *Life Changing Experiences with My Service Dog*.

April 12 - Geneviève Leduc Boole. *Risk Management*. Geneviève is an expert in the field having had a career in the Security and Intelligence fields. She presently is employed with the Bank of Canada and will speak to us on the tools that are used in the field of Risk Management.

May 10 - Michael Boole will present on the topic of *Money Laundering, Human Trafficking & Child Exploitation*. All three are in the news today even if they have been drowned out by Covid and its variants!

June 14. - Paul Allen. *When Tobacco was King*. The Big Lie is not new! The earlier big lie that many of us may have forgotten surrounded the tobacco industry. Remember when the scientists began to tell us that cigarette smoking led to cancer but the industry said it was cool and sexy to smoke. The Marlborough Man came riding in on his horse with a smoke screen of misinformation!!

All Zoom meetings start 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.

For past speaker info, see our newsletters at: www.probuswesternottawa.ca

How to prepare for a Zoom meeting



Group Insurance Benefits

PROBUS Canada has worked with Johnson Inc., a national benefits provider, to offer a benefit plan custom-designed for our members. Options include:

- Extended Health Care (EHC)
- Travel Insurance
- Dental Care
- Guaranteed or Term Life Insurance



For more info: <https://group.johnson.ca/probus/en/on>

Did You Know?

Should you know of any member who would appreciate a card in remembrance, in celebration, for congratulations or for any other significant reason, please contact



Betty Jean Bone at 613-721-5536

or email cards@probuswesternottawa.ca

Betty Jean will send a card or note to them on behalf of our Probus Group.

The December newsletter of Probus Canada is now available on their website: <https://www.probus.org>

Chuckle Corner

HOW DO COURT RECORDERS KEEP STRAIGHT FACES?

These are from a book called Disorder in the American Courts and are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down and published by court reporters that had the torment of staying calm while the exchanges were taking place.

ATTORNEY: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact?

WITNESS: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

ATTORNEY: What is your date of birth?

WITNESS: July 18th.

ATTORNEY: What year?

WITNESS: Every year.

ATTORNEY: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

WITNESS: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

ATTORNEY: The youngest son, the 20-year-old, how old is he?

WITNESS: He's 20, much like your IQ.

ATTORNEY: Were you present when your picture was taken?

WITNESS: Are you kidding me?

ATTORNEY: Can you describe the individual?

WITNESS: He was about medium height and had a beard

ATTORNEY: Was this a male or a female?

WITNESS: Unless the Circus was in town I'm going with male.

ATTORNEY: Doctor, how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people?

WITNESS: All of them. The live ones put up too much of a fight.

ATTORNEY: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for blood pressure?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for breathing?

WITNESS: No..

ATTORNEY: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: How can you be so sure, Doctor?

WITNESS: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

ATTORNEY: I see, but could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?

WITNESS: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law.

Winter in Canada



WHEN YOU NEED TO GET YOUR MAIL

In Canada.



Stuck in the snow on your travels? Take your floor mats from the car and place them under the wheels to get traction #CarHack



 **Happy Valentine's Day – February 14th** 