Probus Club of Pelham

Update

https://pelhamprobus.ca

November 2025

Club Calendar (Click Here)

Message from Our President: Bill Schwenger

We're already halfway through November and it will soon be December. I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone Happy Holidays, as **we don't have a meeting or newsletter in December.** Our meeting is usually on the fourth Thursday of the month, which this year just happens to be December 25th. I'm sure you all have better things to do that day.This also reminds me that we have to break the fourth Thursday of the month rule for January. Our meeting will be on the 5th Thursday of the month due to a scheduling issue at the Meridian Community Center. **Our next scheduled meeting is on January 29th (not the 22nd)**. Sorry for the mix up but it was the best we could do.

Our Club has now grown to 210 members and we have had to cap that number of members because our activities are reaching capacity. I am sure that there are a lot of you out there who wish you could join an activity but find it full and are on a waiting list. Why don't you think about stepping up and helping us start a second group or something totally different. Remember this is Probus and this is what we do.

General Meeting Nov. 27

(10:00 am start)

Our Speaker for November is Rochelle Bush

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 November 25.The restaurant for lunch this month is Young Thai at 12 Hwy 20 E.

Please also bring loonies and toonies to donate for the cost of refreshments. Help keep our fees low. Thank you.

Please also consider bringing a non-perishable food item to donate to Pelham Cares at the Christmas tree on the main floor of Meridian Community Centre.

The Underground Railroad

Join us for an enlightening presentation on the Underground Railroad and its legendary conductor, Harriet Tubman. Discover the rich early Black history of Niagara and the vital role this region played in the journey to freedom.

Rochelle Bush is a descendant of African American freedom seekers who settled in St. Catharines, where she was born. A passionate historian and storyteller, Rochelle serves as a Trustee and the resident historian of the Salem Chapel, BME Church Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historic Sites.
In addition to her work preserving history, Rochelle is the owner and operator of Tubman Tours Canada. She has served as a Board Director of the Historical Society of St. Catharines and a Board Member of the St. Catharines Museum. Rochelle is also a certified Niagara Tourism Ambassador, a registered Niagara Parks tour guide, and a proud graduate of Niagara College.
Don't miss this opportunity to hear from an expert dedicated to bringing history to life.

October 23 General Meeting

A full and bustling room once again was a highlight of our October meeting. We had 145 in attendance, which included 14 guests and a number of pending new members who are awaiting memberships. Doug Willford led us in an enthusiastic rendition of Oh Canada! followed by a "Let's Go Blue Jays" cheer.

President Bill Schwenger welcomed the group. He explained that the Lucky Draw is currently suspended due to advice from Probus Canada. As an alternative to supporting the cost of meeting refreshments, a straw poll was conducted, and the consensus was that we would have a contribution jar to accompany the refreshment table to cover those costs.

Wendy Hammond gave a report on Special Events team activities. Two upcoming events are the November visit to the War Plane Museum in Hamilton and the Chrismas lunch in December. Wendy gave details on each of those. Members were encouraged to sign up for the Christmas Lunch during the break.

Our day's mystery speaker, Peter Jennings (a club member), was introduced. Peter gave an interesting talk on his long-time hobby of Paragliding. He started talking about the primeval fascination we all have (as evidenced by our frequent dreams) with being able to fly. Peter clarified what Paragliding is not (compared to a number of other similar activities which are often confused, such as parasailing). Peter went on to relate, accompanied by lots of breathtakingly beautiful slides, a lot of his experiences Paragliding around the world. A most fascinating version of Mystery Speaker.

Our main speaker for the day, Lorraine Sommerfeld, was introduced by Michelle Schwenger. They share a hometown, Burlington, and a family connection was mentioned. Lorraine is a humourist, author, newpaper columnist and podcaster. She mentioned that her cat has been missing for the past 5 weeks, and she is feeling quite anxious about that.

She has been writing for the past 21 years, started writing about issues surrounding being mom to her two sons (who are currently 33 and 31). She has written 1300 columns. She says her kids have never read them. Lorraine went on to relate stories of her growing up years, life with her parents and her sisters, growing up in Burlington. She told the story of participating with her sister in a car rally in Morrocco as part of her work as an automotive journalist. Many of Lorraine's stories about motherhood and family life were highly relevant to most of us in the audience, and contributed largely to the interest which her talk garnered.

Lorraine's first novel, a murder mystery set at their family cottage, was available for sale, and she signed those after the meeting. The novel is *A Face in the Window*.

