

**OTTAWA-RIDEAU VALLEY PROBUS CLUB
NEWSLETTER
JANUARY, 2025**

NEXT MEETING:

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2025
AT 10 A.M.**

**The speaker will be DAVID
POLLOCK AND HIS TOPIC IS:**

***“Can a Grain of Sand Hold
Back the Tide? Something
of a personal journey: from
summer cottage to climate
and planetary boundaries –
Realism, Hope and
Anything a Senior Can Do?”***

**Manotick United Church,
5567 Manotick Main St.**

**Lunch after the meeting will
be at The Creekside Grill,
5511 Manotick Main St.**



**Coffee/tea and cookies will
be served at 9:15. Cost is
\$2.00**



Figure 1 Photo by J. Bennett

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Happy New Year, everyone! Wishing you all the very best for a fantastic year ahead, filled with good health, happiness, and peace.

Our 2024 year wrapped up in style with an unforgettable 30th Anniversary Christmas Luncheon. With 100 members in attendance, we enjoyed a stunning 30-year pictorial display of the Club, delicious food, a wonderful presentation by Lawrence Wall, and the honour of presenting Probus Canada's "Citation Award" to Joy and Gary Bennett. It truly doesn't get much better than that!

As I write this, we're already gearing up for an exciting 2025, with lots in store to keep us all entertained and engaged. Our newly launched interest groups are either up and running or starting soon, so be sure to keep an eye out for one that sparks your interest.

In response to the growing membership, we'll be hosting two Drinks and Appetizers (Apps) events per month starting this month. The success of this initiative will depend on your participation, so please consider signing up as a host.

Additionally, your Management Committee has reviewed our social coffee time at the monthly meetings and decided to extend it by an extra 15 minutes, starting at 9:15 instead of 9:30.

Finally, we have given our website a fresh new look, which is more user friendly, informative and has the ability for members to communicate with the various committees. As you can see, your Management Committee and sub-committees are hard at work to ensure 2025 is filled with fun, laughter, and lasting memories. For more details on all of these initiatives, be sure to check out the rest of this newsletter!

PAST SPEAKER

In January Joy Bennett gave us a short history of the organized labour movement in Canada. She touched on the influences of typographer's strikes in 1872, the building of the Canadian Pacific Railroad in 1881-85, the influences of "Big Labour" from the United States in the 1930s. She highlighted the achievements made in areas of worker health and safety and compensation and benefits over the past 100 years and looked to future issues as management and labour grapple with new issues of remote work and other benefits.

NEXT SPEAKER



On February 5, 2025 our speaker will be another member of our Probus Club, **David Pollock**.

"Can a Grain of Sand Hold Back the Tide? Something of a personal journey: from summer cottage to climate and planetary boundaries – Realism, Hope and Anything a Senior Can Do?"

The talk will describe his journey to understand and find grounds for legitimate hope at a time when biodiversity destruction and climate change threaten everyone and nearly every living thing on our island home – our one earth. He will provide a thumbnail sketch of our current situation and explore some of the things he has tried to do, is doing and thinking of doing.

The attempt will be to balance what could be a tale of despair with the joy which flows from our gift of life, relationships and our beautiful earth.

David Pollock - A Biographical Sketch:

David is a graduate of Queen's University and has a graduate degree from the University of Toronto in the fields of modern political theory, economics and international relations. He undertook minors in both English and Philosophy and enjoyed a third-year undergraduate exchange at the University of Saint Andrews, Scotland.

His work has involved leadership roles in numerous non-profit organizations, including periods with the Inter-church Social Justice Coalitions: Ten Days for Development, Project Ploughshares and later as the national Anglican Church's staff for economic justice and peacemaking. This was preceded by work as CUSO's Development Education Officer. During David's tenure at the Anglican Church, David worked closely with communities throughout Newfoundland and with the provincial and federal governments on issues related to the decline in the North Atlantic Cod Fishery. He led a delegation to the European Parliament to lobby the Spanish and Portuguese to cease overfishing efforts. Following a brief stint at the Bank of Montreal headquarters as their Employment Equity Manager, David took on the role of Executive Director of the Pembina Institute – a national environmental think tank and advocacy

organization. Later working from Queen's University, David served as Executive Director of BIOCAP a partnership of governments, corporations and universities to flow grants for biologically directed climate research. David also worked for Citizens for Public Justice before retiring in 2022.

David has served on many non-profit boards including the International Anglican Consultative Council for Peace and Justice, the Canadian Council for International Co-operation, and The Churches Task Force on Corporate Responsibility. He also worked with Sustainable Development Technology Canada – in the days before its governance controversies- when under the leadership of Dr. Vicky Sharpe, it helped to open up substantial support for Canada's Clean Tech sector.

David says it is ironic he was awarded the Alberta Centennial Medal for "significant contributions to their fellow citizens, their community and to Alberta" when he fought so hard against many of Premier Klien's environmental positions. Due to David's role at the Pembina Institute, venture Magazine named David as one of the 50 most influential Albertans.

