Probus Club of Pelham Update

https://pelhamprobus.ca

February, 2025

Club Calendar

(click here)

Message from Our President: Bill Schwenger

February 27th Probus Meeting is Cancelled

I am sorry that our February meeting has been cancelled. They need to use our meeting room at the MCC for voting in the provincial election. I always look forward to our meetings.We can still get together for lunch even if we don't have a meeting. We are doing something a bit different and have booked 2 different restaurants for lunch so that we can easily accommodate up to 60 people. Let's shake things up a bit and get to know someone new. Try to sit and enjoy a meal with someone you have never talked to before. So please come out for lunch. There is room for lots of us and if we get more than 60 members we can add another restaurant or two. I look forward to seeing you!

General Meeting – February 27

Cancelled Due to Provincial Election

February 27 is Election Day in Ontario. This would normally be the day our club has our monthly meeting at the Meridian Community Center. The Center is being used that day as a polling station. Due to the challenges of rescheduling our venue and speaker, we will not have a meeting in February, and look forward to seeing you again on March 27. Nevertheless, our walking group which normally meets at 9:00 am at the Meridian Center encourages as many of our members to join us that morning – you may enjoy a walk and a talk, or just a talk.

But our members still have an opportunity to enjoy lunch together that day. Please see below.

Our February Speaker, Rochelle Bush will join our club at a future date.

Join us for lunch with fellow Probus Members

(in lieu of cancelled meeting due to Provincial election)

Thursday February 27, 12:30 pm

2 Venues to choose from:

My Place in Fonthill on Highway 20

Click to see MENU

Or

Cat's Caboose 224 Glenridge Ave, St. Catharine's,

Click to see MENU

If you would like to attend, please reply by Monday Feb 24

and let me know **which restaurant** you prefer.

My Place Menu

Cat's Caboose Menu

lynn.reynolds6@yahoo.ca

January 23 General Meeting

7

There was good chatter about the room as our club met for its January meeting amidst cold and snowy weather. Those of our members who had not yet departed for warmer climates enjoyed our first monthly meeting of the New Year. The meeting was called to order by our President Bill Schwenger, and we were led in singing our National Anthem by Doug Willford.

It was announced that January marks the 11th anniversary of Probus in Pelham. Bill honoured the presence of our 10 year members, Jim Chalcraft and Wendy Hammond, Joy Kemp-Davidson, Marjorie Tuck, David Whitworth and Tove Bowman. Those present all enjoyed a slice of anniversary cake at the break to mark the occasion. Thanks to Jim and Wendy for organizing that for us.

Wendy Hammond gave a report on behalf of the special events team. She reported that a record 102 attended the Christmas Dinner at the Pen Lakes Golf club. Dinner was excellent, entertainment (especially Santa) was enjoyable, food was great. The team has already booked that venue for next year.

Wendy also reported on a successful club attendance at the Ice Dogs game on the 19th followed by dinner at Butcher and Banker (although our club's cheering did not lead to a successful outcome for the Ice Dogs). She also announced upcoming events, including Valentines Tea on the 13th at the Savoy Room in St. Catharines and future Theatre Group outings. Monique Finora made an announcement regarding the Mardi Gras Bowling Event on March 4. See information in the poster included with this newsletter.

Susan Harris reported the Dining Out group was dining out at Ye Olde Squire Restaurant at Seaway Mall on February 28. Gary Murphy and Jim Fraser informed the club about the newly formed Fenwick Pickle Ball club, which operates out of Concordia Academy, on Centre Street. They have grown to 146 current members, and extend an open invitation to Pelham Probus members to join them.

Lynn Reynolds and Michelle Schwenger gave the Membership report. Our club welcomed 6 new members, bringing our total to 193. There were 125 in attendance at this meeting, including 6 guests.

Bill welcomed our mystery speaker for the day which was Wendy Hammond. She told us the story of her life. She and her husband Jim Chalcraft both grew up in the Region. They knew each other working as lifeguards as teens. They then met many years later while working at Canadian Tire Acceptance, and subsequently married. They are both from small families. Wendy spent many years working in advertising at the Welland Tribune. She noted the size of the paper is determined by how much advertising there is. She also worked for a while as a travel agent, then at Canadian Tire Acceptance. Jim has had a number of jobs as well. He is an economist, taught economics at Brock, advised the Canadian government on the sustainability of the Canada Pension Plan and was an economics analyst at Canadian Tire. Wendy talked about their various hobbies, of which travel is a major one – they have travelled extensively in many countries. Jim stays very active participating in a number of sports, including cycling and pickleball.

Our speaker for the day, Nicolle Lalonde from Edward Jones Fonthill branch was introduced by Keith Thoy. Nicolle described her early life growing up near Corner Brook on Newfoundland's west coast. She moved to Ontario to take a job as a shipping agent. She talked about the challenges of that position, especially its all encompassing time commitment. After moving to St. Catharines, at a Canadian Federation of University Women Nicolle was challenged to reconsider her career choice. This led her to become a financial advisor and eventually to taking over the Fonthill branch of Edward Jones. Through this experience, Nicolle emphasized the importance of having financial goals which reflect your life values, especially in the area of estate planning. She emphasized the importance of keeping a will and power of attorney up to date, especially in light of changes to life circumstances over many years. She emphasized the need to pass along our financial wisdom to our children. She mentioned that approximately 40% of Canadians have a will and power of attorney. Nicolle ended her session answering questions from several of our members. Contact information for Nicolle is available at her web page.

