



# The Probian

FEBRUARY 2023

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## PROBUS CLUB OF PERTH



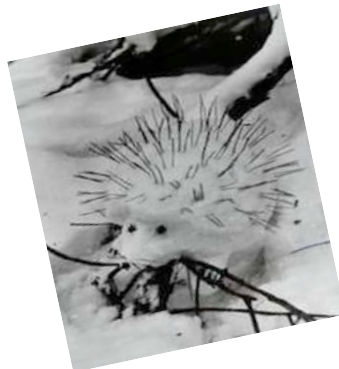
Do you have a sense the planet is moving faster? It did around 2000 but it was barely noticeable. Some people did notice it and enquired on CBC's "Quirks and Quarks". Yes, it's moving faster but slower than "glacial speed". I thought so!

"Time" is what moves quickly to the extent of disbelief! That is, it is difficult to believe we are leaving behind 2 months of Winter and heading into "Moody March" with the "Ides" upon us to "settle debts" on March 15th.

On a more cheerful note, March has a day set-aside to celebrate Ireland's Patron Saint on March 17th.



Winter for many Canadians are spent in warmer places. Among those of us who remain, some "get-a-grip" on wintering in our own country and come up with some very creative snow sculptures.



~ NEXT MEETING ~



Our March Guest Speaker is author Kevin Dooley, who made an important contribution to the historical background of the Rideau Canal story as an UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**JOIN US!**

**For our “In-Person/Zoom” meeting at the Perth Legion on Wednesday, March 1st at 10:00 a.m.**

**Please Note:**  
Covid protocol remains with apologies there will be no coffee.

**— Book Exchange —**

“Bring one! — Take one!”



Graphics courtesy of Probus Pilot Newsletter



## ~ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ~



Dear Members,

Can you believe it, that winter is past half way over already? Spring will be here before we know it.

Our social coordinators Mary and Gail invite you to answer our latest survey to ask what future activities you would like us to organize for club members. Covid has changed many get togethers and activities, so hopefully we can plan some that suit you. We look forward to your responses.

I would like to congratulate our speakers committee for inviting Erin Lee of Interval House to our last meeting. Erin is an enthralling and knowledgeable speaker and both we in the hall, and those on Zoom, very much appreciated her talk.

I thank our valuable volunteers who ensure that our club runs smoothly and invite you to join us, please let me know if you are able to help.

Accept my apologies for not joining you in person in March as I will be in Alvor, Portugal, but I look forward to seeing you in April.

Take care

Susan Freeman



## ~ MARCH SPEAKER ~

### — Kevin Dooley —



Kevin, was born and grew up in Ireland, and came to Canada in 1977. He had spent some years in the merchant navy where he had gained a background of marine engineering. He has had a variety of jobs, and describes himself as a 'Blue Collar Worker'.

Kevin gained increasing interest and skills in Literature and Music, all essentially self-taught, to become 'an independent scholar'. He has published a number of books, including an important contribution to the 'Historical

Background of the Rideau Canal Story as an UNESCO World Heritage Site' and the recognition and commemoration for the Role and Sacrifice of the Labourers, mostly Irish, whose toil built it.

He has a major interest in Irish Culture, especially music, and is active in this scene as a musician and storyteller.

Prepared by Derek Cooke • Speakers Committee



## ~ FEBRUARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS ~

### •February Speaker's Summary•

– Erin Lee –



Erin Lee, Executive Director of Lanark County Interval House and Community Support, spoke to us about *Violence Against Women in Lanark County and Rural Communities*. Erin has been active in many different organizations dedicated toward the cessation of violence against women. She has worked with school boards, provincial associations and numerous committees. She has been recognized for her contributions, earning the *Attorney General's Victim Services Award of Distinction* and the *Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario Award for Social Change*.

Interval House was established in 1979 as an emergency shelter for abused women and children. Over time it has evolved into a community centre offering a wide variety of programs and services throughout the county, hence the name change and expanded mission statement: *"We believe that all women and their children have the right to*

*live with dignity and without the threat of violence. When this right is denied or interfered with, we will provide protection and support."*

With offices in Perth, Tay Valley, Pakenham, Almonte and Carleton Place served by 36 staff, LCIHCS offers shelter, counselling programs for women, children and youth and sexual assault victims, safe and secure second stage housing for up to one year, family court support and public education. While violence does occur in other relationships, 96% of partner violence cases are between men and women.

The organization's statistics for 2020-21 and 2021-22 fiscal years are alarming. Over the two year period, there were 7,840 crisis calls and 6,511 non-crisis calls (neighbours, doctors, donors and neighbours seeking information) and a total of 143 women and children residing in the shelter between 49 and 76 days.

Combatting violence in against women in rural communities is challenging: police response time is impacted by distance and isolation; generational abuse continues; 33% of victims are threatened with weapons; and victims are not believed or are ashamed to seek help because they are known in their community. Lanark County is not alone. Between September 2015 and February 2016, seven women were murdered in Lanark, Renfrew, Lennox and Addington Counties and in Mississippi Mills there was one murder-suicide where the victim survived.

