



The Probian

Probuss Club of Perth

November 2025

President's Message



Our times are full of world events, most of which seem to wash over us. It was fitting, and also welcomed, to hear our recent guest speaker outline a comprehensive list of world events and influences that will continue to affect us for the foreseeable future. I suspect that all of you were reluctant to accept that, while Mr.

Simpson had spoken for an hour and responded to the deluge of thoughtful questions, the end seemed to come too soon.

Meanwhile, time marches on: the budget has been delivered, we've remembered the sacrifice of veterans in past wars, our preparations for winter are underway, and most of us are moving beyond denial that Christmas will soon demand our attention.

Thank you for your loyal support of our Probuss programs.

George Braithwaite

December Meeting

Wednesday, December 3
10:00 AM
Perth Legion

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

Allison Margot Smith

Topic: Rideau Lakes
Film Review and
Commentary

This Month's Member Profile

Kay Rogers

Membership



As we move from one season into the next our membership, not surprisingly, evolves. Some members opt not to continue while others eagerly join.

We are delighted this month to welcome the following new members: John Inglis, Pauline and Glenn West, Jackie Boyer, Betty Lorimer, Betty and Dave Burton, Tui Noonan and Ted Hill, Douglas Elderkin, Dominic O'Neill, Gwen and Douwe Feikema. In addition, we are welcoming back former member, Lois Perrault.

There seems to be some confusion, indeed misunderstanding, regarding what constitutes membership of our club. When you take out a membership and pay your fees, this entitles you to attend the monthly meetings and the social events. Some choose to do both, some attend only monthly meetings, and some choose to participate in only the social activities. The choice is entirely up to you.

No matter which you choose, it is necessary to have a paid membership, as it also includes insurance coverage for all Probus events.

Do let me know if you have any questions regarding this or any other membership issue.

Mary Vandenhoff

Speakers for the 2025-26 Calendar Year

Date	Speaker	Topic
2025 Sept 3	Dr. David Philipp	How recreational Angling is reshaping Ontario's bass population
2025 Oct 1	Pauline Witzke	Extraordinary events cause global warming
2025 Nov 5	Jeffery Simpson	Globe & Mail Journalist. Topic to be decided.
2025 Dec 3	Allison Margot Smith	Rideau Lakes film review & commentary
2026 Jan 7	2026 CEO -TBC	Perth Community Foundation
2026 Feb 4	Brandy Lockhart	Parks Ca. Underwater Archeologist
2026 Mar 4	Noelle Reeve	Tay Valley Planner - Land Use Planning Update
2026 Apr 1	Roy MacSkimming	Roy's research on Sir John A. MacDonald
2026 May 6	Gaston Barbon	What a diplomat really does...
2026 Jun 3	Peter Katz	TBC: To be Confirmed

Personal Profile:



Maggie Foot, our new Probus Perth Vice-President, has recently moved to Perth with her son, Corey, but they have lived in many other places as well... in Newmarket (Ontario), Yellowknife (N.W.T.), Prince George (B.C.), and Smithers (B.C.)

Maggie loved her life in Yellowknife and northern British Columbia. There was no lack of adventure or breathtaking scenery. She can still close her eyes and visualize the magnificent displays of the northern lights that filled the skies with their dancing colours.

While living in Smithers, she toured through volcanic wasteland; camped in regions where she had to be very

mindful of bears; drove up very rough roads beside a glacier; and visited an abandoned mine. She is an excellent ambassador for that part of Canada.

Maggie's career has been as varied as her homes. In Newmarket her passion for interior design blossomed into a successful business. In Smithers, she became an Insurance Adjustor, working with her ex-husband.

As the mother of a son who has developmental disabilities, Maggie has become a strong advocate for children with similar needs.

In 2007, in Smithers, she spearheaded the formation of a much-needed community association called the High Road Services Society. This Society continues to help with job training, in-house programs, social activities, and job-creation initiatives for those with developmental disabilities. In her subsequent moves, Maggie has continued to volunteer in organizations that advocate and provide programs for people like Cory.

