

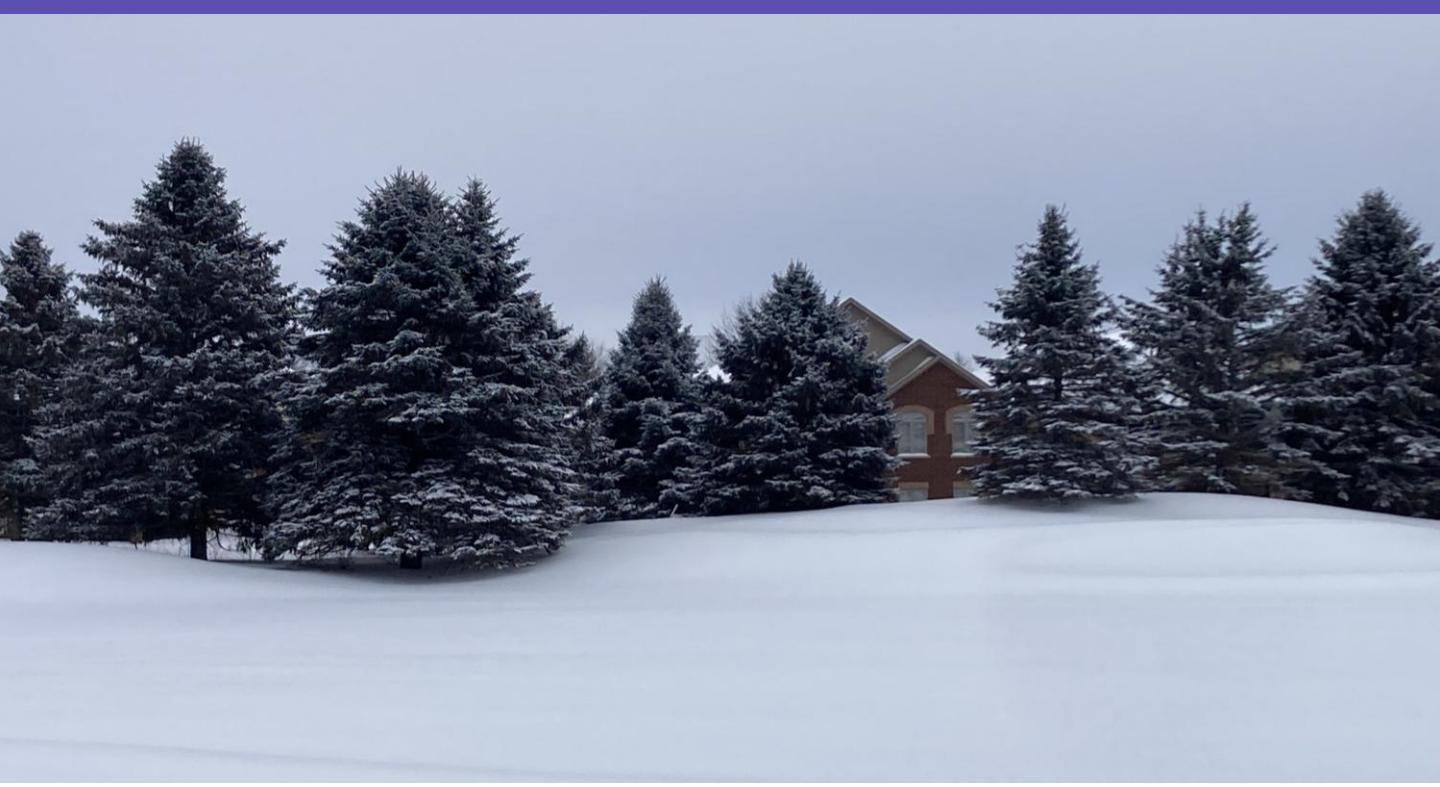


The PROBUS Reporter

February 2026 Issue

The PROBUS Club of Alliston

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 5th 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”



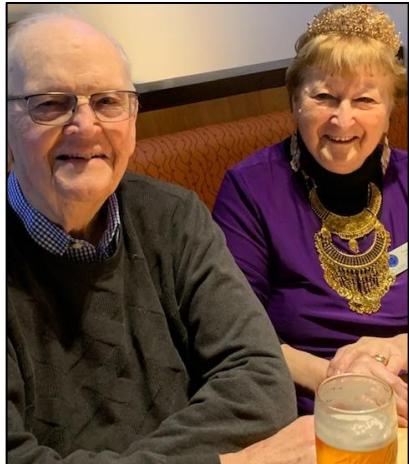
Main Speaker - Eve Smeltzer

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 2nd 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 & Tina de los Santos	Creating a Positive Impact in our Community
Mar 10	Annemarie Hagan	The Unexpected life of Mayor “Hurricane Hazel” McCallion
Apr 14	Kelly Campbell & Beverley Smith	The World War I Voyage of Albert Dunn
May 12	Diana Trepkov	Empowering Change: How Forensic Art Solves Mysteries and 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

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

If you have moved or changed your email or phone number,
please notify Mary Willard at 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