



The PROBUS Pilot



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

JUNE 2026

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Tuesday 9 June

Ottawa's Byward Market: 1827-2027

Praeteritum, Praesens et Futurum (Past, Present, Future)

In 2027, Ottawa will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the founding of its ByWard Market—the historic commercial heart of Bytown, the small frontier settlement that became the capital of Canada. Valued as one of the nation's oldest public markets, the ByWard Market has recently been nominated as a National Historic Site.

What is the story of its origins? How did it evolve? What is the nature of its character today? What are the threats to the survival of this colourful but troubled precinct in an urban settlement of 1.25 million citizens? What are the measures that can be taken to ensure that the ByWard Market regains its health and attractiveness as a destination for Ottawa's citizens and the millions of

visitors that visit the national capital?

Barry Podolsky was born in Winnipeg's wicked North End. During his 50-year career as an architect, his achievements included realizing over 200 architectural and urban design projects primarily in Ottawa, Canada's capital. Notable examples include the restoration and rehabilitation of historic landmarks such as the Canadian Museum of Nature, the ByWard Market Building and the Bank St. Bridge over the Rideau Canal. He has been recognized with 43 national and civic architectural and urban design awards, including 29 for heritage conservation.

Barry is a heritage and urban



Barry Podolsky

design advocate with a deep interest in the history and planning of the national capital

He has recently published "A Winnipeg Boy's Imaginings"—a four-volume collection of his architectural works, ink drawings, graphics, stage designs, essays, short stories and poetry.

Barry is a keen tennis player and was thrilled to win the Canadian 85+ singles title in 2024.

Our June meeting

Our annual AGM

Our meeting on Tuesday, 9 June, is the last one before our summer break. Before we hear from our speaker, we will conduct our Annual General Meeting.

For this portion, we will have an overview of our 2025-26 activities and elect our new Management Committee to oversee the activities of the club for the next year.

As you can see by the chart on page 2, a number of people have stepped forward, but there are still some vacancies.

End-of-year luncheon after the meeting

After our June 9 meeting, we will have a catered luncheon to end the year. The luncheon will be in the Church Hall on the other side of the foyer from the sanctuary.

This is a great opportunity to socialize with other club members

Tickets are \$25 and are now only available via e-transfer to

membership@probuswesternottawa.ca
ETF instructions can be found [here](#)
(Reservations deadline extended to Wednesday, 3 June.)

The Probus Club of Western Ottawa is part of the international organization of Probus Clubs designed to serve retired and semi-retired, community and like-minded people.

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

The Prez Sez



I am overwhelmed and grateful for all the recent interest in joining the management board. This has indeed been a profound relief for all of us on the board. Just a few short months ago, the future of the club was in dire straits as we faced critical vacancies that threatened the very continuity of everything we've built together. To have eight members step forward to join our board is nothing short of a miracle. Because of this incredible outpouring

of kindness, we are now in the enviable position of having backups for almost every single role, securing our stability for years to come.

I am deeply honoured to return as your President alongside this energized team, which now includes a new Outing Director to help steer our external adventures. To our eight new board members: thank you for choosing to give us your time and talents to keep our club thriving.

While we look forward with excitement, this transition is also a poignant moment of farewell to three extraordinary individuals who have given so much of their lives to our success. Peter van Boeschoten is stepping down from his tireless dual roles as our webmaster and newsletter editor—positions that kept us connected and informed month after month. We are also saying goodbye to Bryan Wakeford, who has managed our finances with impeccable care as Treasurer, and Ruth Wakeford, who brought such warmth and dedication to her role looking after our membership. It is difficult to fully express my feelings and appreciation for their years of selfless service on the board. They have helped to build the foundation we stand on today. While we will miss their leadership at the table, the best part of our club is that good friends never really leave.

