

**NEXT MEETING AND
PROBUS OPEN HOUSE:**

**Wednesday, 2 October
2024 at 9:00 am**

The Manotick
Community is welcome
to join us to learn more
about PROBUS at our
Open House.

The October speaker
will be **Brett Martensen**.
His topic is AI (Artificial
Intelligence)

Lunch following the
meeting will be at the
Heart and Crown Pub,
3161 Strandherd Drive.

Coffee/tea and cookies
will be served at 9 a.m.

**OTTAWA-RIDEAU VALLEY PROBUS
NEWSLETTER**

SEPTEMBER, 2024



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Charles Fournier



After many years of being poked, prodded and cajoled it is my pleasure to serve as your President. The Club has been handed over to me in very good order and with a strong Management Committee, for which I'm very grateful. I have been an active Club member for eight years and I have seen the Club's growth and many accomplishments. As such, it is my intention to continue to lead the Club forward in achieving new goals.

With members from all walks of life, we have shown ourselves to be a strong and vibrant Club within our community and this year is no exception. At our October meeting, we are kicking things off with an Open House to celebrate Probus Month. Our Outreach Director has already been busy getting the word out to the community. Now that COVID is somewhat manageable, in November we hope to create more interest groups that you requested in the Club's 2021 survey. December is our annual Christmas luncheon, which this year coincides with our Club's 30th Anniversary. It seems just like yesterday that we celebrated our 25th. Our monthly Drinks and Appetizers continue with much success as does our Striders and Gliders with 26 members and growing. Already booked well into the new year, Ian Mackay and his speakers committee have lined us up with some first-rate speakers. While Eileen Bond and May Collins, with their new events committee, have in very short order established a long list of exciting events that will take us right through the year. Of course, there is our annual summer Picnic, which has always been a success rain or shine! This is going to be an eventful and exciting year and I encourage everyone to take maximum advantage when they can. It is through our greater participation that our Club really shines!

Finally, I would like to give a warm welcome to all our new members. Over the years, I have seen so many members come together to share experiences, mutual interests and fun, and I hope you will find our Club as a place for growth and enjoyment.

Fellowship, Friendship and Fun!

SPEAKERS

Past Speaker

Our speaker in August was Gary Bennett. Gary gave his usual entertaining and informative presentation, this time on the spice trade. His topic was “Sugar and spice and everything nice” and focused on the importance of spices in our lives since the Medieval Age. He spoke about the quest for Europeans to find the best route to the Orient where spices originated and how that quest opened up continents and new worlds! If you missed his talk, or would like to see the slides again, (they are self explanatory), please go to our website at www.probusorv.org and click on “past presentations.” (Hint: if you try to duplicate the spice mixtures, please note that every cook’s blend is different!)

Next Speaker

Our speaker in October will be Brett Martensen.

Brett Martensen ***Artificial Intelligence***



Brett studied physics at UBC (Class of '71) and earned his MSc at Queens (Class of '76). At the same time he was doing Artificial Intelligence research as a hobby. He pursued it as a hobby until 2001. In 2002 he founded Adaptron Inc. to continue the research inside a corporate structure. The company performs Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) research. AGI should be able to learn to do anything a human can do. That includes recognizing things, performing tasks and learning how to think.

AI has become big news, particularly ChatGPT which, among other things, can write essays to order, an ability that the media built up to be (almost) the end of civilization as we know it. This talk will give us a clearer picture of what AI is, what it can do and what will be left for us to do.

Brett has said that a research principle is to explain things at the simple level first. That should dispel any worries that it will be over our heads.

NEWS FROM THE MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Management Team postponed the regular monthly meeting to Friday, September 20, 2024.

[NEWS FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING](#) held on Wednesday, September 4, 2024 immediately following the regular September meeting.

Members in attendance heard annual reports from the President, Helena Flack, and other members of the management team.

Klaus Beltzner, Treasurer presented the audited financial statement and the budget for 2024-25 for consideration and approval. Members unanimously approved the budget. He also informed the membership that membership fees for the 2024-25 Probus year will be \$40.00 per person. This fee increase is necessary to enable the Club to meet its annual expenses. **Fees are due in September**, when our new fiscal year begin, with a grace period until November 30th.

Judy Beltzner, Membership, informed the members that we currently have 145 paid up members, this is an increase of 10 members over this time last year.

Eileen Bond and May Collins, Events Co-ordinators, announced the new team that includes Sheila King, Judy Rodrigue and Richard Pell. They highlighted several of the most successful events of the past year and look forward to new adventures.

The new slate of officers was presented and approved unanimously.



Management Team 2024-25

From top: Paul Anderson (Webmaster) Ian MacKay (Speakers) Charles Fournier(President) Judy Beltzner (Secretary and Membership) Helena Flack (Past President) Michel Rodrigue (Vice President) Klaus Beltzner (Treasurer) From left, bottom row: Gary Bennett (Archives) Joy Bennett (Communications) Eileen Bond and May Collins (Events)

For more information, the PowerPoint slide show for the AGM 2024 is posted on our website at <https://www.probusorv.org/past-presentations-2024.html>

MEMBERSHIP FEES

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE!!!!

