Probus Club of Pelham

Update

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April 2025

Club Calendar (Click Here)

Message from Our President: Bill Schwenger

I have a question for you

What animal is featured on the coat of arms of 6 Canadian Provinces?

Maybe from the question you could guess that our speaker this month is David MacKenzie, one of the original question writers for the iconic Canadian game Trivial Pursuit. So please come out on April 24th and enjoy time with your friends and maybe you will learn something new. Just another example that Probus is a great way to learn lots of neat stuff!

PS *If you don't know the answer to the question, you will have come to the meeting to find out.*

Bill

General Meeting April 24

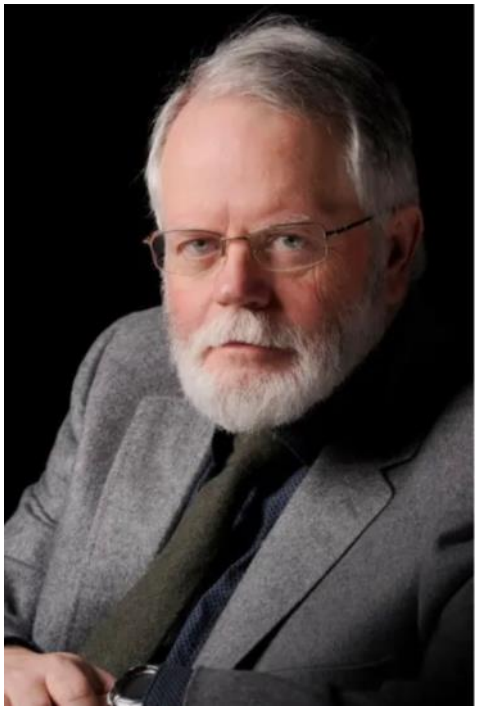
(10:00 am start) in person only

Our speaker for April is David MacKenzie, who will talk about the evolution of the Trivial Pursuit board game.

Doors at the Meridian Center will open and coffee will be on at 9:30 for a 10:00 am start to the meeting. As usual, we will be selling tickets for our Lucky Draw to support our club events - $2.00 per ticket, 3 for $5.00. Please note that this draw supports the costs of running our meeting and is essential to keeping our membership fees low. We encourage participation. Feel free also to bring books and puzzles for our book exchange.

If you would like to reserve space for lunch with fellow Probus members after the meeting, please sign up here. The restaurant for lunch this month is Next Kitchen and Bar.

We ask for your consideration in helping to keep all of our members healthy. If you are feeling at all unwell we ask that you refrain from attending our meeting. Mask wearing is encouraged, and we will have one available for you at the door.



David MacKenzie

Trivial Pursuit was a great Canadian success story with significant Niagara connections. It was first invented in 1979 in Montreal by Chris Haney and Scott Abbott with early assistance in Niagara-on-the-Lake from John Haney and Ed Werner. Another early collaborator was David MacKenzie, who was heavily involved in writing many of the questions as the game evolved and was also on the Board of Directors for many years. David, our speaker for our April meeting, will give us some insights into the evolution of this iconic board game loved by millions throughout the world.

David is a 1974 graduate of Brock University. He has maintained a close relationship with Brock, having raised funds for the “David MacKenzie Green Room” at the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts at Brock. He has served as a board and committee member, participated in theatre productions, designed the official Brock University Alumni tartan, and contributed to the classics and archaeology departments. He is known for his common sense, community spirit and dedication to advancing the cultural and intellectual life of the Niagara Penninsula.

David has been an actor, playwright, musician and accomplished public speaker. He is the author of “Don’t Tell 'Em You’re Irish”, a play about the early days of Welland Canal construction. He has also spent years acting the persona of William Hamilton Merritt during Welland Canal celebrations. David lives on Tice Road in Pelham.

March 27 General Meeting

After the break for the election last month, it was good to have another good attendance for our March meeting. The talk by Peter Scott, on the history of Lookout Point Golf Club, was very fascinating and gave our members new insights into a part of our Region that some of our members make use of, but is also an integral part of our community and its history.

Since all the prizes were donated last month, draw tickets were complementary.