To make this next year truly spectacular, this new board needs your voice, your passion, and your ideas. This is your club, and we want to shape it around what makes you happiest. We are officially opening the floor and eagerly asking for your inputs on every aspect of our calendar. What guest speakers are you dying to hear from? What exciting topics are of interest? What hidden gems, scenic tours, should our new Outing Director put on the schedule? Where should we gather to share laughs over our monthly lunches? More than anything, we want your candid feedback on areas where we can improve. No suggestion is too small—whether it's a tweak to our meeting format or a completely new initiative, please reach out and share your thoughts with me so we can make our time together even more rewarding.

Finally, I want to speak about an important matter regarding our operations. Starting this September, the board is contemplating raising the annual membership fees. I want to be completely open with you: proposing a fee increase is never an easy decision. As your President, I want to hear from you before our June AGM meeting. I'm against raising our membership fees but the majority of the board feels otherwise.

Please let me know how you feel about this today. Use this opportunity now to email your thoughts.

David Lee

president@probuswesternottawa.ca

Proposed Management Committee 2026-27

President	David Lee
Vice President	VACANT
Past President	Ray Jones
Secretary	Nicola Jarvis, Marguerite & Jim Evans
Treasurer	David Bromwich
Membership	Paddy Armstrong, Anne Gravel, Annette Lindsay
Outings	Deepak Warner, Peter Doyle
Speaker Program	Tom Lukowski
Lunches	Suma Abraham
Newsletter	Ray Jones
Website	Ray Jones
Policy Advisor	Peter Doyle
Setup Crew	Stan Senkowski, Travis Jarvis
Publicity	VACANT
Euchre	Barabara Bole, David Stafford
Coffee Service	Walter & Shanna Lucas, Anne Senkowski, Joy Pelletier
Members at Large	Ruth Brydon, Jean Eng, Marguerite & Jim Evans
Cards and Letters	Nicola Jarvis

Welcome
New Members

Barbara Kuehn

Fred Kuehn

Donald Coombs

Celia Edwards

Leonard Landry

Join us on 19 June 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!

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



Travellers Club remains active

For a short while, the travel club was in danger of collapsing along with our Probus Club. Many brave souls stepped up to volunteer for key positions in the management committee, and now our club has been successfully resuscitated. The travel club will continue to function with the same prime contacts.

Anyone wishing to join or remove themselves from the travel group can easily do so by contacting the SIG coordinator using the following e-mail, sig-travellers-club-contact@probuswesternottawa.ca

Following a request from the church office, future travel meetings will be held in room C1, not in classroom A1 as previously done.

In the past, meetings have been quite informal, but from now on it will take on a more formal style with an agenda, etc. This may suit the wishes of some members.

So far, the main reason for joining the traveller's club seems to be for meeting travelling companions. There is a persisting misconception that the prime contacts initiate or make travel arrangements. The named prime contacts have neither the knowledge nor the experience to do that.

There is an ample supply of travel agents who do a marvellous job arranging travel.

May speaker related smoke to health

At our May meeting, Dr. Paul Villeneuve, an epidemiologist, spoke to us about the impact on human health of wildfire smoke and, in particular, the role of fine (2.5 micron) particulate matter (aka PM2.5) which comprises 90% of such smoke. He spoke of many studies that utilize existing health and geographic data in surprising ways to investigate short-term and long-term effects. Although PM2.5 can have many sources, such as car emissions, It can be very difficult to avoid exposure to PM2.5 in wildfire smoke as it can drift many kilometres. One of the worst wildfires in western Canada occurred in 2023 and spread through much of the country as well as down to southern US states.



Dr. Paul Villeneuve

Good News:

Outings will restart in October

We are pleased to let members know that Probus outings will restart in October. Planning is underway for a variety of activities over the coming year, including local tours, cultural visits, social lunches, and seasonal outings. More details will be shared as dates and arrangements are confirmed.

Outings have always been a key feature of our Probus Club. Tours and visits provide an opportunity to learn about many aspects of our community and are an ideal opportunity to meet fellow members.

