



The Probian

January 2022 edition

Probus Club of Perth



There are diversions aplenty in which poor bored and lonely souls can lose themselves during these constricted pandemic days. In no particular order, these may include;

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|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Reading | Growing facial hair | Genealogy |
| Writing | Quilting | Crosswords |
| Walking | Photography | Memorizing Pi to 20 digits |
| Cooking | Carpentry | Studying the history of Perth |
| Painting | Music | Bagpipes? |
| Drawing | Tap dancing | Knitting |
| Learning another language | Sudoku | And now, Wordle.... |

One glaring omission from this list though, is the much-loved, gathering at in-person Probus meetings!

In November we were optimistically looking forward to the possibility of resuming our meetings at the Legion this month. And then came Omicron!

With positive pandemic news seeming to be immediately tempered by doubtful negativity and with even the weather not being able to make up its mind, who knows when we will finally be able to hold in-person meetings again.

Rest assured though, as soon as regulations and practicality allow, we will be there, with the proverbial bells on!

In the meantime, be sure to tune in to our Zoom meetings.

The January meeting was enjoyed by approximately 75 members and the February 02nd meeting is likely to be equally popular. Birds are always a big draw!



February 02nd Presentation:

(Social time 09.40 – 10.00 am, Presentation at 10.00 am, followed by a discussion period.)

Andrew Major will present “**Winter Birds in our Backyard**”



Andrew was born in Frobisher Bay, NWT and grew up in the countryside of Meaford, Ontario. He studied to be a Wildlife Technician at Sir Sandford Fleming College.

Over the past 10 years he has run educational wildlife tours throughout the Georgian Bay area and is the current Birds Canada ambassador for Simcoe County.

If you go out into the woods with Andrew Major, you are probably in for a surprise.

A self-described forensic naturalist, Major has had a lifetime of exploring forests and ponds, and has turned his passion into a business with Georgian Bay Wildlife, where he leads tours of small groups into the woods to show what a diverse home we share.

"There is a lot out there that no one really knows about." said Major.

"It's really interesting to see what's out there".

Birding, in particular, is something that excites Major. His years of bird studies throughout Canada have increased his expertise. But there are some great places to see multiple species within 10 to 15 minutes of town.

Every year, there is a world-wide “bird-a-thon” competition. This year it takes place in the third week of February.

Andrew's presentation for Probus Perth will be about winter birds in our backyard; the common, the less common, the rarely seen.

Membership:

With new member **Yvonne Powell** and returning members **Lise and Bob Peskett** joining our ranks this month, the club membership total now comprises **183** fine upstanding members of the community.

Probus Perth is lucky this year to welcome a number of new members whom we hope to meet in person before too long.

Being a social club, one of the pleasures of membership is getting to know our fellow Probians and one way we do that is through “Personal Profiles”, a very popular feature at our in-person meetings.

A Personal Profile is where a member of our club talks for a few minutes (we suggest seven), about themselves and their life to date. We offer guidance and a structure for the short talk and encourage new members to volunteer to give a Personal Profile at a future in-person meeting.

If you are a new member, please consider allowing me to add your name to the list. Thank you. I can be contacted at vp@probusperth.ca

Susan Freeman, Vice President.

Social Report:

So, what can we do socially and in the cold?

We would like to go on a walk or hike with no more than 10 in the group!

Double vaccination passports, use of masks and follow-up tracking would be required, as would appropriately qualified leaders.

Would any members with Hike Ontario or equivalent Certification who would be willing to lead a walk or hike please contact Gail at social-gail@probusperth.ca or Mary at social-mary@probusperth.ca to discuss the possibilities.

Details will be emailed once we have qualified leaders and walks or hikes are set up. Stay tuned!!

The production of the following plays will depend upon Provincial guidelines regarding Covid restriction:

1. Studio Theatre (Perth) has plays planned:

- a. February 10-20 2022- "Taking Care of the Browns".
- b. Friday Movie Night is a weekly event starting at 7 pm and costing \$12/adult.
- c. Tickets for both are available online at www.ticketsplease.ca.

2. Station Theatre (Smiths Falls)

- a. For information go to www.smithsfallstheatre.com (613-283-0300)

3. Discover what's on stage at the National Arts Center at <https://www.nac-cna.ca>

Note that "Hamilton" has been rescheduled from 2020 to run June 2022.

