



Probus Club of Ottawa-Rideau Valley

A Meeting of Minds

January 7, 2009 (10 a.m.)

**Tomkins Hall, St. James Anglican Church
1188 Bridge Street, Manotick, Ontario, K4M 1A4**

Defending the Ottawa River, protecting our communities

Guest speaker: Ottawa Riverkeeper Meredith Brown

Meredith Brown grew up in North Bay and spent her summers on the headwaters of the Mattawa River. From an early age she enjoyed exploring waterways by canoe, kayak and windsurfer. Her natural curiosity for water, rivers and ecology led her to study biology and environmental engineering at Queen's University and the University of Guelph.. Her desire to learn more about rivers and how to protect and restore them drew her to Simon Fraser University where she studied with Robert Newbury, a world-renowned river engineer and stream restoration specialist. She earned a master's degree in Resource and Environmental Management and discovered the interdisciplinary world of watershed management. Meredith has been studying freshwater ecosystems and working to protect and restore them for 15 years and has been executive director for the Ottawa Riverkeeper organization since 2004. She has significantly raised the profile of Riverkeeper so that her office has become "the voice" for the Ottawa River. The Riverkeeper is regularly called on to comment on issues that impact the river and provide insightful solutions and recommendations to improve the river's quality. Meredith has a life-long love of outdoor activities on a year-round basis, ranging from canoe tripping to backcountry skiing. She, her husband Ronnie, and her children Lily and Charlie, live in Wakefield Quebec overlooking the Gatineau River. They have a short portage to the river where there is a beautiful back eddy -- perfect for swimming and launching their canoe!

Refreshments available from 9.30 a.m. Don't forget your name tags!

Lunch venue following the January meeting: To be announced.

Striders and Gliders

The next outing will be a cross-country ski trip (assuming we have snow) on Wednesday, January 21. Meet at Manotick Library at 9.30 a.m. for car pooling to P14 at the Nepean Sportsplex. There are two loops there – 1.7 and 1.9 kms – and the intent is to do one or both, depending on weather and temperature. If there is enough interest, coordinator Glyn Jones suggests the group could go for lunch afterwards. Glyn will contact potential participants closer to the date to confirm arrangements.

Special events:

Special events organizer Merrill Stalker will make announcements at the January meeting.

February 4 guest speaker: The Hon. Flora MacDonald.

Know a Probus member who is ill? Call Kathy Pitcher (613-822-8739). She will send a card.