Probus Club of Pelham

Update

https://pelhamprobus.ca

September 2025

Club Calendar (Click Here)

Message from Our President: Bill Schwenger

It's September again and it's time for our Annual General Meeting. I am proud to say that the Probus Club of Pelham is in a very good place. We have a full slate of members returning to the management team. So come to the meeting and don't worry about being coerced into filling a position at the last minute. The club has a strong membership with lots of activities, special events and speakers. Due to the Covid lockdown, when we could not do any of these things, we have a healthy bank balance. In hindsight, this is a good thing as it now allows us to subsidize your membership fee. Just think, where else could you do all of the above for only $45.00 a year?

Please come out on Sept 25th and listen to our featured speaker D'Arcy McDonald speak about his long distance cycling journeys and raising money for cancer support. Have a coffee and a treat and meet some new friends. I guarantee you will learn something new!

Bill

General Meeting Sept. 25

(10:00 am start)

Our speaker for September is D'Arcy McDonald, who will speak on: "Cycling for Wellspring Cancer Support — My Journey"

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 by Sept. 23. The restaurant for lunch this month is Next Kitchen and Bar.

Please note: Our September meeting also includes our Annual General Meeting. We will hear a financial report for the past year, seek approval for the budget for the upcoming year, and approve the Management Team for the upcoming year. Full member participation is encouraged.

Also, a reminder that our $45 per member annual fee is now due. Please pay your fees by etransfer to **pay.probus@gmail.com** or bring a cheque to the meeting.

D'Arcy McDonald will share stories from five cycling adventures to raise money for Wellspring Cancer Support Foundation. Each journey from Oakville to either Halifax, Colorado, Miami, Austin, or Las Vegas was a blend of challenge and inspiration, showcasing the power of community. Through these adventures we raised significant funds for Wellspring while also having the adventures of our lifetime.

Our speaker is a seasoned financial services executive with 25 years of leadership experience spanning retail banking, wealth, insurance, payments, and lending in both Canada and the U.S. He holds an MBA from Ivey (2012) and has led major initiatives in digital transformation, strategy, marketing, and sales. He serves on the Interac Board and previously chaired the Wellspring Cancer Foundation. Outside of work, he's an avid cyclist, snowboarder, and proud father of two teenage daughters.

August 28 General Meeting

There was a good spirit in the room as this was our first meeting since June, and we were all happy to see one another again after a long break. We were greeted and welcomed by our President Bill Schwenger after being led in a rousing rendition of O Canada led by Doug Willford. Bill announced the Lucky Draw prizes for the day, 30 dollar gift cards from President's Choice and Esso. Bill also announced (as a followup to his June announcement) that the Program Committee (the group that books our speakers) had found 5 new members, and will be led, starting in September by Reg Coates. He also announced that, due to a scheduling issue, our January 2026 meeting will be held on January 29, but lots of advance notice will be given for that.

Special Events

Wendy Hammond thanked the group for good turnouts at the picnic in July and the rodeo in August. She was happy to report that the cowboy who had been thrown from his horse at the rodeo was now recovered. Wendy reported that the planning group had had a busy year (17 events this past year) and was taking the month of September off with no events planned. She did mention the Jimmy Marando swing band event at the Meridian Community Center as an option (September 16). Wendy also reported the Blue Star restaurant in Welland is sold, and the social group would plan events there in future as it is anticipated service will improve moving forward. She also announced the group's visit Nov. 6 to the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum. There are 22 signed up so far.

Sue Harris thanked everyone for their participation at the Fort Erie race track. She also announced the Sept. 29 Octoberfest event at Studebakers restaurant in Welland.

John Murphy announced that due to impending rain that afternoon (August 28), the golf group was cancelling their outing.

Membership

Lynn Reynolds and Michelle Schwenger reported that our current membership stands at 210. There is a small waiting list. They announced we have 4 new members and 14 visitors. There were 120 in attendance that day.

Mystery speaker

Graham Segger and Bill Schwenger gave a very interesting report on a transit through the Welland Canal on a private recreational sailboat on June 16. They were part of the crew on two boats. Their talk was illustrated with pictures they took of the journey, as well as slides outlining lots of interesting details about the Welland Canal

Speaker

Graham Segger introduced Angie Sandow. She is an author, humorist and motivational speaker. She outlined her personal history, including the stories of her parents, and all the lessons she has learned in life from them. She was born with a physical disability. But she only ever saw herself as different, and worked hard to overcome the challenges of life that her disability presented.

Angie had a career in credit and collections - she managed teams of 70. Two of the large firms she worked for were Linde and WSP. She is an author. She was also the Executive Producer of a movie about her life.

She is also a motorcycle rider. She loves the freedom and enjoyment she gains from riding as well as the sense of family she gains from her fellow riders.

She also spoke about her love of music, especially Dwight Yokum. She mentioned her band that she formed and plays in (she uses a prosthetic) and in which her husband is a drummer.

Angie spoke a lot about her marriage, and being a senior, and the humor she injected into the personal stories she told was highly relateable to us all.

Lucky Draw

Winners: Brenda Close and Ted Stark. Profit from the draw: $247. Thanks to Pat Paolone for coordinating the draw.

Bill encouraged members to take remaining treats home.

Fall Fun at Howells Adventure Farm

2878 Holland Road
Fonthill, ON L0S 1E6

Wednesday, October 29, 2025
5 pm

Enjoy FREE entrance to this unique country farm

Murphy's 'Irish Hills' is beside Howells Farm. Come for a firepit at 3:45 ish prior to Howells, at 2818 Holland Rd. Please bring chairs and a drink of your choice or go straight to Howells for 5.