Membership fees for 2024-25 are \$40.00 per member. The easiest way to pay your fees is by e-transfer to membership@probusorv.org. Alternatively, you can mail a cheque to Probus ORV c/o Judy Beltzner, 398 Princeton Ave., Ottawa K2A 0M7 or give Judy a cheque at the next meeting. Whether you are paying by e-transfer or cheque, please use the “notes” area to indicate which member or members are covered by the payment.

You do not need to complete a membership form if you are an on-going member and your contact information has not changed. If you change your email address, please let us know so that our mailing list is up to date.

Badges: Membership badges are optional and can be purchased through Judy Beltzner. Let her know how you want your name to appear. Please print legibly. Please indicate what colour holder you would like (black, clear, blue or pink). Badges are \$10 each and will be available at the first meeting after you place your order.

[Several badges have been ordered and not yet picked up. If this applies to you, please see Judy at the next meeting to collect your badge.]

Membership information is also available on our website

<https://www.probusorv.org/membership.html>

EVENTS



VISIT TO THE DIEFENBUNKER

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024 AT 10 A.M.

Here it is September with chilly nights and the leaves now turning colour. Our next event will be a visit to the Carp countryside for a **private guided tour of the Diefenbunker Museum** on Thursday, September 26, 2024 at 10 a.m. Reservations must be made and confirmed by Thursday, September 12, 2024.

Two new permanent exhibitions are now open.

Lunch afterwards will be at the **Ridge Rock Brewing Company**. There is, as well, a creamery right across the street, **Carp Custom Creamery**, serving terrific ice cream in a charming courtyard.

Ticket prices for group guided tours are \$15.50 (seniors), and \$16.50 (regular). However, to get the Group Rate tickets must be purchased in one lump sum in advance of entering the premises. I will be collecting payment prior to the tour at the museum entryway. **Please bring correct change**. Confirmation must be made with the museum two weeks ahead, so the **deadline for signing up is this coming Thursday, September 12**. Their cancellation policy is 50% of the original ticket price. The tour is approximately one hour and 15 mins.

WHEN: Thursday, September 26 at 10 am.

WHERE: Diefenbunker Museum: 3929 Carp Rd, Ottawa, ON, K0A 1L0.
Ridge Rock Brewing Company: 421 Donald B Munro St, Carp, ON, K0A1L0
Free on-site parking at the museum, and street parking at the restaurant.

Carpooling is recommended. We can meet at the Manotick Library from **9:00-9:10 am**. Please let May Collins know if you need a ride or can give a ride.

DIRECTIONS: It's approximately a 35-minute drive from the library. <https://maps.app.goo.gl/3a9Acr2L3tufLVDE6>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact May Collins. We're looking forward to seeing you there.

May Collins
613-407-7222

STRIDERS AND STROLLERS



The STRIDERS AND STROLLERS meet every other week to explore a new area of Ottawa. Gill Puxty leads this energetic group and welcomes new members. If you would like to walk with this group, please contact Gill Puxty at drbonnydancer@gmail.com

DRINKS AND APPETIZERS

In August, Drinks and Appetizers was hosted by Judy and Michel Rodrigue at their home in Manotick. It was a lovely, late summer evening and guests were able to enjoy their magnificent garden.

On September 27, 2024, Drinks and Appetizers will be hosted by Judy and Klaus Beltzner at their home in Westboro. Although a full complement of guests signed up at the end of our September meeting, please contact Judy if you would like to attend, as there may be cancellations.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HOST DRINKS AND APPETIZERS FOR NOVEMBER,
DECEMBER AND DURING THE WINTER OF 2024.

This is an easy way to entertain. The host provides glasses, napkins and small plates. Guests bring their beverage of choice and an appetizer to share. Hosts choose the date that suits them best. Normally D&A are held on a Friday but that is flexible. If you would like to host, please contact Joy Bennett at joywakebennett@gmail.com

OPEN HOUSE

“PROBUS MONTH” - OPEN HOUSE



At our upcoming October Probus meeting we will be celebrating “Probus Month”. Our Club will be opening its doors to welcome members of the greater Manotick retirement community to experience the pleasures of being part of a dynamic and spirited Club.

Our Outreach Director, Dawn Copper, is busy getting the message out so we are very hopeful for an excellent turn out. Tables will be set up in the church to highlight each one of our activities/events; Speakers, Events, Striders and Strollers, Drinks & Appetizers, and of

course a Club table. Coffee and treats will be set up early for this occasion so we can have more time mingling and socializing with each other and our guests. The quest speaker will be talking about “Artificial Intelligence”, which is very topical given the advancements in technology.

As we are all ambassadors of our Club, invite as many of your friends, family and neighbours who are enjoying retirement life to come out and share in some good old fashion Fellowship, Friendship and Fun.

