



The PROBUS Pilot



Probus Club of Western Ottawa – serving the western half of the National Capital Region

April 2026

Vol:17 No:87

Tuesday, 14 April

The Voices Behind the “Voice of the Nation” Tales of Canada’s Dominion Carillonneurs

The Peace Tower and its carillon of 53 bells were inaugurated on July 1, 1927, Canada’s Diamond Jubilee. In his dedication speech, Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King proclaimed the carillon to be the “voice of the nation in thanksgiving and praise which will sound over land and sea to the uttermost parts of the earth.” In the ensuing 98 years, five Dominion Carillonneurs have served to create that distinctly expressive musical voice on Parliament Hill. They have performed thousands of regular recitals, from solemn commemorations to festive celebrations.

The current Dominion Carillonneur, Dr. Andrea McCrady, will chronicle the careers of this unique group of musicians, speaking from within the Tower’s walls, unseen but widely heard.

Following 18 years as the carillonneur at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Spokane, WA, Dr. McCrady was appointed to

the position of Dominion Carillonneur in Ottawa in 2008. She has been an active member of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America since 1976, serving as president, 1987–88, co-chair of the Ronald Barnes Grant Fund, 1998–2019, and co-chair of the Music Heritage Committee, 2010–present.

She holds a B. A. (History) from Trinity College, Hartford, where she first encountered the carillon; a medical doctorate from McGill University in Montreal, and a B. Mus. (Carillon) from the University of Denver. She serves as an Adjunct Professor in Carillon Studies at Carleton University in Ottawa



Dr. Andrea McCrady

and is also responsible for the maintenance of the Dominion Carillon Library archives. She was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012 and the King Charles III Coronation Medal in 2025 for her service to Canada.



The Breakfast Club had another great outing in March. This time at Zolas Restaurant with a super turnout. Our membership keeps growing. To join, sign up at the SIG desk at the April meeting.

The Probus Club of Western Ottawa is part of the international organization of Probus Clubs designed to serve the retired and semi-retired community. The morning begins at 9:45 am with a time for coffee and socialization, followed by a guest speaker. Probus Western Ottawa meets at
Kanata Baptist Church
465 Hazeldean Road

Thinking of Volunteering? Your club needs you!



The year I joined PWO in 2018 I accepted the newsletter editor position. I enjoyed the challenge so much that I held that position for 4 years. Then when a new President was needed, I filled that role for 3 years. I met a great bunch of people and had the pleasure of working together towards a common goal. If you have some time on your hands and are wondering how to make use of it, this is an excellent opportunity. We have currently identified candidates for:

- Membership (2)
- Treasurer
- Webmaster
- Secretary (need a second volunteer)

Our open positions are:

- President
- Vice-President
- Outings (2+)
- Newsletter
- Audio/Visual (need a backup)

Role descriptions may be found

[here](#). If your reaction upon reading any of them is "I can't do this because I have no idea what it entails", please speak to me or any executive member. We are a collaborative and supportive group and will help you understand and succeed in whatever role you consider. You're also welcome to attend an Executive Committee meeting (3rd Tuesday of each month at 9:30 to 11 am in classroom A1) to see how we operate.

Ray Jones,
Past President, SIG Coordinator and Website candidate

Lunch-out coming in April

Tuesday 28 April

Milestones

Kanata Centrum Mall
Meet at Noon

Familiar food with a twist. You can view the menu online at www.milestonesrestaurants.com

Sign up at the April meeting

Looking ahead at our future speakers

May 12, 2026: Dr. Paul Villeneuve: "Wildfire smoke and our health: Risks, research, and what we can do"

June 9, 2026: Barry Padolsky: "Ottawa's Byward Market: 1827-2027 Praeteritum, Praesens et Futurum (Past, Present, Future)"

September 8, 2026: Roy MacGregor: Reflections and stories from his career as a journalist



Following our June meeting

End of year luncheon

After our June 9 meeting, we will have a catered luncheon to end the year. Our caterer will be Leatherworks, offering a variety of wraps, salads, desserts and coffee. The luncheon will be in the Church Hall on the other side of the foyer from the sanctuary.

This event is a great opportunity

to close out our year and socialize with other club members before we break for the summer.

Tickets are only \$25 and available at the April and May meetings. Pay with cash, cheque or via e-transfer to membership@probuswesternottawa.ca (ETF instructions can be found [here](#).)



2025 end of year luncheon



Join us on 10 April for monthly Euchre

Where: Bells Corners United Church,
3955 Old Richmond Road
at Moodie Drive.

Time: 12:30 for social time, coffee:

Games begin at 1 p.m.

Everyone is welcome, even if you have never played! Easy to learn and we will teach you! You just have to be a Probus member!

For further information, feel free to contact Barbara or David Stafford at (bbole@sympatico.ca)

Our March speaker

Dr. Lee focused on the Canadian economy

At our March meeting, we were both entertained and informed through a dynamic presentation by Dr. Ian Lee on the perils of Canada's economic decline. Through statistics and charts Dr. Lee showed how Canada has lagged in GDP Growth and capital investment. His presentation also touched on our high corporate tax rate, tariffs, counter tariffs, and even fertility rates.

