



# The Probian

Probans Club of Perth



March 2025



## President's Message

March weather is a month of riddles. One day is cold and snowy; the next is warm with melting snow. Tomorrow promises to be cloudy with rain.

Did you...? Did you thank all the members of the

Probans Team that I suggested? Maybe you thanked those special guys who come early and make a cup of coffee for you: **Don McAdam**, **Ted Russell** and occasionally **Rob Newby**.

At our Probans Management meeting earlier this month, I was fortunate to have Vice-President **George Braithwaite** finish chairing the meeting when I had to leave early. I should like to thank our very competent Past President, **Gail McAdam**, who has a special way with suggestions and words.

When you are asked to be a Vice-President, what will you say? Without Vice-Presidents there would be no Probans Club!

See "**President's Message**", next page...

## April's Meeting

Wednesday, April 2nd  
10:00 AM  
Perth Legion

## Reminders

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

## Book Exchange:

Bring no more than FOUR books, take as many as you want.

## This month's Guest Speaker:

Arlene Quinn, an award winning singer/  
songwriter

## Welcoming Our Newest Members



L-R: Dorothy Thomson, Shirley & Collin Brown

### *...President's Message, cont'd*

We welcome **Maggie Foote** who has just joined our Management Team as a Member-at-Large. Please thank our Treasurer, **Graeme Rutledge**, and Alternate-Treasurer, **Tony Thompson**. They have the job of handling all of the payments for special events and, of course, our membership payments.

We all enjoy reading the newsletter, the Probian, but this would not be possible without our Probian Editor, **Yvonne Powell**. No news, no Probian, is delivered to us without our very competent Webmaster,

## Perth Probus Management Team 2024-25

**President:** Mary Kilgour

**Vice-President:** George Braithwaite

**Past President:** Gail McAdam

**Treasurer:** Graeme Rutledge\*

**Secretary:** Bill Michie

**Speakers:** John Byers

**Membership:** Mary Vandenhoff

**Social Events:** Gail Read

**Probian Editor:** Yvonne Powell

**Webmaster:** Colin Stephenson

**Alt. Treasurer:** Tony Thompson\*

**Member-at-Large:** Maggie Foot

**Colin Stephenson.** We also would have no Probus Club website to visit. Colin is retiring. Could **you** be our new webmaster? We need you!

Good grief! Just when I think I have recognized everyone, I realize I have missed the most important member of our Management team: **Bill Michie!** Bill is our very competent Secretary. Yes, Bill also takes care of the Book Exchange. Pass by to take a look. And please say **thank you** all our our TEAM!

Mary Kilgour

### A gentle reminder...

that only members can participate in Probus social activities. You can access the membership application here <https://www.probusperth.ca/membership.htm>

New membership applications are dealt with in the order they are received.



Gail Read

**Remember:** You may sign-up for events at our monthly meetings or by responding to the person identified in your Social Events Report who is overseeing the outing. Deadlines are established to allow the venues to prepare for us. Payments are made by e-Transfer to [finance@probusperth.ca](mailto:finance@probusperth.ca) or by cheque to confirm your participation. No cash, please.

*Your Membership and Social Committees*

### The Social Committee hard at work!



Clockwise, Top L- BottomR: **Maureen Newby, Linda Walker, Sue Brown & Gail Read**

## Our Speaker for April

Arlene Quinn is an award winning singer/songwriter who has shared the stage with Kenny Rogers, Loretta Lynn, Lorrie Morgan, and Terri Clark. Her music has played in more than 63 countries and has garnered her international acclaim. Arlene has earned numerous awards, including, Top Indie Artist Finalist (Canadian Music Week), Top Song and Artist on Chris Top Program (Country Music Week, Nashville), Top Artist (Music Road Radio, Missouri), Artist of the year (Belgium Radio), Faces Magazines (Ottawa Awards) Country Artist of the Year/2023.

With over 25,000 followers on social media Arlene has established herself as the “Queen of Country Music” in the Ottawa Valley and beyond.

Prepare to be moved by "The Songs of My Life," a deeply personal voyage through Arlene's experiences expressed through the universal language of music.

Arlene will share an intimate storytelling session woven with song. Arlene will reveal how she transformed moments of pain into triumphs. As Arlene shares her journey, you'll discover echoes of your own resilience and be reminded that within each of us lies a hero, capable of surpassing any challenge with unwavering faith and the indomitable strength of the human spirit.





## Personal Profile: Barb and Bob Mingie



Bob and Barb have been married for 59 years. They met in high school in Montreal and have been together ever since. They have three children, and three granddaughters. Barb and Bob moved to this area in 2007 and are presently living on a 325 acre farm near Lanark Village.

Bob worked for IBM for 36 years and was in both single positions, such as instructor and sales, and management roles where he was in charge of 500 employees. Barb worked in secretarial roles at the Royal Bank and Alcan and then stayed at home when their children were young. When Barb returned to work she

started in a secretarial position at IBM but moved into HR in the Suggestion Programme, working in job-level evaluation and recruiting.

Bob highlighted two experiences of note in their working lives. The first was a three week IBM annual recognition event in Banff. Barb was selected as a singer and Bob was the Executive Speech Writer. They were able to stay for the full three weeks together at the event.

