



# The Probian

Probans Club of Perth

January 2026

## President's Message

George's cereal box joke.



**J**anuary is almost over, and where did Christmas go? Life seems to be racing along with hardly a pause that might permit contemplation of its meaning, and maybe provide a hint of what might be lurking around the corner.

Keeping abreast of the world's events is a challenge; we note that leaders are travelling the globe, making deals and claims that often appear to threaten national sovereignty and security. Paying

attention to these events is not for the faint of heart.

Meanwhile, at the local level, we hope for the best, stay warm, and remain stubbornly cheerful, even optimistic. Our community maintains its satisfying, familiar and predictable rhythm. The young crowd are preoccupied with work, the cost of living, their children, their social and recreational lives.

What about us? I wouldn't presume to generalize, except to suggest that we tend to gravitate toward people of experience, harbour few regrets and are attracted to intellectual and social stimulus. I trust and hope that we continue benefit from whatever the year ahead offers.

*George Braithwaite*

## February Meeting

Wednesday, February 4  
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

#### Brandy Lockhart

Brandy Lockhart is an Underwater Archaeologist with Parks Canada.

### This Month's

## Social Committee



**Gail Read** gives us a heads up about the numerous social events available in the next few months.

## Membership



President, George Braithwaite (Centre) welcomes **Doue and Gwendolyn Feikema** to our Probus Club.

## Personal Profile: Suzanne Foote

In her personal profile, new Probus member Suzanne Foote demonstrated how family and childhood experiences combined to form her adult self.

Although all of Suzanne's English grandparents had moved to Winnipeg, WWII saw her father return to England to train with the RAF, surviving the grim odds of combat flying. Postwar he then moved into military intelligence roles. So it was that Suzanne's father's postings took her, at eight years of age, from her birthplace in Charlottetown to happily living and experiencing European life in Budapest.

At age ten, Suzanne went on to attend a girls' boarding school in Eastbourne, England. Both her Budapest time and Eastbourne schooling gave her a wonderfully strong foundation of organizational skills and self-discipline that supported not only Suzanne's high school time back in the Ottawa area, but also allowed her to achieve her childhood dream of becoming a nurse.

Suzanne loved her 25+ years in a career of teaching nursing at the Ottawa General, Toronto's St. Joseph Hospital, and at Humber College. She focused not only on traditional medicine but also later broadened her career into fields of holistic care, acupuncture and infection control.



While in Toronto, those same skills she had developed earlier in life also allowed her to be an effective support to her husband's career in politics.

Perth became Suzanne's home after the death of her second husband. Being here now, close to family and friends, has provided her with a wonderful new stage of life. She is also involved with our community organizations, volunteering both at Jewels and at St. James Anglican Church.

We are so pleased to welcome her to both the community and to our Probus group.

*Submitted by Wendy Kaufman*

## Our Speaker for February:

### Brandy Lockhart



**B**randy Lockhart is an Underwater Archaeologist with Parks Canada Underwater Archaeology Team. She completed a BSc. from McGill University and a Masters in Maritime Archaeology from Flinders University in South Australia and has been working in archaeology for 20 years.

Brandy has led excavations, remote sensing surveys and monitoring projects in central and eastern Canada and has worked throughout the country on various underwater archaeology projects. She specializes in 3-dimensional modelling, survey data processing and photogrammetry.

Some notable projects she has been involved in include the Red Bay National Historic Site of Canada (NHSC), the Erebus and Terror NHSC, and the Sable Island National Park Reserve.

