



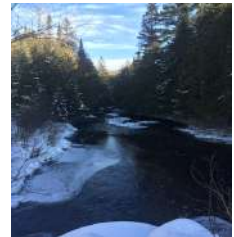
The Probian

March 2022

Probus Club of Perth

Greetings!

'**Moody March**' came in as a 'Lion' fluctuating between heavy snow falls, rain and the odd balmy day. Albeit the pristine snow was beautiful to behold as seen in a photo at Bolton Creek.



Courtesy of Rosetta McInnes

'**Apprehensive April**' promises to bring '**showers for flowers to bloom in May**'. Or, not!



Supposedly, daffodils bloom in April along with celebrating since the 15th century ...

Are you a 'prankster? Fess up!

Let's hope '**When the red, red robin comes bobbing along singing his old sweet song ...**' it will be sooner than later!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE • LOIS-ANNE BREBNER:



As the days lengthen and the sun gets stronger, we sense that spring is just around the corner.

As pandemic restrictions are lifted, we sense that life is slowly making a comeback.

It has been two years since we last met at the Legion for our monthly meeting. Throughout the pandemic your Management Committee has been working to determine how Probus Perth can offer you the best possible experience. We have kept you informed through The Probian, the website and e-mails.

Staying connected via Zoom allowed us to bring you interesting, entertaining and informative speakers, many of whom came to us from distances that we would not have otherwise been able to access. Thanks goes to our dedicated Speakers' Committee who resourced these outstanding speakers and to our audio-visual host for making it all possible.

Now, I know we are all looking forward to being able to meet in person. As the Provincial government began discussing the removal of restrictions, your Management Committee continued to monitor and evaluate the safe return to in-person meetings. During our March 2nd General Meeting, we conducted a Pop-up Poll that would help inform our reopening decision. The results of the Poll indicated that the majority (75%) would be comfortable returning to in-person meetings in September, or when they saw that there were no new problems created from the removal of provincial restrictions.

After careful consideration of the Poll results plus the fact that the Legion is not available for our June meeting, and that Probus Perth does not meet during July and August, the Management Committee has opted to continue with Zoom meetings for April, May and June, with an objective of returning to the Legion in September.

In the meantime, the Social/Events Committee continues to resource outings that will allow members to get together and socialize (see Events report elsewhere in the Newsletter).

We know it has been a tough couple of years, but we're almost there. We appreciate your understanding and look forward to seeing you at the special events.

Fingers crossed for a stable, safe environment in September.



APRIL MEETING:

Our upcoming ZOOM meeting on April 6th begins at 9:40 a.m. with a social time.



The presentation begins at 10:00 a.m., foregoing the regular business portion to maximize the focus on the War in Ukraine Panel Discussion.



A Brief Overview:

Armed conflict in Ukraine first erupted in early 2014, transitioning to a stalemate with Russia, with intermittent skirmishes along their shared border. The full-scale attack by Russia began on February 24, 2022. Ukrainians continue to fight for their lives and country with unprecedented determination. Neighbouring Poland is welcoming and redirecting millions of women, children and needy individuals as they flee to safety. Casualties are high. NATO members are working collaboratively to

provide assistance including sanctions against Russia, requested weapons, funds, support for refugees and medical aid for casualties.

The Probus Panel:

On April 6th, the Speaker's Committee will present a panel discussion on the current war in Ukraine. Gary Smith, a former Canadian Ambassador to Russia, has agreed to participate as a member providing history on the topic and assuming the role of moderator. Shelagh Stevens will share relevant experiences and current understandings of the United Nations. Elsie Stresman will share her knowledge and experience with humanitarian



crises and the needs of refugees. Major-General Clive Addy will be available to field questions related to his extensive past experiences with military strategizing.

Biographies of Participating Panelists:

Gary Smith is a former career diplomat who served over 30 years, more than 20 of which were served abroad. His postings took Gary and his family on a series of around-the-world adventures of varying cultures, climates, schools and political environments. He served at the UN in New York, the Soviet Union, at NATO HQ, Israel, India, Germany, Indonesia, and Ottawa (as Director of Arms Control and Disarmament, among other positions). After leaving government he served as Vice-President (Advancement) at York University, and as an elected official in Central Frontenac. He is currently a Director on The Board of the Former Ambassadors Association, based in Ottawa.

Elsie Stresman is a retired principal. She worked in Pembroke, Thunder Bay, at CFB Baden-Soellingen Germany and NATO JFC Brunssum The Netherlands. From 2015 to 2020 Elsie was a member of the executive of CARR in Perth which successfully sponsored four families from Syria and Iraq. In the fall of 2021 Elsie and Margo Bell took on the responsibility of being Co-chairs for a revived CARR in order to sponsor two Afghan families.

Shelagh Stevens started her career in the military before moving to the logistics Section Chief at the UN mission in Côte d'Ivoire (CDI). She became a contracted instructor with the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre, was recruited to give UN Staff Officer courses on Peacekeeping Logistics in Canada, and was later contracted by the US State Department to give UN instructor, staff officer and logistics courses and exercises from Mongolia to Tunisia, from Malaysia to the Ukraine. At the time Shelagh left the military, she had more peacekeeping experience than any other woman in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Major General Clive Addy has extensive experience with demanding serious and challenging fields. He served 43 years in the Canadian Forces, 11 of which were overseas. He was National Secretary of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires, coordinated 17 divisions across Canada and 18,000 employees. He presided over the Conference Board of Canada conferences including cyber security, transportation security, climate change and pandemic planning. He spent nine years as the first Executive Editor of Frontline Security magazine. Clive has significant personal experience in Afghanistan to contribute to this panel.

