



# The Probian

Probans Club of Perth

January 2025

## President's Message

Happy New Year!

I hope your 2025 plans are going as expected. Doug Phillips, the speaker at our January meeting, was very interesting. As he spoke about the history of the Frost and Wood Company in Smith's Falls, my mind drifted to Kilmac Farm where I grew up.

Doug talked about the different types of farming implements made at the plant. When he mentioned making aprons, I was reminded of driving a tractor in the fields of grain, with my father sitting on the back seat of the binder, tripping the sheaves of grain as they came off the apron. Maybe our apron was made at Frost and Wood!

If you have some Scottish heritage, I hope you get to celebrate it at the upcoming Robbie Burns dinner and dance on January 25th. I'll be sorry to miss it. I usually wear my Grandfather Kilgour's tie when I attend, which has links to my Scottish heritage. My Great Grandfather's farm in Scotland still exists - the Kilgour Farm, which is a mile West of Falkland, south of Edinburgh.

*Mary Kilgour*

## January's Meeting

Wednesday, January 8th  
10:00 AM  
Perth Legion  
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## Reminders

Bring your own **coffee mug**; help the environment.

### Book Exchange:

Bring no more than 4 books; take as many as you want.

### This month's Guest Speaker:

The topic of our fellow Probian, Richard Schooley, is

**Better Understanding US**

Mary Vandenhoff is pleased to announce that our membership is currently at full capacity. Anyone wanting to join is asked to place their name on a waiting list.

If you know of any other members who have reached the magical age of 90, please let Mary know; so they, like Fred can be celebrated as lifetime members.

## Membership

**Below:** Mary Kilgour welcomes a smiling crew of new members to our Probus Club.

**Left to Right:** Kathy Wilson, Will O’Grady, Jane O’Grady, Carol Syred, Kay Rogers, Jim Gardiner, Iris Gardiner, Cathy Cameron, and Mary Kilgour (President)

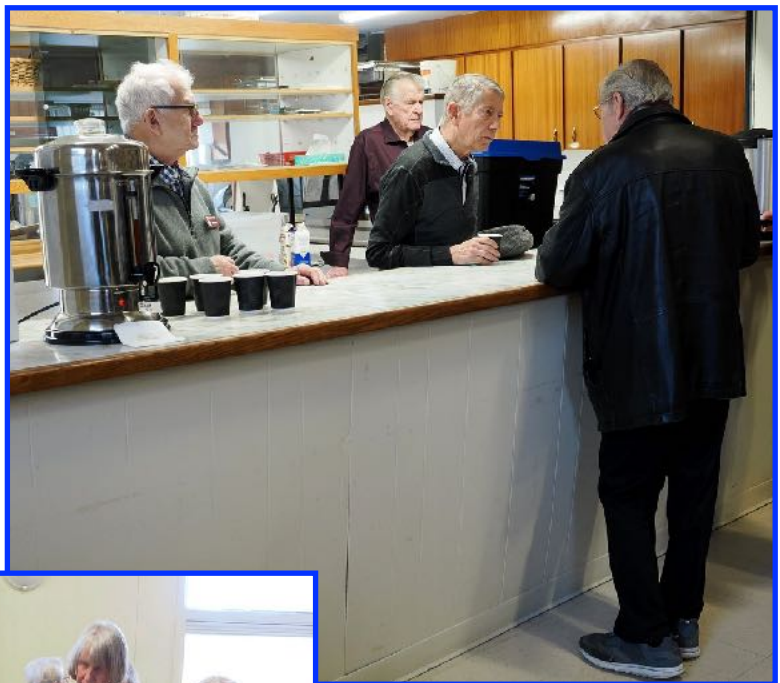


**Above:** Mary Vandenhoff, Membership Chair and Mary Kilgour, President, welcome Fred Lepine (centre) into the Over-90 club



# The Social Side of Probus

Is that a *grenade* I see...?!



**Clockwise from top left...**

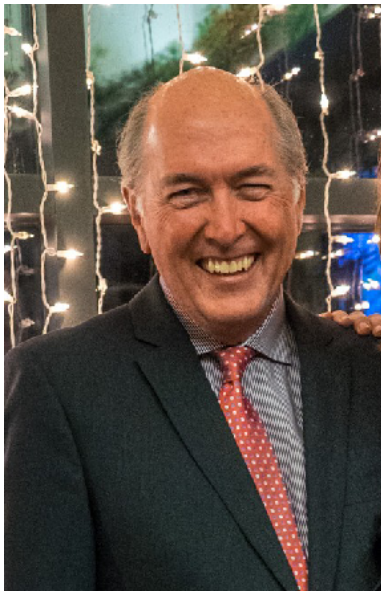
**Linda Walker**, of the Social Committee, presenting the latest smorgasbord of social activities available to our members.

