



The Probian

MARCH 2023

PROBUS CLUB OF PERTH



Moody March has had it's days with lots of snow and, of course, its bitter winds. Never mind, *Aprehensive April* is on the threshold with the promise that Planet Earth will bring forth its beauty hopefully soon! More importantly, Maple Sugar Tapping came earlier than usual this year! How sweet is that?

Not to forget ...



We are fortunate there are many local maple sugar producers providing delightful celebrations at their facilities including maple taffy on snow. A perfect outing for grandchildren.



Be forwarned some people love to be pranksters!



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Vladimir Sterzer



~ NEXT MEETING ~



Our Guest Speaker will be Sue Brandum, who is the Co-founder and Co-ordinator of Climate Network Lanark.

JOIN US!

**For our “In-Person/Zoom”
meeting at the Perth
Legion:**

**Wednesday, April 5th
at 10:00 a.m.**

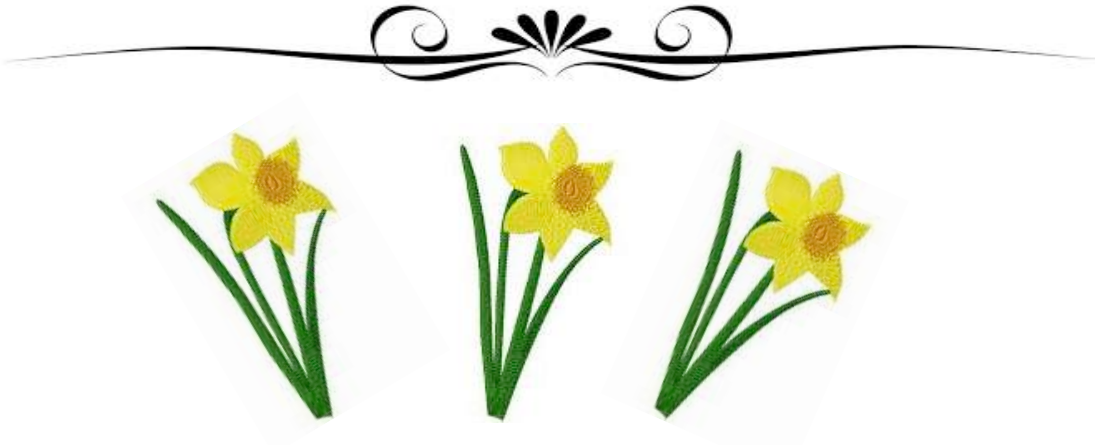
**Please Note:
Covid protocol remains with apologies
there will be no coffee served.**

— Book Exchange —

“Bring one! — Take one!”

An illustration showing two stacks of books. The stack on the left has three books with yellow, grey, and red covers. The stack on the right has three books with green, blue, and pink covers. A large green double-headed arrow points between the two stacks, indicating an exchange.

Graphics courtesy of Probus Pilot Newsletter



~ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ~



Dear Members,

Thank you to Lois-Anne for chairing the March meeting in my absence, much appreciated. Thank you also to a number of members who have stepped forward to help our club: Marg Stephenson, Ann Munroe and Yvonne Powell assisting Gayda with writing-up synopsis of our Speakers talks and member self-introductions. Mike Flynn, Remy Poulin and Ken Fairhead have joined the audio-visual team assisting David when they can. Very much appreciated, thank you. If you would like to help either of these teams, please let me know.

At our Management Committee meeting on March 8th, we discussed our current protocol for meetings ([click here to view](#)) and particularly whether masking should now be optional. We do recognize that there are a number of members who would prefer not to have to wear masks at these meetings. We also are aware of the fact that there are a number of more elderly or immune-compromised members in our club who are concerned about the possible transmission of Covid and other viruses, if in fact members are not masked at these meetings. As a Management Team, we are concerned that these members might decide not to come to our meetings thereby lowering the attendance, or, in the worst case, that they did attend and contacted Covid. We are also aware that even if only some members are masked, it may not prevent transmission to them, depending on the type of masks they are wearing and how they wear them. We have debated this issue at each Management Committee meeting and recognize that some members will not be happy, but have decided that the safest option is to retain our current protocol, as is. until our last meeting in June, after which we will review the issue again. We would therefore request that members continue to wear masks at our meetings until then. And, to thank you for your kind understanding.