The second milestone for Bob was an assignment from IBM to the Federal Government in a Business/Federal Government Executive Exchange. He had assignments in Treasury Board and Privy Council and was assigned to a six-week tour of Europe. At that time Barb was at the Public Service Commission recruiting across the country.

The couple retired to the farm and became involved in their personal interests and volunteer work. Barb participated in CFUW and enjoys playing bridge. Music has always been a big part of Barb's life and she is taking piano lessons and sings in choirs.

Bob enjoys looking after the farm and all that it involves. He volunteers for several associations including Lanark and District Civitan Club, the Lanark and District Chapter of OWA and, most recently, the Perth and District Community Foundation.

*submitted by Marg Stephenson*

*Last Month's Speaker:  
Experiences of a Federal Court Judge*



*The Honourable Sandra Simpson* gave an informative and highly interesting talk on some of her experiences as a Federal Court judge. After 18 years as a civil litigation lawyer in Toronto Sandra was appointed as a Federal Court Judge where she worked for 29 years. She was appointed to the Federal Court and the Court Martial Court of Appeals, and later became a member of Canada's Competition Tribunal, serving as its chairperson for two terms.

*See Simpson, next page...*

*...Simpson, cont'd*

Sandra began by explaining the characteristics of both the National Courts and the Provincial and Territorial Courts. The National Courts include the Supreme Court of Canada, the Federal Court of Appeals, The Federal Court, the Tax Court and the Court Martial Court of Appeal - and all have Canada wide jurisdiction. The judges are federally appointed and are required to have ten years at the bar. They must be bilingual and have knowledge and training of the various types of laws and codes utilized in the country. The Supreme Court of Canada sits in Ottawa while the others sit across Canada.

The Provincial and Territorial Courts consist of the Superior Court and Inferior Courts. The Supreme Court has federally appointed judges while the Inferior Court judges are provincial appointees. Nunavut is an exception as it has a blended court.

Sandra's work week often had her working on Friday in her chambers preparing for the week ahead. On Sunday she would fly to the "loop" in the part of Canada where she would be in Court. There would also be weeks where she would be writing up reports and weeks for emergencies that cropped up.

Some of the trials that Sandra presided over were quite extensive. One trial in Vancouver had her living there for five years! The subjects of the trials included intellectual property, Native land claims, and immigration. Often Sandra had to go to the site of the dispute. The immigration trials would require her to have knowledge of countries all over the world and could involve the ethnicity, religion, gangs, and customs of those countries.

Sandra described four memorable cases that she had experienced. The first was a citizenship appeal. The applicants for citizenship are given a workbook about Canada to study and later appear before a citizenship judge who asks questions about the information in the workbook. In this case the applicant had failed before a judge four times, before appearing before Sandra. She came with her daughter-in-law and when asked questions, the applicant did not speak. Even after a break the woman remained silent. Just before she would have failed again the woman spoke up and was able to answer all the questions. Her daughter-in-law explained the woman stayed at home and was isolated from most people except her own family. She was terrified to speak to anyone.

***See Simpson, next page...***

*...Simpson, cont'd*

The next case concerned a young woman who had immigrated from China at the age of ten and was now a Canadian citizen. She became very ill and needed a kidney transplant. Her twin sister in China was able to come to Canada to donate a kidney. This sister developed a terrible skin condition as a result of the kidney donation. One that would be life-threatening if she went back to China. The application to stay in Canada was denied at first, but as a judge, Sandra overturned that decision.

Another case involved a woman who had MS and was dying. Her husband wanted to claim an air conditioner as a medical expense because it allowed his wife to walk a bit. The husband won the case because it was discovered that air conditioners were actually invented to help patients in hospitals.

In the fourth case, a family from Nigeria were seeking immigration to Canada because they feared for their lives from a vigilante group. Canadian immigration law states that if there are any safe havens in their own country for immigrants in this situation, they would not be granted asylum in Canada. It was found that there **were** areas within Nigeria

where the vigilante group were not operating and so the application was denied.

Sandra ended her presentation with a case for the Probus audience to decide on. Members were then asked to explain their decision. She presented the facts of a case of a 55-year-old woman originally from Cambodia, now a Canadian citizen, who wanted to bring her husband to Canada from Cambodia. Sandra explained details of the case and asked how we, the audience, would vote. She then revealed the actual decision. We came away with a better understanding of legal complexities.

Sandra is now retired and is volunteering for a food bank in Carleton Place, delivering food to those who are unable to pick up the food themselves. She is also a facilitator for the Lanark County Community Justice Mediation Service and is on the board of the Elizabeth Kelly Foundation.

Sandra's presentation was an enlightening as well as a fascinating look at our justice system and how it operates. The cases that Sandra presented were great examples to explain the work of a Federal Judge.

*submitted by Marg Stephenson*





## Podium Shots

Where would our Management Team be without the use of this illustrious podium? It proudly carries the scars of years of use...



*Clockwise from top:*

**Colin Stephenson** makes a plea for a webmaster replacement. Any takers?  
**George Braithwaite** introduces a speaker, and **Mary Vandenhoff** updates us about membership.

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