NEWS FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Management Committee met on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 to discuss matters of importance to the Club. Here are some highlights:

The rental contract for 2025-26 at the Manotick United Church has been signed. The conditions remain the same as in the past.

Since October 2024 we have established 8 Interest Groups. These groups each have a group leader and have been meeting on a regular basis over the past few months.

Over the past few months our Club has grown by 33 new members and we are delighted to welcome them. We now have 155 paid up members. Attendance at our monthly meetings has increased from an average of 60 to about 100. This is good news.

It was decided that we would extend the coffee/tea socializer before each meeting by 15 minutes to allow more of our members to chat with each other and check on events and outings that they may wish to attend. **Beginning in February, 2025, coffee/tea and cookies will be available (for a cost of \$2.00) from 9:15 in the social area at the Manotick United Church.** Thanks to Sue Fournier and her coffee volunteers.

EVENTS

Past Events

Rideau Hall Tour

On Friday, January 17, 2025, a group led by Dawn Cooper visited Rideau Hall and enjoyed lunch afterwards at the Café Canal Ritz.



*Dawn Cooper in the Tent Room
at Rideau Hall*

PROBUS ORV at Rideau Hall



30th Anniversary Celebration And Christmas Luncheon
December 12, 2024
Cedarhill Golf and Country Club

One hundred members and guests enjoyed lunch at this pre-holiday celebration. The guest speaker was Laurence Wall who spoke about how radio shaped the recent history of Canada. Mr. Wall, a popular CBC newscaster, took us down memory lane and we heard about many of the radio programmes, for example, "The Happy Gang," that were part of our youth. The delicious luncheon was enjoyed by all. Thanks to our photographer, Marian Bennett for the great photos. If you would like a copy of the photo of your table, please let me know.



Table Setting



From left: Helen Pace, Paul Pace, Mir Ali, Elizabeth Nye, Sue Fournier, Charles Fournier, Dyan Hawkins and Brian Hawkins



*From left: Eileen Bond, Dawn Cooper, Sue Mather, Christine Goodman;
Back row: Andy Bond, Laurence Wall (guest speaker) Bob Mather, Guy Goodman*



Wilburn Cowan and his daughter



Eva Hammond (Founding member)



Charles Fournier receiving the 30th Anniversary Certificate from Craig Greenwood, District 1 Director



Charles Fournier and Graig Greenwood presenting Probus Canada Citation Awards to Gary and Joy Bennett

NEXT EVENTS

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

Have you driven past the RVCA for years and wondered who they are and what they do?

You are invited to a presentation in their Boardroom

VISIT TO THE RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

3889 Rideau Valley Drive, Manotick

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2025 AT 11 A.M.

LUNCH AT THE MILLER'S OVEN

1137 Mill St., Manotick

If you would like to attend, please contact Eileen Bond at events@probusorv.ca. Or sign up at the meeting on February 5, 2025.



Septic Systems



Water Quality

Sugar Shack Visit

LOOKING FORWARD TO MARCH



*Sugar Shack, Artist Vic Dohar.
Watercolour owned by Joy and Gary Bennett*

VISIT TO A SUGAR BUSH
SEE THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER FOR MORE DETAILS

DRINKS AND APPETIZERS
(VOLUNTEER HOSTS NEEDED!!!)



Photo by Joy Bennett

Our monthly drinks and appetizers on Friday evening has been extremely popular with our members. It is an opportunity to get together in very comfortable surroundings in our own homes. The host couple is asked to provide glasses, some small plates, and paper napkins. The guests do the rest. Everyone brings an appetizer to share and their own beverage of choice. At the end of the evening everyone takes home their own leftovers (if there are any). The host chooses the date and month that suits them and may set a number of guests that they are comfortable hosting. It is a fun way to meet your fellow Probians and to relax on Friday evenings. Our membership numbers have grown so we would like to offer two dates per month, each hosted by different hosts (we share the work.) This month, January 2025, we have two evenings arranged. The first, on January 24, is hosted by Eileen and Andy Bond and has reached capacity. Helena and John still have some room for guests on January 31. If you would like to attend, or if you'd like to host in any of the coming months, or would just like more information, please contact Joy Bennett: drinksandapps@probusorv.ca

DRINKS AND APPETIZERS
HOSTED BY
HELENA AND JOHN FLACK
FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2025

5-7 P.M.

5489 Old Mill Way, Manotick

If you would like to attend, please use the form at
<https://www.probusorv.ca/drinks-and-appetizers-signup/>.

DRINKS AND APPETIZERS
HOSTED BY
JOY AND GARY BENNETT
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2025

5-7 P.M.

431 Kilmarnock Way, Nepean

If you would like to attend, please use the form at
<https://www.probusorv.ca/drinks-and-appetizers-signup>
or use the signup sheet at our regular monthly meeting.