Take care.

Susan Freeman



~ APRIL SPEAKER ~

– Sue Brandum –

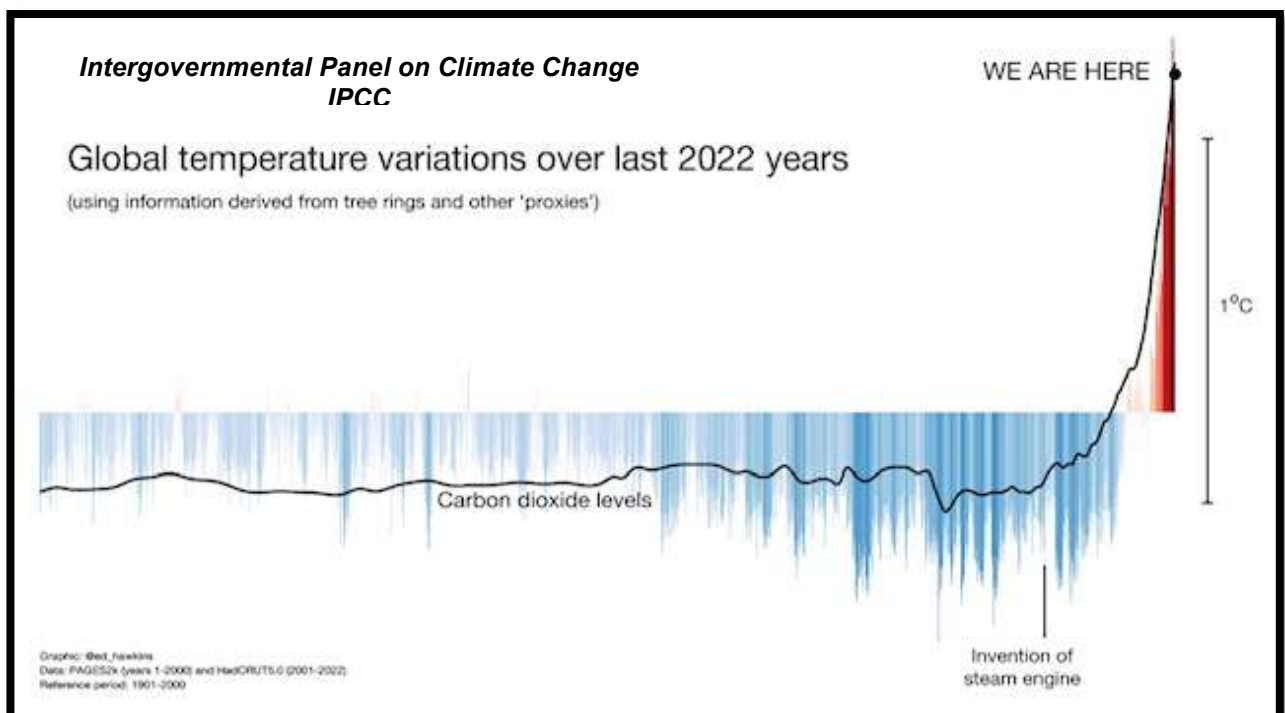
Can Lanark County Pull its Weight? A Pathway to Addressing the Climate Crisis in Lanark County



Sue Brandum is the Co-founder and Co-ordinator of Climate Network Lanark. The mission of Climate Network Lanark is to connect, co-ordinate, facilitate, initiate and support collaborative efforts and actions by and for the community to address the impacts of climate change through both mitigation and adaptation measures. One of their key objectives is to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by at least 55% by 2030 to keep within the 1.5c increase beyond which we risk run-away climate change. Before moving to Port Elmsley 25 years ago, Sue was a specialist energy writer and the volunteer manager of the Coalition for a Green Economic Recovery. She co-authored the underground bestseller, "Get A Life!". Sue became the general manager of Rideau Environmental Action League (REAL), delivering

programs that helped local residents improve their energy efficiency, naturalize their yards and shorelines, manage their wells and septic systems and reuse goods when she established the She became the general manager of REAL, delivering programs that helped local residents improve their energy efficiency, naturalize their yards and shorelines, manage their wells and septic systems and reuse goods when she established the REAL Deal Reuse Store. Sue wrote Tay Valley Township's Climate Action Plan. Sue grew up mainly in Shawville, Quebec.

