



PROBUS News.....

PROBUS Club of Bradford

Volume 148, Published November 2023



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear PROBUS Members:

Amidst the hustle and bustle of getting ready for the holiday season (What do I buy? What do I cook?) a pause is taken every November to pay homage to our veterans, both living and dead.

As a pilot during World War II, Kent's father flew many missions in an aircraft known as the Mosquito. One of Kent's relatives forwarded this correspondence from a friend who also flew them, explaining some of the hands-on challenges of the craft.

...they were a wooden aircraft. Developed and built in the UK. They were later produced in Canada as well. A lot of them were flown from Canada to the UK but were an unpopular aircraft for the ferry crews who found them "pretty hot to handle". A good number of them were lost in transit. The Canadian Models didn't do well in the Middle East as the glue used to weld them together, didn't stand up in that heat and they had a nasty habit of coming apart.

It was a pretty hot aircraft and could outrun the Spitfire fighter with the exception of the very latest Spits produced. They cruised about 400 mph. I once came up alongside an American Flying Fortress, feathered one engine and flew circles around it as it plugged along on all four. Needless to say, the pilot was a bit chuffed and was shaking his fist at me.

They were a great airplane with two major hazards. The torque on take off was considerable. If you advanced the throttles too quickly you could swing it off the runway in an incredibly short space of time. After an Australian wiped out two dual controlled aircraft in one day, and there was precious few of them, they made us sign an entry in our log books saying that "I have been instructed to throttle back in the event of a swing on take off." If a swing subsequently occurred and you did not throttle back, it then meant that you had disobeyed a direct order. If you wrote the aircraft off, or damaged it, you faced a very distinct possibility of getting sent to the "digger" for a period of incarceration.

Secondly the aircraft was quite narrow and the curvature, for the pilot, particularly if he was tall, bent you over to the middle of the aircraft so that you were sitting on one cheek of your bum. ..continued

Time change. I had to go around and fix all my clocks.



PROBUS meeting
December 12 at 10:00 am
At St. John's Presbyterian Church

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2023/4 Executive Committee:

President: *Bunny Kaufman*
Vice President: *Dale Tasker*
Secretary: *Diane Turcotte*
Treasurer: *Cheryl Blair*
Social Chair: *Wendy Van Straten*
Communication: *Ellen Rombough*
Presentations: *Tom Nelson*
Speakers' Chair: *Bob Evans*
Members Chair: *Pat Mohren*
Major Events:
Brenda Andrews and Peggy Michaud
Members at Large:
Ann Evans and Chris Van Straten
Past President: *Dave McMillan*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...continued



As a result, more than a few pilots got disorientated in cloud or at night and rolled the aircraft which then had a nasty habit of pulling the entrance door away from the aircraft. On the fighter model this was right next to the propeller, so it was something you wanted to avoid.

...the aircraft was used for all manner of roles: reconnaissance, photo, transport of VIPs, low, medium and high-level bombing, etc. I was on the 105 Squadron with the RAF, one of two "Oboe" squadrons. We were fitted with special equipment with which we could do very precise bombing or marking. Our job was to put down markers for the heavy (Lancaster) bombers who were on Pathfinder duties. In other words, we marked for the heavy pathfinders. They put their markers down on our markers, and then the main bomber stream used the latter's markers on which to drop their bombs. We operated between 35 and 40,000 feet so were well up above all the action going on down below. We normally left two hours after the main force and were back at base two hours before they were.

...I was working up dropping what they called "cookies" or 4,000 lb bombs. We were assigned individual buildings. The last trip I did, to a place in Egbeek, Holland, was a German Officers' Mess and I had less than a 40-yard error. We were controlled by two ground stations, and they could tell you exactly where your bombs or markers fell.



Both this airman and Kent's father survived the war. Over 45,000 did not and that number does not include those who died in conflicts and peace keeping missions since 1945. This represents lives we no longer interact with, people we can no longer laugh with, individuals we will always love and respect and whose memories must be passed on to future generations. We are fortunate to be Canadians (either born or chosen) and must never forget those that gave everything to allow us to live together in peace.

Until next month...

