



PROBUS Club of Sidney

October 2025 Newsletter Volume 23: Issue 2

Next Meeting at Mary Winspear Centre Tuesday Oct 14, 2025 at 10.00 am

Website

<https://probussidneybc.ca>

Management Committee

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Ken Marsh

Vice President

John Cotton

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Chris Bailey

Treasurer

Bob Witzel

Past President

John Lewis

Membership

and Privacy Officers

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Brenda Wilson

Speakers

Barrie Dennis

Edd Lesage

Events

Marnie Dennis

Marian Marsh

Valerie Parks

Sunshine

Beverley Moore

Refreshments

Connie Lougher-Goodey

Website

Holly Ralph

Communications

Norah Franklin

Newsletter

Pat Currie

Women in the RCMP: From Pioneers to Powerhouses

("Mounties in Mascara" ... but only if they want to be!)



The RCMP first opened its ranks to women in **1974**—yes, that's right, the same year bell-bottoms were in full swing, and people thought avocado-green appliances were a good idea. Since then, women have gone from being a novelty in the force to becoming commissioners, tactical officers, and leaders in policing.

The first 32 women who joined faced some...interesting challenges. Their uniforms? Designed for men. Their training? Designed for men. Their squad cars? Still full of men. Let's not forget the **legendary Stetson hat**—which, while iconic, was definitely not designed with a high ponytail in mind.

As more women joined, they proved that policing wasn't just about brawn—it was about **brains, strategy, and good communication (aka "telling the guys to read the map")**. Women worked their way into specialized units like forensics, undercover work, and even bomb disposal—because nothing says confidence like walking up to an explosive and thinking, "I got this." Brenda Lucki became the first permanent female Commissioner in 2018.

Women make up a significant portion of the RCMP today, with women in the force continuing to take on leadership roles, mentoring the next generation, and—most importantly—proving that yes, you *can* chase down a suspect while wearing mascara. The journey of women in the RCMP is one of determination, courage, and a little bit of patience when dealing with outdated locker rooms.

Today, the iconic red serge isn't just for men—it's for anyone willing to serve and protect, **regardless of gender, height, or ability to ride a horse without screaming.** (continued on page 2)

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Women in the RCMP: From Pioneers to Powerhouses

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Presenters:

Shelley Marsh made history in November 1977 when she and her sister, Karen Adams, became the first sisters to join the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Over her distinguished 23-year career, Shelley served with dedication at detachments in Penticton, Prince George, and Burnaby, gaining extensive experience in a wide range of policing duties. She worked in General Duties, Traffic, Community Policing, Frauds, and Sex Crimes, and became the first woman assigned to the Robbery/Homicide Unit at Burnaby Detachment.

As a skilled Composite Artist, Shelley provided critical investigative support across British Columbia and played a key role on Canada's security team for the G8 Summit in Vancouver, contributing to the protection of U.S. President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Karen Adams is a trailblazer in Canadian law enforcement. On September 16, 1974, she joined the RCMP as part of the very first female troop, stepping into a role long closed to women and helped redefine what it meant to wear the iconic red serge.

Over a remarkable 28-year career, Adams served in a wide range of postings—from the rugged landscapes of Northern Canada to Winnipeg's fast-paced Narcotics Unit, from rural detachments to municipal and highway traffic units. Among her many assignments, she is especially proud of her time at the RCMP Training Academy in Regina, where she had the rare distinction of being twice posted.

In 2002, Karen graduated from the University of Regina with a master's degree in Adult Education and five days later McEwan University in Edmonton hired her to teach in their Law Enforcement Programs. She fully retired in 2013. Karen is presently a Marriage Commissioner in the Cowichan Valley.

November Speaker

Chris Kilford – “Seeking Solutions in (Very) Turbulent Times”

Chris Kilford is a member of the national board of the Canadian International Council, the editor (articles) of CIC's online foreign policy magazine Open Canada, president of the CIC Victoria branch and a sessional professor with the Canadian Forces College where he teaches courses focused on Canadian foreign and defence policy.

From July 2009 until July 2010, Chris deployed to Canada's Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan as the Deputy Military Attaché. On his return to Canada, he commenced Turkish language training, after which he was sent to Canada's Embassy in Ankara as the Canadian Defence Attaché with cross accreditation to Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkmenistan.

During his talk, Chris will speak about his various visits, what he learned while on the ground and what are the key geopolitical minefields we should be on the lookout for moving forward.

President's Message



Welcome back! Why So- why a picture of a caterpillar – even one as decorative as this? One way of symbolizing transitions – from one state to another. Transitions are an inevitable and frequent part of our lives, from small ones such as a change of clothes for the weather to large ones – such as a change in living accommodation or employment. Transitions when travelling have often been a challenge for me. More than once, I have left some important piece of baggage behind when changing from one mode of transportation to another. Witness 10+ years ago when exiting a cab at the Buenos Aires airport when, amidst the chaos of vehicles, I discovered my travel bag containing my passport, camera, etc. to still be in the rear seat of the cab just as it pulled out. My immediate search for the driver with the help of nearby locals came to naught and I was to spend a few more days in B.A. while I sorted things out!