Prepared by the Speakers Committee



~ MARCH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS ~

• *Speaker's Summary* •

– *Kevin Dooley* –



A Tribute to Sacrifice and Achievement: The Story of the Rideau Canal Workers

Born and raised in Ireland, Kevin Dooley came to Canada in 1977. He had gained a background in marine engineering during his years in the merchant navy. He describes himself as a 'Blue Collared Worker' having had a variety of jobs before he suffered a work-related accident which resulted in a long-term disability. His resulting interest in work-related injuries led him to major research on the Rideau Canal, especially as it related to the role of the thousands of Irish immigrants who became employed in its construction.

Kevin 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. In 2015, he was presented with a plaque by the Irish Society of the National Capital Region as "Person of the Year", in acknowledgement of his work.

In his presentation, Kevin highlighted the geological, engineering, political and sociological challenges associated with the construction of the Rideau Canal. A natural part of the landscape making its way through forests, swamps and lakes, the canal is a magnificent example of engineering with Col. John By, a military engineer, the architect. Quite remarkably, the canal was completed in only five years, from 1827-1832 with 12,000 workers in total, including soldiers bringing engineering experience from Bermuda, Scottish stone masons, French and English lumbermen and 10,000 Irish immigrants. Col. By's outstanding engineering feat was soon forgotten and his career destroyed by the political forces in Upper Canada and England due to the massive cost over-runs.

The human side of the building of the canal is best reflected in the stories of the Irish immigrants who were recruited when the French and English workers quit once the initial portion of the canal was finished. Using his connections with landlords in Ireland and the lumber barons who were shipping logs to Britain, Col. By recruited Irish workers. Little did they know what lay ahead. They were loaded onto rat-infested ships to serve as ballast for the return trip, housed in squalid conditions in camps and abused by callous contractors. One thousand were killed from rock and land slides, many were injured, and hundreds died from malaria, tetanus, blood poisoning, typhus, cholera, gangrene and dysentery. Whereas Col. By provided care for soldiers, the Irish workers had no value in the existing class and caste system. There was no register of those who died. Instead, they were buried in unmarked graves on unconsecrated land. The 5000-6000 who survived settled in the Ottawa Valley.

When the Rideau Canal received its UNESCO World Heritage Site status in 2007, Kevin spearheaded a six-year campaign to secure recognition for the workers and their families who died during the construction of the canal. Initially, Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada deemed that what the workers had achieved was not of national historic significance.

In 2013, the Government of Canada recognized the contributions of the construction workers who made the Rideau Canal a reality. The announcement included mention of the installation of two larger-than-usual plaques, along with interpretive panels, at the Ottawa and Jones Falls lock stations, the sites of challenging labour intensive locations at the time of construction.

Kevin's message to us is best summed up with his comments at the time, "This official designation in recognition of our Irish ancestors who built the early canals and infrastructure in Canada and North America — and paid dearly for it, in blood, sweat and tears — ensures that they will never be forgotten again. They will always be an inspiration to us." (Irish America Magazine, Feb/Mar. 2013)

Prepared by Ann Munroe



•Personal Profile•

– Judy Brown –



Judy was born into a farm family in Norwich, Oxford County. She was the youngest of her siblings who felt that the two important lessons her parents taught her were the value of prayer and the value of honouring her word. Judy attended a one-room school to Grade Seven. She then went to a consolidated school and to high school. Judy graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a degree in English Language and Literature and then completed a Masters degree in Library Science.

