Probus Club of Pelham

Update

https://pelhampelhamprobus.ca

June 2025

Club Calendar (Click Here)

Message from Our President: Bill Schwenger

Wow, our club is really growing! This month we have accepted four new members, which brings our club membership to 210. This is great news! The more of us the better, as we are all about fellowship. However, some good problems also have a down side. This is apparent with some of our interest groups. With so many enthusiastic members some of the groups are at capacity. Hence your Management team has decided to put a hold on accepting new members for the time being. If you have any thoughts on this matter I would like to hear them.

Please come out on June 26th and listen to our featured speaker, Marcie Jacklin, and find out about the birds of Niagara. Enjoy a coffee and a treat and spend some time with your friends. I guarantee you will learn something new!

General Meeting June 26

(10:00 am start)

Our speaker for May is Marcie Jacklin, who will speak on Birdwatching in Niagara

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 Grill on Canboro.

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO MONTHLY MEETING IN JULY. Our next monthly meeting after this June one will be August 21. The newsletter staff will also take a break – there will be no July newsletter. Look for your next issue in August.

If you haven't already done so, please sign up today for the July 17 picnic at Charles Daly Park – an annual summer highlight for our club members. See information on this elsewhere in the newsletter. Other summer events are also highlighted in this newsletter and on the club calendar (see link on front page).

An Introduction to the Common and Rare Birds of Niagara

Marcie Jacklin will introduce our members to the basics of birdwatching and explain how to get started enjoying wild birds in our backyards and neighbourhoods. She will also talk about some of the rare and unusual birds that have been spotted in Niagara over the years.

Marcie Jacklin has been a birdwatcher for over 35 years, as well as an environmental advocate and passionate conservationist. She is a mentor to new birders and uses these opportunities to educate them about various species, including their habitat needs. She volunteers her time to citizen science opportunities including bird counts and marsh surveys, often coordinating these events and tabulating the results. Marcie is the Niagara Regional Coordinator for the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, an important project undertaken every 20 years.

In her lifetime, Marcie has been a Council member on the Buffalo Ornithological Society, President of the Peninsula Field Naturalists, and Board of Directors for the Ontario Field Ornithologists, and contributed many articles to the Niagara Birds book including the chapter "History of Ornithology in the Niagara Region from the 1600s to the 1960s."

Marcie was the recipient of the 2021 Canadian Wildlife Federation's Stan Hodgkiss Outdoorsperson of the Year Award, the R.W. Sheppard Award from the Niagara Falls Nature Club in 2020, and the Bert Miller Nature Club Award in 2016. She spent most of her career as a librarian and researcher at Brock U. where she was presented with the university's first Librarian Emeritas designation in 2018. She lives in Fort Erie.

Common Redpoll, Kenneth Newcombe

May 22 General Meeting

Introduction: The meeting was called to order by President Bill Schwenger, and Doug Willford led us in the singing of our National Anthem. Bill announced two positions that the club is looking to fill – Program Chair, the person who leads the group to book our speaker series; and Web Manager. He invited anyone who potentially has interest to speak to him.

Special Events Announcements: Wendy Hammond, Monique Finora and Stacey Havran announced several upcoming Norm Foster plays the group has sold tickets for. In addition:

The upcoming Welland Jackfish game still has tickets available but they needed to be purchased by the day after the meeting.
July 17 – our annual summer picnic will be held at Charles Daley Park – cost is $15.00 per person for a catered lunch with various food options available. Signup deadline is July 3.
Sunday, August 3 – the group will attend the Stephensville rodeo.
November 6 – visit to Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton.

Membership Announcements: Michele Schwenger. There were 122 in attendance at the meeting, along with nine guests. Seven new members have been received in the past month, bringing our current club membership to 206.

Mystery Speaker: Michael Gunns spoke on Savvy Travel for Seniors. Michael described his extensive experience with travel, then two more recent experiences with attempting to make insurance claims for a few small mishaps along the way, and the difficulties he experienced, along with some advice for those travelling in future. A large show of hands from those in attendance expressed a high degree of interest in having further discussion about this issue.

Michael spoke about general insurance issues and solicited information from club members who may have more experience, especially with more serious issues.

