

# PROBUS IN OTTAWA'S RIDEAU VALLEY

## NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2024

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## Speakers

PAST SPEAKER - Craig Greenwood



*Craig Greenwood, August 7, 2024*

Craig is currently our Probust District Director but before coming to PROBUS he had had a long career as a biologist with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. His work took him to Northern Ontario where he worked with Moose, Black Bear, Caribou and especially Polar Bears. Craig's enthusiasm for his work and his very clear affection for the massive animals was evident as he shared stories of his life and work among the Polar Bears of the southern part of Hudson's Bay. After Craig's presentation many of us had lunch together.



*Front Row: Craig Greenwood, Emma Aquilino Linda Miller-Nesbitt, Helena Flack,  
Lynda Kileem*

## NEXT SPEAKER - Gary Bennett

Gary is a familiar face in our Probus Club and has been President twice as well as taking care of our Archive and Photo Gallery for the past several years. Prior to becoming a Probian, Gary was Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology in the Medical School at McGill University. Gary was born in Montreal but moved to Ottawa with his family when he was nine. He attended Nepean High School and later Carleton University. After two years at Carleton he moved back to Montreal and attended Concordia University graduating in 1963 with both a BA and a BSc. He taught high school for a year in Toronto and then returned to Montreal where he attended McGill University earning an MSc and a Ph.D. in cell biology. As you all probably know he is married to Joy, another Probian and they live in Stonebridge in the house with the photo op staircase (see above photo). They have one daughter, Marian, a dog named Millie, and a cat named Lucy.

Gary's interests are wide-ranging and he has spoken to our club about the fur trade, gothic cathedrals, dinosaurs. This time his fascination has taken him to the mysterious and lucrative world of the spice trade. His topic is:

**SUGAR AND SPICE AND EVERYTHING NICE** - Spices were once the most expensive commodities on earth and led to the rise and fall of empires, as well as to the discovery of new lands and whole new worlds and to the development of our modern economy.

## NEWS FROM THE MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Management Team met on Wednesday, August 14 to discuss matters of interest to the Club and to prepare for the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Among the topics discussed were the following:

**Membership** - **Judy Beltzner** reported that we currently have 143 paid up members. This is an increase of 8 members over this time last year. We have lost a few members over the past year, but our new numbers are encouraging.

**Treasurer** - **Klaus Beltzner** reported that the Club finances are in good order. He will be presenting a more detailed account of our finances at the AGM. Russ Mildenhall has offered to act as the Club's financial auditor, and he will work with Klaus to give us an approved year end picture of our financial situation. Klaus has also spoken about the need to increase membership fees and has proposed a fee increase to \$40.00 per person. This will ensure that we can meet all of the Club's expenses and provide a small financial cushion for unexpected expenses.

**Speakers** - **Ian MacKay** reported that we have speakers engaged for the remainder of 2024. The Speakers Committee will meet in the fall to plan for next spring and summer. If you have any suggestions for a speaker, please contact Ian at [imackay@uottawa.ca](mailto:imackay@uottawa.ca)

**Vice-President** - **Charles Fournier** is looking forward to next year when he will be our President. He is already planning for **PROBUS MONTH** in October. The celebration of Probus Month will coincide with National Seniors' Day (October 1, 2024). He is planning an open house for our meeting on Wednesday, October 2, 2024. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND WATCH THIS NEWSLETTER FOR MORE INFORMATION AND DETAILS ABOUT THIS SPECIAL EVENT.**

President - **Helena Flack** thanked all members and guest who signed in at our last meeting. This will be a regular occurrence at our meeting for insurance purposed and the sign-in table will be hosted by a member of the management team.

Outreach- **Dawn Cooper** has prepared the following promotional for our Club.

***PROBUSORV Outreach Promotion: August 13, 2024***

*Hello Neighbours! Are you retired? Are you new to the area? Are you interested in meeting new people?*

*Why not join the Ottawa - Rideau Valley PROBUS Club? PROBUS Canada clubs provide regular gatherings for semi-retired and retired people that appreciate and value opportunities to meet with others of similar interests. Our goal at the Ottawa-Rideau Valley club is purely social, providing **fellowship, fun and friendship** for individuals in our local community. We are a non-partisan and not-for-profit organization led by a vibrant group of volunteers dedicated to camaraderie and learning through interesting speakers, events and activities.*