Soon after graduation, she was married and moved to Cochrane, Ontario where her husband Dan taught French. The family then moved to Perth where Dan began teaching at PDCI. Judy was a “stay-at-home” mom for fifteen years while raising her three daughters. Judy recalled that her first job was at the Lanark Era and was then hired at the Perth Courier.

In 1985, Judy joined a group of thirteen people to protest Joe Perkins' plans to build an air strip behind their homes. The group's actions was successful and they then felt that it was important to have someone run for council. Judy was elected and during her second term of council they successfully fought a proposed county-wide landfill plan.

Judy was elected Reeve of the amalgamated Bathurst, Burgess and Sherbrooke Townships (Now Tay Valley Township) in 1998. The amalgamation was a difficult and contentious process, and at the same time, the Council was also dealing with the Ice Storm. After her term was up, Judy decided to retire from politics. The family moved to Perth and after six years Judy ran for Perth Town Council and won, and served as a counsellor for 16 years.

In 2022, Judy was elected Mayor of Perth. Along with these duties, Judy serves as Chair of Community Services, which is responsible for housing and Lanark Lodge, and is working towards attainable housing. Judy is also on the Economic Development Committee working with Algonquin College to address the need for bus service in Perth. So far, they have received a positive response to a survey circulated in town.

The Council is presently debating to keep the tax rate down to 5%. Judy is enjoying being Mayor and has been visiting various industries to find out their needs. When thanking Judy for her presentation, Lois-Ann stated that we are fortunate to have Judy as Mayor of Perth.

Prepared by Ann Munroe and Marg Stephenson

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED,,



Lois-Anne Brebner, our Past President filling in so well for President Susan Freeman who was on vacation.



Derek Cooke, member of the Speaker's Team, introducing our Guest Speaker.



Probus Perth member and Director, Ontario District #1, Craig Greenwood, talking about the upcoming Dementia Prevention Awareness Workshop on March 21st, by University of Toronto personnel.



Gail Read and Mary Kilgour, from our Social Events Team, describing the upcoming social events, which are also described at the end of this edition of The Probian.

Photos courtesy of Colin Stephenson • Webmaster

~UPDATE • PAST SPEAKERS ~

Here is the latest: ICE BREAKER — the film produced by Pine Pictures has been nominated for a Rockie Award under the category of Sports Documentary. If you saw this film, you will know that Gary Smith had a prominent rôle to play as one of the key organizers of the 72 Summit Series that ICE BREAKER documentary recounts so vividly.

John Byers * Chair • Speakers Committee



The year 2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the 1972 “Summit Series”, one of the most significant events in Canadian history. ICE-BREAKER explores the subject with passion, diversity and an impressive cast of participants who offer unique analyses and untold stories. Wayne Gretzky, Ron Maclean, Margaret Trudeau, Harnarayan Singh, Angela James, Daniele Sauvageau, Terry Mosher and Gary J. Smith, among others, bring their perspectives to this entertaining, engaging film. An original concept by award-winning film maker Robbie Hart, ICE-BREAKER is unlike other documentaries on the subject, uniting cinematic landscapes, poetic narratives and behind the scenes politics. ICE-BREAKER is a testament to Canadian diversity. Shot across the country, it gives a unique voice to Canadians who were directly involved or impacted by the Summit Series while telling the remarkable on ice battles of those eight iconic hockey games.



Source:

2023

Banff World Media Festival

ROCKIE AWARDS

International



Welcome

to our Club!

Membership Coordinator Mary Vandenhoff is pleased to welcome to Probus Perth two new members, Dave and Sue Sanderson. With several other applications being processed at the moment, please encourage any friends interested in joining to do so before we reach our limit.



~SOCIAL REPORT~

Here is Mary and Gail's excellent Social Report, which will be attached ...