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Our regular contributor, Mir Ali, has contributed an article on climate change.

CLIMATE CHANGE – EXTINCTION OF SPECIES

“Climate change is the environmental challenge of this generation, and it is imperative that we act before it’s too late.” John Delaney

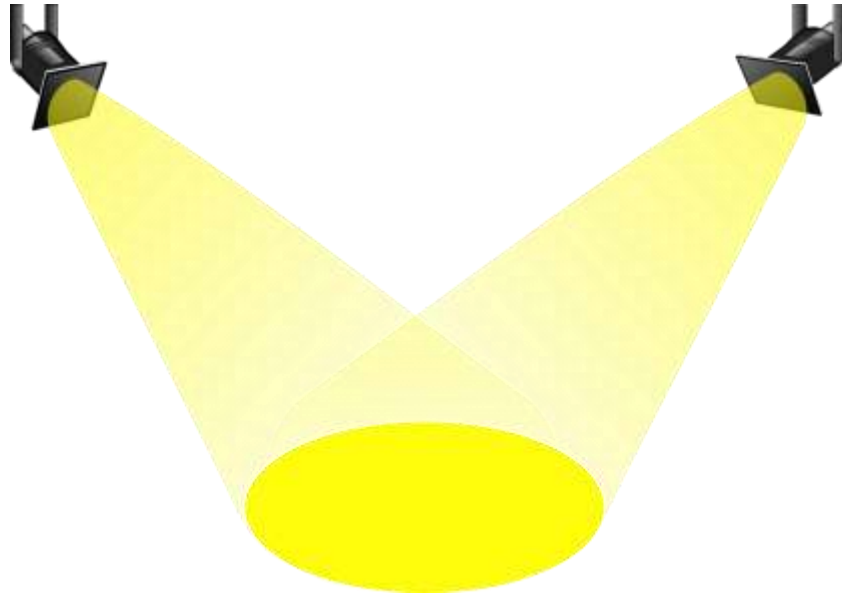
The majority of ecologists around the world believe that we are in the midst of the sixth mass extinction. Humanity’s impact on nature, they say, is now comparable to the five previous catastrophic events over the past 600 million years, during which up to 95 percent of the planet’s species disappeared.

It is widely recognized around the world that climate change is the main cause of extinction of species. As human activities including the introduction of unnatural chemicals that contaminate the air, soil, and seas which interferes with the metabolism of animals and they are unable to cope.

To read the article, please click on: [Climate Change – Extinction of Species](#).

WHO ARE WE?

SPOTLIGHT ON ONE OF OUR EVENTS CO-ORDINATORS, EILEEN BOND



Eileen Bond

Eileen has been co-chair of our events committee for about 8 years and during that time she has organized a great many interesting and fun events as well as introducing us to new restaurants with delicious food.

EILEEN'S STORY

I was born and grew up in Bermuda. I did not leave the Island till I was 16 when my parents took me on a tour of Europe.

After I graduated from the Bermuda High School for Girls, which was the only school that I attended, I went to College in London, England. Andy came to Heathrow Airport to pick up my friend and I and that was the end of my "fling" in London. Andy had been to Canada House and was planning to emigrate to Canada. He postponed his plans till I graduated in 1969. We went home to Bermuda to be married and after a 3-night honeymoon we flew to Ottawa to start our life together.

We have three children, Jennifer lives in Old Ottawa South, Kevin died in 1994 while attending Trent University and Michael lives in Barrhaven. We have three grandsons ranging in age from 5-17 years old.

I have been on the Board of several volunteer organizations over the years. Currently I am on the Board of The Compassionate Friends which provides support to bereaved parents across Canada. TCF is a worldwide support group and we have 48 Chapters in Canada.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

WE ARE HERE TO HELP

If you would like more information about our group or any event you've read about, please visit our website at <https://www.probusorv.ca/contact> .

PARKING AT THE MANOTICK UNITED CHURCH

Please park only in the parking spots on the sides of the parking lot and not in the center area. There are three handicapped parking spots. Please display your permit if you park in one of those spots. Additional parking is available in the Manotick Mews just across the street.



Possible recruitment poster for our Probus Club.



Retired and lonely, with little to do?
We have the perfect solution for you!
Come join our Probus club and see
Just how fulfilled your life can be!
Our signature is fellowship
We retirees feel we're pretty hip!
If stimulation's what you need,
We will provide it, guaranteed!
We've great speakers and social events galore
Interest groups, walking, and even more
It's your chance to make new friends with pleasure.
In a setting that's fun and without pressure.
Here, old friends can meet together
Making memories that last forever.
We take many photos for future inspection
In our awesome poster and online collection.
Please visit our club with all its charms
We welcome you with open arms!
So don't let retirement get you down.
We think our club's the best in town!
And if a member you'd like to be,
Email us at Probusorv.ca !!

- Gary Bennett, 2024