BOLTON AND DISTRICT PROBUS NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A WARM MONTH OF FRIENDSHIP, LEARNING, AND HEART-HEALTHY LIVING

February arrives with Heart Month reminders and a note of gratitude. Thankyou to the board members who "stepped up to cover for me while I am travelling," especially Ian and Larry. With Family Day and Shrove Tuesday behind us, members are encouraged to keep well and look after their hearts.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada has excellent information… including ideas for meals and recipes. https://www.heartandstroke.com/

President-Elect Ian will lead meetings through March, supported by the ever-reliable Speakers Committee, who have arranged an excellent presenter.

March Speaker Preview: Dr. Jim Cairns – Former Deputy Chief Coroner of Ontario

A distinguished figure in Canadian forensic history, Dr. Cairns immigrated from Northern Ireland in 1972, practiced family medicine in Brampton, and later served as Ontario's Deputy Chief Coroner. His career included several high-profile investigations, including "the death of a military cadet and the discovery of mummified remains."

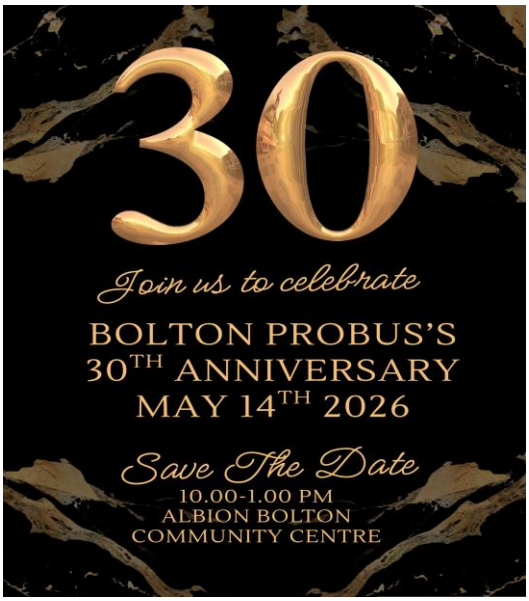
Graham Ferguson, President www.boltonprobus.ca gferguson222@outlook.com



Spring is on its way... honestly.

Yesterday we visited a galanthrophile paradise at Cambo in the East Neuk of Fife, which is home to the UK's national collection of snowdrops. (Galanthus) Over 350 different varieties. Stunning carpets of these dainty little flowers.

Hopefully they will be flowering in Ontario very soon.



This is a milestone year—three decades of

"Fellowship, Friendship and Fun."

Members are encouraged to mark May 14th in their calendars and consider volunteering to help make the celebration special.

Please let Graham know if you would like to volunteer and help. Our club leaders and volunteers are making the club vibrant and fun, and we know everyone is enjoying the friendship. Our refreshment and treats organiser Debbie, does a fantastic job of organising the great goodies each month and the room and tables are always beautifully decorated. She appreciates those who sign up to bring treats and to help.

We are looking for memorabilia and photos for the 30th anniversary. Do you know of any former members who might appreciate knowing about the event?

The Events and Social Committee are led by Grace Allison

EVENTS AND OUTINGS COMMITTEE

Grace Allison jhgallison@rogers.com

Edna Clark boltonclarks@gmail.com

Linda Thomas lindathomas08@gmail.com

MARCH – ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS REQUIRING SIGN UP

FEBRUARY

Monday 2nd Monday Night Movie 4:30 Orangeville

Monday 23rd Monday Night Movie 4:30 Orangeville

Thursday 26th British Legends - Gibson Centre Alliston

Date tbd - 'Ignite the Night' at Terra Cotta Conservation Area

MARCH

Monday March 2nd Monday Night Movie 4:30 Orangeville

Sunday March 8th Caledon Concert Band 2 pm

***Sunday March 22nd John McDermott 2 pm Gibson Centre Alliston

Convenor: Christine Williams

Remember to look at the information table and sign up for the socials which interest you.

On going ones are:

Monday Night at the Movies https://www.theatreorangeville.ca/

There will be sign up sheets at the meetings for MNM in Orangeville.

Monday Night Movies. Orangeville Galaxy Theatre

$10 cash at door. Movie at 4:30. Dinner at 6:30

The films are usually excellent, and we socialise over a bite to eat afterwards.

Book Club Number 1

The Wednesday after the probus meeting … ie the third Wednesday of the month at the library. Run by Evelene Chapman and Micky Gravenish

February 18/March18/ April15/May 20/June17

Readamendations Book Club

For information: Tina Daalderop daalderopmt@gmail.com

Next meeting: 24th February at the home of Betty De Groot.

Provisional dates: 24th March/21st April/26th May

Please contact the convenors if interested as space is limited.

The Speakers Committee - if you have any ideas…

John Palmer - johnnelvin.jp@gmail.com

Larry O'Donnell - lodonnc516@rogers.com

Graham Ferguson- gferguson222@outlook.com

Nathan Hiller - nhillerphoto@bell.net

Ron McNaughton- macnaughton@rogers.com

Fionna Ferguson- rotaryfionna@outlook.com

Ruth Hunt organises our lunch venue and social.

Look at: https://www.probuscanada.ca/

Our February Speaker

On Thursday February 12, the speaker was John Steckley sharing his knowledge about the Wendat people and other Indigenous cultures.

John is a Canadian scholar specializing in Native American studies and the indigenous languages of the Americas. He attended York University, Memorial University and received a Ph. D in education from the University of Toronto, working at Humber College in Toronto from 1983-2015.

John shared with us his own personal journey regarding his involvement with the Wendat people and their culture and educated us about them.

- The word Wendat means "island".
- Corn was very important to the Wendat people. This crop was planted, harvested and stored by the female members of the group and was so important that it was woven into the names of some of the members.
- Some members of the Wendat tribes served in the two World Wars, doing this because of their love and commitment to their country.
- The Wyandot tribes lived in Canada, but eventually one of the Wendat tribes moved to the United States.
- John shared with us that many Canadian names have Indigenous origins such as Canada, Toronto, Ottawa, Saskatchewan and Manitoba are just a few examples.
- In 2025, John was asked to interview the Chippewas of Georgina Island. He learned much about their historical survival over the centuries.
- John has studied the Wyandot language for over thirty years and is considered an expert re speaking their language and the history of their culture.

John has published 29 books, most of them about the Wendat language and people and one about the Inuit, entitled " *White Lies About the Inuit*". The book refers to the myths about the Inuit. In 2024, he published "*Sophia B. Jones: The First Canadian Black Woman to Become a Doctor"*. She had to leave her home in Chatham to earn her degree in medicine from the University of Michigan Medical School in 1885. Her practice was in the United States.

The presentation was very interesting and clearly showed John's passion for indigenous languages.

Submitted by Larry O'Donnell

And if you have had enough of the weather…

Some humour…

“Canadian winter is when all your retired friends say, ‘We don’t need Florida — we’ve got central heating, wool socks, and absolutely nowhere we have to be.’”

“At our age, Canadian winter isn’t cold — it’s just Mother Nature reminding us to move a little faster.”

“You know you’re a retired Canadian in winter when the snow is up to the windows and you say, ‘Well… good day to stay in and not do anything.’”

Remember to take your Vitamin D… it is no longer available from the sun.

.