Bunny

Lest We Forget



British sappers training to defuse mines blindly in 1943. This training was part of a 4-day course aimed at providing comprehensive knowledge about enemy mines, minefields, booby traps, and efficient methods for dealing with them in the dark while minimizing casualties. The course's schedule included: - The first day, dedicated to lectures on Teller mines, S mines (also known as "Bouncing Betty"), German-prepared charges, wooden box mines, and Holzmines. - The second day, focused on learning about Italian, British, and American mines, as well as the laying of minefields. - The third day, which involved studying the function and practical use of the mine detector. - The fourth day, which consisted of more lectures and practical exercises in booby-trapping buildings and their subsequent clearance. Before moving on to clearing exercises, the men spent a short time in the "Moascar Stocks," a device designed to enable them to handle different types of mines and booby traps without seeing what they were doing. Now that's "blind trust"!





What a crowd at this meeting. 120 people in attendance. Let's face it...it was the wine draw!

All these people eager to drop off their wine entries for the 12 Days of Wine Christmas Draw coming up in December. 80 bottles of wine have been entered in the contest.

The high attendance also padded the 50/50 draw. Beverly McCaffrey won \$95.00!



Guest Speaker...Paul Bassett “Demystifying Artificial Intelligence: What We Do and Don’t Yet Understand”

Paul Bassett gave a very interesting talk about Artificial Intelligence (AI) and how this technology is quickly transforming. His closure explained the many reservations of scientists and world leaders that even though AI can and has done some amazing beneficial things for humanity...humanity itself may be our worst enemy in how future developments are generated in the future.



Guest Speaker for December... Officer Elisabeth Aschwanden, Community Mobilization and Engagement Officer “Scram to the Scam”

- Officer Elisabeth, with South Simcoe Police for 20 years.
- Began as a dispatcher, then a Special Constable to the Court Unit.
- Current role: Community Mobilization and Engagement Officer.
- Runs numerous initiatives and campaign, engaging community and members.

Most popular initiative: **Citizen Police Academy for Seniors**

Local residents come together for 6 weeks of engagement and education.

Presenters include:

Emergency Preparedness
211 Community Connections
Elder Abuse
Traffic and Marine Unit

Victim Services
Court Unit
Personal Safety
Police Service Dog—Nitro (most popular)

- Recipient of the Queen’s Jubilee Medal for outstanding community service and the Community and Crime Prevention Award, from the South Simcoe Police
- Greatest passion: presenting on Frauds and Scams...and have us all say **“Scram to the Scam!”**



BRADFORD PROBUS CLUBS CONTACTS

These are the current clubs that are actively running. If you have a particular interest that you would like to share with club members and start another club contact Wendy Van Straten at wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca

Bid Euchre—Deborah Liukaitis
dliukait@sympatico.ca

Book Club—Cheryl Blair
cheryl_blair@rogers.com

Cycling Club—Heather and Mark Cannata
thecannatas@gmail.com

Dinner Club—Dale Tasker
dale.tasker@rogers.com

Discussion Club—Peter Ellis
peterellis1000@gmail.com

Knitting—Linda Alsop
lindacvano@gmail.com

Mah Jongg—Pat Mohren
jp,mohren@gmail.com

Movie—Dave McMillan
dmcmillan2000@rogers.com

RODEO—Gwen Green
gweng9@rogers.com

ROME0—Rotating Leads

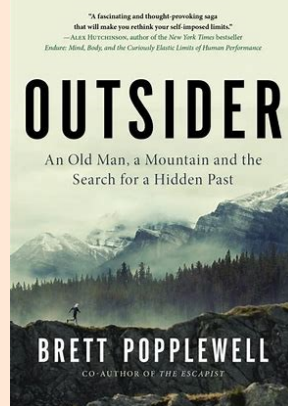
Scrabble—Amy Wright
amywright0@hotmail.com

BOOK CLUB (Cheryl Blair, cheryl_blair@rogers.com)

Book Club resumes in January 2024. The book is “**Outsider**” by Brett Popplewell.

Outsider follows journalist Brett Popplewell as he uncovers the story of Dag Aabye, an aging former stuntman who lived alone inside a school bus on a mountain, running day and night through blizzards and heat waves. The book chronicles Aabye's life from childhood to the silver screen, reflecting on our notions of aging, belonging and human accomplishment.

Check this link for access to books the club has read: [Book Club - The PROBUS Club of Bradford](#)



KNITTING- The SSK Ladies knitting group will be meeting on the 4th Thursday of every month. Here are the dates and who is hosting.

November 28 at Cheryl Blair's	January 23 at Ellen Rombough's
February 27 at Linda Alsop's	March 26 at Deb Liukaitis'
April 23 at Lorna Foti's	May 28 at Pat Mohren's

Linda will notify the group of any changes, prior to the meeting dates.

