Probus Club of Pelham Update

https://pelhamprobus.ca
Club Calendar (click here)

March 2026

Message from Our President: Bill Schwenger

Do you know what really makes Probus tick? It's all of the members who get involved in running the club. I am not just talking about your Management Team, but all the group leaders and their team members, who arrange the speakers, organize the events and activities, plus all the individuals like those who greet you at the door, create the newsletter or organize lunch after the meeting. So please do your part, volunteer or better yet, put your name forward.

Please remember our next meeting is scheduled for March 26th. Come have a coffee and a treat and meet some new friends. I guarantee you will learn something new!

Club members attended MoTown Gold Show on March 6 in Port Colborne

General Meeting – March 26
(10:00 am start time)

Our speaker is Brad Honywill, a former award-winning journalist, who turned into a union leader and labour negotiator for media workers in Ontario.

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 Mar. 24. The restaurant for lunch this month is Young Thai Fonthill.

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.

Beyond the Map: A Journey Through Greenland and Northern Labrador. While recent headlines have turned eyes North, much of Greenland and Northern Labrador remains a mystery to Canadians. Join us at our next meeting for an immersive look at a recent expedition aboard Adventure Canada's Ocean Endeavour. This wasn't a typical vacation; it was a profound learning experience. We'll dive into the heart of the North, exploring everything from climate change and geology to Truth and Reconciliation. Plus, hear firsthand accounts of life on the tundra, the joy of wild blueberries, and stories about special guest Margaret Atwood.

Brad Honywill bio:
Brad Honywill is a former award-winning journalist, who turned into a union leader and labour negotiator for media workers in Ontario. In later years he did stints as, first, a pension advocate, then a housing advocate. These days he mainly advocates on behalf of bees as a hobby beekeeper.

New Probus Club of Pelham Proposed Bylaws

Below is the information about the new Probus Club of Pelham Bylaws as discussed at the February general meeting. The proposed Bylaws have basically the same intent as our existing bylaws. They have, however, had quite a few additional details added to help make the club more sustainable in the future, particularly with regard to the election process of the Management Team.

The changes that may affect you are:

- Your membership fees are due before Sept 30th. Previously you had a grace period until November 30 to pay. This has now been changed to October 31st.
- There will now be staggered set terms for each management team position, such that no greater than 60% of the Management Team position terms will expire in any single year.
- No nominations will be accepted from the floor during the annual general meeting for the election of Management Team members. Candidates are to be selected 21 days in advance of the general meeting.
- The Management team positions will be elected for 2 year terms, with elections every other year, and like our current system terms can be renewed. Current terms are 1 year with elections every year.

There are a few other changes such as; rearranging the order of items and adding titles etc. but these do not really change the bylaws (See Link/attached -- Probus Club of Pelham Proposed Bylaws)

To amend our Current Bylaws we must follow our existing bylaws No. 10 and 15. This states that these Bylaws may be amended at any General Meeting of the Club, by a two-thirds vote of all members present, provided that the Notice of Motion is given at least one month prior to the meeting at which the motion is to be put forward. As the motion was carried at our February General Meeting it will be voted on at our meeting on March 26, 2026.

Bill Schwenger President billschwenger@gmail.com

Click here to view the proposed bylaws

February 26,2026 Meeting

Another chilly but sunny winter morning greeted our members and guests as they made their way into the Accursi Hall for our club's February meeting. 122 attendees present, not a bad number considering how many of our friends have retreated to warmer environments.

As always, we were led in singing our national anthem by Doug Willford, who paid tribute to our Canadian Olympic athlete team. Welcome by our President Bill Schwenger.

Next up was **Ted Stark** who gave a moving tribute to **Roy Blake**. Ted had a 30-year friendship with Roy that started when they both were professors in the engineering department at Niagara College. Ted described Roy as unpretentious, honest, straightforward, always available to help out an enquiring student or colleague. Roy was an amateur ham radio operator, an author of Communications electronics textbooks that are still used in other countries.

Penny Blake thanked the club for their support in these recent days. A minute of silence was held in memory of Roy. Our club has made a donation to the Heart and Stroke Foundation in Roy's name.

Bill gave a brief presentation on the revision of our Pelham Probus bylaws. He started by outlining the key points of interest in the newly revised Probus Canada Constitution. He then talked about the changes to our club bylaws that members of the Management Team have been working on in recent months. These will be sent to members in the next few days. A motion to accept the new bylaws was made and seconded. There will be opportunity for questions and a vote on the motion at the March 26 monthly meeting. (**Note** – Bill's subsequent message and access to the revised bylaws are included on Page 3 of this newsletter).

Sue Harris came up to outline the future activities of the Dining Out club, which will include a dinner in late March. More details to come.