Our club made a donation to Pelham Cares in recognition of Nicolle's talk.

Our Lucky Draw prizes, consisting of an Esso gift card, and Butcher and Banker gift card were won by Cleila and Susan Collins. Proceeds from today's draw was $247, in support of meeting expenses. Thanks to Pat Paolone for organizing that. Lunch followed at Domenic's on 20 for approximately 30 of our members.

Past Special Event

Ice Dogs Game – January 19

On the afternoon of Sunday, January 19th the St Catharines Ice Dogs played host to their major contender - the Barrie Colts. The last two seasons were terrible for the Ice Dogs,who were at the bottom of the pack. But this year they have done a complete turn-around and have been leading their division for most of the season with Niagara and Barrie being neck and neck in the standings. Both teams played the night before so we were hoping Barrie would be tired after their bus trip here. Twenty three of us helped cheer them on but to no avail. It was the Ice Dogs that looked tired and were completely outplayed. We learned later a number of their regulars had not played because they were hurt, which explains the poor performance. We lost 5-1 but still had fun and enjoyed our time together as a group.

Later most of us drowned our sorrows at the Butcher and Banker in Fonthill.

HOME
PERIOD
GUEST
CI ASSANTE

Upcoming Special Event

Mardi Gras Bowling March 4

PROBUS CLUB OF PELHAM | SPECIAL EVENTS & TOURS

Bowling & More At the Parkway Social

Tuesday March 4 2025

2 pm — $23.00 per person inclusive

Parkway Social
327 Ontario Street
St. Catharines
Located in the Holiday Inn & Suites

Creative Mardi Gras colours will brighten up the day. Wear your festive colours of purple green & gold

Activities:
Ten Pin Bowling from 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm.
Amenities - light bowling balls 4 lb. and up.
Assist bowling aids for those who do not want to bend down or throw the bowling ball.
Side bumpers available for those who want to avoid the gutters.
Shoe rental.
Complimentary $5 play card for arcade.

Dinner at Ostin's Restaurant (within Parkway Social)
Premium Casual Restaurant - ideal for Mardi Gras bash.

Menu link - Eat — Ostins

After dinner, use the $5 complimentary arcade play card. Billiard tables for only $3. For the adventurous members, laser tag is available for $9 per person.

If you wish to celebrate Mardi Gras and not bowl, that's ok too. Come join us and cheer us on. Seating available at counter behind each lane. Drinks and food available while you watch, chat and cheer.

REGISTER WITH MONIQUE FIRST BEFORE MAKING PAYMENT

Monique Finora at moniquefinora@hotmail.com
Please send a cheque for $23.00 per person to the PROBUS Club of Pelham
c/o Monique Finora, 20 Walters Court, St. Catharines, L2S 3J9.

Or e-transfer money to **pay.probus@gmail.com**. **When using e-transfer, please include name of event plus attendee(s) names.**
Registration closes on February 24, 2025. **Payment is non-refundable after February 24.**

PROBUS: "OUR STRENGTH IS FELLOWSHIP; OUR SUCCESS IS PARTICIPATION."

Interest Groups

'APPY HOUR

Probus Interest Group

Our club's '**Appy Hour** Interest Group first met in February, 2020, and continues to grow and thrive.

At our first gathering**, 'Appy Ho**ur participants talked about and decided, as a group, that:

- All participants will take a turn as host / hostess.
- This group is for all members, <u>not</u> couples only.
- Participants will bring an appetizer (labelled to identify ingredients) and their own beverage <u>and</u> glass / bottle / stein. All food and beverages not consumed will return home with participants following the party.
- Members will know by email the date and approximate hour an invitation with all pertinent information will land in their mailboxes
- For all gatherings, the number of attendees will be decided by hostess / host based on the size of his / her home / garden / deck / fire pit, etc. Hosts / hostesses <u>*will not*</u> be expected to prepare an appetizer, coffee or tea.

"Appy Hour" meets every 4-5 weeks in the homes of members between the hours of 4:30 pm - 7 pm. When appropriate a second event may take place on the same evening.

Marian, as Champion, will assist hostesses / hosts by circulating invitations, receiving responses, and limiting the number of attendees as required. A wait list of members not able to be accommodated will be developed for inclusion at the following event.

To become a member of the **'Appy Hour Interest Group** call Marian at

905-892-1653 or email (mcdonald.marian@yahoo.com).