If you don't knit or crochet but do needle point or another craft and are interested in joining the group, contact Linda Alsop at lindacvano@gmail.com.

All are welcome!



Knitting Santa Hats and scarves for wine bottles. Next we head to the Cheryl's wine cellar!

ROMEO Breakfast

The usual suspects at the Riverview Restaurant on November 17.



APPY PARTY AT ZUERCHER'S—Nov 4th



Lots of food and conversation at Barb and Chris Zuercher's.

Next appy party will be in the new year at the Van Straten home.



Bid Euchre Tournament—Nov 9th

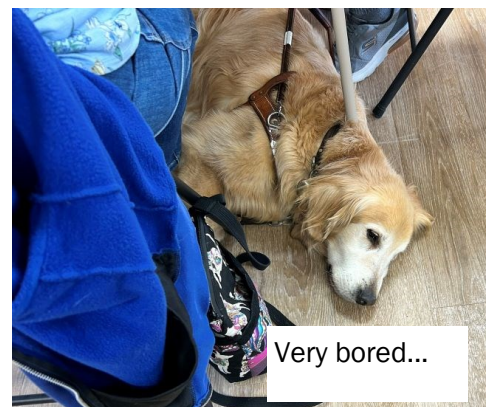


Another fun evening of bid euchre with the PROBUS card sharks.

Congratulations to all the winners!



Moose defying the cold weather.



Very bored...

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER!

November 20th

From appetizers to desserts the Guess Who's Coming to Dinner night was a great success. Even the weather cooperated! A big thank you to Carol McMillan and Brenda Andrews for all their hard work.



November 30th

The kick-off to the Christmas season!



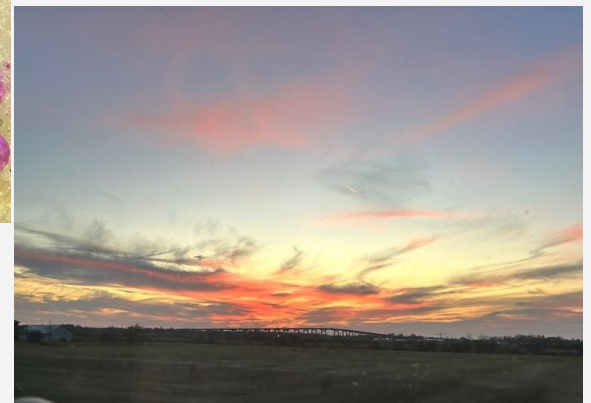
Nuts and chocolate shopping at Picard's (thankyou to Gwen for buying the treats for the way home).

A filling lunch at Queen's Landing with all their beautiful Christmas decorations. Great seats to a magical show of high-energy Highland Sword dancing, comedy and drama and a little shopping after.

I did see some shopping bags coming on the bus for the homeward drive.



All in all, a great day with a fantastic sun set to take us home.



EVENTS COMING

ROMEO Breakfast

Next ROMEO breakfast is December 15 at 9:00 am

Location: Wimpy's Diner, 305 Barrie St., Bradford

To attend contact Dale Tasker dale.tasker@rogers.com



MERRY CHRISTMAS LUNCH!

Friday, December 8 at 12:00 noon

Location: Bond Head Golf Course

THIS IS FULL

Contact Peggy Michaud for any questions pviae7942@rogers.com



**12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS WINE
SURVIVOR CONTEST!**

The wine bottles have been entered/tallied and Patricia has emailed the contestants of when she will be start the elimination draws (December 1st)!

80 bottles of wine have been collected!

Good luck to everyone! We will see who the winners are at the December 12 meeting!

RODEO LUNCH

LADIES THE NEXT RODEO LUNCH IS A HIGH TEA!

Date: January 25 at 12:00 noon

Location: The Lady Sadie Tea Room in the British Shop, 11 Young Street, Alliston

Menu will be announced at the December meeting.

Cost will be determined.

Sign up at December 12th meeting.

Organizers: Dianne Nelson at diannenelson717@gmail.com & Eleanor Watt at bewatt@zing-net.ca

EVENTS COMING

APPY PARTIES!

