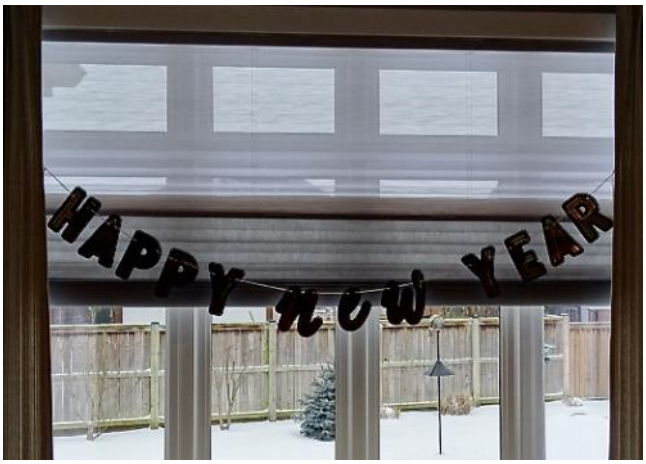
Probus Club of Pelham

Update

https://pelhamprobus.ca

January 2026

Club Calendar (Click Here)



Message from Our President: Bill Schwenger

I have some news from Probus Canada. All of the Probus clubs in Canada have been instructed by HQ to update their constitutions and bylaws. When our club was accredited in 2014 we agreed to accept and abide by the Probus Canada Constitution. As changes are made to the constitution they are voted on and approved by Probus Canada Management Team. They do not have to be voted on by the individual clubs.

If a Club wishes to add additional Items that are not included in the constitution then this is where our Bylaws come into play. There were a lot of suggested changes by Probus Canada to incorporate into our bylaws. We have decided that it was a good time to revise the entire document to make them more concise. More information will be following next month.

Please remember our **next meeting is scheduled for January 29th**. Come have a coffee and a treat and meet some new friends. I guarantee you will learn something new!

Bill

General Meeting Jan. 29

(10:00 am start)

Our Speaker is Tricia Cosgrove from the Niagara Sexual Assault Centre

Doors at the Meridian Center will open and coffee will be on at 9:30 for a 10:00 am start to the meeting. Feel free 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 by Jan. 28.The restaurant for lunch this month is Domenics on 20 .

Please also bring change to donate to the cost of refreshments. Help keep our fees low. Thank you.

Also, a reminder to do your part to help keep our fellow club members healthy and safe. If you have an infection, or are feeling unwell, we encourage you to rest at home and we will look forward to seeing you again next month.

In case of inclement weather, watch for an email from the club before the meeting to know if the meeting is proceeding as scheduled or not.

Tricia Cosgrove is the Community Relations Manager for the Niagara Sexual Assault Centre. She leads outreach, advocacy and partnership initiatives to strengthen support for survivors and build safer communities. With a background in recruitment and trauma-informed practices, Tricia works to foster relationships with community partners, engage donors and partners, and advance survivor-centered programs that empower individuals and promote healing. She also builds awareness programs such as a Drink Spike Awareness Training and an Anti-Human Trafficking program to educate and train employees in the hospitality industry to spot human trafficking at their establishments. She also oversees the Hospital Response Program, which ensures that a trained worker will meet survivors at the hospital to act as their advocate while they are having a Sexual Assault Kit done.

Tricia will be discussing the range of programming and services that the Niagara Sexual Assault Centre provides. These range from a comprehensive therapy program, public education for all students throughout Niagara, the hospital response program and more. She will also discuss the new training initiatives that are offered to anyone in the community and what the major issues are surrounding sexual violence in Niagara.

November 27 General Meeting

A sense of anticipation filled the room as 140 Probus members and their 10 guests filled the Accursi Auditorium for our club's November monthly meeting. Spaces at tables were soon few and far between and the room felt comfortably full.

We were led in a hearty rendition of O Canada by Doug Willford and given a warm word of welcome by our President Bill Schwenger. Bill reminded us of the usual meeting protocols and the presence of the donations jar at the coffee table. He also mentioned how well attended our events are, and announced the start of a new Interest group, the Beer Tasting group, with Champion Bill Barlow. Already 15 have signed up for this group, and new members are welcome.