But transitions are not always a time of challenges and possible regret, they also offer opportunities for a fresh start, new perspectives and relationships. All of you have experienced this in your long-lived lives.

In October, I will take the podium at Mary Winspear as your president one last time and with one last joke. Although I and several other executive members are leaving their positions a solid core of your executive (including me as Past President) will remain and some new, very capable and enthusiastic colleagues will be injecting their own ideas into the club. Some core elements will certainly remain the same. We will continue to occupy our familiar space at Mary Winspear with coffee and cookies and chat before our meeting, but some elements may be different as your new(ish) executive directs.

I have enjoyed my year as president of the group and have been wonderfully supported by my executive colleagues. I will look forward to my more modest role on the executive and I suspect they will look forward to shorter meetings!

My wish as we enter this new club year is that you go forth and make other seniors aware of the fellowship and stimulation offered by the Probus Club of Sidney. Pick up some of our new business cards and spread the word.

Now – on to riddles, with a modest prize awaiting those who solve them without resorting to the internet.

Riddles

- I shave everyday, but my beard stays the same. What am I?
- What can go up a chimney when it's down, but can't go down a chimney when it's up?
- What has keys but no locks, space but no room, and you can enter but not go in?

Ken Marsh, President

President's 2024-25 Year End Report

I had several reasons for offering myself for the vice-presidency of Sidney Probus in 2023 with the expectation of becoming president in the following year. One was simply to support the continued functioning of the club as it is always a challenge to find folks willing to take on the task of president. Another reason was recognizing that in volunteering for an executive position, I had the opportunity to engage more meaningfully with the other folks on our Management Committee as well as having an impetus to get to better know other members. That has been a rewarding part of my time in this office. Probus is all about stimulation and making connections with your peers and this has been an excellent way to do that. I am sure my successor and new members of the Management Committee will find that as well.

When I began my term a year ago, I had two major intentions, one clear – to increase our membership which unfortunately has not been the case. We are fighting a difficult demographic, with age and infirmity taking their toll. However, what Probus has to offer is attractive enough to retirees that we have a reasonable prospect of growth given evolving strategies to make folks aware of that. To that end, with the hard work of Holly Ralph, we have upgraded and publicized our website at no cost to our club. At our AGM you will be offered Sidney Probus business cards to leave with folks you encounter who may be prospective members. I'm sure your new executive will have other strategies.

The second intention emerged rather being present from the beginning. I hoped to change the “feel” of our meetings a bit to make them a bit more informal, social and “fun”. There were small changes in the meeting format – making use of the round tables to encourage conversation and the introduction of jokes and now riddles to be solved with a small prize offered. I don't know if these are things that accomplished what I hoped, but at least I enjoyed them. We shall see if they endure.

One further thing emerged as well- an intent to link ourselves to other local Probus groups. To that end we had a joint dinner with the Brentwood Probus Club. Feedback indicated that it was a successful event -food excepted! However, at this point Brentwood has declined other joint events.

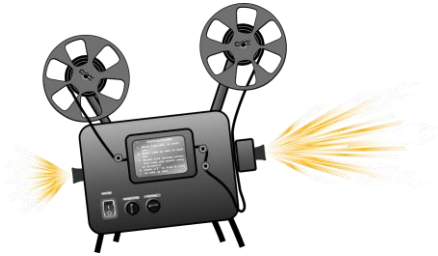
Throughout this year I have been supported by an exceptional Management Committee. **Bob Witzel** at Treasurer has kept us on the straight and narrow, **Aldy Kristofy** has managed the challenging task of tracking our members' information. **Chris Bailey** has hung in there as secretary, keeping accurate notes of our MC meetings despite her claims that she isn't good at it. **John Cotton** as VP has been a steady advisor as has Past President **John Lewis** while **Holly Ralph** has renovated and maintained our website. **Pat Currie** has continued to collect and organize our content to provide your monthly Bulletin while **Norah Franklin** has reliably conveyed all our emails and notices to you. Our two teams most responsible for our activities are our **Speakers Committee** consisting of **Barrie Dennis, Edd LeSage and John Cotton** who have worked to provide you not only with speakers for the past year but also well into 2026. You can ease off a bit guys! Finally, your other hard-working committee is your **Events Committee**. Most of the year, this has been **Marian Marsh, Marnie Dennis** and **Vivian Parks** recently joined by **Nancy Williams**. This has been especially challenging with the increase in prices by various venues and caterers, but they have provided many interesting excursions and as well as our summer BBQ and Christmas dinners.

I am looking forward to continuing to support Sidney Probus in my new role as Past President and in anticipation of our formal election, I express my appreciation to **Colin Hood, Robert (Bob) Phillips** and **Joanne Drewry** as new members of your Management Committee.

Ken Marsh
Retiring President

New Members

Please welcome Howard Freeland, David and Janet Beitz. There are blue dots on their membership badges to denote new members.