Featured Speaker: Graham Segger introduced our speaker. **Dan Buchanan** was born and raised in the Brighton, Ontario area and worked in the tech industry. He returned to Brighton in retirement. Dan has a passion for history: he has written four books and spoken to 100 Probus groups. He mentioned that the story of the HMS Speedy was always part of local lore, known to him, and having acquired all the papers and journals of Ed Burritt, a local diver who spent many years searching the wreckage site of what is assumed to be the Speedy, Dan decided it was time to write a book.

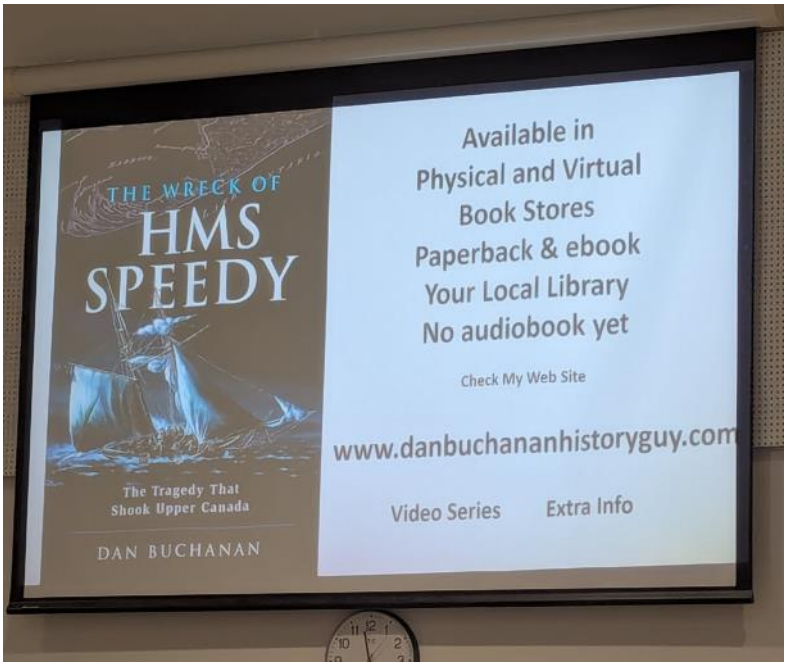
Dan told the story of the fateful journey of the HMS Speedy in 1804 from York to Newcastle. The ship was caught in a storm that resulted in it being wrecked in Lake Ontario off Presqu'ile Point.

Over the years people diving in the area discovered a few coins, and eventually other artifacts. This led to the ongoing interest of Ed Burritt. Although he was quite convinced the debris field, which was yielding some good images and some artifacts, was indeed the Speedy, he was not able to generate enough interest in the government or the science and archeology community for them to take a serious look at the site. Interest has been increasing in more recent years.

Dan was thanked by Graham Segger, and an honorarium to cover his travel expenses was presented on behalf of the club. Dan was available after the meeting to sell and autograph his books.

Dan's website for more information is https://danbuchananhistoryguy.com/index.html

Lucky Draw: Prizes were won by Debbie Burke, Douglas Smith, Fran David and Paul Lyons. The profit from the day's sales, used to defray meeting expenses, was $245.00.



Summer Picnic 2025

Thursday July 17

Charles Daley Park

1969 North Service Rd.
Jordan

Bring a folding chair and your favourite NON-ALCOHOLIC drink.

Arrive at 11:30 am - Picnic lunch at 12 Noon

Price: $15.00 per person
Includes all taxes and gratuity

Members and spouses are invited
Free Parking

Menu by PigOut Catering

Choose *one* of the following:

1. Beef Hamburger
2. Veggie Burger
3. BBQ Chicken with Lemon & Herbs

Included with your choice:
Garden Salad & Potato Salad
Buns & Condiments
Dessert

REGISTER WITH STACEY FIRST BEFORE MAKING PAYMENT

Email Stacey Havran — havran@cogeco.ca
Please send a cheque for $15.00 per person to the PROBUS Club of Pelham
c/o Stacey Havran, 117 Glen Park Drive, Welland, L3C 6N2

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 July 3, 2025. **Payment is non-refundable after July 3.**

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

Stevensville RAM Rodeo

Sunday August 3, 2025

Montasola Farms

1500 Stevensville Road, Fort Erie

Cost: $20.00 inclusive for the first 8 people registering. Tickets after that—$31.00.

Grounds open at 11:00 am.
There will be vendors and food.

