



The Probian

October 2022

Probud Club of Perth



It was good to see so many attend our October meeting. It was most informative to have Michael Cohen speak about the current issues surrounding health care and hospital staffing.



Here's a photo of Probud member Gardner Church and Michael. No doubt the best of friends!

Equally pleasant was receiving acknowledgement of our Club's 25th Anniversary after a 2-year delay by Probud Canada's Representative, Jamie Doolittle.



By the time you receive this Newsletter, you will have enjoyed the blazing colours of our beautiful trees as seen in this photo taken by Kevin Tulett.

Cole Nault, captures the bounty we enjoyed celebrating Thanksgiving.

There's one more celebration in October ...



Upcoming is November. For many, November is considered a dull, dreary and depressing month. Take heart, some members were born in November. Hopefully, we do not project this image!



November is also a monumental month for many in the world to Remember and Honour the soldiers, horses, dogs, cats and pigeons that sacrificed their lives for our freedom. Lest We Forget!





Most Urgently!

We are repeating ourselves with the urgent need for the following positions to be filled now. The positions are as follows:

- **To write a synopsis of our member's Personal Profile. (PP)**
- **To write the report on the main Speaker's Presentation.**
- **To take photographs at the meetings. [Position is now filled with appreciation by our Webmaster Colin Stephenson.]**
- **Membership Co-ordinator by January 1st 2023.**

Without these positions filled, The Probian will be depleted of the aforementioned content for members to keep updated of our activities.

Please give your utmost consideration to volunteer for one of these positions.

***Thank you!
Gayda Errett
Newsletter Editor
Contact:***

probian@probusperth.ca

— NEXT MEETING —

Join us on Wednesday, November 2nd at 10:00 a.m.

**Our November Guest Speaker is David Somppi,
Chair of Planet Youth Lanark County (PYLC)**

**Protocol for our 'In-Person Meeting' will be centered on 'safe distancing'.
Apologies! No coffee will be served.**

— HIGHLIGHTS FROM OCTOBER'S MEETING —

~In Remembrance ~

Ralph Fish • Probus Founding Member



We are saddened to inform you of the passing of Ralph Fish on October 5th, the date of our last Probus meeting. Ralph was one of the Founding Members of our club and an integral member from the very beginning. Ralph moved to Perth in 1953 with his wife Mary to settle, start a family and develop a mixed animal Veterinary Practice where he worked out of their family home for 25 years. He was one of the primary founders of the Perth Veterinary Clinic, built in 1979. Ralph will be sorely missed by his family and friends, his companion Ute Schall and all of the members of our club. Our sympathies go out to all.

Colin Stephenson

Acknowledging Charter Members:



Left to right: John Gibb-Carsley (early Member), President, Susan Freeman, David Crowley [Founding Member] and John Hauraney [Honourary Charter Member]

Welcoming New Members:



Left to Right: David Perreault, Bruce Raby, Marg Stephenson, Ross McNaughtan and Don Farrow.

Receiving our 25th Anniversary Certificate:



Our Club's 25th Anniversary was in 2021, but we were not able to meet to receive our Certificate. We were delighted and honoured that Jamie Doolittle could attend our October meeting and present our 25th Anniversary Certificate to President, Susan Freeman.

We take this opportunity to thank Craig Greenwood for facilitating the presentation. Below is press coverage of the presentation by Perth Courier reporter Desmond Devoy.



Perth Probus Club Celebrates More than 25 Years of Friendship, Fellowship

Perth Courier

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

October is International Seniors Month and Probus Canada Month, so it was fitting that at the October meeting of Probus Perth, Probus Canada's representative Jamie Doolittle presented local president Susan Freeman with a "Certificate of Congratulations" recognizing the Chapter's 25-plus years.

Current Probus Canada, District 1 Director, Craig Greenwood, a member of the Perth club, was also in attendance.

Probus is a volunteer-based, non-profit, non-political, non-sectarian fellowship organization with more than 4,000 clubs worldwide, some 250 being Canadian clubs made up of more than 38,000 members, with the goal of providing fellowship and friendship for those retired and semi-retired.

Perth's club has about 200 members who meet monthly at the Royal Canadian Legion, except during the summer, to listen to fascinating speakers, learn about each other and socialize, though the last couple of years have been challenging as meetings were held via Zoom. September brought a return to in-person meetings, though members remained masked to support protecting themselves and each other.

The idea of creating a Probus Club in Perth came from Perth Rotarians Ralph Fish and Wilf Parry, after hearing of a successful

club operating in Collingwood, Ont. On Feb. 7, 1996, an inaugural meeting was held at McMartin House in Perth. Approximately 70 people attended and the reaction to having a club in the Perth area was positive. A management team volunteered to start the club, and 26 years later men and women continue to enjoy meeting at Probus functions.



— OUR GUEST SPEAKER IN NOVEMBER —



Preventing Problematic Substance Use in Lanark County

A proven model for youth substance abuse reduction has come to Canada, in actual fact, it has landed right here in Lanark County and you need to know about it! Our November speaker will be David Somppi, a member of our club and the Chair of the Planet Youth Lanark County.

The world we grew-up in is gone; our children and grandchildren are wrestling with a much different environment composed of social media and cultural forces unknown to most us during our formative years. Lanark County has become the first Canadian community to adopt Iceland's successful model for reducing teen addiction and related social dysfunction.

In addition to being the Chair of Planet Youth Lanark County, David is also the Chair of the Carleton Place Municipal Drug Strategy Committee. He has been a board member of the Royal Ottawa Health Care Group for six years. At the Royal, he is the Vice Chair of Quality and a member of the Governance, Innovation Committee and the People, Talent & Culture Committee(s). Previously, David has served on the Board of the Champlain Local Health Integration Network and as the Chair of the Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital.