He said that Canada needs to concentrate on the things we are good at, natural resources, energy, and services, not manufactured goods. Slides from Dr. Lee's presentation can be found [here](#).



Dr. Ian Lee

Let's keep this going



Bring a book ...
...Take a book



Check out our swap table at every meeting

After the meeting

We go out for lunch

Join us for lunch after our April meeting to socialize and discuss the presentation.

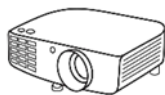
This month we will be at:

Busters Bar & Grill
420 Hazeldean Road

You may have noticed —

KBC's overhead projector is nearing its end-of-life, and its images are growing dimmer.

Consequently, we brought our club's portable projector to our March meeting and it worked very well. We will continue with this unit until the church replaces theirs.



Special Interest Group update

The table at right shows SIG status as of April 6.

The following groups have shown no evidence of activity for some time, nor have they identified a Prime Contact: bird-watching, cycling, hiking, pickleball, theatre-nights, walking. Consequently, their Gmail group lists will be deactivated on April 15.

To restart one of these groups or to start a new one, please email Ray Jones at

sig-groups-coordinator@probuswesternottawa.ca

As a PWO member you may join or leave one of the groups below by either

- using the signup sheet, available at meetings, or by
- sending an email at any time to:

Travel Club to meet on 28 April

The Travel Club had another successful meeting in February.

The main reason to maintain the club remains the need for finding travelling companions.

Many travel agencies cater to seniors who find themselves alone but would still like to continue to travel the world.

This raises the question as to why we need the Probud Travel Club? Volunteers manage it, and the travel coordinators merely connect club members interested in travelling companions (who they already know before starting on a journey).

Travelling companions choose their own travel agent and can look into the possibility of group discounts and other benefits.

Recounting past travel experiences was another point of interest. We all learn from our mistakes as well as from those of others. This topic generated a few "traveller's tales".

The next travel club meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 28 April. Members should check their email for particulars.

sig-[group]-

contact@probuswesternottawa.ca

by substituting [group] with the appropriate SIG name: for example, [sig-games-night-](mailto:sig-games-night-contact@probuswesternottawa.ca)

contact@probuswesternottawa.ca.

Put "Join", "Leave" or "Info request" in the subject field:

PWO SIG Status		April 6, 2026
SIG Name	# Signups	Prime Contact(s)
Art-Appreciation	4	June Stewart
Billiards	1	Ellen Clare O'Gallagher
Book-Club	5	Helen Zandbergen
Breakfast-Club	26	David Lee
Games-Night	7	Nicola Jarvis
Knitting	2	Elaine Bradley
Travellers-Club	32	Suma Abraham / Tom Wileman

Total Signups 77

Red text indicates a change from March 2

HELP WANTED

We need an editor for this newsletter.

Familiarity with Word and some ability to spell correctly.

A few hours a month and the chance to work with some great people.

Job description [here](#).

Probus has a web site

Our club has a web site to keep you up to date on speakers, activities, photos, our organization and other information. It can be found at:

www.probuswesternottawa.ca

Make sure that you bookmark this location so that you don't have to keep typing it in.

The left side menu lets you go to any of the featured pages.

The web site has a link page, not only to Probus Canada and other local Probus Clubs but also to local seniors centres and other seniors organizations.

Do check it out and let us know if we should add anything.



Before the meeting, it's time to socialize, pick up or drop off a book, have a coffee, and sign up for lunches and events. A great way to meet some new people.



Keep an eye out for colourful, tiny stars on membership badges, both permanent and temporary. These indicate that the wearer became a brand-new member of Probus since September '25. Give these members a warm welcome!

Free Coffee and Tea

Getting together to socialize prior to our meetings has always been a hallmark of our Club.

Free Coffee and Tea Service is now available from 9:45 -10:20 am (to facilitate cleanup)



Chuckle Corner

What goes up but never comes down?

Your age!

Why do retirees smile so much?

Because they can't hear a word you're saying.

What do you call someone who enjoys Mondays?

Retired.

What's the key to a structured retirement?

A rigid nap schedule.

What's worse than middle age?

Knowing you'll grow out of it.

How many retirees does it take to change a light bulb?

One, but it'll take all day.

Seniors' Marketplace

Hosted by Kanata Seniors Council

Saturday, April 18th 2026

Noon to 3:30pm

35+ Exhibitors with products and services of interest to older guests

Free admission — All Are Welcome

Please bring a food donation for the Kanata Food Cupboard

Located at the John G. Mlacak Centre

2500 Campeau Drive, Kanata

Our Café will be open for refreshments.



Membership inquiries may be sent to membership@probuswesternottawa.ca

Our Website
www.probuswesternottawa.ca

Newsletter comments or submissions
newsletter@probuswesternottawa.ca