# Probus Club of Pelham

# Update

https://pelhampelhamprobus.ca

May 2025

Club Calendar (Click Here)

## *Message from Our President: Bill Schwenger*

As I am sure you have already figured out, I am a history buff and I especially like early 1800s Napoleonic and Canadian history. I am also embarrassed to say that until just recently I had never read about HMS Speedy and the effect her sinking had on the history of Upper Canada. It is really interesting!

This brings up another point. Do you like how we have such great speakers at our meetings? The speakers really make the meeting. If you would like to get involved with the club, why don't you call me to chat about being on the program team. This is a really fun and interesting position. It is a team position, so there are a few people needed and of course the responsibility doesn't just fall on you.

Please come out on May 22nd and find out about HMS Speedy (Love that name). Enjoy some time with your friends and I guarantee you will learn something new!

# General Meeting May 22

## (10:00 am start)

## *Our speaker for May is Dan Buchanan, who will speak on the Sinking of HMS Speedy in 1804*

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 Butcher and Banker.

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.

**Dan Buchanan**

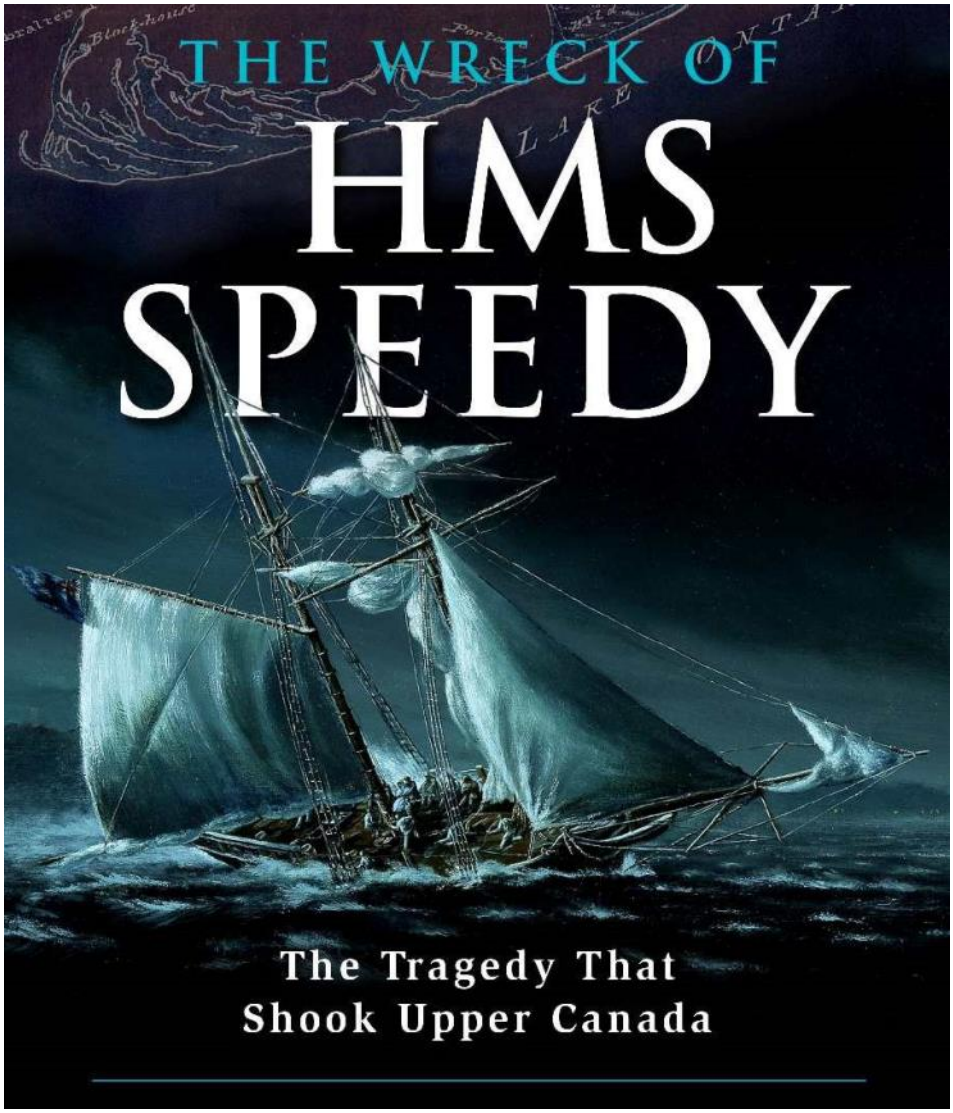
Dan Buchanan is “The History Guy of Brighton, Ontario.” He is engaged in many projects related to local and Ontario history, working from his home in Brighton.

