

NEXT MEETING:

**WEDNESDAY, 5 June,
2024**

10:00 a.m.

**Manotick United
Church**

5567 Manotick Main St.

**The speaker will be
Paul Pace and he will
speak about “Wildlife
monitoring using small,
remotely piloted aircraft
systems.”**

**Coffee/tea and cookies
will be available at 9:30.
Cost is \$2.00**



**Lunch will be at the Red
Dot Café, 5673
Osgoode Main St.,
Osgoode.**

OTTAWA-RIDEAU VALLEY PROBUS CLUB

NEWSLETTER, MAY 2024

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TULIP TIME IN OTTAWA!!!

PAST SPEAKER

Our Past Speaker was Jenny Sawanohk Sutherland. Jenny gave a powerful presentation in which she explained the impact that the colonial takeover of their sacred land had on indigenous people in Canada. She noted in particular how the pain caused by the Residential schools traumatized her people for generations and negated their parenting skills. Jenny works to recognize the problematic systems that have affected her people and aims to assist people through sources of nature and the connection to the land, which is their source of life. If you missed her presentation or would like to hear it again, it is available for a few more days at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6F3ePnG3sW8>



Figure 1 Jenny Sawanohk Sutherland

NEXT SPEAKER

Who He Is

Our Next speaker will be fellow Probus member, Paul Pace. Paul has degrees in Physics (BSc University of Waterloo), Aeronautical Engineering (MSc University of Toronto Institute for Aerospace Studies) and Atomic Physics (PhD University of Windsor). His work with drones started with National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa with Defence Research and Development Canada, Air Force Directorate. He was responsible for the development and application of Uninhabited Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for the Canadian Forces as well as for the creation of a new Directorate called The Canadian Forces Experimentation Centre (CFEC). He was subsequently appointed Scientific Director of CFEC where he continued to work on the development of UAVs (drones) and their application within the Canadian Forces.

Following his term as director, he returned to basic research at Defence Research and Development Canada in Ottawa in a special position reporting directly to the Assistant Deputy Minister for Defence. Here, he continued his work on the development and use of drones for military as well as civilian applications. Upon retiring from DRDC, he formed a partnership called EcoDrone with an ornithologist from McGill University, Dr David Bird. Their studies are aimed at developing the use of small drones for wildlife monitoring.



Figure 2 Paul Pace

What He'll Speak About

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT:

Wildlife Monitoring Using Uninhabited Aerial Vehicles

The use of Uninhabited Aerial Vehicles (drones) for wildlife monitoring and conservation has gained significant attention in recent years. Drones offer a non-invasive and cost-effective method for counting and tracking wildlife populations as well as assessing habitat and species distribution. The presentation will provide an overview of the current state of drone technology in wildlife monitoring, including its advantages, limitations and potential future developments. Additionally, the presentation will cover the various applications of drone technology in wildlife studies, such as in the detection and tracking of endangered species, assessing ecosystem health, and aiding in conservation efforts. Ethical considerations and potential challenges associated with drone use in wildlife counting will be explored, as well as the need for continued research and collaboration among scientists, conservationists and drone operators to maximize the effectiveness of this innovative technology in wildlife conservation.

Don't miss Paul's presentation on Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at 10 a.m.

Lunch following the meeting will be at the Red Dot Café, 5673 Osgoode Main St., Osgoode (Please let Joy Bennett know if you would like to attend)

NEWS FROM THE MANAGEMENT TEAM:

The Management Team met for the monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 8 and discussed matters of interest to the club including the following:

The luncheon, held on April 17, 2024 was very successful. Forty-one members were in attendance and they enjoyed a delicious luncheon and the opportunity to chat with one another. Charles Fournier prepared an interesting slide show with photos taken at many of our recent events. The lucky winner of the door prize, two tickets to the ITR production of “The Cemetery Club” were Richard and Janny Pell. Many thanks to Judy Beltzner and the ITR company for the generous donation of the tickets. Many thanks to all those who helped to organize this event.



Figure 3 Luncheon on 17 April, 2024

Judy Beltzner reported that we currently have 141 paid-up members. This is good news. Our membership has grown by about 20 members from our pre-Covid days. Welcome to all the new and newish members. We hope you are enjoying our meetings and events. Please let us know if there is

something you would like to do or if there is a speaker or a topic you would like to have on our agenda.

In early June a small sub-committee will meet to discuss our budget needs for the coming years. The group will be chaired by the treasurer, Klaus Beltzner and will look at all fixed and discretionary expenses. Based on the outcome of this discussion, a budget will be prepared for the 2024-25 year. Financial and budget information will be sent to the members prior to the Annual General Meeting which will take place on Wednesday, September 4, 2024 immediately following the regular meeting.

At the Probus Canada Quarterly meeting there was some discussion about our insurance coverage and the question of taking attendance at the monthly meetings for insurance purposes was discussed. We continued this discussion at our meeting and decided that we would begin asking members to sign in at each meeting. More information will be presented at the June meeting.

Ian MacKay reported that the Speakers Committee has an interesting line up of speakers into 2025. If anyone has suggestions for speakers or topics, please get in touch with Ian.

EVENTS

An outing has been planned to see the RCMP stables on May 22, 2024. Thirty-three members have signed up for this event so it is sure to be a huge success. Many thanks to Eileen Bond.

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR MORE EVENTS AND OUTINGS BEING PLANNED FOR THE SUMMER MONTHS.

