



The Probian

JANUARY 2023

PROBUS CLUB OF PERTH



January was unusual! Snow levels were not what they should be but it did return by Friday the 13th. When our newsletter arrives in February, we have the delight of celebrating St. Valentine's Day.

If you didn't receive enough chocolates during the Christmas season, St. Valentine's Day will have you well caught up! A dozen roses will add to this very lovely occasion.



WOW! They Did It!



Photo Submission • Colin Stephenson



~ NEXT MEETING ~



Our February Guest Speaker features Erin Lee, Executive Director of Lanark County Interval House, who will be speaking on the topic of ***“Violence Against Women in Lanark County and Rural Communities”***.


JOIN US!

For our In-Person/Zoom gathering at the Perth Legion on:
Wednesday, February 1st
at 10:00 a.m.

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

— Book Exchange —

“Bring one! — Take one!”



Graphics courtesy of Probus Pilot Newsletter



~ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ~



Dear Members,

Happy New Year to you all and I wish for you a happy a healthy 2023. Hopefully this year we can enjoy the activities that we used to, as we all hope Covid will fade....

I was so relieved and happy that we resolved our sound difficulties at our last meeting so that everyone in the Legion could hear and enjoy our speaker, and those who joined us by Zoom could too. I'm sure we all learnt far more about spirits than we anticipated! Thank you Tim for another interesting presentation and Mike for his volunteer sound and Zoom troubleshooting.

I know many of you are off to warmer climes this winter so please join us by Zoom. I did last year from Portugal, after sorting out the time difference, and enjoyed our speakers very much.

Our book exchange is back and is being enjoyed again, thank you to Bill Michie for storing and hauling the books that do not find new homes.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the writing a synopsis of our Personal Profiles or speakers, we're hoping to create a roster so the writing is shared amongst a few members. Also we seek someone to take photos at our meetings and help with our greeters to welcome new and returning members.

I hope the rest of January is good for you and I look forward to seeing you in February!

Susan Freeman



~ FEBRUARY SPEAKER ~

Violence Against Women in Lanark County and Rural Communities



Erin Lee is an experienced, passionate advocate who has spent decades working to end violence against women. Her work spans anti-violence programs, school board initiatives, provincial associations and numerous boards and committees. Currently Erin is the Executive Director of Lanark County Interval House and Community Support, co-founder of the Lyallen Hayes Memorial Fund, CSWBP member, Co-ordinating Committee member and member of the Victimology Advisory of Algonquin College. In most recent years, Erin was a recipient of the MAG, Award of Distinction and the ETFO award for social change. Erin was a member of the EVA inquest working group and offered testimony related to rural realities as a neighbouring rural county. Erin's advocacy is characterized as solution-focused, mentoring to new advocates and inclusive to all.



~ JANUARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS ~

•January Speaker's Summary•



Our January speaker was **Tim Burrows**, a retired President of Forty Creek Distiller. He began his career in the alcohol industry working nights and weekends for Chateau-Gai Wines and his career evolved for the next 37 years shifting focus from Ontario wines to distilled spirits. Tim shared his knowledge of beer, wine and spirits in his talk **“Could Your Next Career be in Alcohol?”** His talk was provided via Zoom.

Tim began by describing the changes in how alcohol is sold in Ontario from having to write out a card with the desired product number on it and presenting it to a store

agent in earlier years, to handling the bottles ourselves and taking them to the cash in the present day.

Fermentation is the common process when producing wine, beer and spirits that are the combination of sugar and yeast. The yeast is a living organism that eats the sugar and produces carbon monoxide and alcohol.

To produce the three different products various sugars are used. Beer is made from grains and the alcohol content is usually around 5 percent. Wine is fermented grape juice with an alcohol content of 10 to 13 percent. If sparkling wine is desired, more sugar is added before bottling to start further fermentation.

Tim described the distillation process that is used to make various spirits. Brandy is made from distilled wine in a copper pot. The copper pot enables the flavour of the sugar to be maintained in the distilled product. It is then aged in oak barrels for 2 years to add more flavour. Other spirits distilled in the copper pots are made from different sugars and are also aged in the barrels. Whiskey is made from distilled beer and aged for 4 years. On the other hand, vodka is distilled using tall stainless steel containers to ensure that no flavours are added.



Tim Burrows speaking on Zoom

There are global differences in the spirits preferences and these preferences are a result of the availability of the “sugar” to make them. Canadians prefer rye whiskey made from the abundant grain on the prairies. Americans like bourbon that uses corn as it’s base. Russia is known for vodka that was produced from potatoes early on. It is

now usually made from corn but could be produced from any sugar as it is distilled to be tasteless. Japan prefers Sake made from rice, and the French enjoy brandy that has wine as its base.

Many of these alcohol beverages are relatively inexpensive to produce but the Ontario government taxes range from 74% to 139%. Tim indicated that before the pandemic every Canadian of legal drinking age consumed 10 drinks a week. He figures that these statistics are higher now.

