



The Probe

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A tall ship ...

... and a star to steer her by were not enough for Captain James Cook. Probably his most important achievement was to combine military surveying and naval charting to give a new level of accuracy to maritime charts. This was just one of the facets of a fascinating personality revealed to us by Victor Suthren at our June meeting.



While it is very well known that Captain James Cook played a significant role in the Pacific exploration e.g. New Zealand, Australia, Canada's West Coast and Hawaii - where he died in an unfortunate and

unnecessary incident triggered by Captain Bligh of Mutiny on the Bounty infamy - we heard how Captain Cook also played a very important role in the history of Canada's East Coast.

While participating in the capture of fortress Louisburg, Cook created his new charting procedures. He then used his newly created skill to navigate the British navy, via small unused channels, safely around the French 'supposedly impregnable' naval blockade. Suddenly the whole British fleet appeared below the Plains of Abraham and the rest is very well known in changing the course of Canadian history.

Vic Suthren displayed his skills as a writer and historian as well as his experiences as a sailor in tall ships, to bring the story to life for us.

Vital Purpose...

To stimulate thought, interest and participation in activities at a time in life when it is easy to become complacent and self-centred.

Bulbs and Windmills

Rudolf Wagener, Counsellor for Economic and Commercial Affairs at the Royal Netherlands Embassy, was our July speaker. His theme was the special relationship between Canada and the Netherlands. A relationship which was reinforced by three factors with their roots in WW II.

These were the hospitality shown by Canada to the Dutch Royal Family, the liberation of the Netherlands in which Canadian troops played a strong role and finally, in the great moves of people after the war, when 350,000 Dutch settled in Canada.

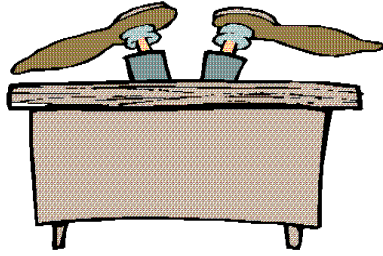
After a short stay in the UK, Queen Juliana moved to Canada, living at Government House for 6 months, then to a temporary home in Rockcliffe and finally, in 1942, to Stornoway. Princess Margarethe was born at Stornoway (19 January 1943) which was declared Dutch territory by the Canadian Government and, to mark the birth the Netherlands flag was flown over the peace tower.

George Blackburn told us last fall a little of the role played by Canadians in the liberation, which culminated in the surrender to the Canadians on 5 May 1945. We saw the way 12,000 of our Veterans were treated at the 50th anniversary celebrations. What came as a surprise to many members was the number of Dutch people who have immigrated to Canada. Mr. Wagener suggested this may be because although they retain pride in their ancestry, they have integrated fully into Canadian life. However a group have offered to provide a working windmill.

While this goes a long way to explaining the relationship, the question then becomes how to keep it alive through the next generations. Although the 100,000 tulip bulbs donated annually by the Dutch people are a colourful reminder to Ottawans every spring, more is needed. It is up to the Canadian and Dutch people to ensure that something as precious as their relationship is not lost.

Mr. Wagener was bombarded with questions on trade, investment and the ins and outs of land reclamation. He said that there is no longer any need for further reclamation. The questions continued at the Billings estate during the picnic.

From the President's Desk



As this is the last column of my term as President and I want to use it to say what a pleasure it has been associating with such friendly and enthusiastic people. Some of you, like me, besides that friendship, may also attend our meetings to hear our stimulating speakers who 'exercise' our minds to keep our minds young i.e. use it or lose it'.

Regarding those stimulating speakers, your executive at the start set a policy to have 12 meetings a year to accommodate both cottagers and snowbirds. These 12

meetings are to consist of a war veteran to speak at our Remembrance Day meeting to honour those who did so much for us, a Christmas theme for our December meeting and ten other various interesting non-repeating topics such as travel, history, health and community affairs that would appeal to the entire scope of interests amongst all of our members.

I would like to thank John Frail our former coordinator and welcome our new coordinator of our speakers committee, Joyce Wright, who I am sure would welcome your suggestions for stimulating future topics as we are always trying to increase our list of potential speakers.

In closing, I want to thank all members of the Executive for the sterling work they have put in to help the Club.

Jim Rader

The Eyes of Texas ...

... were on Russ and Eva Hammond - when they could be found among nearly 25,000 Rotarians gathered in San Antonio, June 24 to 27, 2001, for the 92nd Annual Convention of Rotary International. Eva is the incoming President of the Rotary Club of Ottawa (Congratulations, Eva - you can be sure that you have the best wishes and support of the Alta Vista Probus Club), and decided that the best place to start her term of office would be at Rotary International.

"We flew to Houston and then drove to San Antonio. Along the way everything seemed to be normal and people were going about their everyday business so we were totally unprepared for the wilting blast of 100°/100% heat when we opened the doors of our air-conditioned car. We quickly learned to open the car door using underneath part of the handle."

The Hammonds arrived the day before the convention started so that they could take in the sights. The most compelling was the Alamo Mission/Fort, sacred to most Americans. There was a chance to breathe-in the history of the epic defence by 200 volunteers for 13 days against Santana's army. There was also time to take the Riverwalk - the beautifully landscaped walkways that stretch along the waterfront between the river and the high rise buildings of downtown San Antonio.