He is an author with four books published, each providing a unique regional history story which both informs and entertains. He writes regular history articles, produces videos and maintains a large genealogy website. Information related to the books as well as many other history stories can be found on his web site at https://danbuchananhistoryguy.com.

Dan is a member of the Brighton Heritage Advisory Committee, providing research for historical plaques and for potential heritage properties. As a member of the Brighton Arts and Culture Council, Dan was one of four members honoured with awards in 2024 as part of BACC’s Gala Fundraiser. He collaborates closely with the Brighton Digital Archives, often providing research related to pictures and documents found in local collections.

**HMS Speedy**

HMS Speedy was lost in a storm in Lake Ontario off Brighton, Ontario in 1804. The story of the voyage of HMS Speedy and its final resting place is a fascinating account of the early administration, transportation, indigenous relations, court processes and personalities of early Upper Canada. Dan integrates stories about a pending murder trial, a horrible late fall storm and the search for the wreck. Graham Segger has stated that Dan Buchanan's book about these events is one of his favourite accounts of this early time period in Upper Canada.



# April 24 General Meeting

The meeting was opened by President Bill Schwenger, followed by the singing of "O Canada" under the direction of Doug Willford. Wendy Hammond and Monique Finora made announcements regarding upcoming special events. An informal poll was conducted regarding a potential group visit to Rosewood Beekeeper Farm. Further details will be shared in due course.

**Upcoming Events:**

- Summer Picnic: July 17 at Charles Daly Park
- Group Trip: Welland Jackfish game on June 21
- Those who have purchased theatre tickets for upcoming shows are requested to see Wendy Hammond after the meeting to finalize details.

**Group Activities:** Cycling Group: David Crump and David Hunt announced that the cycling group will commence on May 6. David Hunt will be stepping down as leader after this year, and the group is seeking new leaders. Upcoming cycling safety courses were also announced. The hiking group will continue through the summer.

**Membership Update:** Lynn Reynolds and Michele Schwenger reported that the group currently has 199 members, and 10 guests attended today's meeting. The names of the guests were announced, and they were acknowledged by those present.

**Mystery Speaker:** Michele and Bill Schwenger presented on short mat carpet bowling, which will be starting at the Meridian Community Centre.

**Guest Speaker:** Graham Segger introduced David MacKenzie, an early investor in Trivial Pursuit. David shared stories from the game's early days, including its manual packaging process and noteable mentions, such as on the Johnny Carson show. He discussed the question-development process and his role as senior writer. The company was eventually sold, and the game has changed hands multiple times.

**Appreciation and Honorarium:** Graham Segger thanked David MacKenzie on behalf of the group and presented him with an honorarium.

**Lucky Draw:** The lucky draw winning tickets were selected by David MacKenzie. The winners were Jim Chalcraft and Lisa Cefaratti. The proceeds from the lucky draw totaled $228.00.Thanks to Pat Paolone and her team for managing the lucky draw, and to Chris and Linda Olsson, Roy Russell and Rick Prins for supplying treats.

**Closing:** The meeting concluded with appreciation to all participants and contributors.

# 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.**

# Beekeeper Excursion Update

At the April general meeting I asked if anyone would be interested in going to the Rosewood Estates Winery and Apiary to have a tour of the honey bee hives. Tours were offered in the past but they were cancelled due to Covid and are just restarting this summer. Quite a few people showed interest.