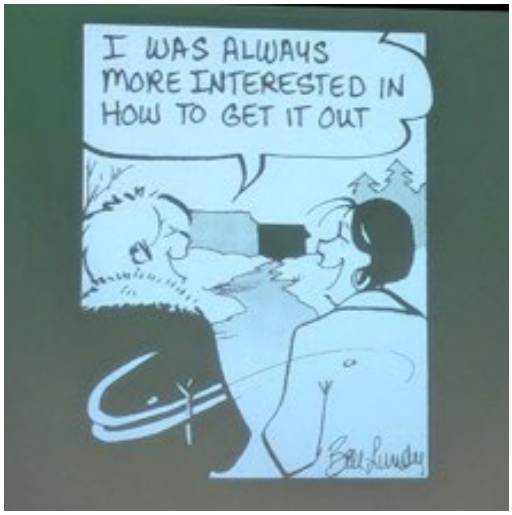
Bill mentioned the start of Short Mat Carpet bowling at the Meridian Community Center. For the latest on this, see page 7.

Special Events was represented by Wendy Hammond and Monique Finora. Wendy gave a report on the event at Fort George on Feb. 20, "Myths and Legends of the Battle of Queenston Heights." 29 attended and enjoyed a most informative presentation. Wendy also highlighted the upcoming event at Lighthouse Theatre, as well as mentioned the possibility of our group attending a Niagara River Lions game in May and a Welland Jackfish game in June. More details on all these to follow.
Monique gave information about the April 17 event, bowling and miniputt at the Penn Center. 39 have signed up. Members were reminded that payments were due that day.

Membership – Lynn Reynolds and Michelle Schwenger mentioned that 112 members and 10 guests were in attendance. Membership is full with a waiting list.

Karen Wright introduced our speaker for the day, **Sandra Bell Lundy**. Sandra lives in Welland. She has been doing the Comic strip "Between Friends" for 36 years – it is in 200 papers.
Her first strip was in 1973 when she was a teenager. This was a competition that won her $10 and was published in the St. Catharines Standard. Drawing comics was a hobby. Her strip is about 3 women who are friends. She identifies as one of the three friends. Her strip went international in 1994. She had her son, then 2 years later had her daughter. She has included a variety of topics in her comic strip over the years that would be of relevance to her characters, and relevant to family life - miscarriage, fertility issues, adoption, raising small children, women in their 40s confident women, domestic abuse. Her comics have raised awareness in a positive way, used to promote mammograms for women over 50 (at the request of the Canadian Cancer society).

Freedom 56 was a four part series in the Toronto Star when her daughter went away to university and highlighted her experiences as an empty nester. She currently focusses on workplace issues for older women. She gets a lot of mail in response to her comics.

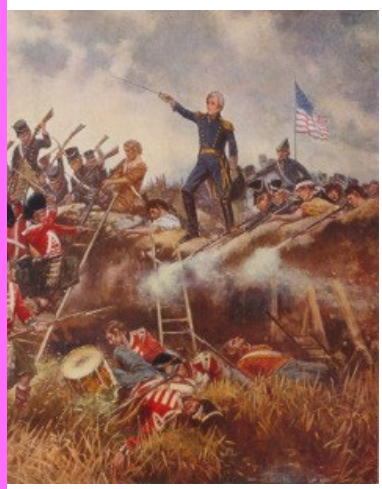


Sandra has a Substack where you can see her cartoons and she occasionally writes about her work. She hand draws and inks her strips – uses photoshop to colour – but hand colours the Sunday feature. She finds it a challenge to meet publisher schedules – but tries to ideally stay about 9 weeks ahead.

Sandra was thanked on behalf of our club by Karen Wright.

February 20 – Fort George Fireside Chat
The Battle of Queenston Heights

On February 20th Navy Hall at Fort George, in Niagara on the Lake, was the site of a very interesting, informative and at times amusing fireside chat on the Myths and Legends of the Battle of Queenston Heights. It was a very cozy and welcoming setting decorated with lots of historic memorabilia, maps, artwork, plaques and even a replica of Sir Isaac Brock's uniform. Amanda Gamble, Executive Director of The Friends of Fort George was the speaker. She was extremely knowledgeable, had researched the battle extensively and quickly and capably answered all of the many questions directed to her. Amanda was very passionate about the subject and was able to provide an excellent history of the battle.
Later we enjoyed a great lunch at the Sand Trap Bar and Grille in NOTL where we had our own room - which was appreciated as the restaurant was packed and noisy due to the Canada Men's Olympic Semi Final hockey game on the TV - which they won. It was fun to be a part of the excitement as people cheered on our team.



February 25 – Wine Tasting
London Born Winery, Beamsville

LONDON BORN
WINE CO.

Indoor Short Mat Carpet Bowls Update

New Time and Place: Thursday afternoon from 2:30 to 4:00 in the north gym. It starts on **Thursday Apr. 2** and runs to August 27th. It will be a drop in activity run by the Meridian Community Centre. Cost is $6/time or buy an activity punch card pass.

