



The Probian

May 2021 edition

Probus Club of Perth

A wild ride

There are roller-coasters on which riders stand up, there are roller-coasters on which riders dangle below the carriage, there are roller-coasters that exceed 100mph, there are roller-coasters perched on the top of very tall buildings, there are roller-coasters that creak and groan menacingly and there are roller-coasters on which riders spend a good portion of the time upside down.

What they all have in common though, is “enjoyment” for the riders and a pre-determined and safe end.

The roller-coaster of the pandemic is different. Nobody in their right mind would claim to have enjoyed the last year, but with vaccinations well underway, an end may well be in sight, although it is certainly not pre-determined.

One of the most important enjoyment factors missing for us all has been face-to-face social interaction. For we Probians this has included our monthly in-person meetings, the last held being on March 04th 2020.

Since then, the club website has been an ever-expanding source of information and stories which, together with occasional Probian, has served to maintain a link between the club and its members. But we still don't see our friends!

Cue the drum roll for Zoom meetings!

On April 07th Probus Perth held the first of what is planned to be a series of virtual monthly meetings. Following the format of our in-person meetings, the Zoom session included a socialising period, committee reports and, as reported later, a presentation by Ramsey Hart from The Table. “Attended” by close to 50 people, the April 07th meeting got the series off to a fine start. Congratulations to the organisers and thank you to the members who tuned in.

Give the Zoom meeting a try on May 05th. Interact with friends and be entertained.

Rob Leonard, Editor

May Presentation:



Finding ourselves with plenty of time to think these days, our May Zoom presentation should be particularly useful.

A philosopher, educator, and really good pain in the ass, Dr. Christopher W DiCarlo will present thoughts on Better Thinking.

Dr. DiCarlo is the Principal and Founder of *Critical Thinking Solutions* and the Ethics Chair for the Canadian Mental Health Association. He is also an Invited Professor (some might say self-invited) at The Life Institute at Ryerson University in Toronto, Ontario, and a past Visiting Research Scholar at Harvard University.

Dr. DiCarlo has authored several books, the latest of which is entitled: *So You Think You Can Think: Tools for Having Intelligent Discussions and Getting Along*.

And in November of 2021, the 2nd Edition of his best-seller: *How to Become a Really Good Pain in the Ass*, will be released by Rowman and Littlefield.

Coming events:

The Grassroots Festival on April 23-25
Virtual at ottawafestivals.ca

Festival of the Maples is virtual for 2021
Details at festivalofthemaples.com

Have you ever heard of the Shout Sister Choir?

It was Georgette Fry who started the choir in 2002 and now there are 24 chapters across the province, including a relatively new one in Smiths Falls.

Do you like to sing? Well, here's your chance; try Shout Sister Choir!

Just go to shoutsisterchoir.ca for information.

Singing a variety of musical styles, including Jazz and Blues, in normal times the choirs are available to sing at any event or location, including Nursing Homes.

A quick search on YouTube will bring up many videos of Shout Sister choirs in action.

1000 Island Playhouse

The following four plays are being presented this summer.

Miss Caledonia in July

Sexy Laundry in August

Back in '59 (a musical) in September

Serving Elizabeth in October

Seating in the Firehall will be limited to 50 for each performance.

The great news for those who cannot attend the live performances is that each of the four shows will be streamed four times. Subscriptions covering all four streamed plays are on sale for \$80 per household.

Go to 1000islandsplayhouse.com for all of the details and to purchase tickets. Phone number for the box office is 613-382-7020.

The **NAC website**; is offering a variety of live-streamed shows at www.nac-can.ca

As the weather warms up the Social Events committee will assess the possibility of holding a picnic in Stewart Park or other suitable location. Stay tuned!

If you have information on any social events or virtual concerts that you would like to share with other members, please advise Mary at social-events@probusperth.ca

A list of events will be published on the club website.

Nominating Committee:

With Spring trying hard to establish itself and with the optimism that our Club will be able to re-establish normal function, it is now my role as Past President to form the NOMINATION COMMITTEE in order to find next year's VICE PRESIDENT.

