



Probus Club of Perth

# The Probian

May 2019 edition

## June Presentation:

**“A walk on the wet side, looking at wetlands.”**

### Pamela Stagg

In a nutshell, Pamela Stagg is a naturally creative individual. The story of her life is the articulation of her creative inspiration and artistic sensibility. Her passion and intellectual interest in the natural world has been the mainstay for her success as an artist, teacher, amateur field naturalist, radio host and nature program producer. Pamela's artistic creativity lead her to discover that she had a talent as a botanical artist, drawing and painting plants and flowers in very precise and authentic representation. In 1991, Pamela won the Royal Horticultural Society Gold Medal at Kew Gardens, the world's top prize for botanical painting. That event transformed her hobby into a second profession and she soon exhibited work on both sides of the Atlantic, illustrated a book on roses and was commissioned by the Royal Canadian Mint to design their trillium gold coin. Eventually she was asked to teach botanical painting and subsequently became instrumental along with other botanical artists in founding the Botanical Artists of Canada Society. Since her retirement, Pamela has re-focused her creative interest as an amateur field naturalist, she has travelled frequently to the Yukon and northern British Columbia and she has gained an extensive understanding of a wide variety of eco-systems about which she is always happy to share. As an avid birder, she teaches bird identification and has created a wide variety of presentations

to field naturalist clubs and organizations that support and protect Nature. In fact she has a weekly nature program for the new Prince Edward County radio station, CJPE 99.3 FM called The Country Naturally.

Toronto is planning to spend \$1.5 billion to recreate wetlands. What makes wetlands this valuable? Pamela Stagg takes you on a walk through local wetlands and through the financial benefits that wetlands contribute to our economy and our lives. You'll see and hear the creatures of wetlands in this colourful and eye opening presentation.

## Membership:



Club President, Craig Greenwood welcomes new member Sebastian Anders. Membership has now passed the double century and stands at an impressive 201.

(Don't forget that you can access the fully protected Membership List on the club website.)

## Coming events:

### May 30 (This has now changed to July 04)

Dinner/Theatre – Dinner will be at the Stone Cellar at 5 p.m. followed by "The Ladies Foursome" by Norm Foster at Studio Theatre at 7:30 p.m.

### June 5

85 have signed up for our Probus meeting and lunch which will be held at The Cove Country Inn in Westport. Refreshments will be available at 9:30 a.m. followed by the regular meeting. Lunch will be served at noon.

(A prosciutto wrapped stuffed chicken dinner with pie and coffee will be served) Following, we have planned an afternoon visit to Scheuermann Vineyard and Winery for wine tasting and relaxation overlooking Sand Lake. This is a pay-as-you-go activity. PLEASE NOTE:

Highway 10, the normal route from Perth to Westport, will be closed at the time of our meeting.

For the alternative route, which will be posted, take Highway 6 (Sunset Boulevard to Christie Lake road) to Highway 36 (28 kms from Perth Pool), left onto Highway 36 and a further 11 kms to Westport.

Google claims this route to takes only 7 minutes longer than Highway 10.

### Sept 11

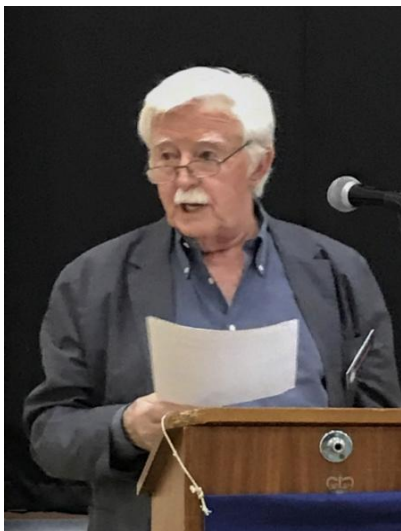
Our annual Gananoque trip to the 1000 Islands Playhouse will be early in the fall to see "Ring of Fire: The Music of Johnny Cash". <http://www.1000islandsplayhouse.com/ring-of-fire/>

Fifty seats are available at \$30 each. Tickets will be sold at June meeting.

We are planning to go for lunch at prior to the theatre, location to be determined. Please make a reservation so we can let the restaurant know the numbers.

### Oct 28

Mark your calendar for our Prince Edward County Wine Tour! This full day outing will include bus transportation to PEC, four estate visits (with two tours) and lunch at the Waring House Inn, Picton. This package tour will go on sale at our September meeting.



