

PROBUS Pulse



THE PROBUS CLUB OF HUNTSVILLE

March 2026

General Meeting:

March 19, 2026, 10 a.m.

Trinity United Church

Photo by
Barbara Koehler

Management Committee

President:	Chuck McClelland	Facilities Coordinator:	Vacant
Past President :	Cathie Flanagan	Interest Groups:	Diane Burley
Vice-President:	Vacant	Membership:	Peggy Neely
Treasurer :	Lorraine Blondin		Betsy Rothwell
Secretary:	Dolores Jardine	Newsletter:	Joanne Bainbridge
Care Bear:	Diane Litchfield		Vacant
		Special Events:	Vacant

At our Annual Meeting, it was suggested that the Club share the job descriptions for the positions that are still vacant in the newsletter. FYI - All the job descriptions are available on the website under the Club Documents section under Members.

Below and on the next page are some of the positions that are currently vacant.

Facilities Coordinator

This position oversees the setup of the monthly General Meeting at Trinity United Church. There are volunteers who also assist but we need 1 person to be there to ensure everything runs smoothly, especially the audio visual equipment.

Arrive by 9:15 am

Set up chairs, tables, audio visual equipment and club materials prior to regular meeting
Maintain audio visual equipment and club materials (flag, gavel, etc.) in good order with proper storage

Ensure a replacement is available in case of absence

As well, we need 1 or 2 people to act as back up and to know how to run the audio visual equipment.

Greeters

We are looking for several people, on a rotating basis, to welcome members as they arrive at the monthly General Meeting.

Arrive by 9:30 am

Wear your name tag

Greet people in the entrance area as they arrive

Direct guests to the Membership sign in table

Management Committee

Vice President

This is a one year position on the Management Team in preparation to become President the following year.

Act for the President when required - for example chair meetings

Chair Speakers' Committee - ***this is a flexible requirement based on the Speaker Committee participants so do not let this deter you from becoming our Vice President***

Act as Signing Officer for banking

One of the concerns about becoming Vice President is the fear about what it means to become President and taking on the burden of running everything. Rest assured, this Club has a very active Management Team who each contribute substantially to the work of the club, ensuring that the responsibilities do not fall solely on the President. The President's main role is to chair the Management and General Meetings. Being President is only a 1 year commitment. We have made an exception this year with Chuck being President for a second year, due to lack of volunteers. However, I can assure you as a Past President, that the year I was President was the easiest President's role I have ever had in all my years of volunteering. Please talk to other Past Presidents about their experiences. Every Past President has a raised pin on their name tag.

If you are interested in any of these roles, please reach out to myself or to Chuck. We welcome your help.

Lorraine Blondin

Our Club is turning 25 this year!



This year marks the 25th anniversary of the PROBUS Huntsville Club and we would like to celebrate. A subcommittee is being formed to plan how to celebrate. If you are interested, please **contact Lorraine Blondin** who will set up a meeting to come up with ideas. We are especially looking for participation from our Charter Members and long-standing members.

Care Bear

We send our sincere sympathies to Patricia Spencer and family on the passing of Peter Rooke at Algonquin Grace Hospice on March 8th.

Our best wishes go to Diane Charlton as she recovers from hip surgery in Toronto. We are also wishing Gwen Jackson and Janice Elliott quick recovery from their recent hip replacements.

Our "Care Bear" provides a caring link between PROBUS members and those in our club who are experiencing illness, hospitalization or bereavement. To send best wishes, thinking of you, or condolences, please contact Diane Litchfield.

Membership

Our club membership currently stands at 137 members. There were 41 members and 1 guest at the February meeting. Jeanette Halliday was welcomed as a new member.

Don't forget to say hello to our new members during our upcoming meetings. Look for a red dot on their new name tags.

Please reach out to friends who might be interested in joining our Club. We are a fun, social group. Stay well, everyone.



MONTHLY PRIZE WINNERS!

Lorraine Blondin was our winner in February.

Enjoy your treat , Lorraine!

Members attending the monthly General Meeting are entered into a draw!!!

Join us on March 19th for a lucky chance to win!



Feel like exercising your funny bone???

We invite you to tell a joke/funny tale for the Moment of Merriment at our General Meeting. 1 person, 1 joke — in 60 seconds or less!

Welcome New Members!



Darlene Clapham

My husband Glenn and I retired in 2021 after living near Alliston, Ontario for over 50 years. There we raised our two sons and daughter. Those years were filled with school activities, sports, volunteering, and getting to know many wonderful people along the way.