The Committee reports to the President and comprises the Past President plus a member-at-large. If you feel you could be of help to the club by being that member-at-large, please contact me at pastpresident@probusperth.ca

The Perth Probus Club is vibrant, fun and successful with a strong management team of volunteers contributing significantly to this success. The Nominating Committee will be seeking an interested member who would consider joining the Management Team for 2021-2022 as the Vice President. Should any member feel that he or she would like to be involved, by stepping into the role of VICE PRESIDENT, please contact me to submit your name and for further information. You would be part of and supported by a great, enthusiastic team in the process of re-igniting the activities of Probus Perth.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Liz Leonard pastpresident@probusperth.ca

How to determine the sex of a fly:

A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a fly swatter

What are you doing? She asked.

Hunting Flies. He responded.

Oh! Killing any? She asked.

Yep, 3 Males, 2 Females. He replied.

Intrigued, she asked. How can you tell them apart?

He responded, 3 were on a beer can, 2 were on the phone.

Membership:

Membership remains at the cap of 205, but the ever-lengthening waiting list now stands at 24 people, all hopping from foot to foot anxiously awaiting the call.

Prospective members

Current members are asked to advise anyone interested in joining that, should they apply, their applications would be added to the waiting list.

A fillable membership application form is available on the club website.

The completed form can either be e-mailed or mailed to the club, but e-mailing is the recommended option.

Once the club receives the completed form the applicant's name will be added to the waiting list.

Membership dues:

Despite the club continuing to incur ongoing outlays for insurance, bank charges on so on, we were able to avoid collecting dues for the 2020-2021 year.

However, dues for 2021-2022 will become payable as of the September (in-person or virtual) meeting.

Members email addresses:

Would members please be sure to advise Aline (membership@probusperth.ca) of any email address changes.

Breaking up:

On the first day, he sadly packed his belongings into boxes, crates and suitcases.

On the second day, he had the movers come and collect his things.

On the third day, he sat down for the last time at their beautiful dining room table, by candle-light; he put on some soft background music and feasted on a pound of shrimp, a jar of caviar, and a bottle of spring-water.

When he'd finished, he went into each and every room and deposited a few half-eaten shrimps dipped in caviar into the hollow center of the curtain rods.

He then cleaned up the kitchen and left.

On the fourth day, the wife came back with her new boyfriend and at first all was bliss.

Then, slowly, the house began to smell.

They tried everything; cleaning, mopping, and airing-out the place.

Vents were checked for dead rodents, and carpets were steam cleaned. Air fresheners were hung everywhere. Exterminators were brought in to set off gas canisters, during which time the two had to move out for a few days, and in the end they even paid to replace the expensive wool carpeting.

Nothing worked! People stopped coming over to visit.

Repairmen refused to work in the house. The maid quit.

Finally, they couldn't take the stench any longer, and decided they had to move, but a month later – even though they'd cut their price in half – they couldn't find a buyer for such a stinky house.

Word got out, and eventually even the local realtors refused to return their calls. Finally, unable to wait any longer for a purchaser, they had to borrow a huge sum of money from the bank to purchase a new place.

Then the ex called the woman and asked how things were going. She told him the saga of the rotting house. He listened politely and said he missed his old home terribly and would be willing to reduce his divorce settlement in exchange for having the house.

Knowing he could have no idea how bad the smell really was, she agreed on a price only 1/10 nth of what the house had been worth ... but only if he would sign the papers that very day.

He agreed, and within two hours her lawyers delivered the completed paperwork.

A week later the woman and her boyfriend stood smiling as they watched the moving company pack everything to take to their new home and to spite the ex-husband, they even took the curtain rods!

I LOVE A HAPPY ENDING, DON'T YOU?

April Presentation:

The speaker was Ramsey Hart, Executive Director of The Table in Perth.

As described on their website, The Table's mission is to foster a healthier and more connected community. They do this by improving access to healthy food, improving food skills and food literacy, advocating for individual well-being, and educating, engaging and advocating social policies to address food insecurity and poverty.

In an informative and entertaining talk, Mr. Ramsey spoke of the impact that the Pandemic has had on The Table and how they are managing to survive. He also outlined their current and future needs.

Members are encouraged to go to <https://www.thetablecfc.org/> for further information and for the opportunity to sign up to receive The Table e-newsletter.

Sad news:

On behalf of all Probus Perth members, we would like to extend our condolences to Past President Richard Thomson, his wife Dorothy and their family, on the untimely passing of their son, David.

Edited by Rob Leonard
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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

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