1. Michael Gunns won the book *History of Lookout Point Golf and Country Club.*
2. Ed Landry won the book *History of Lookout Point Golf and Country Club.*
3. Janet Gunns Won a $35 Gift certificate for the Grill on Canboro.

Past Special Event at Parkway Social: Mardi Gras March 4

Probus Club Rolls in Mardi Gras Fun at Parkway Social

(Editors' Note: We included some photos from the bowling part of the event in last month's newsletter. The material below arrived too late for that edition and we are happy to include it this month.)

The Probus members brought the spirit of Mardi Gras to Parkway Social with an evening filled with fun, laughter and friendly competition. For ninety minutes, we immersed ourselves in lively bowling, as the sounds of rolling balls and crashing pins were often eclipsed by cheers and laughter. Dressed in bright-coloured shirts and adorned with vibrant Mardi Gras beads, participants fully embraced the festive atmosphere. Between bowling frames, we savored delicious nachos, wings and refreshing drinks, enhancing the celebratory mood.

After the bowling games, the party moved to the VIP dining room, where members exchanged stories, raised their glasses to good company and enjoyed the camaraderie that

makes Probus events so memorable. After dinner and the presentation of awards, we treated ourselves to a few exciting games at the arcade. Doug and Linda Thomas revved things up with some motorbike racing, while Liz Wightman took on the challenge of NASCAR racing. I believe Penny and Roy Blake also enjoyed a bit of car racing before trying their luck at deep-sea fishing in search of treasure. Penny and Roy were eager to experience a game of laser tag, but by then, most of the group had called it a night. Undeterred these two kept the party going, determined to make the most of the evening and Penny's birthday. All in all, the March social event was a striking success, once again proving that our Probus members know how to have a great time. The energy remained high throughout the evening, serving as a wonderful reminder of how meaningful it is to come together and celebrate life's joyful moments.

'Appy Hour Group:
St. Patrick's Day at Irish Hills

'APPY HOUR

Wine Tasting Group April 17
Visit to Kew Winery, Beamsville

25 of our intrepid Probus wine club members visited the Kew Winery on King Street east of Beamsville on a beautiful sunny afternoon. The estate manager, AJ, led us on a tour of the vineyard, the house and their production facility, then led us through a tasting of 4 of their wines, including a sparkling, two whites and a red. The property was acquired in pioneer times by the Kew family, and their descendants lived there until 1969. In the early 70's, Kew was one of the first viticulture vineyards to be planted in Niagara, and currently hosts some of the oldest vines in the region. AJ explained the difference the maturity of these vines makes in the quality of the wine produced.

Thanks to our leaders Dianne Bullied and John Graham for organizing this visit.

2024-2025 Pelham Probus Club

President	Bill Schwenger
Vice-President	David Crump
Past President	Rick Prins
Treasurer	Deb Wilson
Deputy Treasurer	Stan Bowen
Secretary	Linda Routledge
Membership Chair	Lynn Reynolds
Deputy Membership Chair	Michele Schwenger
Program Team Leader	Keith Thoy
Special Events Chair	Wendy Hammond
Web Administrator	Helen Stark

- Contact Information for all members is available on the Membership List that is sent out periodically.
- General Club Enquiries: probuspelham@gmail.com
- Member Care: (if you are aware of someone who has a significant life event that should be recognized on behalf of our club): Wendy Hammond: whammond2014@gmail.com
- Newsletter Submissions: The Newsletter is a place to keep our club members informed of the many events and activities that are happening in the life of our club. We encourage you, if you are in charge of an event, or just an interested member, to submit promotional material, write-ups following events, and especially pictures that we can include so we can all share in celebrating all the good things that are happening. A reminder that the newsletter generally goes out the second Friday of the month, so the Monday of that week is our ideal deadline for submissions.

The Last Word

Social Media consultant Charles Miller on balance:

"Spend a handful of hours a day going fast. Crush a gym session. Do deep work on a project you care about. Spend the rest of the day going slow. Take walks. Read books. Get a long dinner with friends. Either way, avoid the anxious middle where you never truly relax or truly move forward."