Dining Out

On Jan 28th we had an enjoyable early dinner at Ye old Squire in Seaway Mall, weather cooperated and we had 28 members in attendance.Food and service were excellent excellent,unfortunately forgot to take photos but will definitely do a repeat at some point,Thanks to all who attended

Cheers Sue Harris

Hiking

Jan. 21, 2025 - Black Walnut Trail, Short Hills Provincial Park

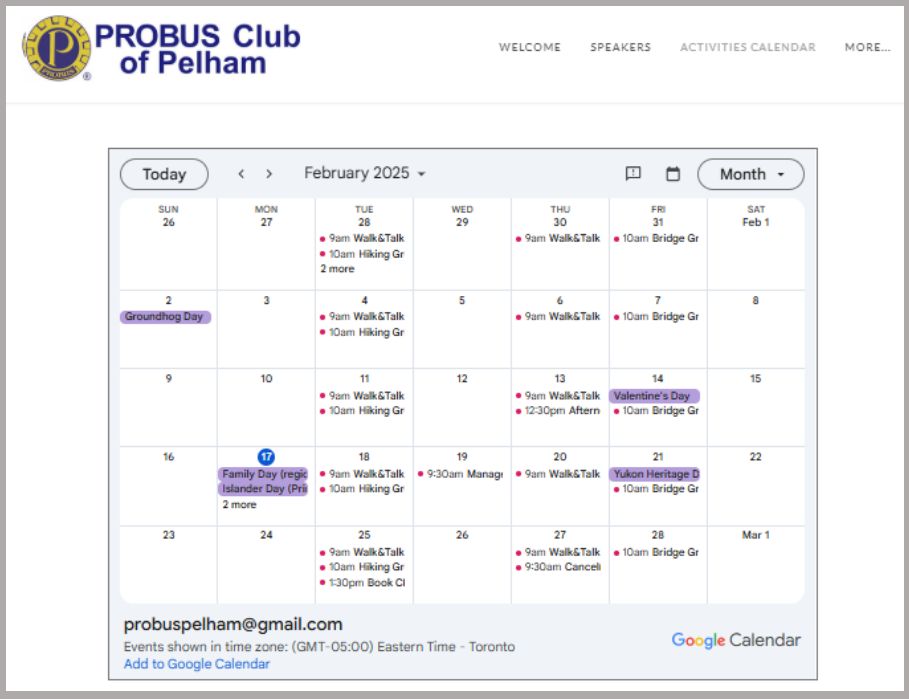
Coldest day of the year so far did not deter three intrepid Probus hikers from a wonderful hour and a half in Short Hills Park. A warm lunch afterwards provided a perfect ending to some great exercise.

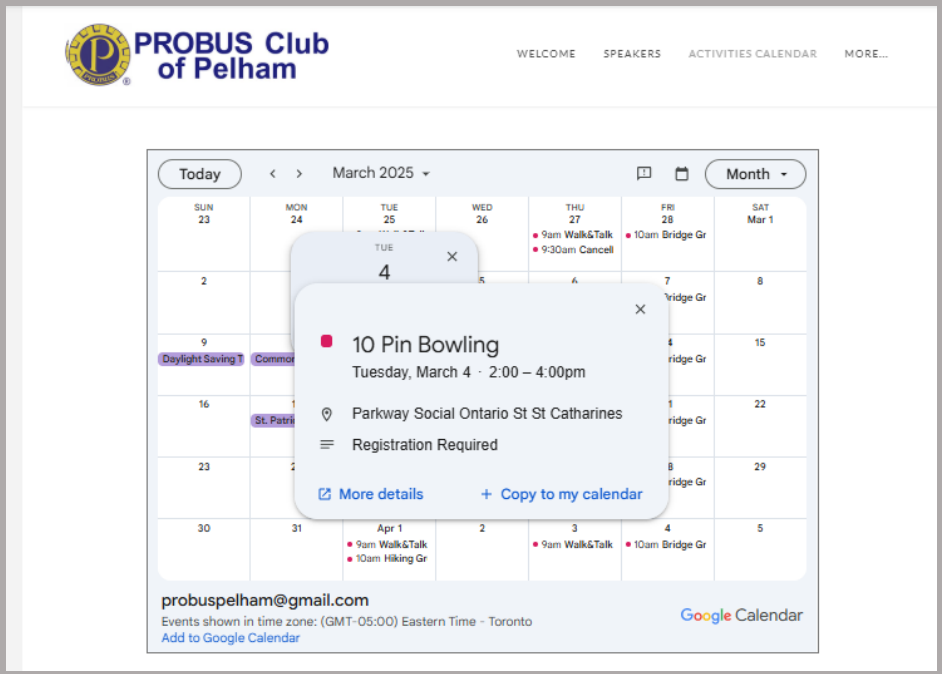
Join us by checking out the hike schedule on the Probus website for future outings.

Club Calendar

A new feature of our club Website is the Club Calendar. All club events are listed there – if you forgot the date of an event you signed up for, are just curious about the range of events our club offers and when they take place, or are an organizer of a club event and are looking for a non-conflicting date, this is the place to go. If you click on a specific event, it will pop up with more information about the event.

Contact Lynn Reynolds or Helen Stark for more info.





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

"So I decided to try everything, to keep myself wide open to human beings, all human beings — seeing them as I understand them to be, not as they wish they were, but as I understand them to be."

***Maya Angelou,** 1973*

Note: (the front cover photo is of the 2022 Car Rally trophy created by our member John Murphy)