DRINKS AND APPETIZERS



Drinks and Appetizers will be hosted on Friday, May 24, 2024 by Judy and John Collins at their home in Stonebridge. A capacity number signed up at the May meeting but if you would like to be on the “wait” list in case someone has to cancel, please contact Judy at johnjudycollins@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



As with any non-profit organization, volunteerism is at its core to success. To continue to move forward and develop, a Club needs

the diversity of its members but also the skills and interests that its volunteers bring. It is through the giving of one's time and energy that we create stronger bonds, lasting relationships and overall strength to our Probus community. That said, we have been struggling for a number of years, both pre and post COVID, in getting volunteers to fill key Management Committee positions and sub-committees. Some, have expressed concern that they are not available during the winter or summer months, which precludes them from volunteering. Please rest assured that there is sufficient coverage in the committees to allow you to get away on those occasions and still volunteer.

Some have mentioned that they are busy volunteering with other organizations, which is very commendable. It is through your work in those organizations that has strengthened our community. As part of that greater community, our Probus Club could also benefit from some of your time as well.

Below are several committee opportunities that we really need your help and support in. Each of the positions are just for one year unless you are enjoying it so much that you wish to continue longer in that role. We look forward to seeing you on a sub-committee.

Speakers Committee



The Speakers Committee is in need of one volunteer, preferably a gentleman, to establish an equal balance of female and male views in selecting speakers. However, the committee is more than happy to accept any candidate. The job entails finding a speaker and coordinating the necessary requirements of your assigned speaker for the monthly presentation. Generally, each member of the committee is responsible for two speakers for the year.

This is an excellent opportunity to have a say in what is presented to our membership. Knowing potential speakers is not essential other than your desire to provide informative presentations. If you can spare some time please contact Ian MacKay at imackay@uottawa.ca.

Events Team

The Events Team is looking for four volunteers to assist in the planning and organizing of our monthly Probus events and outings. Two of our members, Eileen Bond and May Collins have been handling it for six years, including the COVID years. Many of us have participated in these outstanding events and outings, but this small team needs our help and support. This is a great opportunity to contribute to the workings of the Club and get to meet our members. If you have a flair for organizing events and a bit of spare time please contact Eileen Bond at thebondhuse@gmail.com or May Collins at macoll001@gmail.com

AUDIO-VISUAL



The audiovisual team is looking for three more individuals to set up and run the tech equipment for the monthly meetings. Our goal is to establish a team of six. All that is required is basic computer knowledge. Training and a detailed check list will be provided. Many hands make light work. Please contact Charles Fournier if you are interested at sfournier5914@rogers.com

WHO ARE WE? PROFILES OF US!

This month we begin a series of short biographies of our members. We hope this will become a regular feature of the Newsletter and that members will be willing to be interviewed by one of our volunteers. We are beginning this initiative, fittingly, with a short profile of our President, Helena Flack. (Thanks to Dawn Cooper for this article.)

Helena Flack: April 12, 2024



Helena is the current President of Probus ORV, having been nominated by Joy Bennett when she volunteered to help in Joy's year of leadership. Helena is a "professional volunteer" and, while happy to help, was not at all sure she wanted to take on this eminent executive position!

Helena was born and raised in Communist Czechoslovakia, and as a child lived a comfortable life – as far as a child could understand. Her parents both worked, had a nice home and a cottage and had plenty to eat, but restrictions were severe. For example, you could only travel to other communist countries. Her father longed for more freedom. In 1966, the family managed to arrange a vacation to Yugoslavia. It was long and stressful to obtain visas and passports to be allowed to travel through Austria rather than communist Hungary. The travel to Yugoslavia never

materialized and the family stayed in a refugee camp in Austria for 6 months before moving on to Montreal. They left everything behind: a house and its contents, cottage as well as many friends.

Helena slowly made new friends in high school and CEGEP and ultimately earned a degree in Biology at McGill. Not sure what to do with said degree, she did an MBA. Helena worked at a summer student program in Switzerland, and in 1977 she married her husband John, a scientist, whom she had met there. They lived happily and busily in Toronto, raising 2 children and working, until moving to Manotick in 1999. They became engaged in the community through volunteering at ROSSS and joining Probus, which has become the happy focus of their social life.

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE by Mir Ali

THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE:

A recent study conducted by researchers at the University of Massachusetts to determine how much energy is used to train certain popular large AI models. According to the results, training can produce about 626,000 pounds of CO₂, or the equivalent of around 300 round-trip flights between New York and San Francisco – nearly 5 times the lifetime emissions of the average car;

Mir's article can be read [here](#).

April Showers (submitted by Gary)

April Showers (1921)

Song by Al Jolson

Lyrics

Life is not a highway strewn with flowers
Still, it holds a goodly share of bliss
When the sun gives way to April showers
Here's the point you should never miss

Though April showers may come your way
They bring the flowers that bloom in May
So if it's raining, have no regrets
Because it ain't raining rain, you know
It's raining violets

And when you see clouds upon the hills
You soon will see crowds of daffodils
So keep on looking for a bluebird, and listening for his song
Whenever April showers come along

And when you see clouds upon the hills
You soon will see crowds of daffodils
So keep on looking for a bluebird, and listening for his song
Whenever April showers come along



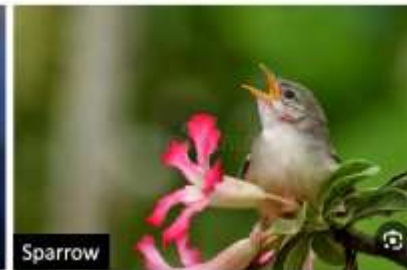
(Submitted
by Gary)



Ah Spring! April Showers bring May Flowers



(and Birds...)





Blue Jay



Cardinal



Robin



Indigo
Bunting

Have a great spring and summer! Gary and Joy