Howells Beer & Wine Garden is the perfect spot to unwind and relax with your PROBUS friends.

Wine, beer, craft beer, cider and fresh squeezed lemonade are for sale. Also, there's a selection of tasty treats – hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken fingers, kettle corn, pumpkin donuts, and a wide selection of Howells famous poutine, all offered in a covered garden with picnic tables and garden chairs.

Please wear good walking shoes and dress according to the weather. Be aware that the ground is uneven.

To reserve your spot, register with Dee Murphy at gnomes@sympatico.ca by October 22.

Howells Adventure Farm

DINING OUT GROUP | PROBUS CLUB OF PELHAM

Dust Off Your Bavarian Hats

Come join us for
Oktoberfest Lunch

Monday September 29, 2025

Studebakers
60967 Regional Rd. 27
Welland, ON L3B 5N6
Off Effingham near NCDR Airport

Oktoberfest Menu—$35 per person inclusive

MUSIC

Buns and Butter

Cheddar Ale Soup With Pretzel

Pork Schnitzel With Mushroom Gravy, Spatzle, Red Cabbage & Sauerkraut

Warm Apple Strudel

Coffee and tea included. Jackson Triggs Wine & Beer - $5 per glass.
Guests may want to bring their favourite wine or beer to pair with lunch.

Meet at 12:30 pm. Lunch served at 1:00 pm
This is an outdoor event . . . informal and lots of fun.
Tent is equipped with sides and heaters.

REGISTER FIRST BEFORE MAKING PAYMENT

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

Please e-transfer money to **pay.probus@gmail.com** or send a cheque for $35.00 per person to the PROBUS Club of Pelham, P.O. Box 1334, Fonthill, ON L0S 1E0.

Please include name of event plus attendee(s) names.

Registration closes on September 21, 2025. **Payment is non-refundable after Sept. 21.**

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.**

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Hiking Group

Hike Operating Procedure and Schedule October, 2025 to April 30, 2026

Note: A complete hike schedule can be found on our website.

Dates - Hikes are listed by date, occur once a week. Tuesdays Starting Oct. 2025 to end of Apr. 2026

• Start time - 10:00am. Try to arrive 10 or 15 min. early to discuss the hike conditions.

• Hike Description & Start Location - A brief hike description is provided. Highlighted link for start location. Hikes numbered 1 to 27.

• Hike difficulty – Estimated using the Bruce Trail 3 point rating system of Easy, Moderate and Strenuous.

• Duration - Hikes are usually about or just under 2 hours, with exceptions noted.

• Hike Leader - There is no official hike leader. Decide at the hike start. Previous hikers will have knowledge of the routes.

• Break/lunch locations – To be decided by the group. Some options are provided. Large groups may need reservations

• Cancellations - There will be no official e-mail signup or cancellation for individual hikes. Everyone decides for themselves.

• Reasons for not Hiking - Bad weather, rain, high winds, blizzards.

• Rescheduled Hikes - If desired, cancelled hikes can be rescheduled and conveyed to the group through a membership e-mail list.

• Safety - Everyone is responsible for their own safety. Hiking has some risks, and each individual must decide for themselves to attend or continue on a specific hike. Part way turnaround points are always an option with meetups back at the start point and over lunch. Appropriate footwear, clothing, water, icers in slippery winter conditions are recommended.

• Pace - The group will aim for a recreational pace with collection points bringing everyone back together with no one left behind. Everyone has their own pace so for some hikes it may be desirable to have slow and faster groups; decide at the start of the hike.

• Guests - Will always be welcomed with the expectation that Probus Club of Pelham membership will be obtained after 3 hikes.

Cycling Group Sept. 9

September weather proved to be delightful for the Probus Cycling Group's ride from Lock 3 Museum in St. Catharines, north along the Welland Canal and out on the George Nicholson Trail to the lighthouse by Lake Ontario. Missing from the group of 5 cyclists is photographer David Hunt.

Dining Out

Fort Erie Racetrack

In August, 47 of us had a great afternoon at the races. We didn't hear of any great windfalls but Doug Willford headed off to Germany so maybe he's not telling!

Oktoberfest at Studebaker's

September 29th we are having our second Oktoberfest with 60 people signed up. It promises to be a very good afternoon with excellent food like last year and hopefully good weather. Sue Harris will be in England for a couple of weeks in October so the next dining experience will likely be in November.

Wine Tasting Group: Sept. 11
Ridgepoint Winery, Beamsville

On September 11, the PROBUS wine tasters visited Ridgepoint Winery in Beamsville. Our wine enthusiasts enjoyed several of their best wines presented by their sommelier Avril. After visiting the vineyard we relaxed on their patio with our wine and enjoyed a beautiful sunny day.

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

Running one mile has more in common with running a marathon than sitting at home.

Investing $100 has more in common with being a millionaire than being broke.

Writing one sentence has more in common with writing a book than never writing one.

It always feels small in the beginning and the big goals seem far away. It's easy to talk yourself out of the early attempts because they feel kind of meaningless.

But every race starts with one step. Every fortune starts with a small deposit. Every book begins as one sentence.

The real question is not "What is my current position?" but rather, "What is my current trajectory?" Doing nothing builds nothing. Put yourself on the path to something better. Start small, but make sure you start.

James Clear