Probus Club of Pelham Update

https://pelhamprobus.ca

August, 2025 Club Calendar

Message from Our President: Bill Schwenger

I hope you have all had a great summer and didn't melt too much in the heat. I know many of you did because this month's newsletter is packed full of pictures of everyone having fun! I certainly enjoyed the outings I attended and yes it was my first Rodeo! There's still some summer left to enjoy before we get busy with our fall activities. Unfortunately, it looks like Carpet Bowls will not be happening in Pelham this year. However, if you are still interested in playing, youi only need to go a short distance to the Canada Games Center at Brock University. I believe it will be once a week on Tuesdays, from 1-3:30 starting with an open house on Sept 30th. Please contact me at billschwenger@gmail.com and I will make sure you get all the details.

Please come out on Aug 28th and listen to our featured speaker Angie Sandow and find joy in your life. Have a coffee and a treat and spend some time with your friends. I guarantee you will learn something new!

August Monthly Meeting

August 28, 2025 - 10:00 am

Our speaker for August is Angie Sandow, who will speak on “Seasoned and Smiling: Finding Joy in Every Season of Life”. 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 My Place Bar and Grill.

What does it mean to age with purpose, laughter, and a little rebellion? In Seasoned & Smiling, Angie Sandow invites audiences to rethink what it means to grow older. This engaging and humorous presentation explores how we can navigate aging with attitude—tackling everything from shifting identity after retirement, to embracing physical changes, to letting go of outdated expectations and finding joy in unexpected places.

Angie blends relatable reflections with laugh-out-loud stories, offering a fresh perspective on resilience, rediscovery, and the beauty of owning your age. Attendees will walk away knowing that no matter their age, new adventures, purpose, and laughter are always within reach.

Angie Sandow brings a one-of-a-kind perspective shaped by grit, humour, and a zest for life. As a senior who’s faced down life’s biggest challenges—including being born with a limb difference and later surviving breast cancer—Angie has never been one to sit on the sidelines. From her 35-year corporate career to riding thousands of kilometres on a motorcycle with one hand, to playing guitar using a prosthetic, she lives life full throttle. Angie is the author of From Chemo to Throttle and executive producer of the award-winning documentary Angie: Tales of Determination. Her mission? To prove that joy, adventure, and laughter don’t retire—they just get better with age.

Report on June Monthly Meeting

(June 28)

The meeting was opened with the singing of O Canada, led by Doug Willford. Our president, Bill Schwenger welcomed the group.

Bill mentioned that the club is still looking for a Program Committee Chair and Program Committee members. This is the group which has the responsibility of booking and organizing speakers for our monthly meeting.

Special Events – Announcements on behalf of this team were given by Wendy Hammond, Monique Finora and Dee Murphy. They gave thanks to the group for ongoing, successful participation at events organized by their team. The previous Saturday, 40 of our members enjoyed a spirited evening at the Welland Jackfish game. On July 6, 34 of our members were scheduled to attend a Norm Foster play as part of the festival in St. Catharines. July 17, all-club picnic at Charles Daley Park, 93 signed up, 1130 arrival, noon for lunch. In August, Stephensville Rodeo, 30 signed up for that. November 6, tour of the Hamilton Warplane Museum. (ed note - see reports and announcements on all these activities in this newsletter).

Membership – Lynn Reynolds and Michelle Schwenger – There were 119 in attendance at the meeting. 4 new members were introduced to the club, we now have a total membership of 210, the highest it has ever been. This is our club's maximum. Membership is capped; future applicants will be put on a wait list. Michelle invited our attendees to sign up to speak at a future meeting as a mystery guest.

Music Group - Deb Glenn introduced all the band members and gave a summary of the group's activities. The group then performed two songs, "Country Road" and "Folsom Prison Blues". They will also be performing at the July 17 picnic.

Bill mentioned the treats were being catered by Meridian Center, and they will be our providers moving forward.

Speaker - Marcie Jacklin – introduced by Graham Segger. Marcie has a long history as an amateur ornithologist. She is a member and a leader in a number of ornithological societies in Southern Ontario and Western New York. She was for many years a librarian at Brock University and upon retirement was named Librarian emeritus, the only person to ever receive that designation.

Backed up by many photographs from her own collection, Marcie talked extensively about birding in Niagara. She talked about how birds can be identified. Clues such as size, colour patterns, songs, behaviour are all helpful in identifying species. Marcie identified seasonal patterns in birds found in the area. We are on major migration routes, so many rare sightings happen in early spring and fall seasons when some migrating birds will touch down in Niagara as a resting point during migrations. This happens particularly when there are storms, and particularly when this happens at night and the birds are forced to stop and rest. Marcie also highlighted the impact of climate change and how the ranges of many species have changed, more so in recent years, but also going back 50-60 years.