Motown Gold
March 6, 2026

Friday, March 6th provided another enjoyable event for 29 of our members. We met for dinner at two of Port Colborne's favourite restaurants - The Smokin Buddha (Thai cuisine) and San Marco's (Italian). A lot of laughs and stimulating conversation allowed everyone to get to know each other better.
Following our meal we met at Lighthouse Theatre in the Roselawn Centre to see Motown Gold featuring some of the biggest and best known hits by artists such as Diana Ross and The Supremes, The Marvelettes, Smokey Robinson, The Temptations, Martha Reeves and The Vandellas, Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin, Marvin Gaye, The Four Tops and even Michael Jackson and The Jackson Five. They had the place rocking, we knew all the songs and Margot even got up and danced. A good time was had by all.

Some happy hikers enjoying the snowy trail in Short Hills

Beer Tasting Club – Visit to Decew Falls Brewery – March 11

Sizzle and Savour at Lang

At Lang Hot Pot & BBQ we bring you a relaxing dining experience with fresh, daily-prepped ingredients. Our menu blends flavours from around the world-featuring meats, seafood, and vegetables-crafted to elevate your taste buds. With warm service and a welcoming atmosphere, we promise a meal to remember. It's a culinary adventure you won't want to miss.

Lang Hot Pot & BBQ

Lang Vietnamese Restaurant

161 Church Street
St. Catharines

Monday
March 30, 2026
At 1:00 pm

Maximum number of guests: 40

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Register by email with Lynn Reynolds at lynn.reynolds6@yahoo.ca

Registration closes on March 25, 2026.

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

Bowling & More

Kingpin St. Catharines, Niagara

Pen Centre, 221 Glendale Ave., St. Catharines

At Kingpin St. Catharines, inside Niagara Pen Centre, you'll find 24 lanes of 10/pin bowling, high/tech mini golf, arcade games, shareable bites, and cocktails that keep the good times rolling.

Friday
April 17, 2026
1:15 pm

Cost:

$13 - Mini putt only

$15 - Bowling only **(1** hour and 30 minutes, six per lane)

$25 - Both Mini putt **and Bowling (min. of 18 participate for discount on mini** putt)

$2 - Billard (per person)

$5 **-** Complimentary **arcade card** to **use at any time**

Procedure:

Arrive at 1:15 pm - check in with Monique.

Select your shoes (included with price), get to pre-assigned lane, select ball, bumper selection option, ramp option.

Order drinks, and food ... **KPSC** Menu 2025.

- 1:45 pm - warm-up (only 15 minutes)
- 2 - 3:30 pm bowling
- 3:45 pm - mini putt (if not bowling, anytime)

Dinner Restaurant TBA.

REGISTER WITH MONIQUE FIRST BEFORE MAKING PAYMENT

Monique Finora at moniquefinora@hotmail.com

Please send a cheque (select cost shown above) to the PROBUS Club of Pelham c/o Monique Finora, 20 Walters Court, St. Catharines, L2S 3J9.

Ore-transfer money to **pay.probus@gmail.com**. **When using e-transfer, please include name of event plus attendee(s) names.**

Registration closes on Thursday, February 26. **Payment is non-refundable after February 26.**

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

Welland Jackfish Baseball Game Against Panthers

90 Quaker Road, Welland

Saturday June 27, 2026
Game Starts 6:05 pm
Opens 5:00 pm

Take me out to the ball game!

PRICING (select one please):

a) $16.00 per person (seat only).

b) $25.00 per person (seat plus hamburger or hotdog, non-alcoholic drink and popcorn).

Box Seats - Section 103

Free Parking

Theme: Office-themed Fishies Night - where EVERYONE is a winner... whether they like it or not.

Important Notice

REGISTER DIRECTLY WITH MONIQUE FINORA

BEFORE MAKING PAYMENT

Phone Monique Finora at 905-348-9603 or email moniquefinora@hotmail.com
Please send a cheque for **$16.00 or $25.00** per person to the PROBUS Club of Pelham c/o Monique Finora, 20 Walters Court, St. Catharines, ON L2S 3J9

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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

"Use the moments of high motivation to make it easier when you have low motivation. When you feel like you should exercise, set out your gym clothes and water bottle so it's easier to do the next workout. When you feel grateful, buy some Thank You cards so it's easier to write the next Thank You note. When you feel the urge to eat healthy, pick a recipe now so you don't have to decide what to make for the next meal. Use the occasional burst of motivation to make the next habit easier."

James Clear – Atomic Habits

Looking Ahead...

April General Meeting – April 23 – Speaker: Wayne Olsen – Town of Pelham Councilor – Topic: Geopark

May General Meeting – May 28 – Speaker: Jason Stitt – Topic: Cybersecurity