In her closing remarks, Maggie shared the challenges and concerns of parenting an individual like her son. Her passion for meeting those challenges has enriched his life. Her love and pride for Cory and his achievements was very evident when she told us about the medals he has won in several Special

Welcome to Probus, to our management team, and to Perth, Maggie!

Submitted by Linda Cuthbertson

Our Speaker for December: Allison Margot Smith

Historic Rideau Canal in Two Short Films: How it all started, and what happened a century later

Born in small-town western Ontario, Allison grew up in Ottawa. She went to Queen's University, studying computer science, and went on to have a career as a systems and management consultant. In 2010, she went back to university to study history. It was during this period that she made her first two historical documentary films about two Black Canadian women, Marie Joseph Angelique from 1730s Montreal, and Mary Ann Shadd from 1850s Chatham, in what was then Canada West. Following this, she made a documentary film for Parks Canada, and was part of two larger film projects: one about the Doukhobors of Saskatchewan, and the other about women immigrants to Canada.



Today she divides her time between Ottawa and the Township of Rideau Lakes. In Ottawa, she is a member of the Historical Society of Ottawa, for whom she researches and writes newsletter articles about historic Ottawa. She is currently making a short historical documentary film for them about the planning of the route for the Rideau Canal. In the Township of Rideau Lakes, she is on the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee, for whom she recently made a series of short historical documentary films about the Rideau Canal and other places in the Township.



Our November Speaker: Jeffrey Simpson

DONALD J. TRUMP: What has given rise to him? Why his impact is durable; and what it means for Canada.



On November 5th, 2024, Donald J. Trump was elected for a second term as President of the United States. Exactly one year later, to the day, our renowned Canadian journalist, Jeffrey Simpson, spoke to a packed Probus audience, sharing his thoughts on just what Trump's rise to power means for us in Canada. His presentation was informative, wide-ranging, and multifaceted. This summary will cover three key aspects of his speech: Narcissism, Trumpism, and Trump & Canada.

NARCISSISM

Simpson opened his presentation with a list of characteristics used to identify clinical, extreme narcissism. Narcissism is broadly defined as "excessive admiration for, or fascination with, oneself." Clinical extreme narcissism takes that definition even farther. Simpson went on to provide examples of Trump's actions and behaviour that support his theory of extreme narcissism.

- Trump is consumed with his own agenda whether it be foreign affairs, immigration, tariffs, or remodelling the White House.
- Any attempts to correct Trump's falsehoods are slammed. He has his own media outlet and strictly controls which media are allowed in the White House newsroom. For example, The Associated Press was banned for failing to rename the Gulf of Mexico as the "Gulf of America" at Trump's whim.
- Trump's foreign policy is more transactional - it is a "what is the country doing for us?" mentality.
- He identifies with, and likes, strong dictators.
- China has been able to leap ahead of the US in so many areas, but especially in environmental programs, while Trump is against most green programs and espouses "Coal Baby Coal".
- The chief negotiator in the recent peace talks is an old real estate friend of Trump's.
- Trump is very interested in feeding his narcissism; for instance, wanting to be recognized globally with the Nobel Peace Prize.
- There is a growing concern about the misuse of presidential powers such as Trump's abuse of the power to pardon.
- Retaliatory actions to any criticism or questioning of the legality of his government's actions include public defamatory remarks and unfair firing.

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TRUMPISM - why is it thriving?

- Trump galvanized his supporters through his interpretation of economics, but Simpson alleges that Trumpian doctrine/thinking has been trending through the social, political and cultural fabric of the US for years now. There is a beleaguered white majority of largely young males. Foreigners are being blamed for industries closing and jobs being lost. The “ Make America Great Again” message resonated with this group of voters. Trump opened up visas but only for white South Africans.
- In some states, such as Louisiana, the evangelical churches, not government, are providing political direction.
- The southern states will probably see a rise in industrial growth because their wages are lower and there are no unions.
- 'Moderate Republicans are almost extinct or afraid to voice their opinions.
- Republicans used to get most of their votes from the more educated Americans but that has changed. This probably explains the backlash on universities and reduction of funding for study grants.
- The nomination of judges is based on political ideologies so this explains support for the misuse and expansion of executive powers.
- Trump supporters are made up of three main groups: MAGA world republicans, business world republicans, and the hard-line right wingers.

