



# PROBUS Club of Cambridge Newsletter

May 1, 2024

We had over 80 “smiling faces” attending our April General meeting and were pleased to welcome 6 guests.

Three milestone birthdays were celebrated in April including Ivan Robinson at 102 years. Ivan continues to be a real inspiration to all of us – we can only hope to emulate him.

Stan Jones presented his vignette. I was particularly impressed with the amount of time and effort that Stan put in his teaching job above and beyond his classroom work. He coached a variety of sports and led numerous interesting field trips. This same giving attitude continued in retirement with major volunteer efforts in his church, in Rotary and at St Lukes long term care facility.



Our guest speaker, Gary Smith, author of “Ice War Diplomat” certainly did not disappoint. Gary is a very skilled and confident presenter. He brought 1972 back to life for us, allowing us to vividly revisit an exciting sports time in our lives. The 1972 series was certainly one of the greatest thrills in hockey history and according to Wayne Gretzky “the greatest hockey ever played”.

. . . Ray Miske, President

Feel free to forward this newsletter to a friend who may be a prospective future member. Consider also providing your friend's email address to Bob McBlain, our Membership Chair, for further follow-up.

## Recording of April 24 Meeting

Click on the button below to view the recording of our meeting.

Gary Smith's presentation starts at the 36:35 minute mark.

[Watch the Meeting Recording](#)

## Recording of Vignette

Click on the button below to view Stan Jones' vignette.

[Watch the Vignette Recording](#)

### ICE-BREAKER THE '72 SUMMIT SERIES

"The '72 Summit was an **ice-breaker** for a lot of reasons. It was the greatest hockey ever played"  
– Wayne Gretzky

### Our guest speaker was Gary J. Smith – Ice Breaker, The '72 Summit Series

Gary Smith's first overseas assignment as a young Canadian Diplomat was to Moscow and his first overseas assignment, he was with finding common ground and building friendships between Canada and the USSR.

This led to a very interesting personal life for Gary Smith and a key role in the historic 1972 Summit Series. He amazed and entertained us with behind-the scenes stories.

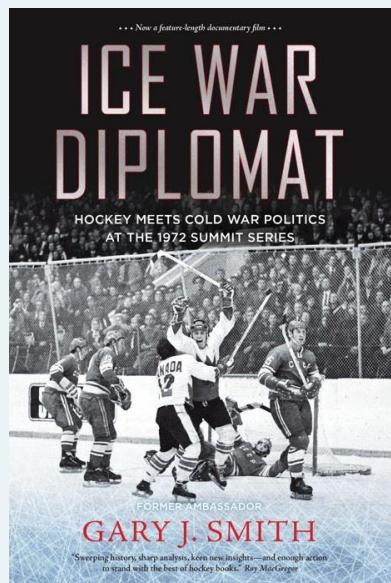
Trusted by each side with unparalleled access to officials, coaches and players on both teams, Gary



Smith witnesses this unique and epic hockey series that has come to transcend time, becoming a symbol of the unity and clarity that sports can offer. The 1972 Canadian-Soviet Hockey Series will go down in history as a pivotal political event, changing the course of two nations and the world of hockey.

We are all familiar with the event but had no idea of the complexity and challenges which Gary Smith brought to life for us in his presentation.

If you missed the meeting or just want to see the presentation again, go to the “Watch the Meeting Recording” above, Gary Smith’s presentation starts at the 36:35 minute mark.



## Stan Jones' Vignette

Stan describes himself as a “flatlander” and explained that this refers to his place of birth, in Chatham, ON. He was raised on a farm just south of Kent Bridge, on his parents 120-acre mixed farm. He is the eldest of 7 children and has 5 brothers and one sister.

His early education was in a one room school in Kent Bridge and later in Ridgetown District High School. It was at RDHS that he gained his interest in Geography and met his wife, Carol. They were married in 1971 and have two children, Jeff and Lisa. They also have 4 grandchildren. Sadly, son Jeff passed away 6 years ago of cancer.

Stan attended University of Guelph and graduated in 1972 with an Honours BA, in Geography. He attended Althouse Teacher’s College, graduating in 1973. He was subsequently hired to teach at Galt Collegiate Institute that Fall. After 14 years of teaching at GCI, he moved to Southwood Secondary School as their



Geography Department Head. At both Cambridge schools, beside teaching, he coached and was staff yearbook adviser. Stan retired from Southwood, after a 30-year teaching career, in 2003.

Post retirement, Stan joined the Rotary Club of Cambridge North from 2004 to 2019. In 2009, he joined the Board of St. Luke's Long Term Care home in Hespeler. He remains with St. Luke's and is presently the Chair of their Redevelopment Committee, responsible for a \$88 million expansion project. Stan is also presently the President of the Kitchener-Waterloo Gem and Mineral Club and President of the Preston Lawn Bowling Club.

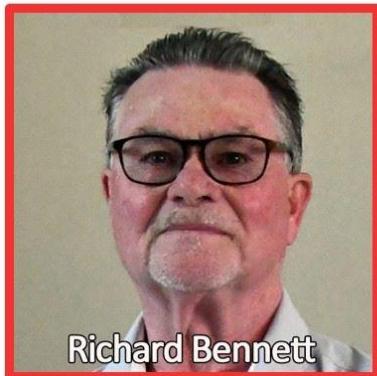


Stan enjoys a number of hobbies. These include golfing, collecting gems and minerals, gardening, travel, photography, woodworking, lawn bowling, stained glass work, painting and sculpting. He is very pleased to be accepted into the membership of the Cambridge PROBUS Club.