Rick Prins gave an update on the establishment of the new Port Colborne Probus group: the Niagara Southcoast Probus club. He has been working on behalf of our club to sponsor this group. They are in the process of completing the requirements and expect to have their Probus charter in time for their January 28th meeting. Guests are welcome and their current membership of around 85 means there is room for more new members to sign up. They meet the 4th Wednesday of each month at Guild Hall, which is next door to Port Colborne City Hall.

Dee Murphy and Kathy Durst gave reports on behalf of the Special Events Team. They reminded the group that the Probus Christmas Lunch would be Friday, December 5. They have sold 121 tickets, our largest ever group. The hall will be comfortably full. Dee reported on events past and upcoming, including a few theatre events, including A Niagara Christmas Carol. Keep your eyes open in the newsletter for further announcements.

Membership announcements were made by Lynn Reynolds and Michele Schwenger. Our current membership stands at 210 and we have a waitlist. They announced the names of new members, as well as guests.

Mystery Guests for the day were John and Dee Murphy. They gave an account of their families of origin, their own family and their life story. All in 5 minutes. Well done!

After the break, our speaker Rochelle Bush was introduced by Evelyn Thoy. Rochelle is a trustee at Salem Chapel in St. Catharines, a National Historic Site. She is the owner of Tubman Tours and is a sought-after speaker on the subject of the Niagara Freedom Trail – from Slavery to Freedom, Three Centuries of Freedom Seekers in Niagara. St. Catharines was considered by Frederick Douglass, well-known American author on the slave trade, as a terminus of the Underground Railroad line he was part of (based in Rochester, NY).

Rochelle in her talk highlighted many historic characters and sites of significance in Niagara that were part of the Underground Railroad, including the ferry landing in Fort Erie where Josiah Henson landed after walking from Maryland to Buffalo in 1830, settling in Canada and becoming the basis for the story "Uncle Tom's Cabin" by Harriet Beecher Stowe.

She talked about the Nathaniel Dett Memorial Chapel in Niagara Falls, establsihed in 1836 on land donated by Oliver Parnell. Harriet Tubman crossed into Canada in 1855 via the Whirlpool Railroad Bridge.

She also highlighted the role of the "Coloured Corps" of the Canadian army, in a number of significant battles in the War of 1812, memorialized at Queenston Heights. The role of Chloe Cooley, and her influence on Lieutenant Govrnor J.G. Simcoe, who passed legislation outlawing the pursuit of escaped enslaved persons in Upper Canada, was also mentioned. She also highlighted the roles of Richard Pierpont, Solomon Mosby, Harriet Tubman and Anthony Burns in significant events of Niagara history.

Rochelle is a recipient of the Government of Canada 2025 King Charles III Coronation Medal as well the Niagara College 2025 Distinguished Alumni Award.

Rochelle will also be the speaker at the Port Colborne Probus club February meeting. More information about Rochelle's work can be found at https://tubmantourscanada.com

Hiking Group at Ball's Falls

Wine-Tasting Group Nov. 26

Christmas Party at Peninsula Lakes

On December 5th, 116 Probus members gathered in the Peninsula Lakes Golf Course dining room for our annual Probus Christmas luncheon. This was a record number of attendees!

After some social mingling time, we took our seats and were served a delicious salad and traditional roast turkey dinner. Following the main course, Santa (aka Doug Willford) arrived and made his way to the front of the room as the Probus music group sang “Here Comes Santa Claus!” Santa assisted in a game of heads or tails that got everyone up out of their seats for a bit of a break before dessert. The lucky winner of this lively game was Linda Davis. Santa then ho-ho-ho-ed his way around the room handing out chocolate to everyone who had been nice that year.

(I think everyone got one). 😉

Next, a yummy cheesecake dessert was served and several door prizes were drawn. Finally, the staff of Peninsula Lakes were brought into the dining room and thanked for the delicious meal and their excellent service. Based on all the positive feedback, it was a very successful, fun and enjoyable event!