With all of the other information that Tim provided, it is quite possible that there may well be a number of budding alcohol producers among our members in the days to come.

Prepared by Marg & Colin Stephenson



•Personal Profile•

– Donna Morrow –



Donna was born in a small farming community “up the valley” and was educated for the first 8 grades in a small one room schoolhouse. After that she was bussed 1 hour away for high school.

Donna studied nursing in Ottawa and then joined the Armed Forces. She recalled being transferred from base to base throughout Canada as a nursing sister. During her time in service Donna took several courses including Planning, Setting Up and maintaining a Field Hospital. She received a promotion to Captaincy and a transfer to Germany after 2 ½ years in the military but at the same time was given an engagement ring from a person from Perth. As Donna put it **“The ring won out!”**

However, she remained in the reserves to be only called back if war broke out.

Donna and her husband settled outside of Smiths Falls and she went to work at the Ontario Hospital School (later called the Rideau Regional Centre). She talked about the many mentally and physically handicapped children and adults who resided at the facility.

Two months after her orientation at the Centre she was called back into service at Trenton during the War Measures Act to prepare and transport a field hospital to Quebec City. After this adventure Donna cancelled her Reserves designation.

During her stay at the facility in Smiths Falls Donna saw many changes and challenges including moving the clients to smaller facilities. While working at the centre Donna worked on and received her bachelor of Nursing Degree. When she retired Donna was Director of the facility and had spent considerable time in Toronto advocating for the multi-handicapped during the development of the Health Care Consent Act that came into effect in 1997.

In 2004, Donna received a call regarding the closure of the Rideau Regional Centre as well as all other facilities in Ontario by 2009. She was asked to assist with the placement of the residents to the Eastern and South Eastern regions in Ontario. Donna was the Care Consultant to the residents, their families, placement facilities and the physicians and health resources in the community in which they were moved. On the conclusion of this project Donna retired from nursing.

Donna’s husband died in 2002 and she went to live in a home built on their Otter Lake property. In 2022, she made the tough decision to sell the property and move to Perth. Donna has been a member of CFUW for 20 plus years, helps her daughter in her store

Fashion Envy, does volunteer work and belongs to 3 book clubs. Now she is a member of Probus.

Prepared by Marg Stephenson



•Past Speaker's Update•

"Here's what's been keeping fellow Probian Gary J. Smith busy ..."



Since Gary spoke to us last September he has been back and forth across the continent promoting his book "Ice War Diplomat" which has been very well received and acknowledged as such with many positive book reviews. A good example of which is the review Gary got from Bob Lewis (former Editor-in-Chief of Maclean's) in the Literary Review of Canada. Mr. Lewis says: "Smith's narrative, honed by his training as an observer and analyst, flows as smoothly as the fanciest skater".

Here is the web link:

<https://reviewcanada.ca/magazine/2022/10/the-bear-and-the-beaver/>

Further, Gary's book has "legs", which they say about all good sellers. He got another excellent review in the October 27th edition of the Washington Independent Review of Books by Todd Kushner, a retired USA Foreign Service officer. A good review was received from a peer. Someone in the trade is always a good indicator of quality. Aside from strong sales in Canada, Gary's book is for sale in the UK, Germany and Scandinavia and it is also widely available for purchase on-line. US sales are exceeding the publisher's expectations. The British Journal of Canadian Studies will be publishing a book review this coming February.

In September, Gary was invited to dinner with the Governor General at Rideau Hall in honour of Team Canada and the 72 Series. Also attending and sharing his table was Ken Dryden, Peter Mahovlich. Paul and Eleanor Henderson. Quite an honour, quite an event; you'll want to get this story from Gary direct!

In October Gary was in Washington D.C. for a presentation of his book at the Canada Institute of the Woodrow Wilson Center and the Canadian American Business Council (CABC). Related to that organisation and event you can hear an excellent discussion from the institute's 'Canusa Street Podcast', which focuses on Canada USA affairs. I've listened to this podcast and highly recommend it. It's a very comprehensive view of the 72 Summit Series from a wide international perspective on world history and diplomatic affairs from then to now. It's replete with new facts and captivating discussion by informed commentators. You can find this podcast at the following web link:

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/50liFUAZb3WYWAOLplfPaa?si=QjbGLtXpTCuQdUqtS&nd=1>

In December, Gary spoke at the Canadian International Council luncheon at the prestigious Union Club in Victoria. Well over one hundred guests were in attendance; many formerly from the military and diplomatic world. And while in British Columbia, Gary was interviewed on the Red Carpet at the Whistler Film Festival where the feature length documentary film, "IceBreaker: The 1972 Summit Series", which is based in part on his book, was screened.

Gary has visited many cities across Canada over the last eight months from Montreal to Victoria, with radio, TV and print interviews from the Globe and Mail, Post Media, CBC

Sports to TVO's Steve Paikin, CTV's Evan Solomon, and CBC Radio Ottawa's Hallie Cotnam, just to mention a few. A week before Christmas, Gary and his book were featured at the Canadian American Business Council's focus on Sports and Diplomacy at the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto.