To watch the recording of Stan Jones' vignette click on the "Watch the Vignette Recording" button above.

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# Milestones In April



Richard Bennett



Bob Rutherford



Ivan Robinson

**'Best kept secret in Cambridge;' PROBUS Club provides connection for retirees - Cambridge Today Article April 5, 2024**

Matt Betts interviewed some of our Management Committee after the April MC meeting.

You can read the full article if you [click here](#).



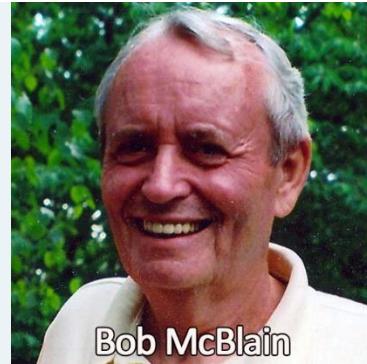
2 / 2 Members of the club met earlier this week at Monograms Coffee Roasters in Galt. | Matt Betts/CambridgeToday

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## **Would you like to join our Management Committee?**

We are currently looking for someone to become our next Membership Chair.

For more information, please contact Bob McBlain, Membership Chair at [robertbmcmblain@gmail.com](mailto:robertbmcmblain@gmail.com) or 519-621-9149.



**Bob McBlain**

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## **Our Guest Speaker for May will be Eric Avner**

Eric Avner is President and CEO of the Waterloo Region Community Foundation (WRCF).

Some info about WRCF . . .

We collaborate with partners to create sustainable, equitable and thriving communities.



**Eric Avner**  
**WR Community Foundation**

We connect regionally and locally, working with three cities and four townships – to include the people and places across our region. Together, we develop forward-thinking innovative solutions and seize opportunities to meet current and future needs of our community.

We make philanthropy easy for individuals and companies to support organizations and issues they care about. WRCF is focused on Granting, Impact Investing and Convening to make measurable and sustainable impacts.

Gifts are directed to WRCF's endowed funds that drive positive change through grants with the income generated being distributed in partnership with Fundholders to support a wide range of charitable causes within our community. A portion of the endowed funds are also used for impact investments that deliver both financial returns as well as positive social or environmental outcomes.

As a leading community-building organization, we also work to amplify voices and issues of importance by convening conversations and sharing information, while approaching our work with an equity mindset.

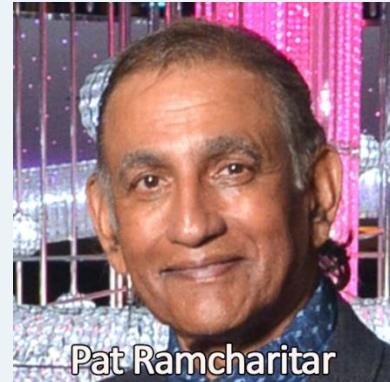
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## **May Vignette**

Vignette presentations are a long-standing tradition in PROBUS that are an important part of enabling us to get to know something about our new members and broadening our network of PROBUS colleagues.

Pat Ramcharitar will share his background and past experiences with us when he presents his vignette at our next meeting.

. . . Mike Jeans, Vignette Chair



**Pat Ramcharitar**

## **ACTIVITIES**

### **Cambridge Community Players - The Mousetrap**

On April 6, many club members and guests enjoyed an afternoon with the Cambridge Community Players. After a catered lunch, Mallory Moxon-Carson, director of the Director of The Mousetrap by Agatha Christie and Peter Hunton spoke.

We than all enjoyed a great production of The Mousetrap presented by the Cambridge Community Players. Sorry, but we have been sworn to secrecy and cannot disclose who dun it.



## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Mohawk raceway with dinner, May 10 (registration is closed)

[Toronto Blue Jays vs Baltimore Orioles](#) bus trip and optional dinner, June 6

[Dunnville Grand River Cruise](#), with lunch, Blazing Fiddles and river cruise, July 24

[Golf Tournament](#) at Puslinch Lake Golf Club, August 21

[Warren Stauch Bus Tour](#), September

[PROBUS Tri Club event](#), WRPA Recreation Centre, October 16

[Hamilton Theatre](#), Gaslight tour/talk/lunch, theatre production of "A gentleman's guide to love and murder", November 2

[Billiards Tournament](#) at Chicago Billiards, November 15

[Christmas Gala](#) at Galt Country Club, December 6

## Ongoing Activities:

[Trivia Contest](#), 3rd Wednesday each month on Zoom Sept to June

[Billiards Club](#), 3rd Friday monthly year round Chicago Billiards at the delta

[Bridge Club](#), Tuesday every 2 weeks Sept to June

## In Memoriam

Dr. Hank Nykamp passed away peacefully Monday April 8, at age 82, surrounded by loved ones. Hank dedicated his life to helping our community.

[Obituary information is available here.](#)



You are receiving this email because you are a club member or have expressed an interest in the past.

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