Tickets are available at www.tickets-center.com.

Looking Ahead to Spring!

We are hopeful that as the weather gets warmer, opportunities to socialize will increase. We are anxious to again organize a variety of outdoor lunches.

Gail and Mary



January presentation:

It is always interesting to hear from a knowledgeable enthusiast.

Tim Burrows certainly brought knowledge and enthusiasm to bear in presenting the case for electric vehicles. As a member of the Electrical Vehicle Society and with nine years of electric car ownership to draw upon, Tim made a strong case for an electric future; laying out the environmental, economic and other benefits and addressing many of the associated myths and misconceptions.

The largest attendance at any of our Zoom meetings to date was testament to the level of interest in the subject. To the point that there was insufficient time to accommodate all the questions submitted by club members.

Some of the questions submitted did, however, show that there is still a lot of scepticism surrounding the move to an all-electric world. When will the price of an electric car be equal to, or less, than its gas powered equivalent? How will the electric grid cope with the huge extra demand? How will the government recoup the value of the tax currently paid on gasoline sales? What about the environmental impact of mining the materials needed for batteries? And so on.

All that said, this was a very interesting and thought-provoking presentation on a subject that will, without doubt, continue to grow in prominence.

More information can be found on Tim's website at <https://www.timtalkstesla.com/> and his monthly webinar "Canada Talks Electric Cars" is available through LinkedIn at <https://ca.linkedin.com/in/timtalkstesla>

Other related articles can be found at:

<https://www.tvo.org/article/electric-cars-are-good-but-fewer-cars-are-better>

<https://www.tvo.org/article/can-ontario-boost-ev-battery-recycling-before-its-too-late>

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20220105-lithium-batteries-big-unanswered-question>

<https://www.macleans.ca/society/technology/no-charging-spots-and-a-strained-electrical-grid-welcome-to-the-electric-vehicle-boom/>

Wisdom:

Always remember that you are absolutely unique.

Just like everyone else.

Margaret Mead

If you could kick the person in the pants responsible for most of your trouble, you wouldn't sit for a month.

Theodore Roosevelt

Audio-Visual help is still wanted:

At the time of writing, nobody has stepped forward with an offer to help David Batchelor with the audio/video set up for our meetings.

David's dedication to the task is keeping us on track during our Zoom meetings and when we return to the Legion he will no doubt, be there ensuring that things go smoothly.

All fine and good, but it is unfair to David and inappropriate for the club to rely on one person to cover this important function.

What we are looking for is someone with a basic knowledge of computers, microphones, etc. who would be willing to act as back-up.

David is more than willing to bring a volunteer up to speed with the specifics of our equipment.

During our Zoom meetings the assistant would be a co-host, normally simply monitoring things, but ready to assist should any issues arise.

At the Legion, the assistant would help with setting up the audio/visual equipment and would assist with solving any issues.

If you could help, please call David Batchelor (264 1559) for more information.

Changes:

Gayda Errett will be taking over as Probian Editor next month.

However, as mentioned in the December Probian, Gayda will need assistance in three areas;

- Someone to write a brief report on the preceding month's presentation.
- Someone to write a summary of any Personal Profile presented at an in-person meeting. (This is usually aided through notes provided by the member presenting their profile.)
- Someone to take photographs of Speakers and other presentations at in-person meetings.

Please consider volunteering. We need you!

By undertaking one, two or all three of these small commitments you would be making a large contribution to the newsletter and to the club as a whole.

Moving on:

As a member of the Management Team for the last few years, I have been privileged to work with an amazing group of people. Their dedication and hard work has allowed the club to not simply keep going in these difficult times, but to thrive. We all owe them a debt of gratitude.

Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely, in a pretty and well-preserved body, but rather to skid broadside in a cloud of smoke, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming, "Wow, that was a ride!"

Hunter S. Thompson

Editing the Probian has been a ride!

My thanks go to Presidents Craig Greenwood, Liz Leonard and Lois-Anne Brebner for giving me the opportunity and for accepting the result...

Rob Leonard

probian@probusperth.ca

In normal times 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: Lois-Anne Brebner president@probusperth.ca

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