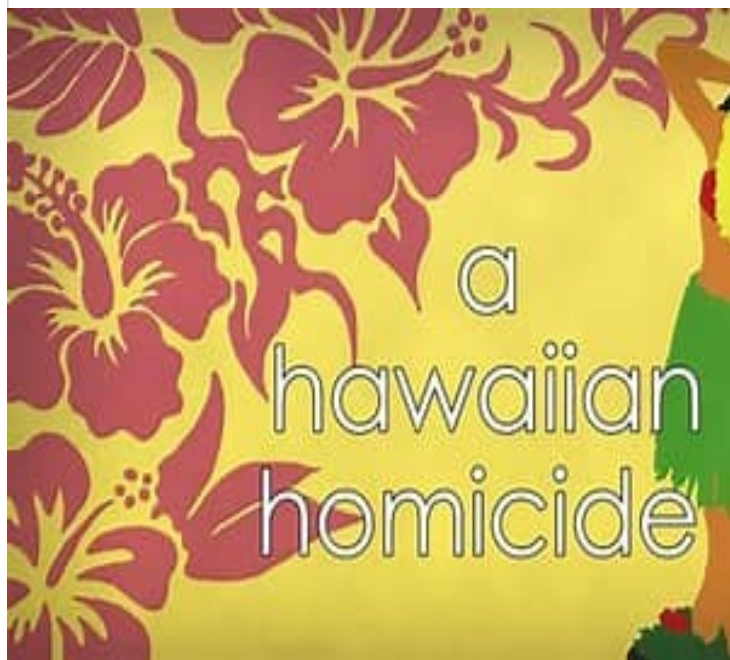
If you want to attend or host any future events, contact: Wendy Van Straten at wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca
Remember to bring an appetizer to share and your favourite beverage for a couple of hours of socializing.

Wendy and Chris Van Straten

Date: Thursday, January 4

Starts 4:00 pm

Look for the sign-up sheet at the December meeting **THIS EVENT IS FULL**



Murder Mystery—January 18

Thursday, January 18 at 1:30 pm

THIS IS FULL

Location: Bradford Curling Club (on the 2nd floor, steps to climb)

The suspects will be introduced at the December 12th meeting.

Don your favourite Hawaiian shirt or coconut bra and grass skirt and immerse yourself in an afternoon of murder, sleuthing and fun at the luxurious Make Kaka resort.

Contact Wendy Van Straten for any questions wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca

Whisky Tasting THIS IS FULL

Thursday, January 29 at 7:00 pm

Location: Brenda Andrews' home

Learn sampling of 5 varieties (whiskey, scotch and bourbon) under the tutelage of Vern Cunningham.

Appetizers will be served along with small sample bottles for take home tasting.

Car-pooling and designated drivers is encouraged.

Contact Wendy Van Straten for any questions wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca



**How refined
is your pallet?**

EVENTS COMING

Doris & Ivy In The Home—Orangeville Theatre

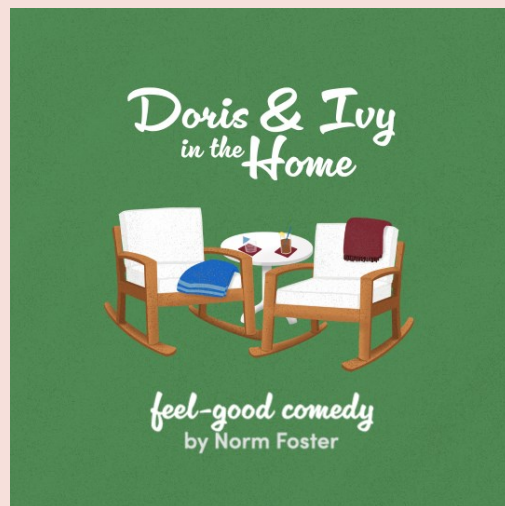
Wednesday, February 21 @ 2:00 pm

Cost: \$35 per person. Payment reserves your seat.

Contact Wendy Van Straten at wcvanstraten@yahoo.ca

Retired prison guard Doris Mooney has just moved into Paradise Village, a retirement home in Canmore, Alberta. She quickly befriends Ivy Hoffbauer, a former champion skier who's taken aback by Doris' cheerful brashness.

Rounding out the trio is dapper Arthur Beech who has designs on Ivy. Love, gossip, and sex behind the compost heap, this is Norm Foster at his hilarious best!



Mark Your Calendar!

SAVE THE DATE-FOR MAY 21-23!!!

Road trip?

Still in the planning stages...details will be announced in January.



What to expect when your in-laws are expecting charcuterie!

From This Hour Has 22 Minutes

The family is coming and I'm buying.