From Noon until 2 pm - Cattle Sorting
2:30 pm - Kids Rodeo
4:00 pm - RAM Rodeo Performance with music at intermission
6:30 pm - Live Country Concert

Come early and stay as long as you want.
The main event begins at 4:00 pm.

The RAM Rodeo Tour brings excitement to over 15 communities, being the largest and richest rodeo tour in eastern Canada for both fans and competitors alike. It features cowboys and cowgirls competing in Barrel Racing, Saddle Bronc, Bareback Riding, Pole Bending, and more for over $300,000 in prize money and the right to compete at the Eastern Canadian RAM Championship in Ancaster in October. RODEO 101 - The RAM Rodeo Tour

REGISTER WITH WENDY FIRST BEFORE MAKING PAYMENT

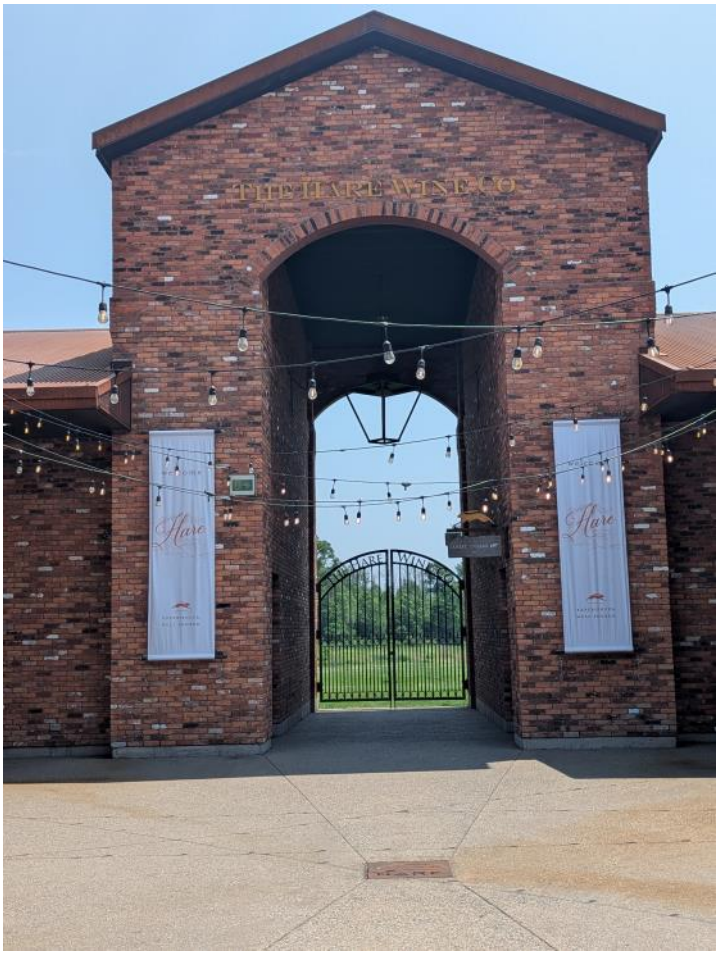
Email Wendy Hammond whammond2014@gmail.com
Please send a cheque for $20.00 per person (first 8) to the PROBUS Club of Pelham
c/o Wendy Hammond, 14 Rosewood Cr, Fonthill, L0S 1E6

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 July 18, 2025. **Payment is non-refundable after July 18.**

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

Wine Tasting Group: The Hare Wine Co., June 11



The Hare Wine Company: https://theharewineco.com/

A winery gem hidden in plain view close to Virgil. Beautiful European style tasting room, magnificent gardens, gracious hosts, delicious wines. And above all, great company, and especially the chance to share a special birthday celebration with one of our members.

welcome
Hare
EXPERIENCES,
WELL POURED.

Dining Out Group:
Courtyard Cafe June 17

An enjoyable evening was had by 21 Probus members the evening of June 17, at the Courtyard Cafe in St. Catharines. We had a great menu, good food and good company — it was a definite success!

Our next event will take place once summer activities are over. We are such a busy group!

- Sue Harris

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

Writer and scholar C.S. Lewis reminds us that what looks best is when we stop worrying about looking good and start focusing on doing our best: "The sword glitters not because the swordsman set out to make it glitter but because he is fighting for his life and therefore moving it very quickly."

Source: Surprised by Joy