The Open House will kick off at 9:00 am on October 2nd at the Manotick United Church, 5567 Manotick Main St., Manotick. Coffee, tea and cookies will be served.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AND 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR CLUB

THURSDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2024

NOON

CEDARHILL GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

AFTER LUNCH SPEAKER WILL BE

LAURENCE WALL, CBC RADIO PERSONALITY

"Canadian history as covered by radio"

Menu choices and tickets will be available soon.

PLEASE NOTE THAT, EXCEPTIONALLY, THE DECEMBER MEETING AND THE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12. THERE WILL BE NO MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4.

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Mir Ali

The fact of the matter is that our lifestyles have a profound impact on our planet.

Earth's natural resources include air, water, soil, minerals, fuels, plants, and animals. All the things we need to survive, such as food, water, air, and shelter, come from natural resources. Some of these resources, like small plants, can be replaced quickly after they are used. Others, like large trees, take a long time to replace. These are renewable resources.

Needless to say, the growth in the population also means that the greater demand on the consumption of these resources. There's a common misconception that natural resources are going to last forever. Had we practiced conservation at a

greater level, it could have helped to better manage the scale of consumption, but our lifestyles turned out to be the major inhibitors for doing that.

Please click the following hyperlink to access the article:

<https://mirfali.com/several-articles-on-various-topics/4-climate/global-population-and-climate-change/>

Summer Travels

Gudrun Klingelstein travelled to the Shetland Islands off the coast of Scotland this summer and shared this story and these amazing photos with us.



Shetland hat

“Shetland Isles, the Holy Grail for this Knitter” by Gudrun Klingelstein

Why the Shetland Islands?



Having been a Shepherdess, spinner, weaver in my younger years and currently a knitter, I have always been interested in sheep breeds that are self-sufficient. In September 2023 I was on a Knitting Cruise with Arne & Carlos, the Norwegian knitting Designers, to Svalbard, Norway, Iceland, Faroe Islands and Shetland Islands. Due to bad weather we were not able to go to the Shetland Isles. My knitter's heart was broken but I was determined to return. Shortly after returning home, I found the Knitting Land Tour of Shetland.

Shetland, also called the Shetland Islands, is an archipelago in Scotland lying between Orkney, the Faroe Islands, and Norway. It is the northernmost region of the United Kingdom. The islands lie about 50 miles to the northeast of Orkney, 110 mi from mainland Scotland and 140 mi west of Norway. $60^{\circ}20'N$ $1^{\circ}20'W$ / $60.333^{\circ}N$ $1.333^{\circ}W$ most of the islands are north of 60. The population is about 23,000 of which 7,000 live in or around Lerwick, the biggest town. The rest are spotted all over the 16 inhabited islands, spread out similarly to the Canadian farmsteads. In the early Middle Ages these islands belonged to Norway, consequently they still have a strong connection with their Viking ancestors.

Access to the islands is complicated. I flew from Ottawa to London, UK and took the train to Edinburgh, (so I could see the British countryside on a rainy day). Then I took a bus to Aberdeen and flew with LoganAir to Sumburgh, the most southern tip of the Shetland Islands.

I met my knitting group of 20 in Edinburgh. The tour was peppered with beautiful sightseeing, mostly in sunny, cool weather. We visited a Bespoke Kiltmaker near Dundee, Scotland, had multiple lectures from various well known knitting designers from the area including Lucy Hague (Edinburgh), Di Gilpin (Pittenween), Hazel Tindal (Lerwick,

Shetland Isle) and several others. We tasted many types of gin. We visited a couple of castles which have been restored by the National Trust Scotland, Muness on the Isle of Unst, Scalloway, on the "mainland" and Scone Palace near Perth on the Tay. I certainly got my 10,000 steps in daily as we walked everywhere.

Of course, I had to visit the major yarn producers of the Isles, Silly Sheep Co., Jamieson & Smith and Jamiesons of Shetland. The photo below shows the huge colour range that is now being produced.



The original colour range from the Shetland sheep breed was 11 colours. One would get small amounts of various colours, ranging from white to brown to grey to black, all on one animal. The industrious Shetland knitters used every bit of fleece to spin their beautiful yarn to knit warm jumpers, hats, mittens, socks in the “Fairisle Style”. My sweater, shown below, is a variation of the style. They also made the “Shetland Lace” shawls. The Yarn is so fine that the finished shawl would fit through a wedding ring; this is a project on my Bucket List.

The Shetland Sheep Breed is unique to the Isles. “Shetlands are small, fine-boned sheep that have adapted over a thousand years to the tough conditions on the Shetland Isles. A very hardy breed, they can survive on poor nutrition.

On September 22, 1790, Sir John Sinclair wrote, “Shetland Wool, taking all its properties together, is perhaps the completest article of the kind in the universe, possessing at the same time, the gloss and softness of silk, the strength of cotton, the whiteness of linen, and the warmth of wool”. This description still holds true today.

Yarn is my Holy Grail as it has “miraculous healing powers, and sustenance in infinite abundance.”



Viking Heritage of the Shetlands



Jimmy Prez' house (BBC Series "Shetland")



Gudrun's sweater

Many thanks to Gudrun for sharing her vacation with us.