*Closing
thoughts ...*

***“The more we can see the
scale of the universe — the
innumerable heavens and
countless earths — the
smaller our part in it feels.
Smaller, yet more precious.
For the farther we see, the
humbler we become,
and the fruit of humility is
gratitude.”***

David Von Drehie



~ Pleiades Cluster ~

Photo courtesy of Steve Bonnell

***~ Carina Nebula ~
James Webb telescope photo
taken June 16, 2022.
Photo Courtesy:
NASA CC By 2.0***





March 2023 Social Report

Maple Weekend in Sweet Ontario: April 1st & 2nd

Maple Run Tour Returns with eight interesting stops throughout the a 40 km trek of the Pakenham area! Enjoy our maple traditions, fine crafts, heritage buildings and the beauty that is shared by the arrival of spring! For details and a map, visit <https://www.mapleruntour.com> .



The Fortune Farms celebrate their golden anniversary of syrup making in their sugarbush at 2442 Wolf Grove Road near Lanark. The Shanty Man will be available to discuss the modern evaporators and the Kettle Boys will entertain you with pioneer methods using open fire.

A special congratulation and sincere "thank you" to Ray and Ruth Fortune who have supported our Probus Club special events with maple syrup gifting for many years!

(613) 256-5216

info@fortunefarms.ca



Lunch After Our Meeting

Lunch after our April 5th meeting will be at Perth Pizzeria (formerly Perth Restaurant), at 23 Gore St. East. Please sign up at the meeting.



Temples Sugar Bush Friday, April 14th at 11:30 a.m.

1700 Ferguson Falls Rd., Lanark

A reservation has been made for Probus members. You can confirm your attendance at social-mary@probusperth.ca or by calling 613-264-6244 or sign-up at the next Probus meeting. Deadline to reserve is April 7th.



April Community Events:

April 5th at 10 a.m.: Upcoming Probus Perth meeting at the Legion

April 7th at 2 and 7 p.m.: Studio Theatre Film Night – "My Donkey, My Lover and I". \$12 at the door.

April 8th: Town of Perth presents their annual Easter Egg Hunt

April 29th: Festival of the Maples

May 5 ~ **Nunsense** at The Studio Theatre. Perth Probus Members are invited to attend as a group on Friday, May 5th at 7:30.

Tickets are available at [Tickets Please](#)

Dinner at 5: at Maximilian's. Please reserve with Mary Kilgour social-mary@probusperth.ca or by calling 613-264-6244 Deadline to reserve is May 3rd.

Tracking local events: If you are involved in the planning or wish to share information about a future event of interest please contact Gail at social-gail@probusperth.ca We are happy to include pertinent local events!



Tickets available for all of these presentation & more!

TicketsPlease.ca

613-485-6434

Planning Ahead:



**"A Day of History" Tour
Friday June 2nd**

9-11:30: [Canadian War Museum Tour](#) – 1 Vimy Place, Ottawa
 12 noon: Lunch at ["The Swan at Carp"](#) – 108 Falldown Lane, Carp
 2:15 p.m.: [Diefenbunker Tour](#) – 3929 Carp Road



Sign up on April 5th or email social-gail@probusperth.ca . Mark your calendar!



Wed June 5th Probian Lunch:

Our final meeting of this year will include a distance speaker. We will hold this meeting at the Legion as our AV team have us positioned for a great meeting. Traditionally, we have had a great turnout for our year-end lunch. We hope that you will be able to join us at Fiddleheads at Code's Mill. To accommodate a large group, please sign up on April 5th, May 3rd or by email social-gail@probusperth.ca to reserve your seat! Don't miss this opportunity and thank you for helping us to reserve this space well in advance!

Wed June 24th at 2 p.m.: 1000 Island Playhouse to see "Baskerville".

185 South St., Gananoque ~ 40 tickets have been ordered at \$37 ~ Carpool event!

Lunch at 11 a.m.: [Muskie Jakes](#) 550 Stone St S, Gananoque. Reserve with Mary at social-mary@probusperth.ca or by calling 613-364-6244.

Dock chat at 1 p.m., prior to the play.



Does a wild hellhound prowl the moors of Devonshire? Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson must crack the case of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" before a family curse dooms its newest heir. Watch as our intrepid investigators try to escape a dizzying web of clues, disguises, and deceit as five actors deftly portray more than 40 characters. Join the fun and see how far from elementary the truth can be.



**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



**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