The recent inquest into the triple femicide of Carol Culleton, Anastacia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam in Renfrew County in 2015, in which Erin testified as a neighbour to Renfrew County, resulted in 86 Recommendations some of which are already in place locally. However, the first Recommendation *"To declare violence against women as an epidemic"* has led to historic action by the County of Lanark. Lanark Highlands, Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills had passed resolutions of support prior to Erin's presentation to County Council asking for the passage of a resolution endorsing the first recommendation. Not only did they unanimously pass the resolution which Erin composed "on-the-fly", they amended it to include sharing it with 144 municipalities in Ontario, the delegates at ROMA, AMO and any other rural organizations, and advising



relative federal and provincial ministers. Not only is the County resolution the first in Ontario, it is the first in Canada.

LCIHCS continues to find creative means to address violence, educate the community and provide services and programming. In March of 2022, they were honoured with the OPP Accolade Award for their Victim Advocate Program. The 2015 “SEE IT, NAME IT, CHANGE IT!” Campaign (SINICI) was relaunched in September 2022 in response to more local violence. Since the release of the 86 Recommendations last June, every Thursday, Lake 88 includes a recommendation as a news item.

In closing, Erin reminded us that violence against women continues to be a serious social issue with no immediate solution. She appealed to us to endorse the SINICI campaign by starting a conversation, not turning our heads to violence, honouring the victims of the Montréal Massacre and supporting men’s participation in the Moose Hide Campaign.

For further information, visit <https://lcih.org>.

Prepared by Ann Munroe



## •Personal Profile•

### – Brian Foot–



The son of parents born and raised in Winnipeg, Brian Foot was born in England while his father was stationed there following WW2. His father’s position as a military attaché took the family that included his sister, who is five years older than he, to Paris, Budapest and Berlin prior to settling in Ottawa in 1957. He attended elementary and high school in Ottawa, then Carleton University. Rather than completing his degree he opted to search for a field that he wanted to pursue. A job offer in insurance claims adjusting which included a company car launched his career in 1969 and he never looked back.

Throughout his career, Brian responded to opportunities which came his way. After a year and a half in his initial job, he opened an office for his employer in Arnprior and served as branch manager. Four years later he moved to a larger company, working in Ottawa, Arnprior and Brockville. He then joined with two former colleagues who had started their own business, working first in Ottawa, then moving to the GTA where he opened an office in Markham. They then merged with a large national adjusting firm, a decision which led him to three years in Yellowknife and two in Prince George BC where he earned the title “The Fixer”. Rather than being moved around to offices where the “wheels were falling off”, in 2004 he opened his own business in Smithers, BC, which he sold in 2012.

Upon the sale of his business, he moved back to Ontario. His retirement was brief. He was hired by a former employer as a national Account Manager for a large real estate management company with adjusters across Canada reporting to him. He worked from his home in Pike Lake, retiring again in 2016. He continued doing contract work for the same company prior to the onset of COVID, when he finally retired and moved to Perth.

Brian loves Perth and thinks it is the perfect place for retirement. He has three sons, the eldest in Ottawa, the second in Newmarket and the youngest, who has a developmental disability, in Perth. He is proud of him as he lives semi-independently in an apartment attached to the family home, has a job and participates in Special

Olympics sports. Brian has coached Special Olympics sports for over twenty-five years. His son recently won a gold medal in a regional bowling tournament in Orleans and qualified for the bowling qualifier in the 2023 National Winter Games. In 2020 he qualified in swimming for the 2020 Provincial Spring Games which have been rescheduled for 2024 due to the pandemic.

Prepared by Ann Munroe



Craig Greenwood explaining what was new at Probus Canada



Gail Read speaking about the upcoming social events.



Liz Leonard telling her "Joke of the Day" at the request of our President, Susan Freeman.

Photos courtesy of Colin Stephenson • Webmaster



*Welcome*  
*to our Club!*

Membership Co-ordinator, Mary Vandenhoff, is pleased to welcome two renewing members:

Marg [Sparky] Bartlett and Sandy Currie.

Total paying members is 192 [four new members] plus one new member in the 990+ Club for a grand total of 199 members. So we will be welcoing five new members to Probus Perth.

**•Meet Our New Members•**



It's always a pleasure to welcome new members.

Last meeting we were able to have a "photo-op" of members who have not previously had their pictures taken including: (L-R) Stan Errett, Dawn Best and Edith Lepine, along with President Susan Freeman.

Photo courtesy of Colin Stephenson • Webmaster



**•Upcoming Personal Profile Speakers•**

Judy Brown • March

Paula & David Stewart • April



## ~ SOCIAL ACTIVITIES ~



Probus members enjoying a splendid evening at the Studio Theatre's latest production: "WORKING"

Back Row: L-R: Bill Michie, Lu and Ron Mitchell

Front Row: L-R: Mary Kilgour and Andre Arcand



### • *A Note from the Editor* •

Please note that the Social Committee Report will now be available in its original format at the very end of the Newsletter.