Movie Matinee

If anyone would like to join us for the Tuesday matinee, every third Tuesday of the month at the Star Cinema, please contact me - Aldy Kristoffy at sidneyprobusmembership@gmail.com

Thora Illing wrote the following about last month's (thanks Thora):

"Probus movie-goers were among the packed audience at the Star for Downton Abbey: the grand finale, the cinematic last chapter of the stately home saga first aired on British TV 16 years ago. Most of the original cast play their old roles, the costumes and décor are as lavish as ever and the dialogue often witty. The year is 1930 and the Crawley clan must adapt to change and deal with scandal and financial woes. The glitzy setting makes it wonderful escapist stuff, with an optimistic ending."

The group all seemed to enjoy the movie.

Wine Tasting Group Report

The group meets at 4:00 pm on the second Wednesday of the month, the venue rotating among the members. As a new group, we are looking to welcome additional PROBUS members who have an interest in sampling wines. If you are interested, but a bit apprehensive about participating in a tasting group, don't be intimidated: our group is probably better described as wine enthusiasts than wine connoisseurs. Of course I say that on a personal level, but I suspect the other members have a somewhat similar overview. If you are interested, please email me at bob@witzel.com



Current Events Group

The Current Events group meets monthly. Those presently signed up for this group are welcome to register for the next meeting by contacting Ken Marsh at vikayakguy@gmail.com. It may be possible to include other interested members once we know how many are attending.

Website Report

Our new website is up and running. Please check it out at <https://probussidneybc.org/>

You can find information about our upcoming speakers, the current and past newsletters, event information and a link to the Probus Global YouTube channel on our site. The gallery has all those great photos our members contributed. Check it out. Feedback on what you would like to see on the website is always welcome.

Holly Ralph <heralph@gmail.com>

Membership Renewal and Dues

At present we have most of the yearly dues processed. If you have not sent in your dues to the Treasurer (sidneyprobustreasurer@gmail.com) please do so or advise Aldy Kristoffy/Brenda Wilson (sidneyprobusmembership@gmail.com) that you will not be renewing your membership. Thanks.

Events Committee Year End Report

Looking back on last year, the Sidney Probus Events Committee arranged the following events:

- September: Car and Flying Machine Museum
- November: Camosun Dinner
- December: Christmas Dinner
- February: CPR and AED Instruction
- April: CanAssist Tour
- May: CPR and AED Instruction
- May: Macaloney's Island Distillery
- May: Eurosa Farm Tour
- August: Summer BBQ
- September: Sidney Museum
- October: Plant Health Tour

Centre for Plant Health Tour Reminder

(A part of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency)



The tour of the Centre for Plant Health is fully subscribed. There is no wait list. Those that are already registered should meet at 8808 East Saanich Road, Saanichton on Tuesday October 28, at 2 PM.

Probus Club of Sidney 2025 Christmas Dinner



Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club
1949 Marina Way, North Saanich

Wednesday, December 10
Doors open 5:30pm Dinner 6.30 pm

Menu: salad, turkey dinner with trimmings, dessert
Plated Dinner with No Host Bar
(Advise marniedennis@shaw.ca of any dietary restrictions)

Cost: \$65 member and non- member partner only
(Taxes and Gratuities Included)
e-transfer to sidneyprobustreasurer@gmail.com

Registration Deadline: November 24
Register early as numbers limited



Year End Financial Statement

Probus Club of Sidney, BC Income Statement (Note 1)

For the year ending August 31, 2025

	2024/25	2023/24
Revenue		
Membership Fees (Note 2)	7,594	12,068
Interest	238	320
Total Revenue	7,832	12,388
Expense		
Meeting Expense		
Room Rental	3,284	3,929
Refreshments	1,107	948
Speaker Appreciation	946	1050
Other	275	450
Total Meeting Expense	5,612	6,377
Administration Expense		
Probus Canada Fees	423	435
Accounting Software	287	261
Member Badge Expense (Net)	56	90
Other	91	179
Total Administration Expense	857	965
Event Expense		
Summer BBQ	727	2372
Christmas Dinner	510	310
Other	64	-99
Total Event Expense	1,301	2,583
Total Expense	7,770	9,925
Net Revenue	62	2,463
Reserve		
Opening Balance (Note 3)	11,756	9,293
Net revenue for year	62	2,463
Closing Balance (Note 4)	11,818	11,756

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Notes to Financial Statements:

Note 1:

This financial statement has been prepared following the cash basis of accounting. Accordingly, the balances of the Prior year have been restated to reflect what they would have been had they been prepared under those rules as well. The prior year's figures were originally prepared following a hybrid basis of accrual accounting.

Note 2:

Membership Fees Paid in respect of:

- Current year	1,764	7,313
- Subsequent year	5,830	4,755
Total Fees Paid	7,594	12,068

Note 3:

Opening Balance composed of:

- GIC	5,000	8,000
- Chequing Account	6,756	1,293
Total Opening Balance	11,756	9,293

Note 4:

Closing Balance composed of:

- GIC	3,000	5,000
- Chequing Account	8,818	6,756
Total Closing Balance	11,818	11,756

November Meeting Date

Please note. Our next meeting date will be November 4th so as not to conflict with Remembrance Day.