Kathy Durst

'APPY HOUR

The final 'Appy Hour Event of 2025

A large group gathered at the home of Wendy Hammond and Jim Chalcraft on December 31, 2025, to celebrate New Year's Eve and time together.

While awaiting the arrival of guests Jim cleared the driveway and helped guests carry appetizers and beverages. At the end of the party he also assisted guests in their setting off, brushing snow off their vehicles before members drove off into the night. What a gentleman! What a host! Alongside an amazing hostess, Wendy.

Attending members enjoyed pictures of Wendy and Jim's travel adventures decorating a beautiful tree by the fireplace. Wonderful mementoes!

'Appy Hour members are happy to share pictures of this event with our general membership. If you would like to join this lively group, please contact Marian at mcdonald.marian@yahoo.com.

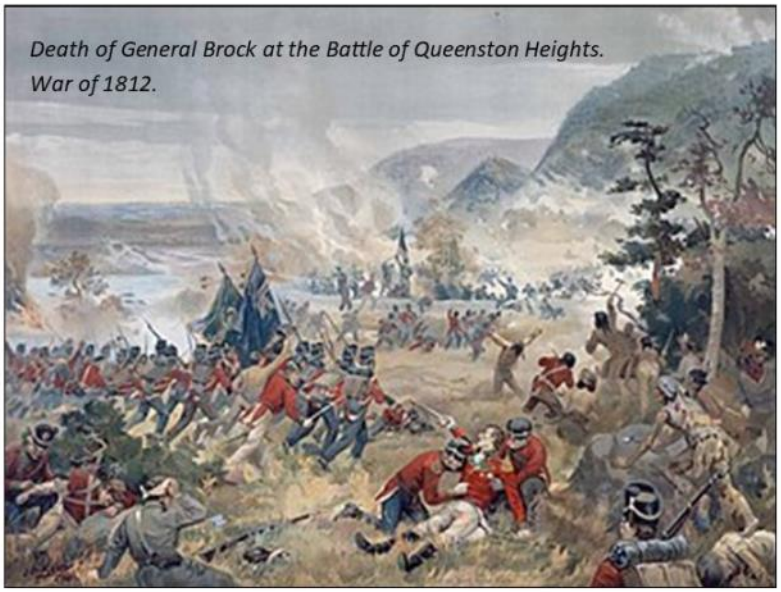
Myths and Legends of The Battle of Queenston Heights

Fireside Lecture Series at Navy Hall, 305 Ricardo St. Niagara-on-the-Lake

$16 per person, tax included. Lunch at your own cost will follow. Restaurant location to be determined.

Friday, February 20, 2026 at 11 am

Speaker: Amanda Gamble – Executive Director, Friends of Fort George



Death of General Brock at the Battle of Queenston Heights. War of 1812.

Amanda Gamble has worked for the Friends of Fort George since 2010, and has been the Executive Director since 2015, overseeing the staff and interpretive programming at Brock's Monument for 11 years. Amanda's talk will take an in-depth look into the Battle of Queenston Heights and delve into some of the common myths and misconceptions that surround the infamous battle that are discussed regularly at Brock's Monument.

REGISTER WITH WENDY FIRST BEFORE MAKING PAYMENT

Wendy Hammond at whammond2014@gmail.com

Please send a cheque for $16.00 per person to the PROBUS Club of Pelham c/o Wendy Hammond, 14 Rosewood Cr., Fonthill, ON L0S 1E6

Or e-transfer money to **pay.probus@gmail.com**. **When using e-transfer, please include name of event plus attendee(s) names.** **TICKETS LIMITED TO APPROX. 20.**

Registration closes on February 13, 2026. **Payment is non-refundable after February 13.**

2025-2026 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	Reg Coates
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

Polymath and writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe reminds us to live and work with a calm persistence:

"Without haste, yet without rest."

Note: Goethe's original example was a star orbiting the sun: steady and unhurried, but always in motion.

Source: Gedichte. Ausgabe letzter Hand (1827)