I spent more than 30 years working for the York Catholic District School Board, where I built my career in technology and eventually retired as Chief Information Officer. While I'm officially retired, I still enjoy staying connected to the technology field through some light consulting, which allows me to keep learning and contributing while maintaining a healthy work-life balance.

Today, my husband and I feel very fortunate to be living in beautiful Huntsville. We love everything the area has to offer including boating, golfing, curling, skiing, and exploring local restaurants and theatre productions. We also enjoy traveling and spending time with our grandchildren. Becoming part of the Probus community will be a great way to meet new people, stay active, and continue being involved. I'm looking forward to getting to know fellow members and enjoying all that this next chapter has to offer.



Sam Merulla

I am an Italian immigrant, landed at Pier 21. I spent my early years in Toronto. I have lived in Rome, Bangkok and Tokyo.

I graduated as a licensed Optician and was in private practice for over 30 years. After selling my practice I worked for the Japanese (Hoya) in the ophthalmic manufacturing industry. After 4 years I started my own manufacturing of lenses in Thailand, (TOG & TCOI) with a Thai partner.

I am divorced and have been on my own for over 10 years. My two adult children still live in Toronto. I have had a cottage up this way for over 25 years. I am now retired and living on Jack Lake, just trying to enjoy my later years.

Welcome New Members!



Jeanette Halliday and her husband Larry relocated to Huntsville from Midland where they lived for the past 26 years, to be closer to their family members. They have 2 daughters, 2 sons-in-law and 3 grandchildren.

Jeanette has been retired for 30 years from her work as an insurance industry broker. She and Larry spent most winters in Florida or Arizona up until COVID, now remaining in Canada.

For 10 years in Florida at a resident-owned trailer park Jeanette volunteered as a Board member, recording secretary for the Board of Directors, producer of a weekly newspaper, taught clogging, painted water colours, quilted, played bridge and read. They spent 3 winters in Arizona doing similar activities. Their last six years in Florida were in a senior's park where Jeanette added Bocce Ball to her list of activities.

In summer, Jeanette played duplicate bridge 3 or 4 times a week, attended many tournaments and became a Life Master with the American Contract Bridge League. She volunteered as manager of Midland Duplicate Bridge Club. She still enjoys quilting and reading mysteries.



Kathy Patterson was born in Huntsville, left to go to school (and was never coming back), moved to Alberta and eventually returned to Muskoka to raise a family. She taught elementary school for many years locally and spent a sabbatical year teaching in Freeport Bahamas. After retiring from teaching, the arrival of several grandchildren, in quick succession, provided the inspiration to dust off her long dormant sewing machine to create quilts and clothing for the grands. This hobby eventually evolved into a business "Cotton Cravings". For many years Kathy was a weekly vendor at the Gravenhurst and Rosseau Farmer's Markets, participated in many craft

shows and opened an Etsy shop. Kathy's last venture was returning to teaching but this time at the YMCA teaching adult ESL.

Interspersed throughout the years were lots of travel adventures, cottaging, sailing on Georgian Bay and, most importantly, spending time with family and her 7 grandchildren. In recent years volunteering with Huntsville Hospice as a grief group facilitator, assisting with costume production for local theatre productions (most recently The Grinch and currently Sponge Bob) and sitting on the MAHC Patient and Family Advisory Council have kept Kathy "out of trouble" and trying to hopefully make a contribution to the Huntsville community we all call home.

Guest Speaker



March 19, 2026

The Changing Canada-United States Relationship

Presenter:

**Dr. David Leyton-Brown , Professor Emeritus
Political Science, York University**

David Leyton-Brown received his Honours BA in Economics and Political Science from McGill University, and his MA and PhD in Political Science from Harvard University. In 1973 he joined the Political Science Department at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada, and in 1975 he moved to the Department of Political Science at York University. He has been Associate Dean and then Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies at York, and was then seconded to the Council of Ontario Universities as Executive Director of the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies. He returned to York University to take up the position of Master of Calumet College, and then the Master of McLaughlin College, until taking up his current role as Professor Emeritus in 2018.

David has been President of the Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Council of Graduate Schools, of the TOEFL Board, of the Adjudication Committee of the Canadian Fulbright Program, of the government of Ontario's Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board, and of the Board of Trustees of World Education Services (WES). He has been a member of the Board of Governors of York University, York University's Academic Colleague to the Council of Ontario Universities, and the Chair of five York University Senate Committees

David has written extensively in the areas of Canada-United States relations, Canadian and U.S. foreign and defence policies, the politics of international trade and investment, and academic quality assurance.

Special Events

COMING UP IN APRIL . . .

Tour of ISKON Hindu Temple in Huntsville—last week of April.

Date and details to come . . .



COMING UP IN MAY - TRIVIA!!