## Personal Profile: Brian Armstrong

Born in 1941, in the environs of Manchester, Brian's early education, his formative years and later his University years were centered in that area. He graduated in 1963 with a degree in Chemistry and worked in England for a short time with ICI (Imperial Chemical Industries).

During that time, he met Jennifer, a few years his junior, and blessed his luck when she accepted his proposal! In 1965 they packed up and embarked on the adventure of emigration to Canada, settling in the Ottawa area.

His first job was with a company in Kanata which, after several name changes, became Nordion Canada. Brian started in the laboratory, quickly moved to sales and marketing then later into

general management. In the late 1980s he was appointed VP, Sales and Marketing for Nordion.

Life was demanding. Jennifer and Brian had two children, Sarah and Mark, Brian was travelling the world, frequently away from home for several weeks at a time. Again he counted himself a lucky man to have Jennifer on whom he could rely to cheerfully support him and raise the children whilst holding down a full time job!

Nordion is a global company, a manufacturer and marketer of medical products, both consumer products and Capital Equipment, mostly directed at cancer diagnosis and treatment.

In 1990, Brian became President of Nordion Europe after the parent company acquired a European company called Medgenix. Medgenix was headquartered in Brussels, had operations in all major European cities, and employed 400. So the Armstrong family made Brussels their base for the next eight years!

There were some cultural difficulties adjusting to life in Belgium, but mostly the Armstrongs capitalised on their proximity to neighbouring European Cities and were happy to enjoy weekends and vacations exploring.

In 1998, Brian decided to retire and return to Canada where they settled happily in Appleton. Their children are grown and married, living in Moncton and Toronto. Brian and Jennifer have 4 grandchildren of whom they are very proud.

In retirement Brian has been the President of Mississippi Mills and Carleton Place Rotary, Chairman of the Board for the Carleton Place Hospital and he sat on the Board of the local Museum.

A warm welcome to you both from Perth Probus!

## May Presentation: "Stewart Park Festival"



In telling the story of the Stewart Park Festival and of the people who make it possible, Chairman of the Festival, John McKenty showed us just how important it has become to the town, both in terms of exposure and financial benefit.

In 1991 local Perth businesses decided that an Old Home Week celebration would be an appropriate way to mark the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the town. Located in Stewart Park, the celebration featured a number of different attractions, including music. The overall event proved a success, but it was clear that the major attraction had been the music and so the idea of an annual music festival was born. The first Stewart Park Festival was held the following year, 1992.

Today the Stewart Park Festival is listed among the Top 100 festivals in Ontario, attracting over 16,000 "unique people visitors" who spend over \$1 million in the community. 56% of those visitors are considered local, with the balance coming from far and wide.

The economic input for the region is put at over \$600,000

During the day, a variety of musical styles is presented on four stages in the park and by musicians on the streets of the town. In the evenings the music continues in venues throughout the town.

Other attractions over the weekend include the Marketplace, with artisans and food vendors, a Kids' area, a Wine Bar in the old swimming area, a licensed patio at the Crystal Palace and the popular Rubber Ducky race, which is the major source of funds for the local YAK Youth Services. On Saturday and Sunday Ti Che, Yoga and music workshops are offered in the park. The success of the Stewart Park Festival is due, in no small part, to their dedicated band of volunteers. Great importance is placed on "tuning in" the volunteers to all aspects of the Festival and ensuring that they have fun.

John explained that anyone interested in a volunteering, which involves one or two three-hour shifts over the weekend, can find all relevant information at [stewartparkfestival.com](http://stewartparkfestival.com). A third of the \$120,000 Festival budget is provided through government grants, a third through sponsorships and the remaining third through revenue generated at the venue. This last third includes donations made by Festival attendees, either at the event or through the "Donate" option on the website. It should be noted that donations of \$25 or more made through the website and are therefore traceable to the donor, generate an income tax slip from the Town of Perth.

In making the gift of Stewart Park to the town, Mrs. Stewart wanted a place "where people of the area could come together". No doubt she would be pleased with the joy that the Stewart Park Festival creates and the benefits it brings to the town.

Every year the Stewart Park Festival is held on the third weekend in July. Plan to be there on July 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> this year.

---

## A Thought....

"Of course I talk to myself. I like a good speaker and I appreciate an intelligent audience"  
*Dorothy Parker*

Edited by Rob Leonard

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: Craig Greenwood (613) 267-4694

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