*We meet on the first Wednesday of every month at Manotick United Church to listen to an hour-long presentation on such fascinating topics as: “Whatever Happened to Amelia Earhart?” or “The Dream of World Peace – can Canada Make a Difference?” and “RCMP Musical Ride Horses donated to HRM Queen Elizabeth”. A brief business meeting takes place after the speaker to talk about upcoming activities, and folks can then attend a pre-arranged restaurant lunch if they wish.*

*In between speaker meetings, we organize a few activities such as walking, theatre groups, and local tours – for example, we recently attended a play in Prescott. We also enjoy a monthly opportunity to meet in smaller groups at various PROBUS members’ homes, sharing Drinks and Appetizers, friendly greetings and stimulating conversations.*

*We invite you to attend a “try-it-out” meeting. Check out our website at <https://www.probusorv.org/> for contact information. **We’d love to meet you!***

## EVENTS

On July 23, a group headed to the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival to see “She Stoops to Conquer” by Oliver Goldsmith. Many stayed for lunch after the play and everyone had a good time.



***DAWN COOPER AND CATHY LANDRY ENJOYING SOMETHING FROTHY***

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Greenhouse Tour



**WHAT & WHERE:** Greenhouse Tours of **Suntech Greenhouses: 5541 Doyle Rd, Manotick** (off River Rd), and **Carleton Mushroom Farms: 6280 Dalmeny Rd, Osgoode** (off Stagecoach Hill Rd), ON. They are approximately 10 mins apart, as the crow flies. These tours will be followed by lunch at **The Swan on the Rideau: 2730 River Rd, Manotick**.

**WHEN: Wednesday, August 21st.** We will begin at **Suntech at 9:30 am** for approximately one hour, head to **Carleton Mushrooms at: 10:45 am**, for another hour, then head back to **The Swan for our 12:10 pm** lunch.

**CARPOOLING:** If you are interested in giving a ride, or would like a lift, please meet me at the **Parking Lot next to the Manotick Public Library (5549 S. River Dr., Manotick) by 9:00 am** and we can take off from there by **9:10 am**.



**IMPORTANT:** Please contact May Collins at [mcoll001@gmail.com](mailto:mcoll001@gmail.com) by **Friday, August 16** to let her know if you are interested in joining this tour, and whether you will also be attending for lunch.

### Art in the Square

**(Saturday, August 24, 2024) – Brocante** (We all love “Brocante” even though we may not know what it means. “Brocante” means second-hand in French! In the USA they call it Vintage, Shabby Chic or Repurposed if it is referring to home decor. In Canada, I have heard the term, “nearly new”. The idea of French Brocante is a more romantic term for using vintage pieces to decorate our homes)



Come visit the Dickinsen square Saturday August 24<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am - 4pm  
Twenty artists with their art for sale and a lot of gently used art-related objects: books, frames, magazines, paint brushes among many other things....just like a Brocante in France! There will be community projects for you to paint, children’s corner and some artists demonstrating their talent.

Manotick Market will be there too.

Spread the word!

Co-ordinator Sheila King

Thanks to Watsons Mill and Dickinson House for their hospitality!

## STRIDERS AND STROLLERS



The striders and strollers enjoyed a lovely walk on Thursday, August 8, 2024 along the river. A perfect summer outing.

If you would like to join these walkers please contact Gill Puxty so that she can add your name to the email list. Many thanks to Gill who has taken the lead for this group while Lynn Koroniak cares for her husband. Gill can be reached at: [drbonnydancer@gmail.com](mailto:drbonnydancer@gmail.com)

## CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The Christmas luncheon and 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will take place on **December 12, 2024** at the Cedarhill Golf and Country Club. Mark your calendars and watch this Newsletter for more information and possible menu choices. This is a great opportunity to celebrate with your Probus friends before some (the lucky ones) head to warmer climes for the winter.



### DRINKS AND APPETIZERS

**PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE!**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2024**

**HOSTED BY**

**JUDY AND MICHEL RODRIGUE**

**1237 Clothier Court, Manotick**

**If you would like to attend and did not sign up at the August meeting, please contact Judy at [judyrodrigue@outlook.com](mailto:judyrodrigue@outlook.com)**

Hosting Drinks and Appetizers is a great way to get to know more of our PROBUS members and entertain with very little work. The host is responsible for providing

glasses, napkins, (small plates are nice) and one appetizer to share. The guests bring their own beverage of choice and an appetizer to share. If you would like to host later in the fall (we are covered until October), please contact Joy Bennett at [joywakebennett@gmail.com](mailto:joywakebennett@gmail.com)