We are making this change because the format of the excellent reports both Mary and Gail prepare is quite different from the traditional format of the Probian. It will be much easier technically therefore to simply add their report on to the end of The Probian. This approach will have the advantage of making it a bit easier for members to print out the last few pages of the Probian as a "handy reference" to remind members of our upcoming social events that Mary and Gail have so well organized on our behalf."





*Closing  
thoughts and  
humour ...*

***“Always end the day with a positive thought no matter how difficult life has been. Tomorrow is a fresh opportunity to make it better.”***

Source Unknown



**Have you ever had one of those days where you were in the “wrong place?”**

**Just in case you didn't know ...**



There is an island which is disputed territory between Canada and Denmark. The militaries of both countries periodically visit to remove the other guy's flag and leave a bottle of Danish schnapps or Canadian whiskey. This is what happens when nice countries fight.

**The Perth Probus Club meets at the  
Royal Canadian Legion Hall, 26 Beckwith Street, Perth,  
on the first Wednesday of the month, September through June.**

**President: Susan Freeman**

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**Further information on the club and contact details for the other  
members of the Management Team can be found at:  
[www.probusperth.ca/board.htm](http://www.probusperth.ca/board.htm)**



**Newsletter Editor • Gayda Errett**

## February 2023 Social Report



Lunch after our March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting will be at  
**Michael's Table**  
Sign up at the meeting.



**Meridian Theatre**  
101 CentrepoinTE Drive  
**Sunday, March 12, 2023**  
**2 p.m.**

**Tickets: \$32 to \$57**

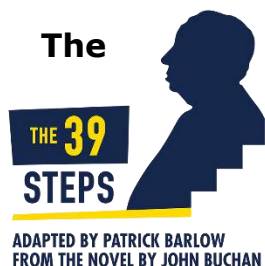
[Tel: 613-580-2700](tel:613-580-2700)

[meridiancentrepoinTE.com/en/memphis/en/memphis](http://meridiancentrepoinTE.com/en/memphis/en/memphis)

Hockaday! Huey Calhoun, a local boy with a passion for music desperately wants to bring Soul, R&B and Rock & Roll music to southern white audiences during the early 1950's. Felicia Farrell is an aspiring black singer who performs under the watchful eye of her overprotective brother in his underground night club. When Huey and Felicia connect over their shared love of music, dreams and ambitions they are faced with objections from not only their families but the world around them. Can music transcend race? Can love win over hate?

Memphis is the winner of 4 Tony Awards including Best Musical.

Please purchase your own tickets ([click here](#)) and then sign up for a 12 pm lunch at the [Royal Oak](#), 117 CentrepoinTE Drive with Gail at [social-gail@probusperth.ca](mailto:social-gail@probusperth.ca). A lovely afternoon and home before dark!!



**Studio Theatre presents....**

**The 39 Steps**

**March 23-April 2**

Richard Hannay is on the run from the police, who suspect him of murdering the woman found stabbed to death in his

London flat. Hannay is innocent, and while on the run is also trying to stop a breach to national security. He is forced to take along a feisty young woman in a comedic race against time. Think Alfred Hitchcock meets Monty Python. Probus members are invited to attend as a group on Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. Please get your own tickets from [Tickets Please](#). A dinner reservation has been made for 5: at Rocky River 8 Wilson St. E. Sign-up at our March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting or by contacting Mary at [social-mary@probusperth.ca](mailto:social-mary@probusperth.ca) or by calling 613-264-6244.





Please watch for, respond to, and return the survey which will shape future Perth Probus Social Events! We have each been reshaped by Covid. We welcome and wish to engage our many new members. We want to continue to share with old friends. We appreciate your assistance in providing events that will maximize participation!!



### Community Events:

February 24 – March 5: Station Theatre, Smiths Falls, presents “Harvey”. Tickets \$22 at [www.smithsfallstheatre.com/online-tickets/](http://www.smithsfallstheatre.com/online-tickets/)

March 1<sup>st</sup> at 10 a.m.: Next Probus Perth meeting at the Legion

March 18<sup>th</sup> from 2-3:30 p.m.: The Perth Public Library offers a free presentation by historian Michael Dupuis on the 1919 Winnipeg general strike.



### Planning Ahead:

April 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.: Upcoming Probus Perth meeting at the Legion

April 8<sup>th</sup>: Town of Perth presents their annual Easter Egg Hunt

April 29<sup>th</sup>: Festival of the Maples

**Tracking local events:** If you are involved in the planning or wish to share information about a future event in Lanark County please contact Mary at [social-mary@probus@probusperth.ca](mailto:social-mary@probus@probusperth.ca) or Gail at [social-gail@probusperth.ca](mailto:social-gail@probusperth.ca). We are happy to include pertinent local events!