Members who have ideas for

future outings or who would like to help with planning or hosting an event are encouraged to let us know. Please contact the Outings Chair at outings@probuswesternottawa.ca

Book Swap Table



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

Take an extra book or two
for the summer!

Special Interest Groups (SIG) update

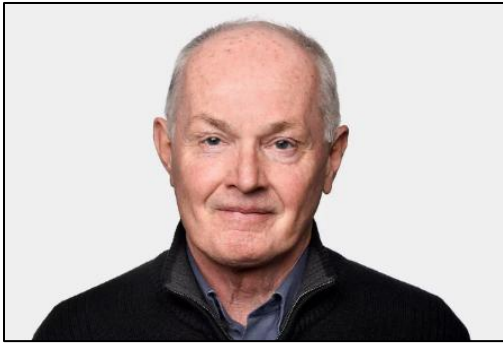
The Art Appreciation SIG has been discontinued due to a lack of apparent activity for some time. Our remaining groups are shown below. As a PWO member you may join or leave one of these groups by using the signup sheet, available at meetings. To start a new Special Interest Group, please email Ray Jones at: sig-groups-coordinator@probuswesternottawa.ca

PWO SIG Status		May 26, 2026
SIG Name	# Signups	Prime Contact(s)
Book-Club	5	Helen Zandbergen
Breakfast-Club	26	David Lee
Games-Night	7	Nicola Jarvis
Travellers-Club	28	Suma Abraham / Tom Wileman

Total Signups 66

Red text indicates a change from April 15*

* The Art Appreciation SIG is discontinued



September 8th speaker will be writer Roy MacGregor

The Stories Behind the Stories: A Memoir

Roy MacGregor is an author, columnist and feature writer for The Globe and Mail. Before joining the Globe in 2002, he worked for the National Post, the Ottawa Citizen, Maclean's magazine, the Toronto Star and The Canadian Magazine. He has won numerous awards for his journalism, including two National Newspaper Awards, several National Magazine Awards and twice the ACTRA Award as the best television drama writer in the country.

He is also the author of nearly 40 books, 23 of them in the internationally successful Screech Owls Mystery series for young readers. His adult books include *A Life In the Bush*, and *Home Team: Fathers, Sons and Hockey*.

June golf outing on Monday, June 22nd at the Canadian Golf and Country Club

A 9-hole game has been arranged at the Canadian Golf and Country Club, located in Ashton (Hwy 7 and Dwyer Hill Road).

We will play late morning on Monday, June 22nd, followed by lunch at Everett's Lounge. There will be another announcement at our meeting on June 9th, and a sign-up sheet will be at the SIG table in the lobby.

Cost for golf will be \$36.00 for the 9 holes plus \$16.00 if you need a power cart. (This is an easy walking course)

Final arrangements will be communicated to each player by email prior to our golfing date.

Coordinator is Walter Lucas 705-717-3090,

wlucas3887@gmail.com

2026 Scholarships open to grandchildren of Probus members

The 2026 Belairdirect Scholarship Program is now open! @belairdirect is proud to offer 50 scholarship opportunities, valued at \$1,000 each, to eligible applicants.

Deadline: June 30, 2026

Last year Grandchildren of Probus members won 5 of the 50 scholarship opportunities that were offered to Belairdirect affinity partners.

To learn more about this

opportunity, visit [Begin your academic path with Belairdirect's 2026 Scholarship | belairdirect](#)

This scholarship is exclusively for our affinity partners' members/employees. Applicants do NOT need to be a Belairdirect customer to be eligible, they simply need to be a member/employee of one of our affinity partners. (Note: PROBUS Canada is an affinity partner)



The Chez Lam Vietnamese Restaurant was the venue for an authentic Vietnamese cuisine meal for our May lunch out.



**"By the time
you're 80 years old
you've learned
everything.
You only have
to remember it."**

—GEORGE BURNS

Membership inquiries may be sent to
membership@probuswesternottawa.ca

Our Website
www.probuswesternottawa.ca

Newsletter comments or submissions
newsletter@probuswesternottawa.ca