Hiking Group

A group of happy hikers enjoying a sunny day in the woods and the fall colours

Christmas Luncheon Menu

Field Greens Salad with freshly chopped vegetables and vinaigrette

Oven Roasted Turkey with stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy and seasonal vegetables

Fes[illegible]rt, [illegible]a and [illegible]offee

Wait-Listed

REGISTER DIR[illegible] [illegible]AKING PAYMENT

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Important Notice

Please send a cheque for $50.00 per person to the PROBUS Club of Pelham,
c/o Kathy Durst, 5 Alder Cr., Fenwick, ON L0S 1C0.
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 November 22. **Payment is non-refundable after November 22.**

LIMITED TO 100 PEOPLE.

Halloween at Irish Hills and Howells

Mother Nature was on our side as 28 Probians gathered to enjoy a beautiful fall day - first at Irish Hills around the firepit……

Then off to Howells Pumpkin Farm.

First stop-food and friends

Then time to explore…

John's Probus band has changed a wee bit….

Digging in the corn…..

…surviving the Haunted house….

…Meeting new ‘friends?’ 😬

….getting lost in the corn maze

It was dark by the time the last of us left…..a fun day had by all!

Canadian Warplane Museum Nov. 6

The museum is a busy place with lots of activity – tours, school groups, and other youth groups. Preparations were being made for the Remembrance Day ceremony too. Our group of 50 was divided into several small groups with a tour guide for each group. Our guides were interesting and had some fun facts to share with us.

Some of the planes in the museum are working planes that are used for flights by reservation. If you want to fly in the Lancaster, it flies regularly at a cost of $4,300.00 per person. The plane was built in 1945. It's been said that when the Lancaster flies over Fonthill, the pilot tips his wing to those he knows below. It's so large and loud you can't miss it. The Tiger Moth is also flown by reservation. PROBUS member Jim Chalcraft flew in it this past summer. Flight cost is $350.00 per person.

Other planes are for display only and won't fly. Many workshop areas with busy mechanics are throughout the museum. This time of year, the Lancaster is being refurbished and will fly again in the spring of 2026.

We had fun sitting inside the pilot seat of one of the planes. Some of us sat in an ejection seat that was on display. Others climbed a ladder and walked into the interior of another plane. Some display planes in the museum were used as training flights in the past for the Royal Canadian Air Force.

At the end of the tour, we enjoyed a delicious lunch in the museum near the Lancaster and Tiger Moth.

Some Interesting Canadian Facts To Be Proud Of

The CF100 MK 5D plane is a Canadian design armed with machine guns. Its mission was the interception of Soviet bombers. In 1952 it was recognized as the first straight-winged aircraft to exceed the speed of sound (Mach 1).

The Avro Lancaster MKX began its service in 1945 as an RCAF Maritime Patrol aircraft in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. More than 7,300 Lancasters rolled off production lines in Britain and Canada. Only two still fly today – one in Hamilton, the other in Britain.

Submitted by Linda Olsson, Special Events & Tours, PROBUS Club of Pelham

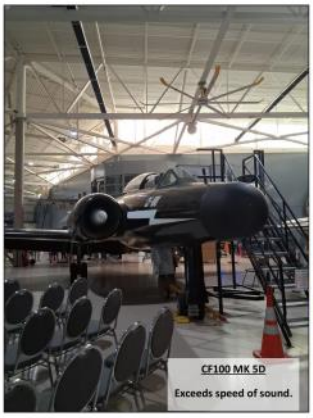
Entrance to the Museum

Pilot's Seat

Hold on Stan in the ejection seat!

Tiger Moth, flown by Jim Chalcraft
this past summer.

BOLINGBROKE
RESTORATION PROJECT


CF100 MK 5D
Exceeds speed of sound.

Mechanic's workshop.

7862
"Dusty"
The Plane
DO NOT TOUCH

7862
Dusty is the original plane that
was used in the making of the
Disney film "Planes".

The Avro Lancaster MKX flies regularly over Fonthill.

Mechanic hard at work on the Lancaster's 4 engines.

Lunch among the planes, close to the Tiger Moth and Lancaster.

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.

Please Note!

- No meeting or newsletter in December. Don't forget the lunch Dec. 5!
- January Meeting will be **Thurs. Jan. 29** — the **fifth** Thursday of the month.

The Last Word

November is a month of crimson and gold, a time of transition when the earth prepares for its winter sleep.

- Margaret Atwood