Marcie's talk generated a lot of interest, and she was quite happy to answer questions and stick around after the meeting to chat with our members.

More information from Marcie's talk can be found on the next page.

Lucky draw winners - Jim Stokes, Jill Russell. Prizes – Canadian Tire gift card, Gas Card.

Proceeds - $245

Lunch for approximately 15 of our members followed at the Grill on Canboro.

Introduction to Bird Watching – Marcie Jacklin - Sources June 26, 2025

BINOCULARS

- Prices range from $30 to $5,000 (https://www.peleewings.ca/about/nature)
- https://www.urbannaturestore.ca/collections/binoculars?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=21189103860&gbraid=0AAAADvz4lllbMbjbIGqVjEv5_ka6FkMC&gclid=Cj0KCQjw097CBhDIARIsAJ3-nxfmlULBOs71EQ-jjiPdGixdaDCIZqzddoeSAMbXS22CcoERTPRDAakaAonKEALw_wcB
- Reviews and guidance available e.g. https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/the-cornell-lab-review-affordable-full-size-8x42-binoculars/?utm_source=Cornell+Lab+eNews&utm_campaign=b418d9fc30-Cornell-Lab-eNews-December-2022&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_47588b5758-b418d9fc30-302928153#

CAMERAS

- Being able to zoom is important because birds are often not close.
- Look for reviews https://www.birdwatchingdaily.com/photography/how-to-photograph-birds/best-cameras-bird-photography/
- Bridge cameras vs. DSLR vs mirrorless

E-BOOK

- Niagara Birds
- Download e-book from https://dr.library.brocku.ca/handle/10464/12572

CLUBS

- Bert Miller Nature Club https://bertmillernatureclub.org/
- Peninsula Field Naturalists https://peninsulafieldnats.com/
- Niagara Falls Nature Club https://niagarafallsnatureclub.org/
- Buffalo Ornithological Society https://www.buffaloornithologicalsociety.org/
- Hamilton Bird Study Group https://hamiltonnature.org/events/bird-study-group/

WEBSITES AND APPS

- Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/
- Ebird iNaturalist
- Merlin Bird ID Sibleys Birds
- www.bird-niagara.org Birds on the Niagara International Winter Festival in February

" Take Me Out to the Ball Game...."

June 21 - Welland Jackfish Game

On Saturday, June 21, 40 members gathered for an exciting evening at the Pond to cheer on the Welland Jackfish as they faced off against the Toronto Maple Leafs.

The evening kicked off with Doug Wilford delivering the National Anthem. Throughout the game, the atmosphere remained festive. A few Probus women were spotted laughing and talking photos with the always- cheerful mascot Jacques, while others enjoyed classic ballpark fare- hot dogs, popcorn and cold drinks in hand. Though the Jackfish fell short against Toronto, spirits remained high. Some had hoped to witness a bit of history with the debut of the first female pitcher recruited to an all-male team, but that milestone will have to wait for another game.

The weather was ideal for baseball and a joyful group singalong of Take Me Out to the Ball Game echoed through the stands. The night concluded with dazzling fireworks display- an uplifting finish to a fun -filled evening of camaraderie and community.

A Visit to the Theatre - July 6

The Probus Theatre group enjoyed a day out at the Theatre.

On July 6, we had 33 Probus members enjoy the play “On a First Name Basis” by Norm Foster. Always well written, entertaining, funny, thought provoking…. a treat every time. We then enjoyed a fantastic meal out at Coppola’s restaurant in St. Catharines. Good entertainment, good food, good people- a fun time had by all.

Probus Annual Picnic - July 17

As we began the day, downpours, high winds and a crime scene at Charles Daley Park kicked off our 2025 Probus Annual Picnic. Our caterer, the Probus band and all our participants found ways to avoid the crime scene as we made our way down to the pavilion with help from the Niagara Regional Police.

All in all, once we were situated the meal from Pig Out Catering was delicious as most of those in attendance confirmed. Micaela from Pig Out headed up the planning, and she did an outstanding job feeding 97 in attendance in an organized fashion. We enjoyed a lunch that consisted of each person's choice of hamburger, veggie burger or chicken on a bun accompanied by a garden salad and potato salad. For dessert, we feasted on cookies provided by Subs Plus that were absolutely amazing!

Once we had our fill of lunch, our very talented Probus Band provided entertainment that included some very imaginative forms of dance (and we have the pictures to prove it). The strong winds continued throughout the afternoon but failed to dampen anyone's spirits.

Personally speaking, I had a wonderful afternoon, and I appreciate the assistance from the members of Pelham Probus's Special Events Committee, the Pelham Probus Band, and especially Micaela and her team from Pig Out Catering. Because of them, and all who attended, the picnic was an afternoon to remember.
Submitted by Stacey Havran – photos by Jim Chalcraft.

