

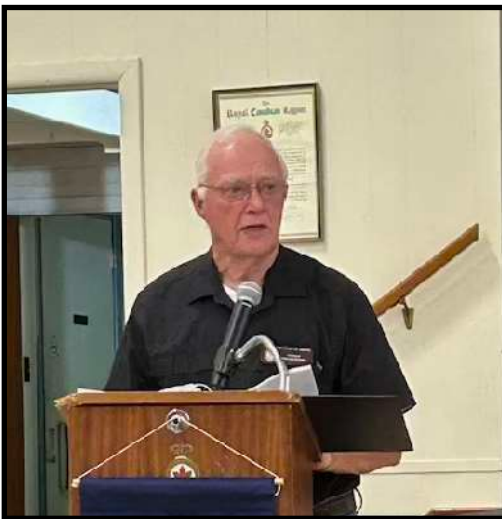


The Probian

Probus Club of Perth

September 2025

President's Message



George Braithwaite, our new
President

Fellow Probians,

At this initial stage of my tenure, my message is straightforward: I have undertaken a role that I aspire to fulfil in a manner that reflects positively on our club and upholds the exemplary standards established by my esteemed predecessors.

As I noted in our first general meeting, I am acutely aware that your management team's primary goal is to ensure that our program functions to inform and entertain.

Finally, I leave you with the reminder that the club leadership renewal is everyone's responsibility. To that end, we must recruit a replacement for our current and retiring webmaster.

George Braithwaite

October Meeting

Wednesday, October 1st
10:00 AM

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

Pauline Witzke, a retired geologist (University of Waterloo, 1982) will summarize global warming events from the geologic past.

October's Profile Speaker

Bob Peskett

Thanks to all of you who volunteer!
Our club is vibrant and well, thanks to your
contributions.

**Perth Probus
Management Team
2025 - 2026**

President: George Braithwaite

Vice President: Maggie Foot

Past President: Mary Kilgour

Treasurer: Graeme Rutledge*

Alt. Treasurer: Tony Thompson*

Secretary: Bill Michie

Speakers' Committee: John Byers

Membership Coordinator: Mary Vandenhoff

Social/Special Events Chair: Gail Read

Webmaster: Colin Stephenson

Probian Editor: Yvonne Powell

Director at Large: David Brady

(Assisting Graeme Rutledge)

Other unnamed members work hard behind the scenes:
those on the **Speakers' Committee**, the **Writing Team** who
do speaker write-ups, the **Social Events Committee**, and
our **Tech Team**.

Membership

We ended the 2024/25 season with a full membership of 205. These existing members have the opportunity to renew beginning in September.

To date, about 50% of the membership has renewed for 2025-26. Once we are advised that any current members will not be renewing, we can offer those openings to those on the waiting list, in order of receipt of their applications.

We already have seven names on our waiting list. Please inform us as soon as possible of any current member who will ***not*** be renewing so we can offer the spaces to others. ***New members are immediately able to take advantage of all Probus activities.***

The final deadline for renewal is the November 5th Probus meeting, at which time any previous member who has not renewed will have relinquished their spot.

Annual membership fees have been kept at \$35 for the coming season. Electronic transfer is the preferred method of payment at finance@probusperth.ca

Please note on the transfer that your payment is for membership. If you do choose to pay by cheque you can give it to Graeme at the payment desk at the back of the hall. He really prefers NOT to have to deal with cash.

Mary Vandenhoff



An attentive audience.

Our Speaker for October: Pauline Witzke

Extraordinary Events Cause Global Warming



Pauline Witzke is a retired geologist (University of Waterloo 1982) who lives in Belleville, Ontario. Her career included oil and gas exploration, environmental geology, and nuclear power operations. Her talk summarizes global warming events from the geologic past.

This will include:

- The height atmospheric greenhouse gases reached
- How much the global average temperature increased
- How much global warming affected life on earth
- How long the effects lasted
- Why they ended

She then compares these events to the global warming we are now experiencing and includes: how close we are to the point of no return, when that point might occur. and how we can stop it.

Lunch at the North Folk



Our September Speaker: Dr. David Phillipp

How Recreational Angling Is Shaping Ontario's Bass Population

For over three decades Dr. David Philipp conducted extensive research into the long-term conservation and management of fisheries in Bhutan, Canada, USA, Pakistan, Nepal, Thailand and The Bahamas. However, in his presentation, he focused on the bass studies conducted in lakes in our area.

An avid angler, including bass, he is committed to educate the public about the impact of angling on the bass population. He likened the issue of recruitment overfishing to the crash of the cod fisheries off the coast of Newfoundland Labrador in 1992 and the resulting thirty-two year Moratorium due to mismanagement.

In conjunction with researchers at Carleton University and Queen's University, Dr. Philipp and his team embarked upon an extensive study. Since 1990, snorkelling surveys provided data to assess angling pressure, reproductive success and recruitment. However, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) was checking the data only every five years and relied on a closed bass season to protect the species even though there was blatant disregard for the restrictions and there was concern for the catch and release wounds affecting the health and vigour of the bass.

The successful growth of the bass population is dependent upon strong, healthy males and females to produce and protect the young and provide extended time for maturation. Interference by anglers in the spawning and nesting areas, overfishing, and the hook wounds incurred during catch and release contribute to a reduced, weak population.

Covid presented a once in a lifetime opportunity to investigate this angling problem. The Lake Opinicon and Charleston Lake projects were launched. For a whole year there were few anglers, and none in May and June. The data collected validated the earlier observations.



Phillipp, cont'd...

The research project has expanded to include studies of small mouth bass in Otty Lake, The Big Rideau, Otter Lake and Bass Lake. The creation of bass spawning sanctuaries to protect nests solves the demographic numbers issue, and allowing natural sexual selection can help change the trend. However, a preferred, delayed opening of the bass season to the first week of July becomes a financial/tourism issue. Support from lake associations, the Coalition for Innovative

Fisheries, stake holders, and the public through education and letters to the MNR can build on the headwinds created from all the science behind the project. Dr. Philipp is optimistic about the implementation of additional, effective management practices in 2026 or 2027.

I encourage you to listen to Doc Talk Fishing Podcast #18 II Dr. David Philipp: A Once in a Lifetime Smallmouth Bass Discovery ~ [click here to listen](#).

Submitted by Ann Munroe

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 - George Braithwaite

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
Photographer - Tony Thompson