David is a graduate of the University of Waterloo having received his Bachelors (BASc) and Masters (MASc) in Electrical Engineering. In his current rôle as a Business Advisor for PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PwC) David primarily works with Canadian companies focused on telecommunication, semiconductors and information technology.

I'm very sure David has more to tell us than we have time to share, don't miss this event.

Written and Submitted by John Byers • Chair • Speaker's Committee

— OCTOBER'S SPEAKER'S PRESENTATION —



Michael Cohen, a seasoned health-care executive with experience in strong strategic planning and building expansion, became the new President and CEO of Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital (PSFDH) just a year ago. He provided a fascinating and highly factual overview of his role and the challenges posed to medical teams, and the hospitals that house them, since the impact of

Covid, two years ago.

Attracting new staff to our rural hospital is a challenge at a time when personnel shortages are seriously strained in Canada. Michael spoke of the successful hiring to the orthopedic staff with specialties in spinal surgery as well joint replacement. He addressed closure of the emergency rooms in Perth and other urban and rural centers in Ontario. He noted a temporary closure to our obstetric unit and a big city issue that results in surgery cancelations and unexpected waiting lists. With the support of staffing agencies, we are currently more settled but efforts to attract staff to the beautiful and peaceful town of Perth are a major focus.

Michael presented a series of graphs (now posted on our website) that demonstrate population growth is changing from natural growth to that of migration and longer life expectancy. There is a challenge in accessing inpatient beds across the system but currently our hospitals are occupied by 45-50% of patients requiring acute care. Data identifies an increasing ration of older patients and an intense need for strategic planning for acute care spaces as well as Long Term Care, and Home and Community Care. (Cohen was instrumental in such building at Glengarry Memorial Hospital in Alexandria, Ontario.)

An infrastructure review is currently underway with engineers looking at Smiths Falls and especially the Perth campus for spaces that would permit expansion. The possibility of a new building was discussed as well as the lengthy timeline anticipated. A planning grant will be submitted in November 2022 for such an expansion project.

Ontario requires that hospitals fund 90% of capital projects! This places a tremendous onus on *The Foundation Board* and the *Municipal Core Capital Campaign* (seeking funding from the tax base in each municipality, including currently resistant Drummond North Elmsley and Lanark Highlands) to raise funds to maintain medical care right here in our own community.

The importance of effective team building, strategic planning, communication and funding have never been more important. Our

new \$6 million MRI machine will be operational in the fall of 2023 and has drawn new talent to our hospitals.

When asked how we can help, President and CEO, Michael Cohen, pointed to:

- Funding support by individuals, municipal bases and provincial contributions;
- Being kind and supportive to our medical staff, remembering that they are extending themselves greatly each and every day to cover shortages; and
- Encouraging folks to apply to our hospital through transferring, immigration and attracting new graduates.



Gail Read introduced Michael and John Byers thanked him.



Respectfully submitted by Gail Read.

— MEMBERSHIP REPORT —



to our Club!

To date, 118 members have renewed their memberships. As soon as renewals have been confirmed, those on the Waiting List will be contacted. Please be reminded that Membership Fees are now due. The new Membership fee is \$35.00.

Another important reminder for our attention is that a new Membership Co-ordinator is needed by January 2023. Our club is based on volunteering to keep it up and running successfully.

—SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT —

... Upcoming Social Events ...

Perth Community Choir Presents



NOVEMBER 10-13, 2022 (MASON AUDITORIUM, PDCI)

Friday, November 11th at 7:00 p.m. at the Mason Theatre, Perth Colligate High School, 13 Victoria Street. Tickets are available from [Tickets Please](#). You get to choose your own seat/s and pay with a credit card. If you have any problems you can either call me or Rob at Tickets Please (613) 485-6434. Then if you wish to join us for dinner at Maximilian's at 5:00 p.m., please send a message to social-mary@probusperth.ca or call 613-264-0024. **I will make a reservation for us. Please let me know if you are joining us for dinner.** Joan says we need to be there by 5:00p.m. or she cannot assure us that we will be out by 6:30.



Community Update:

Events that may be of interest to you!

- Pick-up a copy of The Humm. There are details listed about many activities in and around Lanark County and the Ottawa Valley.
- Check out Town of Perth Events.
- Harmony Concerts.
- Ashby Tours

... SEPTEMBER OUTING ...

At Wheeler's Sugar Camp • September 28th



There was a good turnout with everyone enjoying the delicious pancakes and this year's tapped Maple Syrup from the Wheeler's sugar bush.

People from all over the world come to visit this famous restaurant. There are two on-site museums to enjoy visiting. One includes historical artifacts related to maple sugar production and the other has the most extensive collection of chain saws dating from centuries past. Both museums are a 'must see.'

More photos on the next page ...





Probus Club Christmas Party



Thank you to all who have signed up, ordered and paid. I look forward to receiving more reservations and meal orders.

E-mail Mary: social-mary@probusperth.ca or call **613-264-0024.**

Mary will reply with your total amount. Then you will e-transfer your amount to Probus Finance

The evening will start with drinks from the bar upstairs or waitress followed by dinner, then fun prizes including a Gift Certificate from Stone Cellar, and Music. Party ends at approximately 10:00 p.m. or 'last call' at the bar. If you wish to donate a gift, please let Mary know. Last date to order will be November 25th Lindsay will take 'undecided' until December 2nd. Menu is in the September Probian.



**Lunch at Michael's Table after November meeting.
There will be a sign-up sheet on the table to reserve.**

Submitted by Mary Kilgour * Social Committee Chair



*Closing
thoughts ...*

***“Complex things are easy to do.
Simplicity’s the real challenge.”***

Robert James Waller



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

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**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