



# The PROBUS Pilot



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

March 2024

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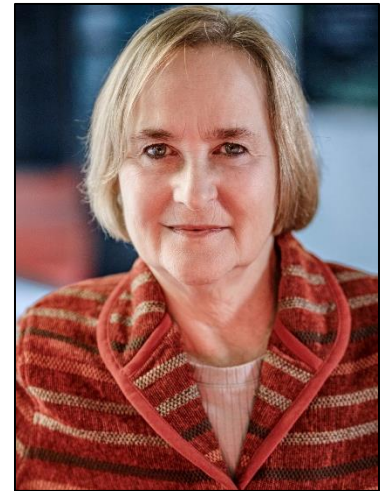
Tuesday, March 12

## Peggy Blair: Experiences Publishing a Book

Come and hear Peggy Blair talk about the experience of writing mystery books and getting them published. On top of being an author, Peggy worked as a lawyer for over thirty years and was considered an expert in Indigenous law. She was also a Crown prosecutor and criminal defence lawyer and sat on the Canadian Rights Tribunal.

Peggy has traveled to Cuba, going to Old Havana for a Christmas. There she people-watched, went to the bars favored by Hemingway, and discovered how to make a great mojito. She has been named in the Canadian Who's Who.

Blair has written five mystery novels. *The Beggar's Opera* was published in 2012 by Penguin Canada as well internationally. It was shortlisted for the UK Debut Dagger Award and won the Giller Prize Reader's Choice Award. It was followed by *The Poisoned Pawn*, and then *Hungry Ghosts*, and *Umbrella Man* which were published by Simon and Schuster Canada and which she has recently put back in print. Her latest novel, *Shadow Play*, is set in Ottawa around an LRT scandal and can be ordered



### Upcoming Speakers

**April 9:** Dr. Tim Pynchyl  
"Procrastination"

**May 14:** Dr. Ian Mackay,  
Topic TBA

**June 11:** Dr. Tet Yeap  
Climate Conscious Farming

Probud clubs provide regular gatherings for semi-retired and retired people who appreciate and value opportunities to meet with others of similar interests. The morning begins at 10:00 am with a time for coffee and socialization followed by our meeting at 10:30 which includes a guest speaker.

Probud Western Ottawa meets the second Tuesday of the month at:

Kanata Baptist Church,  
465 Hazeldean Road, Kanata Ontario

We like to think our Probud Club is much like a family. As such, we like to send a card when someone is ill, hospitalized, in need of a comforting word or experiencing a significant milestone. If you know of someone who would appreciate receiving a card, please call Betty Jean Bone at 613-721-5536 or email: [cards@probudwesternottawa.ca](mailto:cards@probudwesternottawa.ca).



# The Prez Sez



Hello everyone.

Last month David Stafford and I shared some of our histories and interests to model how such an activity could encourage more connections among our members. Our premise is that as people learn more about you, they are more likely to discover common interests or experiences. We will continue this meeting agenda item through at least June to allow other members to participate. As a reminder, no more than three volunteers will be selected from a show of hands. Presenters are asked to come to the front so people can see them properly. They will be given a microphone, and their presentation should not exceed two minutes in length. Content is at the discretion of the volunteer and could cover such topics as career, family, hobbies, interests and life experiences.

Any comments about this activity are welcome and may be directed to me at the email address below.

It's not yet known in all cases which members of the Management Committee will be returning next year and in what role. What is known is listed below. Many current positions would benefit from having co-leaders, so if you are interested in exploring any possibility, please contact me or the current position leader.

**PLEASE HELP YOUR CLUB.** Many current committee members have served for years and are burning out. Also, new people come with fresh ideas which allow us to make our club more interesting and dynamic.

## **Speaker committee identified**

Five members (Tom Lukowski, Peter Rohe, Lyn and Jim Arsenault and Jim Bondar) have agreed to share the task of finding speakers for next year's programming, replacing Beth Sweetnam who is stepping down. Many thanks to these members for their support.

## **Audio/Video Operator Required.**

Peter Durose will be leaving in June after spending many years of service in this vital area. David Stafford will continue in this role next year, but a second operator is needed to assist. Should David be unable to attend due to illness (for example), we would have no audio-video capability. No prior special skills are required but training is necessary. If seeking more information, please speak with them at a meeting or email them at [av-crew@probuswesternottawa.ca](mailto:av-crew@probuswesternottawa.ca).

## **Newsletter Editor Required**

Kathleen Kelly needs to relinquish her role after this March issue. Past editors, Peter van Boeschoten and Ray Jones, have agreed to publish the April and May issues. We need someone to take on this position for June and next year. A basic familiarity with a word processing application is required. By volunteering early, you can work with the current editor and ease into the role. A "tips and tricks" document is available as well as support from past editors.

## **Webmaster Required**

Peter van Boeschoten has held this position for many years (in addition to other roles) and it's a fairly technical one. Unless someone steps up we may have to abandon maintenance of our website which means losing our club's history. Training is necessary and will be provided.

## **Vice-President Required**

We have been without a Vice-President since September 2021 and next year could be the last for our club unless this situation is corrected. I have agreed to be President for a third term, but no longer. I really need a co-leader to help me next year and hopefully take on the President's role in the following year.

Ray Jones

[president@probuswesternottawa.ca](mailto:president@probuswesternottawa.ca)



Members enjoyed a tour of the Royal Canadian Mint, followed by lunch at Milestones on February 22.



*After our meeting*  
Join us for lunch at  
**Busters Bar and Grill**  
420 Hazeldean road  
at noon

**Sign up** (via a show of hands at the meeting)



## Euchre Players!

Welcome to new and returning players!

**Hope to see you on:**

**Friday, March 8**

12:30 p.m. Social time, coffee, light snacks

1:00 p.m. Let the games begin!