However, I have since learned that I cannot reserve a block of dates without paying first. The tours last 2-2.5 hours and cost $60 per person, including getting dressed up in a complete bee suit and helmet. Since only 10 can attend a tour, and they are only offered on Saturdays at 10:30 AM, it would be too expensive and difficult for the team to organize.

Here is the contact information for anyone who would want to do the tour on their own. Go to https://rosewoodwine.com/ click on Bee Experience and Book Now. From June 28th until September 20th (excluding July 19th) all Saturdays still offer 10 spots.

- Wendy Hammond

# Hiking Group:
# Short Hills April 22

On one of our spring rambles, the Probus Hiking Group enjoyed a 4.3 km trek on the Black Walnut Trail in Short Hills Provincial Park

Thanks…..Dave Hunt

# Cycling Group Ride Schedule

## Probus Cycling Group Ride Schedule 2025

- All rides take place on Tuesdays from the start of May to the end of September.
- Start times are 10:00am in May, June, and September, 9:00am in July and August.
- Rides are by number, name and highlighted start location with a full description in the Pelham Probus website under Ride Information and Routes giving route map cue sheets.
- Ride leaders named. If not, ride still occurs with leader and sweep selected at ride start.
- All attendees on a ride should bring a copy of the ride's route cue sheet.
- Break/lunch reservations may need to be made if required (e.g. groups over 6).
- Bad weather, rain, high winds, and heat alerts may be reasons individuals may not ride.
- There will be no official e-mail cancellation of rides from the ride leader.
- If desired, rides can be rescheduled and conveyed to the group by e-mail.
- An alternative leader should be arranged by the ride leader if they cannot attend the ride.
- Ride leader volunteers are requested for rides with no ride leader.

| Month | Day | Start Time | Ride #, Name, Start Location | Ride Leader |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **May** | 6th | 10:00am | #8 – Port Robinson Ferry to Thorold | Dave H. |
| | 13th | 10:00am | #5 – Port Colborne to Ridgeway | Andy K. |
| | 20th | 10:00am | #10 – Welland Canal Both Sides | |
| | 27th | 10:00am | #16 – Welland River and Back | . |
| **June** | 3rd | 10:00am | #22 – Merritt Island | . |
| | 10th | 10:00am | #1 – Port Robinson Ferry to Port Colborne Port Robinson Ferry | . |
| | 17th | 10:00am | #4 – Comfort Maple, Pelham | |
| | 24th | 10:00am | #2 – Chippawa South | Evelyn & Keith T. |
| **July** | 1st | 9:00 am | #3 – Ridgeway to Fort Erie | |
| | 8th | 9:00 am | #6 – Caroline Cellars Winery, NOTL | |
| | 15th | 9:00 am | #7 – Fenwick and Back | Dave H. |
| | 22nd | 9:00 am | #9 – Pelham Recreation Trail | |
| | 29th | 9:00 am | #18 – Waterfront Trail, St. Catharines | Andy K. |
| **August** | 5th | 9:00 am | #14 - Rockway to 20 Valley Golf Club | |
| | 12th | 9:00 am | #21 – Around the Town | |
| | 19th | 9:00 am | #13 – Wainfleet and Back | |
| | 26th | 9:00 am | #15 – Queenston to NOTL Golf Club | |
| **September** | 2nd | 10:00am | #11- Fonthill Trails | Dave H. |
| | 9th | 10:00am | #12 – Lake Ontario Perspective | |
| | 16th | 10:00am | #17 – Gordon Harry Conservation Trail | |
| | 23rd | 10:00am | #19 – Waterfront Trail, Hamilton/Burlington | |
| | 30th | 10:00am | #20 – Flat Rock Cellars to 20 Valley Golf Club | |

# 2024-2025 Pelham Probus Club

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| 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 |

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- 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.

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**The Last Word**

An old Latin proverb, "Initium est dimidium facti", reminds us of the timeless importance of simply beginning the task at hand. It translates to: "Once you've started, you're halfway there."

Source: Horace, the Roman poet, in his work Epistles