## 50/50 DRAW

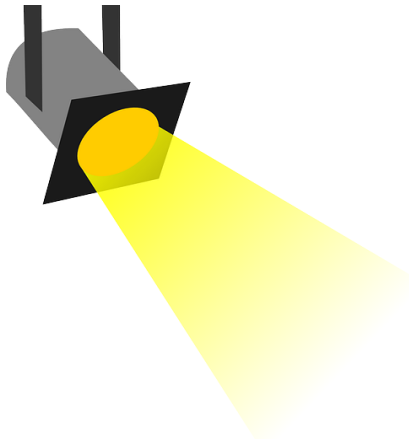
Each Month at our regular meeting everyone has a chance to win (BIG MONEY) and help our club. It is quite simple, Tickets can be purchased from Judy Beltzner for \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. At the end of the meeting a ticket is drawn and the lucky winner takes home some cash (50% of the “take” the Club keeps the other 50% to help with expenses.)



**PLAY EARLY, PLAY OFTEN, WIN BIG!!!!**

## WHO ARE WE? PROFILES OF US

This month the spotlight is on Michel Rodrigue. Michel and his wife, Judy, joined our Club last year and have become very active members. Michel recently volunteered to assist with the audio visual aspects of our meetings and Judy has joined the Events Committee. Welcome to both of them. Here is Michel's story:



### *SPOTLIGHT ON MICHEL*

Michel had a career in various aspects of Heavy Civil Construction since graduating from Algonquin College in 1973.

In my early years I worked for Taggart Construction as a junior estimator. This was in the heyday of the Ministry of Environment's program of installing sewer and watermain services in small villages around Ontario. This was an effort to clean up the small tributaries that were carrying raw sewage into our rivers and lakes that was commonplace throughout the province.

In the 80's the City of Ottawa decided to proceed with a bus and dedicated road transit system. The transit system proved to be popular and successful and most important to the City of Ottawa it spurred land development in areas such as Orleans, Barrhaven and Kanata. The business transitioned to land development as more and more housing was required in the capital region.

I worked as chief estimator at Taggart until accepting a position in 1996 as Eastern District Manager for Dufferin Construction. That portion of my career included projects such as widening Highway 401 as far east as Cobourg, numerous bridge rehabilitations, Construction of the Perley Bridge in Hawkesbury, the Mississippi River bridge on Highway 417 near Arnprior, Roger Stevens overpass on Highway 416. as well as land development projects.

In 2006 I returned to work for Taggart Construction as a Project Manager. From 2006 to 2012 construction work in Ottawa was focused on Capital Works and Land Development expanding the suburbs of Ottawa as low interest rates drove housing starts.

In 2012 the first LRT project was awarded to a multi-national contractor and massive projects such as Parliament Hill, CSIS headquarters and similar work attracted large companies to Ottawa. This large outlay of funds stalled many smaller projects that would normally be driving construction employment in Ottawa. The local construction industry changed dramatically as smaller

companies were swallowed up and the multinationals imported offshore materials and expertise.

The newest trend in Ottawa is development of lands adjacent to the LRT system.

I served as president of both the National Capital Heavy Construction Association and the Ontario Sewer and Watermain Association.

My wife of 50 years and I are longtime residents of Manotick where we raised our family of two daughters, Alana and Lisa.

## MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

### **FROM OUR REGULAR CONTRIBUTOR, MIR ALI**

Looking at the bigger picture, there were approximately 1.42 billion passenger vehicles in the world.

These vehicles emitted 2.23 billion metric tons (equivalent to 4.92 trillion pounds) of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) into the atmosphere in 2018. To put that into perspective, that's equivalent to burning all of the coal in a fully-loaded coal train that stretches 392,000 miles, long enough to wrap almost 15.7 times around the earth at the equator.

Please click [here](#) to read Mir's fascinating article.

## **SUMMER TRAVELS:**

Last June, Jo-Anne Doherty and Ian MacKay experienced a trip of a lifetime when they visited Sable Island, as well as other islands on the east coast. Sable Island is a 42-km-long sandbar, mostly less than one km wide, located some 200 km off the coast of Nova Scotia. It is famous for the wild horses that live there – which Jo-Anne and Ian saw in considerable numbers. Before modern navigation, Sable Island was the site of some 350 shipwrecks.



*Ian MacKay on Sable Island*

**If you have any photos from your summer travels that you would like to share with our members, please send them to me at [joywakebennett@gmail.com](mailto:joywakebennett@gmail.com)**

**ENJOY THE REST OF THE SUMMER AND MARK SEPTEMBER 4, 2024 ON YOUR CALENDARS AS WE START A NEW PROBUS YEAR TOGETHER!**