Ways to pay for Membership Fees and Events/Activities:

1. E-transfer \$50.00 per person for membership fees or the appropriate amount for event/activity fee to treasurerprobushuntsville@gmail.com
2. Bring a cheque to the General Meeting and give it to Betsy Rothwell, Club Treasurer. Just a reminder that we no longer have a P.O. box.
3. If you cannot pay by either of the above methods, please send an email to info@probushuntsville.ca and we will help you from there.

Please note that the purchase of event tickets is non-refundable unless otherwise indicated.

Have a question about Interest Groups or an idea for a new one?
Please contact Diane Burley!

Want to get involved but transportation is holding you back? Please contact any of the group leaders so we can figure out a solution!



SPRING



Interest Groups

Armchair Traveller:

Thursday, March 26th, 2:00 pm

The Wonders of Haida Gwaii by Barbara Burton

Come explore the natural and cultural beauty of Gwaii Hannas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage site off the coast of Northern BC. We will discover the area by kayak, small boat and zodiac

Save the date: Tuesday, April 21, 1:00 pm

Trinidad and The Caribbean with Dolores and Tony Jardine

All events take place at the Huntsville Public Library . **Cost: \$3 collected at the door.**
Bring your own beverage if you wish.

Art Collective:

This group of art appreciators provides a supportive environment for creativity and artistic expression. Meetings are flexible depending on various planned events. 2025 activities included paper quilling, gallery visits in Bracebridge and Bala, print making, wool art with Morgan House Wool, and making Christmas tree decorations, to name a few. If you are interested in joining, please **contact Julie Maxwell**.

Beer Tasting:

Participants take turns hosting the sampling of a variety of beers and ales, or arranging an outing to a local Brewery. Please **contact Larry Rose** if you are interested.

Bid Euchre:

Bid Euchre meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month. From October to May we meet at 1:30 p.m. If you are interested in playing or learning Bid Euchre, please **contact Mary Beth Jarvis**.

Interest Groups

Book Clubs:

Book Club #1 Meets second Monday of the month. **Contact: Lynne Newell**

April book: *Death on the Island* by Eliza Reid

Book Club #2 Meets first Tuesday of the month at 2:00 p.m.

If you are interested in joining us, our group would welcome a couple more members so please **contact Rachel Edney**.

April book: *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt

Dining In:

We have 36 diners in 4 new groups for 2026. Interested members are divided into groups annually based on table capacity and snowbird status. The idea is to meet once a month, rotating hosts - each pair hosts twice in a year in their home. The host provides the main dish, and may set a theme or not as you wish. Group members bring their own beverage. The host may assign items (e.g. appetizers, salad, vegetable, starch, desert) or let members volunteer the needed items. If you would like to be on a spare list, please **contact Barbara Burton**.

Duplicate Bridge:

We had 20 players in February. Winners were Barbara Rose / Patrick Flanagan for North-South, and Donna & Peter Tikuisis for East-West. Games are held at 1 pm on the last Wednesday of the month. If you are interested in participating, please **contact Patrick Flanagan**.

Genealogy Group:

This group meets at 10:00 a.m. on the first Thursday of the month at the Huntsville Public Library. At our March meeting six members were in attendance from the 3 different Probus groups (Huntsville, Huntsville Lakes and Muskoka North). Some of the members are highly skilled Genealogy researchers while others are just starting their journey. Members work together helping and learning from each other. Our meeting always start with a discussion of a theme. This month "***your latest mystery or a new puzzle.***" Each presentation brings a wealth of historical information.

Next meeting is April 2, 2026 and the theme: "***describe a trip (or maybe a dream trip) to an ancestor location***". If you are interested in joining, please contact **Myrna Mason**.

Interest Groups

Lunch Bunch:

Lunch Bunch is a casual eating out group which is a great way for new members to meet others and feel connected. The group normally meets on the second Thursday of the month at 12:30 p.m. at restaurants in and around Huntsville. Participants take turns planning the restaurant and making reservations. Each person orders and pays for themselves. Just a reminder that this group is open to all members so please join us even if it is only sporadically. Please **contact Lorraine Blondin** if you are interested.

April Lunch Bunch will take place at East Side Mario's, 111 Howland Drive. Please **contact Dolores Jardine** if you are interested so we can confirm numbers.

Needle Work:

This group takes turns hosting once a month. The group meets the 3rd or 4th Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. **Contact Cathie Flanagan** if you are interested.

Outdoor Events:

Nature Outings 2026

All Events require pre-registration by email to **Rudy Koehler**, no later than 4 days prior to the event (so that ride sharing and park pass sharing can be established)

All Events will take place on Wednesdays (unless adverse weather requires rescheduling). See below and on next page for upcoming events.

