



# The PROBUS Reporter

February 2026 Issue

The PROBUS Club of Alliston

[www.probuscluballiston.com](http://www.probuscluballiston.com)



## IT'S WINTER!!

**But cheer up... Valentine's Day is coming**



# President's Message

Well, I'm happy to report that January is now over! We're one month closer to Spring, thank goodness! As Terri Guillemets says, "February is the border between Winter and Spring".

Knowing nothing about February, I did some research. Here goes – If you were born in February, you are blessed with thoughtfulness, kindness, piety, humility, sincerity and spiritual wisdom. That's quite a list!

I learned that February is originally from Latin "februum" meaning purification. But the origin of Valentine's Day is murky, with the common belief it started in the 5<sup>th</sup> century and was called "Lupercalia", the festival of fertility in Ancient Rome. Over the centuries it evolved into present day traditions of love.

February as the shortest month, known by the Welsh as "y mis bach" or little month, is overrun with other special days besides Valentine's Days. There were so very, very many special days it is impossible to list them all. For those who enjoy a laugh, Feb. 6 is "Lame Duck Day" or "Work Naked Day", Feb. 7 is "Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day", and there is even a Valentine's Day for singles called "Quirkyalone Day" where you celebrate self-love and platonic relationships.

I remember, as you may, as a youngster, of buying books of valentines, writing the names of friends and classmates on them and getting candy lozenges with sayings like "Be Mine"! At night, I would count my valentines and check to see if my latest crush had sent me one!!

Today, Valentine's Day is a booming business. In 2023, \$26 Billion was spent on gifts, 145 million cards were purchased and, believe it or not, \$751.3 Million was spent on Valentine's Day gifts for pets!!!

Hopefully, we, as adults, have not forgotten that it is a time, as all times, to show love and respect to others, especially our spouses, our families and our friends.

In closing, I want to share 3 different opinions on Valentine's Day:

a) Jay Leno - "Today is Valentine's Day or as a man likes to call it "Extortion Day"

b) Charles Schultz - "All you need is love, but a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt"

c) Ernest Hemingway - "Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all"

Enjoy the wonderful month of February!!

Claire Albright

President, PROBUS Club of Alliston

# November 2025 PROBUS Meeting

## New Members



Donna King, Patrick King, Patricia Montgomery

## 20 Year Service Pin



Ulla Jensen

# November 2025 PROBUS Meeting

## Show & Tell Speaker - Barb Ramm

### Hiking Adventures

Barb took us around the world to see some fascinating places with amazing scenery that she “trekked”



## Main Speaker - Eve Smeltzer

### Do Animals Have Empathy

Eve Smeltzer’s presentation on Do Animals Have Empathy? was very enthusiastically received by the membership on January 13th. Her photos and stories about Vervet monkeys, the subject of her PhD thesis, as well as numerous other animal stories were fascinating and often very touching. She spoke without notes and with impressive scholarship as well as humanity. There were many questions from members and discussions to follow over lunch.





## Lunch at Boston Pizza



Photos submitted by Bev Hughes. For more click [here](#)

## Upcoming **PROBUS** Meetings

Our meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month  
at 10:00 AM in the Nottawasaga Inn.

Next Meeting – Feb 10

Lunch: Halibut House

### **Main Speakers**

- |        |                                      |  |
|--------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Feb 10 | Brenda Pufek &<br>Tina de los Santos | Creating a Positive Impact<br>in our Community                               |
| Mar 10 | Annemarie Hagan                      | The Unexpected life of Mayor<br>“Hurricane Hazel” McCallion                  |
| Apr 14 | Kelly Campbell &<br>Beverley Smith   | The World War I Voyage of Albert<br>Dunn                                     |
| May 12 | Diana Trepkov                        | Empowering Change: How<br>Forensic Art Solves Mysteries and<br>Inspires Hope |

### **Show & Tell Speakers**

- |        |                    |                                     |
|--------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Feb 10 | Ted Larson         | Artist : Georgian Bay               |
| Mar 10 | Alan Masters       | His Autobiography                   |
| Apr 14 | Karen Hill-Whitson | Children’s Cancer Hospital in Cairo |
| May 12 | Joan Fellows       | In Search of the Nottawsaga River   |
| June 9 | Gerry Ross         | 50 years of Dentistry               |

*Your Events Committee would like to know what events  
you would like to attend in 2026*

Click ? to let us know. Thanks.





# 2025/2026 Management Committee

<b>President</b>	<b>Claire Albright</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Allyn Willard</b>
<b>Past President</b>	<b>Gerry Ross</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Jo-Anne Hunt</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Ruby Thomas</b>
<b>Membership Coordinator</b>	<b>Mary Willard</b>
<b>AV Team</b>	<b>Allyn Willard, Peter Krol, Ron Wise</b>
<b>Communications/Webmaster</b>	<b>Mary Willard</b>
<b>Events &amp; Excursions</b>	<b>Wendy Masters, Mary Willard, Joan Fellows, Jill Winter</b>
<b>Special Events (Golf)</b>	<b>Eugene McEleney</b>
<b>Luncheons</b>	<b>Midge Facciol, Bev Hughes</b>
<b>Meeting Coordinator</b>	<b>Dave Randell</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Mary Willard, Sheila Garriock</b>
<b>Photographer</b>	<b>Bev Hughes</b>
<b>PROBUS Reporter</b>	<b>Allyn Willard</b>
<b>Share the Wealth</b>	<b>Diane Haynes, Barb Murney</b>
<b>Show &amp; Tell</b>	<b>Roy Snipe</b>
<b>Speakers Committee</b>	<b>Shirley Irvine, Catherine Robbin, Gerry Ross</b>
<b>Sunshine and Clouds</b>	<b>Sue Waterman</b>

If you have moved or changed your email or phone number, please notify Mary Willard at [probuscluballiston@gmail.com](mailto:probuscluballiston@gmail.com) so that we can keep our records up to date.

If you have pictures or stories you would like to share with your friends at PROBUS, please email to Allyn Willard at: [allynwillard@rogers.com](mailto:allynwillard@rogers.com)