## Speakers' Corner

### Probus Speakers Schedule for 2025 / 2026 Season as at **December 21, 2025**

Status	Date	Speaker	Topic
Completed	2025 Sept 3	Dr. David Philipp	How Angling is reshaping Ont's bass population
Completed	2025 Oct 1	Pauline Witzke	Extraordinary events cause global warming
Completed	2025 Nov 5	Jeffery Simpson	Globe & Mail Journalist -Donald Trump
Completed	2025 Dec 3	Allison Margot Smith	Two Rideau Canal related documentary films
Confirmed	2026 Jan 7	Victoria Gibb-Carsley	Perth & District Community Foundation
Confirmed	2026 Feb 4	Brandy Lockhart	Parks Ca. Underwater Archeologist
Confirmed	2026 Mar 4	Noelle Reeve	Tay Valley Planner -Land Use Planning
Confirmed	2026 Apr 1	Roy MacSkimming	Topic -Roy's research on Sir John A. MacDonald
Confirmed	2026 May 6	Gaston Barbon	What a diplomat really does...
WIP	2026 Jun 3	Peter Katz	Singer/Motivational Speaker

## Our January Speaker: Victoria Gibb-Carsley

### The Perth and District Community Foundation

When Victoria Gibb-Carsley, Executive Director of the Perth and District Community Foundation, asked the January Probus audience for a show of hands as to who had had any kind of involvement with the work or funding of the Foundation, many hands were raised. We could easily see that members of our group strongly support this very worthwhile and successful addition to our community.



Victoria gave an effective and inspiring presentation, demonstrating the public speaking skills she had gained in this very same Legion auditorium when she was a Public Speaking winner in Grade 8. Her infectious enthusiasm for the many facets of the Perth and District Community Foundation kept us all engaged.

The Perth Foundation is just one of many such organizations in Canada under the umbrella of Community Foundations of Canada. It is also one of the very successful ones; so much so that it was one of five organizations invited to participate in presentations in Halifax and Winnipeg with the focus of ***Together for Justice***.

The purpose of the Foundation in Perth, Drummond/North Elmsley, Tay Valley and Lanark Highlands is to provide funding support for initiatives that will grow and strengthen these communities. They focus on making change possible:

changes that each community truly cares about.

From its humble beginnings in 2002 with a determined group of seven members, and a ten-year goal of having a \$1million fund set up for its purposes, the current fund resources now stand at closer to \$10 million. This wealth has been derived from donations, fundraising, and interest accrued by judicious investments. In fact, last year alone, 494 donors contributed a total of \$1.37 million, allowing all of that community wealth to be pooled and invested for use as needed.

The actual donations given to the Foundation are left untouched, but the interest that they earn in their sixty-nine active funds is then available for multiple community grants. This means that in 2025 that interest alone provided a funding aid of \$314 000 to our communities.

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Richard Schooley thanks Victoria for her excellent presentation.

Applications for funding are submitted in the fall, with acceptance decisions being made by the end of October. Most groups who apply and qualify are accepted, thereby getting money out into the community in areas where it is needed.

The list of supported groups is extensive and wide ranging: from Therapeutic Riding, to Big Brothers/Big Sisters, to the Table, to Libraries, to the Stewart Park Festival, to Scholarships.

It is really quite amazing how many community goals have been achieved by so many varied groups with these very helpful grants.

For those who wish to support The Perth and District Community Foundation, which is a registered charity, donations can be made on-line, either as a single donation or with monthly payments. Cheques are accepted, as are Legacy Gifts. The interest from Legacy Funds can be designated for either general usage, or assigned to personally determined areas needing support. Fundraisers also bring in funds for the money pool.

The Foundation is now working from their new office space in the McMillan Building on Gore St. in Perth. Office hours are Monday to Thursday from 12:30-3:30. This space has also been opened up for use by other groups as a meeting place. As the new board begins its work for this year, Shannon Baillon will be heading the team as the new chairperson.

We need to spread the word to friends and neighbours about this amazing community asset. There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about, and providing opportunities for everyone within it to grow, to belong, and to thrive.

The Foundation publishes a quarterly newsletter to which you can subscribe, and which can be accessed at [pdcf.ca](http://pdcf.ca).

More information is also available by contacting the foundation online at [info@pdcf.ca](mailto:info@pdcf.ca) or by calling (613)326-0295.

*Submitted by Wendy Kaufman*



**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

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:

[probusperth.ca](http://probusperth.ca)