May 20 - Paddle (in war canoe) & Lunch

From Oxtongue Lake to bottom of Ragged Falls. No Paddling experience required as the war canoe will be steered by experienced paddlers

Meet 10 AM at Algonquin Outfitters at Oxtongue Lake. Approx 3- 4 hours event.

War Canoe seats 10 people. Per person cost is \$20. BYOL (Lunch)

Requires a minimum of 8 people.

June 24 - Early Summer Hike & Lunch

Arrowhead Park

Meet 10 AM at Arrowhead Park Chalet

A 2 and 1/2 KM easy (flat) hike to Stubbs Falls. Lunch at Stubbs Falls.

More Outdoor Events



Interest Groups

August 26 Hike and Lunch

Hardy Lake Provincial Park (near Bracebridge)

Meet 10 a.m. at Hardy Lake Parking Lot. A wilderness park with scenic and easy flat trails.

There are two trails that are 3 km and one longer trail that is 8 km that goes around the entire lake. Bring your Swimsuit!

September 23 Lake Opeongo by Canoe

Meet 9.30 a.m. at Algonquin Outfitters Store at Lake Opeongo. An all day event. At least one person in each canoe should be an experienced paddler

Bring your own canoe or rent from the Outfitters (approximately \$50 for canoe and paddling gear for two people).

We will take a Water Taxi at 10 a.m. (we are allowed to cheat a little) that will carry us and our canoes to get to the North End of Lake and do a one way paddle south back to the Outfitter Store.

This event requires a minimum of 4 people. Water taxi fee is \$30 per person.

Any requests or suggestions for outings are welcome to schedule an event for October.

Contact Rudy Koehler if you are interested in participating.

Petrol Heads:

The group gathers on a monthly basis, usually the first Thursday of the month, at various luncheon spots (pubs) in the area. From April to October, we drive our classic cars to lunch. If you would like to join in, please **contact James Edney**.

Photography Club:

The PROBUS Shutterbugs meet via Zoom sessions. Look for pictures in the newsletter this month. Our next Probus Photo Zoom session will be at 2:00 pm on **Friday, May 8th**. Our theme will be "Spring is Busting Out All Over!" New participants are welcome. **Contact Ken Koehler** to join in the fun!

Wine Tasting:

Ever popular, our Wine Tasting interest groups continue their wine appreciation activities. New groups are well underway for 2026, but if you are interested, please **contact Jeff and Ann Cox**.

We've been busy!



Dining In



Wine Tasting



We've been busy!

Lunch Bunch had a lovely Valentine's lunch at The Portuguese House. Thank you to Mary and Bill Rashleigh for providing the wonderful treats from their daughter's chocolate store *Delight Chocolate* in Toronto.



Wine Tasting

Bid Euchre winners
February



Shutterbugs

Theme: Winter Wonderland



Ice on Reeds by
Tony Jardine



Making Snow by
Richard Rutsch

Shutterbugs



Photo by
Ken Koehler



Photo by
Tony Jardine



Photo by
Gord Bell

The Back Page



PROBUS Huntsville - Dates to Remember

- Mar 19 General meeting at Trinity United Church, 10 a.m.
 Speaker: **Dr. David Leyton-Brown, The Changing Canada-United States Relationship**
- April 16 General meeting at Trinity United Church, 10 a.m.
 Speaker: **TBA**

DON'T FORGET YOUR MEETING TOONIE!

CHECK THE PROBUS HUNTSVILLE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS!

<https://probushuntsville.ca/login.php>

Share community events, fundraisers, etc. at the General Meeting and/or email details to probus1newsletter@gmail.com. Send event/group activity photos/updates our way!
 Deadline for next newsletter is March 29th .

Community Notes




**EAST MEETS WEST
GALA DINNER**
Saturday, April 18

East Indian food by Philip Kashap
 West Indian food by Chef Randy Spencer

Our first sit-down dinner in 7 years!
 Buffet / Vegan Items / Silent Auction
 Live Music by Suzuki Students
 Seating: Round Tables of 8
 200 tickets only!

Tickets: \$60 adult, \$40 under 12

FOR TICKETS VISIT:
WWW.HUNTSVILLESUZUKI.ORG
 MORE INFO: 705-788-0027

COMING UP SOON:

REEL ALTERNATIVES

Algonquin Theatre

Monday March 23: Hamnet

TEA, TARTS AND TENNERS

Pioneer Memorial Church

March 26,27,28

MUSKOKA MAPLE FESTIVAL

Downtown Huntsville 9-5

Saturday April 25