All Probus members who have some knowledge of the game are welcome. Don't know how to play but would like to learn? Try getting started with an App.

The Probus euchre group meets monthly at Bells Corners United Church, 3955 Old Richmond Road (at Moodie).

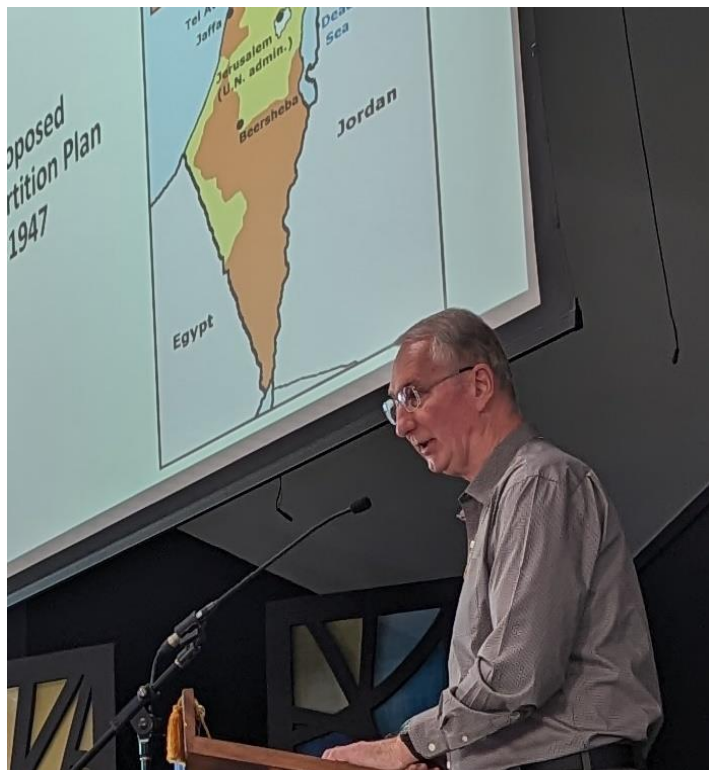
For further information, please contact **Barbara or David Stafford** at [bbole@sympatico.ca](mailto:bbole@sympatico.ca) or phone 613-592-0296.



A good turnout for our February lunch-out at Napoli's Restaurant in Stittsville



## Images from Our February Meeting



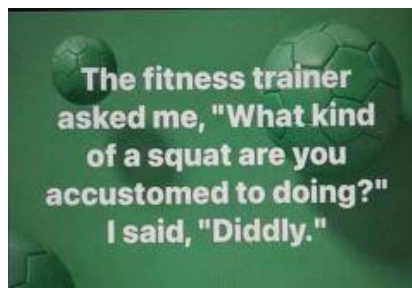
Peter Rohe shared some of his experiences in Israel, where he served in a UN mission.

### Welcome to our New Members

The following new members joined Probus Western Ottawa in February:

Nicola Jarvis  
Travis Jarvis  
Carolyn O'Malley  
David Bromwich  
Marilyn Bromwich

## Chuckle Corner



## Upcoming events:

### **Visit to Temple's Sugar Bush and Pancake House, Thursday, March 21, 1700 Ferguson's Falls Road, Lanark. Visit and lunch at 1:30 p.m.**

Join us on Thursday 21 March for another sugar bush visit and lunch at **Temple's**. We plan to meet for lunch at 1:30 pm. There is also a nature trail onsite with a brochure and map to guide you. More details and a map may be found on our website, (see link at bottom of page); Sign up at our March meeting or contact:

[outings@probuswesternottawa.ca](mailto:outings@probuswesternottawa.ca)

Directions from Kanata: Head west on the 417, exit on 145 - Carleton Place/Toronto, continue west on Hwy 7 for 34 kilometers, turn right onto Ferguson's Falls Rd/Lanark County Rd 15, continue 6 kilometers until you arrive at Temple's on the right.

<http://www.templessugarbush.ca>

### **Visit to Sun Tech Greenhouses, Thursday, March 28, 11:30 a.m., 5541 Doyle Road, Manotick Ontario.**

**Sun Tech Greenhouses** is a hydroponic greenhouse providing high-quality local produce free of GMOs and spray pesticides. This is a family-owned greenhouse supplying the Ottawa region with 3 types of tomatoes and seedless cucumbers.

Following the tour, we will enjoy lunch at **The Swan on the Rideau, 2730 River Road, Manotick Ontario**. Reservations will be made for 1:30 pm. Sign up at the February or March meeting or contact George at

[outings@probuswesternottawa.ca](mailto:outings@probuswesternottawa.ca)

## **Brockville Railway Tunnel, Wednesday April 24th. 2024**

**The Brockville Railway Tunnel** was Canada's first railway tunnel constructed between 1854 and 1860 as part of the Brockville and Ottawa (B&O) Railway. The B&O tied the St. Lawrence River to the Ottawa River to take part in the lucrative timber trade. The B&O was chartered in 1853. The restoration of the historic tunnel was completed during 2016 - 2017 for Canada's 150th. birthday.

Further details and sign-up sheets will be available at our March and April meetings, or contact George at

[outings@probuswesternottawa.ca](mailto:outings@probuswesternottawa.ca)

#### **Our website:**

[www.probuswesternottawa.ca](http://www.probuswesternottawa.ca)

#### **Newsletter comments or submissions:**

[newsletter@probuswesternottawa.ca](mailto:newsletter@probuswesternottawa.ca)

#### **Membership inquiries may be sent to:**

[membership@probuswesternottawa.ca](mailto:membership@probuswesternottawa.ca)

#### **PROBUS Canada Connections, our National Newsletter:**

<https://www.probuscanada.ca/news>