Sure hope Gary accumulates Air Miles as this year must have been a bonanza. And he's far from finished as I know there are other Probus Clubs waiting in-the-wings for the fury to die down so they can get a crack at Gary too. Sad to say, but were it not for the terrible war in the Ukraine, I'm sure Gary would be doing interviews across Russia.



Gary and Yvan Cournoyer



Gary interviewed by James Gordon, City TV, Vancouver, while attending the Whistler Film Festival on December 2nd, 2022.

**Photos courtesy of Gary Smith
Summary • John Byers • Chair, Speakers Committee**



**Freight train along the Glen Tay-Havelock route.
Photo courtesy • Kevin Tulett**

Welcome
to our Club!

Membership Coordinator Mary Vandenhoff is pleased to welcome two new members, Dawn Best and Marilou Rooke to Probus Perth.

We would like to remind you that Probus Perth honours the members who turned 90 before last September and we may have missed someone during the pandemic.

Would anyone who is 90+, or know of anyone who is, please advise me as these special members get a free membership from now on.

In fact, we have just added Rev. Dr. Stan Errett to that club, bringing the total to six.

•Meet Our New Members•



Reiner and Penny Silberhorn welcomed by President Susan Freeman

•Upcoming Personal Profile Speakers•

David Sampii • February

Judy Brown • March

Paula & David Stewart • April



~ SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT ~

Lunch after February 1st meeting at The Legion is **CANCELLED**.

Only 18 signed up and the minimum number was 30.

Lunch after February 1st meeting will be at The Stone Cellar.

Sign-up at meeting



Anne of Green Gables

PPAC's presentation of "Anne of Green Gables" will be held January 26th-29th at:

PDCI Mason Theatre

13 Victoria Street, Perth

Probus Members will attend **January 27th**

Dinner Reservations 5:00 p.m. at Maximilian's

Please sign-up with Mary for dinner:

social-mary@probusperth.ca

You may join us for dinner whether you go to the theatre or not.



Studio Theatre Presents: "Working!!"

This musical runs February 9-19th at 7:30 p.m.

Probus will attend **Opening Night on February 9th.**

Tickets available at:

Tickets Please.



Dinner will be at Michael's Table at 5:30 p.m.

Please reserve your dinner reservation with Mary: social-mary@probusperth.ca

Even if you not going to the Theatre you can join us for dinner or vice versa.



Local Night in Perth of the great Canadian Hockey Game



— Perth Arena —

Blue Wings vs. Carleton Place
Friday, February. 24th • 7:30 – 10:30 pm
Buy your tickets at the door.

Join us for Dinner at **The Golden Arrow**
5:30 p.m.

Sign up with Gail:
social-gail@probusperth.ca



Mix and Match Saturday, January 28th!

Sign-up with Gail at social-gail@probusperth.ca

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Blue Vendor's Market
Carleton Place Arena

Lunch at 12:30 p.m.
The Thirsty Moose
20 Bridge Street
Carleton Place

3:30 p.m. Almonte Library
155 High Street
1st Event in Speaker's Series:
"The 60s Scoop Survivor's Journey"
Presenter: Colleen Helen-Cardinal

Admission by donation. Register at: learningagainalmonte@gmail.com



FOLKUS Concert Series

\$110 for the 4 concerts OR \$30/concert
Tickets can be purchased starting January 1st at <https://ticketsplease.com/>



•Probus Events•

**Perth Probus will attend Suzie Vinnick
with Australian colleague Lloyd Spiegel
at the lovely Almonte's Old Town Hall
February 18th at 8:00 p.m. (7:30 p.m. arrival)**

Sign up with Gail at: social-gail@probusperth.ca

**Dinner booking at the Barley Mow
79 Little Bridge Street, Almonte**

“Vinnick is beloved for her blistering bluesy guitar, bass chops and honey-sweet vocals. Suzie has won ten Maple Blues Awards, one Canadian Folk Music Award and is a three-time Juno nominee.”

**Tickets ON SALE NOW!
Zachary Stevenson's Tribute to Buddy Holly
April 14th at 7:00 p.m.
Meridian Theatre at CentrepoinTE**

— BOX OFFICE —

**Telephone: 613-580-2700
Toll-free: 1-866-752-5231
meridiancentrepoinTE.com**

101 CentrepoinTE Drive, Ottawa, ON, K2G 5K7



Source Unknown

*Closing
thoughts and
humour ...*



Spirit Island Maligne Lake • Pixabay

***“Can the quiet serve some constructive purpose living a better life?
There’s refuge inhabiting even for a few moments — a calm, grateful,
embodied present.***

And, it would improve our lives if we lived there more often.”

Michael Gerson



***“This is my grandpa. He’s going to explain why
this country is going to hell in a handbasket.”***

Source Unknown



**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**

Newsletter Editor • Gayda Errett