Leonard J. Edwards retired in 2010 after 41 years in Canada's Public Service, including 9 years as a deputy minister in 3 assignments: International Trade, Agriculture, and Foreign Affairs. In the 1990s he served as Ambassador to the Republic of Korea and later to Japan. Len was also Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for relations with Asia Pacific and for Trade and Economic Policy. He served as Canada's Senior Official for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation organization. Len is a recipient of Canada's Distinguished Service Medal, Japan's Order of the Rising Sun, and Korea's Order of Diplomatic Service Merit.



ACTION ITEMS:

Probian questions are encouraged in advance of this panel discussion. Our Moderator will integrate this sharing into the framing of the presentation. Please email your question to speakers@probusperth.ca at your earliest convenience. The Q&A will attempt to accommodate Chat Line questions.

The panel honorarium in the amount of \$300 will be donated to the Canadian Red Cross Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis.

Gail Read • Speakers Committee

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

We have 192 members leaving room for 13 new members to join our club before we reach the maximum of 205. When we reach the maximum number of members, a Waiting List is compiled.

Aline McRory • Membership Committee



SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT:

We are pleased to see that restrictions are lifting and that we can begin to cautiously make our way back into social situations. We will begin on April 28th with our first offering of an evening together. We will keep our basket of masks, sanitizers, wipes, and gloves with us to support healthy choices. It is expected that all group members are vaccinated and will abide by socially distancing wherever possible.

TODAY IS A
good day
TO BE
happy

An Evening of Dinner and Theatre in Smiths Falls!



Thursday, April 28th

Dinner at “**The Vault**” at 5:15 p.m.

53 Victoria Street East

“**Halfway There**” by Norm Foster is presented by Station Theatre. Curtain time 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 when purchased from Gail at social-gail@probusperth.ca.
Maximum 16.



Community Update: Events that might be of interest to you!

March 25-27th: “**Sigwan (Spring) Festival**” at Madahoki Farm in Ottawa. Located on the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Nation at 4420 West Hunt Club Road in Ottawa’s greenbelt. ‘**Celebrate the Spring Season**’ in the context of Indigenous culture. Visit <https://indigenous-experiences.ca/sigwan-spring/> for details and registration.

March 31st to April 10th: **Studio Theatre** presents “**Shirley Valentine**” by Willy Russell and directed by Jane Stott. Tickets are \$24 at <https://ticketsplease.ca> (\$19 on March 31st)

Every year in March and April, as the days warm and the nights remain cool, the sap runs in Lanark County, “The Maple Capital of Ontario” **Maple Weekend** is held on April 2nd and 3rd when many local outlets share their ‘sap-to-syrup’ process. Visit one near you!

- Wheeler’s Maple Heritage Museum
- Fulton’s maple taffy and horse-drawn sleigh rides
- Ennis Maple Products using old fashion wood fire
- Fortune Farms with curb side pickup, celebrating their 49th season.

Saturday, April 30th • 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. • Festival of the Maples:

Downtown Perth, fun for all as we mark the end of our Maple Sap run!

Mary Kilgour and Gail Read • Social Events Committee



MARCH PRESENTATION:



Drawing upon decades of involvement, Shelagh Stevens presented the story of United Nations Peacekeeping from its conception through to today, placing particular emphasis on the important role that women continue to play.

After discussing the birth of the United Nations, following the failures of the League of Nations, Shelagh delved deeper into the history of the UN, its structure, its Secretaries-General and the establishment in 1956 (as a result of a suggestion by Lester Pearson, then Canada’s secretary of state for External Affairs) of United Nations Peacekeeping.

Over the years, women gradually achieved the acceptance at all levels necessary to bring about their successful inclusion in peacekeeping missions. The result has been emphatic.

Having a great deal of experience of both military and civilian peacekeeping, in locations around the world, Shelagh has been able to observe the vital difference made through the inclusion of women in peacekeeping missions.

Referring to many personal observations, she emphasized that women and children readily interact with other women, even those in uniform. Men in uniform however, are very often feared, gender-based violence being common in many countries.

Only women can successfully interview the victims of such crimes.

Also, in many countries only women are allowed to interact with or even to instruct other women.

With increasing numbers of women holding very senior positions in the Canadian armed forces and those other countries that support UN peacekeeping missions, the ongoing inclusion of women in those missions would appear to be more than assured.

Thank you, Shelagh, for a very illuminating and thought-provoking presentation.

Prepared by Rob Leonard



Closing Thoughts ...



"Look to the sky. We are not alone. The whole universe is friendly to us and conspires only to give the best to those who dream and work."

Abdul Kalam



Thoughts from the past as the world is in danger of another war ...

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron."

Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890 - 1969), 34th American President, from a speech before the American Society of Newspaper Editors, April 16, 1953



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

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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