[What to expect when your in-laws are expecting charcuterie! - YouTube](#)



Grey Cup Weather History—The Fog Bowl

Craig Baird, Canadian History Ehx,

The 50th Grey Cup was one of the most memorable in CFL history and today has become known as The Fog Bowl. The game started on Dec. 1, 1962, featuring the Winnipeg Blue Bombers and Hamilton Tiger-Cats. By the second quarter though, fogging was rolling over the field. Cold, moist and humid air came off Lake Ontario, creating a fog that was so thick fans couldn't see the action on the field. Receivers lost sight of the ball as soon as it left the quarterbacks' hand, and punt returners couldn't find the ball until it hit the ground. With nine minutes and 29 seconds left in the fourth quarter, the game was suspended. The game resumed the following day and Winnipeg won 28-27 to capture the Grey Cup.

This remains the only Grey Cup to have its play suspended, and it was the first Grey Cup finished on a Sunday. This was also the first Grey Cup to be broadcast on an American TV network. It was the last CFL game to air on an American network as well, until 1980.

The Rain Bowl On Nov. 28, 1982, 54,741 fans at Exhibition Stadium in Toronto came to see the 70th Grey Cup. What they got was a game that became known as The Rain Bowl, an event that helped to bring Toronto its famous Skydome. The game brought together Edmonton, a powerhouse team hoping to win a record fifth-straight Grey Cup, against Toronto, a team that had last appeared in the Grey Cup in 1971. Throughout the game, a driving rainstorm hammered fans, players and the field itself. At some points, the rain turned to freezing rain to add a bit of extra difficulty to the game. Edmonton defeated Toronto 32-16, capturing its fifth-straight Grey Cup.

A blonde driving a car became lost in a snowstorm. She didn't panic however, because she remembered what her dad had once told her. "If you ever get stuck in a snowstorm, just wait for a snow plow to come by and follow it." Sure enough, pretty soon a snow plow came by, and she started to follow it. She followed the plow for about forty-five minutes. Finally the driver of the truck got out and asked her what she was doing. And she explained that her dad had told her if she ever got stuck in a snow storm, to follow a plow. The driver nodded and said, "Well, I'm done with the Wal-Mart parking lot, do you want to follow me over to Best Buy now?"



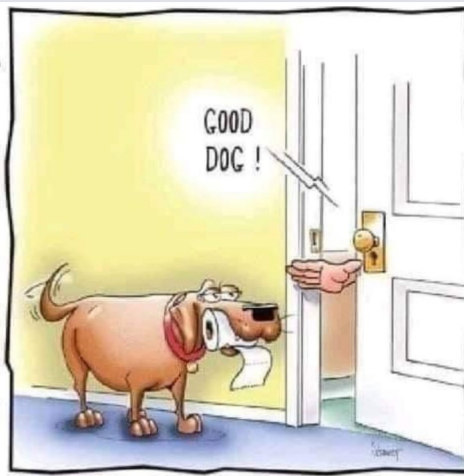
To escape the rain, many fans watched the game from the concession area. The day after the game, fans held a rally at Toronto City Hall where they chanted "We want a dome!" Due various factors, including the Rain Bowl and the rally the following day, discussions began to build a new stadium. That stadium became Skydome (Rogers Centre) in 1989. This was the final time the Grey Cup was played at Exhibition Stadium. It had been held there 12 times since 1959. The stadium was demolished in 1999.

The real meaning of 'hangover.' The lowest form of accommodation in Victorian England was a place where you could, for the price of a penny, dangle on a rope overnight.





Maybe we shouldn't have let the Activity Coordinator go.



PERHAPS THE MOST NOBLE OF ALL RESCUE ANIMALS: THE LAVATORY RETRIEVER



"But I Wore The Juice!"

In a strange event on April 19th, 1995, McArthur Wheeler executed a bank robbery while wearing a disguise consisting of lemon juice smeared on his face. His rationale was rooted in the belief that lemon juice, commonly used as invisible ink, would render him undetectable by CCTV cameras. With confidence, he even grinned at each camera he encountered during the heist. However, later that same night, the police apprehended Wheeler. The moment of reckoning occurred when they presented him with the CCTV footage, leaving Wheeler utterly astonished. He expressed his disbelief to the officers, uttering the baffling words, "but I wore the juice." This outlandish episode involving McArthur Wheeler has earned its place as a renowned case study in the realm of psychology. It notably contributed to the unveiling of the Dunning-Kruger effect, a cognitive bias wherein individuals with limited competence in a particular task tend to overestimate their abilities.

—from Historic Vids @historyinmemes



See you at the next PROBUS meeting

December 12—10:00 am

At St. John's Presbyterian Church

