



The Probian

Probuss Club of Perth

May 2025

June Meeting

Wednesday, June 4th
10:00 AM
**River House
Vineyard and Winery**



New Member

Mary Kilgour welcomes **Suzanne Foote** to our club.

President's Message

Our Probuss group continues to be a warm and welcoming space where we can come together as friends, share ideas, and enrich our lives with engaging conversations and inspiring speakers. Each month, we look forward to hearing from knowledgeable individuals who offer fresh perspectives on a wide range of topics. Whether it's history, health, technology, or the arts, there is always something new to discover.

Okay... time for true confessions. I did not write the above paragraph, nor have I changed a single word. It appeared on Ann Ketcheson's computer screen (Anne is the President of the Alta Vista Club) after she asked a question to ChatGPT. This artificial intelligence provided three or four more paragraphs which were equally well written and on topic... but the entire entry is too long for this space.

This little experiment is one I'm happy to share with my Probuss friends, many of whom may be far more technically sophisticated than I am. The use of such artificial intelligence and the possibilities of misinformation and disinformation during a Canadian federal election, as well as during this ongoing Global craziness, is something we must all keep in mind. Food for thought!

This month we will all learn more about AI when we hear from our guest speaker, Brett Martensen. Bring your questions.

See you at the River House for our June meeting!
Mary Kilgour



Podium Wars!

Vying for our attention, clockwise from top L:

Marilou Rooke regales us with a joke; **Sue Brown** reminds us of upcoming social events; and, **Graeme Rutledge** presents our current financial status.

Our Speaker for May

Reminder !!!

We will be meeting *at the River House* in June.

Directions to the River House:

- Use GPS, *or...*
- Take HWY 7 from Perth
- Turn left on Bolingbrook Road (County Road #36) at Fall River Cafe.
- County Road #36 will come to a "T" at Hanna Road, where you turn right.
- Very soon, River House is on your right. Just follow the country driveway *or...*
- Drive with a friend.

Brett Martensen *Artificial Intelligence*



Brett studied physics at UBC (Class of '71) and earned his MSc at Queens (Class of '76). At the same time he was doing Artificial Intelligence research as a hobby. He pursued it as a hobby until 2001. In 2002 he founded Adaptron Inc. to continue the research inside a corporate structure. The company performs Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) research. AGI should be able to learn to do anything a human can do. That includes recognizing things, performing tasks and learning how to think.

AI has become big news, particularly ChatGPT which, among other things, can write essays to order, an ability that the media built up to be (almost) the end of civilization as we know it. This talk will give us a clearer picture of what AI is, what it can do and what will be left for us to do.

Brett has said that a research principle is to explain things at the simple level first. That should dispel any worries that it will be over our heads.

Personal Profile: John and Heather McLenaghan.

John introduced himself and his wife Heather as “not two entities, but one indivisible unit;” as their lives, both professional and personal, are intertwined and are mutually supportive.

Heather was born in Ottawa, while John was born here in Perth. They met at Guelph University, have been married for 55 years; and are the proud parents of one daughter, two sons and grandparents to six grandchildren.

John’s family owned the Perth Planing Mill. John eventually joined the business to work there full time with his Dad. Both Heather and John were involved with the company’s businesses, which over the years included a concrete company. The family involvement in building and lumber operations has continued into the third generation, as their son now owns and operates Perth Planing Mill Supply.

John and Heather have lived, and continue to live, very active lives; both professionally and as volunteers. Heather is active in CFUW, Perth Rotary Club, Inter-Industry Council, and Valley Heartland. Both she and John were involved with starting the Perth Montessori School which is now in its 50th year.

John’s volunteer contributions included being a member of the Perth Fire Department, Perth Town Council, Great



Introductions are so much fun!

War Memorial Foundation and Boy Scouts.

For fun and relaxation they enjoy horses and ponies, probably from John’s involvement and a degree in the harness racing business.

They’ve added RV-ing to their recreational experiences with trips across North America, Australia and New Zealand. As well, they always enjoy being with family and friends here in Perth.

Submitted by Susan Freeman

Last Month's Speakers: The Hospice Hub

Three members of the Hospice Hub: Social Worker, Dale Delahunt; Bereavement Coordinator, Patti Koeslag; and Nurse Coordinator, Hannah Ryan talked to us about this relatively new and vitally important organization that is bringing support to those who are suffering life-limiting illness, grief, and bereavement in Perth and Smiths Falls.

As the Hub's Vision states: "We envision a compassionate community where everyone can live, age, die and grieve well. Our hospice care focuses on the care, comfort, and quality of life of a person with a serious illness who is approaching the end of life. We offer emotional, spiritual, system navigation and bereavement support for both clients and their loved ones."

See HUB, next page...



L to R: **Dale Delahunt**, **Patti Koeslag** & **Hannah Ryan** gave an excellent presentation.

HUB, cont'd...

This type of care is being requested more and more, as statistics show that 70% of people wish to die at home.

The Hospice believes that dying is a family, social, and community part of life. Palliative care is an approach to care that can be delivered at any time, on and off, along with curative treatment.

Their programs are for anyone in Perth/Smiths Falls:

- *At the end of life - one year or less of life to live. (If in doubt, reach out).
- *Requiring increased home support at end of life.
- *Looking to discuss end of life options available in the community.
- *Needing help to navigate the healthcare system at end of life.

The Hospice Hub consists of professionals experienced in end of life care, grief and bereavement. Their volunteers undergo intensive training. All are compassionate, empathetic and experienced. They are there for information, caregiver respite, healthcare system navigation, and advocacy.

The Hospice Hub was formed recognizing that our health care system is in crisis and is not meeting the needs of those at the end of life.

(We in Perth and Smiths Falls have no Hospice residence nor a Palliative care program.) The Hub is not a location (yet), but does provide many services..

The Ministry of Health also recognizes the need for having a physical space, and has allocated support for four hospice beds ...once we have a Hospice residence!

But until that time, as fundraising continues, the Hospice Hub provides Hospice Home Support, Grief and Bereavement Support, Community Education and Engagement, and a



Day Hospice Program.

To support the Hospice Hub or to request help and support visit: www.thehospicehub.ca or call 613-627-0974.

Submitted by Susan Freeman



Our well-laden **book exchange table** always draws an interested crowd. Thanks to **Bill Michie** for trundling the books around each month and putting them on display for us to browse through.

Interested?

Our Club Needs YOU!

*This is your opportunity to begin sharing your talents
(or acquiring new skills) in September.*

- Our club is looking for
- *a secretary
 - *an alternate secretary
 - *a member-at-large
 - *an archivist
 - *a Webmaster
 - *a coffee preparation team



Above: **John Byers** reminds us to, "**Please** turn off your phones!"

Right: **Don and Gail McAdam** are preparing for their performance of "The Cup Song."



**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

The Perth Probus Club meets
at the Royal Canadian Legion,
26 Beckwith Street, Perth,
on the first Wednesday of the month,
September through May.
Our June meeting is at an alternate location.

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

Newsletter Editor - Yvonne Powell