**Serious business at the Coffee Counter:** Don McAdam, Ted Russel & Rob Newby, keeping the coffee mugs filled, and the conversation going.

**Browsing the ever-busy Book Exchange Table.**



## February's Speaker: Richard Schooley



Richard Schooley's presentation is titled "Better Understanding US."

It seems everywhere we look there are demonstrations of the need for change: be it in the delivery of Healthcare,

Municipal, Social, and Educational Services; or in managing our impact on our Environment. Managing Climate change realities and demographic Changes are also issues that need to be addressed. All of these things impact how we live in community, and affect our economic viability. Richard Schooley believes that to successfully enable our future, we need to adjust how we identify as community; and how we present ourselves to, and are understood by, senior government levels - be they County, Provincial, or Federal.

Richard Schooley and his life partner, Karen Campbell, have lived,

gone to school, raised a family, and been employed here in Perth. Karen is an RN in various healthcare roles and a very successful mother; Richard has spent 50 years in the Risk Management and Insurance Brokerage business on Gore Street. Together, they have raised three children, and all of them remain in the greater Perth Community.

Richard feels a "Better Understanding of US" would help us adjust, as community, to accommodate necessary changes enabling the services we need and the economic environment supporting 'community.'

## Marilou Rooke's Personal Profile

Marilou was born and raised in Ottawa where she attended Glebe Collegiate and



Algonquin College.

In the era of Russ Jackson and Ronny Stewart, she was a cheerleader with the Ottawa Rough Riders. When her ambition to become an airline stewardess was dashed due to the height requirements, she embarked on a thirty-five year career with

the Public Service prior to establishing a home-based Reflexology business. She is blessed with two children, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Marilou's longing to live in Perth can be found in her family roots. Her grandparents had connections to Stanleyville and Perth and her parents grew up in the area. Finally in 2021 she made that dream, ignited by her visits with her grandmother when she was a child, happen. Initially, she rented an apartment, then bought her home two years later. She credits Donna Morrow for welcoming her warmly to town and sponsoring her to join Probus. She is very happy to be a member of the group.

Submitted by Ann Munroe



## January's Guest Speaker - Doug Phillips Memories of *Frost & Wood* of Smith's Falls



In 2023, Doug Phillips published **Frost & Wood of Smiths Falls: An Illustrated and Oral History**. It is a labour of love: of his community of Smiths Falls; of local history; of extensive research; of a manufacturing giant; and of the men and women who worked there.

Making reference to the memorabilia displayed in front of the stage, Doug engaged us in a journey through the time of Frost & Wood, a manufacturer of agricultural machinery and implements in Smiths Falls from 1839 -1955. Located on the banks of the Rideau, by 1900 the company had become a major manufacturer across Canada and the sixth largest in Ontario, employing 800-1000 men. Branch offices and warehouses were located in all nine provinces and branch offices or agencies were opened in ten countries.

During the second World War, agricultural equipment took second place to the production of items for the military such as grenades, gun carriages and parts for Lancaster bombers. However, the future of the plant in Smiths Falls would be short-lived.



In 1920 Frost & Wood had become a subsidiary of the Cockshutt Plow Company and in 1938 the Cockshutt name had replaced the Frost & Wood name on farm implements. In 1954 the company announced that business would be centralized in the Cockshutt plant in Brantford, Ontario. One year later the plant closed.

**Below:** Derek Cooke thanks Doug for an engaging talk.



One half of the book is dedicated to the men and women employed at Frost & Wood in its final years. In Doug's interviews with them we are welcomed into a workplace where employees are not afraid of hard work, take pride in their jobs, demonstrate a strong work ethic, respect their supervisors and value the camaraderie of their

colleagues. Doug's appreciation and admiration of the folks who shared their stories with him was clearly evident his presentation.

To purchase a copy of **Frost & Wood of Smiths Falls: An Illustrated and Oral History** you can contact Doug at 613-284-0099 or on Facebook. Arrangements can be made with him as he is in Perth five days a week. He is also available for talks with other groups.

*Submitted by Ann Munroe*

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

President - Mary Kilgour

Further information on the club,  
and contact details  
for other members of the Management Team  
can be found at:

[www.probusperth.ca/board.htm](http://www.probusperth.ca/board.htm)

Newsletter Editor - Yvonne Powell