Stevensville Rodeo - August 3

Sunday, August 3rd saw thirty-one adventurous PROBUS members, plus eight guests, join the rest of the cowboys at the Montasola Farm on Stevensville Road, Fort Erie for the Stevensville RAM Rodeo. Some of our members were even dressed to the nines in their cowboy hats, boots and/or bandanas. The weather was perfect - not too hot and with a slight breeze. We were thoroughly entertained by various exciting events like barrel racing, pole bending and rescue races. Men, women and even some youngsters participated. But the most thrilling and scary times was during the bareback bronco and bull riding! These involve strength, timing and technique as the rider must stay on for eight seconds using only one hand to hold the reins. The other hand may not touch himself, the reins, equipment or the animal during those eight long seconds. If he does, or if his spurs are not aligned where they should be, the rider will be disqualified. These events require flexibility, strength, co-ordination and a very strong mental attitude. Unfortunately, we witnessed two very scary situations. A bronco refused to come out the gate. The cowboys tried three times to get him out, but he dug his front legs in and refused to co-operate. I believe they finally threw some water on him, and he raced out kicking up a storm. He was NOT happy! The rider should have listened to him because within seconds he was thrown right over the horse's head while flying face down smack onto the ground. We did not see him move and he had to be taken away by ambulance.

Another cowboy was kicked hard in his private parts, and everyone could tell how much pain he was in!! I wonder if their health insurance covers these dangerous work conditions.

Home
hardware

Wine-Tasting Group - Flatrock Cellar

July 31

Cycling Group - August 19, 2025

Ten riders enjoyed a bike ride on a beautiful Tuesday August 19th,2025, from Harold Black Park to the edge of Wainfleet and back for about 25km. Tires were an issue on this ride with many being underinflated and having to be pumped up before the ride. At the Canboro Grill break location in Fenwick, one lucky rider had a tire blowout during lunch. Missing from the photo are two riders and the photographer. (submitted by Dave Hunt)

DINING OUT GROUP | PROBUS CLUB OF PELHAM

FORT ERIE RACE TRACK

230 Catherine Street
Fort Erie, ON L2A 5N9

Monday, August 25, 2025

Post Time 3 pm

Join us for Dining and an Afternoon of Horse Racing at the Fort Erie Race Track

3 pm Meet at the Turfside Dining Room
Overlooking the Finish Line

Races can be viewed and bets placed from within the dining room.
We have seating at the tables for the duration of the races.

115th ANNIVERSARY
FORT ERIE
1897 2012
RACE TRACK

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

Registration limited to 40 people.

Entrance is **Free** - Payment for dining to be made at the restaurant.

Registration closes on August 18, 2025.

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

Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum

9280 Airport Road, Mount Hope, ON L0R 1W0

Thursday November 6, 2025

Guided Tour at 11:00 am

Admission: $12.00 per person inclusive

Plus Lunch: $34.50 per person (includes tax & tip)

Menu
Harvard Lunch

Assorted Sandwiches & Wraps.
Salad — Your choice of one of the following: *Garden Salad* (V, VG, GF, DF). *Caesar Salad.* *Veggie Platter* (VG, V, DF, GF)
Cheese Tray — Served with an assortment of crackers (VG).
Dessert — Fruit & sweets platter (V, VG, DF, GF).
Beverages — Water, soft drinks, coffee, and an assortment of teas

Gluten Free Bread available upon request
VG: Vegetarian V: Vegan DF: Dairy Free GF: Gluten Free

Arrive at 10:45 am Tour begins at 11 am
Lunch at 12:30 pm among the planes

REGISTER WITH LINDA FIRST BEFORE MAKING PAYMENT

Email Linda Olsson at magdansk@yahoo.ca
Please send a cheque for $46.50 per person to the PROBUS Club of Pelham
c/o Linda Olsson, 284 Oakcrest Ave., Welland, ON L3C 7K3
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 October 27. **Payment is non-refundable after October 27.**

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

Our Year in Speakers - 2024-25

This past year, we have had an outstanding roster of speakers at our monthly meetings, thanks to the efforts of our Program Team, consisting of Keith Thoy (chair), Evelyn Thoy, Margret Bousfield and Graham Segger. Huge thanks team for all your efforts. Keith, Evelyn and Margret will be moving on to other things. Reg Coates will be chairing the team, along with others who will be joining in the next month or so. We are looking forward to the upcoming year of interesting and diverse speakers.

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

Jesuit priest Anthony de Mello reminds us to focus on the magic in front of us: "Think of yourself in a concert hall listening to the strains of the sweetest music when you suddenly remember that you forgot to lock your car. You are anxious about the car, you cannot walk out of the hall and you cannot enjoy the music. There you have a perfect image of life as it is lived by most human beings." Source: The Way to Love