In Simpson's view, the United States needs to look at new approaches and policies to address the underlying concerns and problems of Trump supporters because even when Trump is gone those concerns will still be there.

Jeffrey Simpson, speaking to an attentive audience.



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TRUMP AND CANADA



Gary Smith introduces our guest speaker.

- Tariffs imposed on Canada by the United States have had big repercussions for our economy. Trump has evidence to illustrate that free trade has allowed some countries to sell goods in the US at lower prices, which he feels has adversely affected industrial growth. His answer to make America Great Again is to apply tariffs. When it comes to trade with Canada, he anticipates companies will move to the US to avoid these tariffs.

- There is no question tariffs are hurting, and will continue to hurt, our economy. Job losses are having a big impact. Negotiations with an unpredictable president and an ever changing US policy, are challenging. Threats to our economy are partly due to our reliance on the US. As a result, Canada has increased trade discussions and negotiations with other countries.

- Some of the same political thinking of Trump supporters in the US is evident in Canada.

- Unlike the institutions in the US; electoral, judicial and political institutions in Canada are solidly in place.

- Trump's accusations about our military were accurate. It will take a long time and huge amounts of money to correct this situation.
- Sadly, our friendly relationship with our neighbours has changed, and not positively.



Tom Todd thanks our speaker.

In thanking Jeffrey Simpson for his excellent presentation, Tom Todd quoted Oscar Wilde:

"In America, the president reigns for four years, but journalism governs forever."

Our Probus Club members felt privileged to have such a renowned journalist speak to us. I will close with another famous quote by Oscar Wilde, "The world is a stage and the play is badly cast."

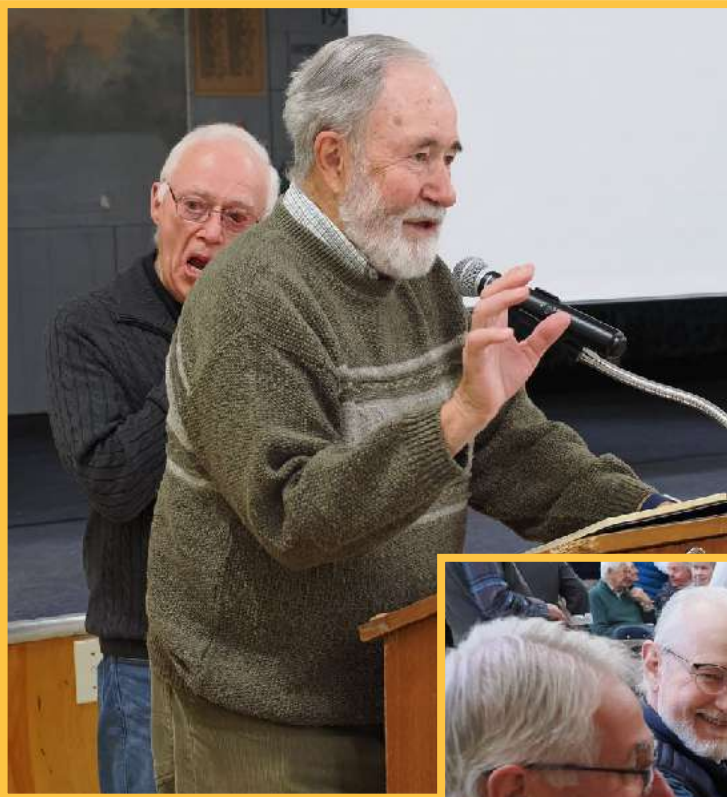
Submitted by Linda Cuthbertson



A welcome from George Braithwaite.

Gail Read, our Social Convener

Psst, Colin...
"Tell 'em, no Webmaster, no Website!"



Familiar Faces



Our expert Audio Team



**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: Mark Kennedy

Speakers' Committee: John Byers

Membership Coordinator: Mary Vandenhoff

Social/Special Events Chair: Gail Read

Webmaster: Colin Stephenson

Probian Editor: Yvonne Powell

Photographer: Tony Thompson

Director at Large: David Brady
(Assisting Graeme Rutledge)

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