The next day saw the start of the convention proper. The theme for the Rotary Year 2000-2001 was "Raise Awareness - Take Action" and this was an opportunity for Rotarians to celebrate the year's accomplishments. These were displayed in "The House of Friendship" - a huge convention hall set up to showcase the many projects. There were booths on Avoidable Blindness, Children at Risk, Jobs for the Disabled, Environmental Concerns,

Diplomatic Relations, Rapid Disaster Relief Partnering with United Nations, and many others. Reminiscent of Expo '67, delegates had a "passport" which was stamped at every booth. Eva visited so many displays that her passport is now full - and is a treasured souvenir.

As well as the displays, there were workshops, sessions and social events. The workshops included "Polio Plus Progress", "International Studies" and the many faceted service of the Rotary Foundation. The Plenary sessions presented themes and information in innovative ways. At one session Dr. Pramod Sethi, an orthopaedic surgeon of New Delhi, India, was given the annual Rotary award for World Understanding and Peace. This was for his work in developing the "Jaipur Foot" an inexpensive and flexible lower limb replacement. He will use the award to set up schools to train technicians to service and teach the recipients of the artificial limb. Child victims of land mines are the largest population of users at present.

Richard King, a lawyer from California and incoming President of Rotary International, hosted a special lunch for incoming Presidents and their spouses. He not only made an inspiring speech, but entertained the gathering by singing show tunes at a very professional level.

On the social side there was a barbecue at the Bob Strange Ranch. This was Texas style BIG. To start with all the local newscasts had urged San Antonians to leave work at 4 p.m. so that the cavalcade of busses carrying 10,000 visitors could make their way unimpeded. Having a few thousand over for a barbecue means more than a couple of cooks flipping 'burgers. There were whole steers roasting over open flame pits, plus Tex-Mex - tacos, chimichangas, burritos and, of course, jalapeños to

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make sure everything was hot enough! The ranch put on a rodeo and in a tent-theatre there was continuous entertainment. Another evening Russ and Eva were part of a group hosted for Home Hospitality by the San Antonio / Airport Rotary Club with an Imax showing of "The Alamo" followed by a reception and home-cooked Tex-Mex food.

"We came away saying good-bye to people we met during the week and others we knew from visits to their clubs over the years. We were interested to see the sights of Texas and I had wanted to see the larger picture of Rotary International. Both Texas and the Convention exceeded anything we had imagined."

The theme for the Rotary year 2001-2002, is "Mankind is Our Business" and Barcelona in 2002 is already beckoning.

Eva Hammond

Billings Estate Picnic

Some 50 people enjoyed our picnic in the grounds of the beautiful Billings Estate off Pleasant Park Road near Riverside. We would like to thank everyone who volunteered to help with the picnic. Volunteers included Joyce Wright who organized the food, Bob Bailey and John Wright who donated barbecues, Bob Bailey and Andrew Rader (Jim's son) who barbecued and Russ Hammond who donated the ice cream.

We would also like to thank everyone who contributed to the free will offering to pay for the food and provide \$25.40 further towards our sound system. Also we would like to thank Roger's, Your Independent Grocer at Bank and Alta Vista who provided a sizable discount on the food to make that contribution towards the sound system possible.

Afterwards, a significant number visited the museum and learned from the volunteer tour guide (Billings always needs more volunteers for their various activities). Billings' staff said several of our members told them very interesting historical stories about the early history of their Ottawa area relatives such as grandparents, aunts and uncles. The Staff would like to have these reminiscences and anecdotes captured on paper before they are lost. They would be delighted to provide guidance for writing these stories so they can be included in their publicly accessible history book on early Ottawa life and times.

Jim Rader

Nominations 2001- 2002

President Jim Kingston 733-3463

President-Elect John Kruithof 739-1335

President-Emeritus Russ Hammond 826-2743

Past President Jim Rader 733-6851

Secretary Ken Kitching 230-5591

Treasurer Graham Gibb 828-1923

Program: (arrange speakers)

Coordinator Joyce Wright 731-8521

Rod Macleod 733-5853

Open

Communications (Newsletter)

Editor John C Wright 731-8521

Reporters (2) Open

Special Events:

Coordinator John E Wright* 731-3186

Jim Rader 733-6851

Rochi Anderson 745-5517

Open

* also Historian/Photographer

Membership (mailing members missing prior meetings)

Paul Stumes 731-0941

Hospitality (plan/set up meeting facilities, etc.)

Allan MacLellan 260-0828

E-mail Coordinator Open

Telephoning:

Coordinator Dorothy Mackintosh 731-9590

Nora Berry 232-2923 Joan Monette 749-9587

Joyce Fesco 523-3659 Edith Haggerty 733-8757

Dorothy Hubbard 733-6103 Peggy Kitching 230-5591

Bob Haughton 521-2286 Julia Mills 224-6474

Name Tag Coordinator: Open

Rotary Liaison: (Rotary Club of Ottawa)

Dan Kelley 247-0868

Eva Hammond 826-2743

Advisory: Russ Hammond 826-2743

Judy McGillivray 731-8927

Dick Patterson 837-4997

Jim Mills 224-6474

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John C. & Joyce Wright jcwright@sympatico.ca

Rod Macleod rmacleod@cyberus.ca

John E. Wright jonedwright@sympatico.ca

Rochi Anderson genosha@msn.com

Graham Gibb gcgibb@magma.ca

Dan Kelley dgkelley@fox.nstn.ca

Dick Patterson patson@direct-internet.net

Probe Us - Jim Coombs

Jim Coombs is a Board member of Probus Canada. He has recovered well from his operation, reported in *The Probe, Issue 1*, and visited our Club at our June meeting. It is time we knew a little more about him. We caught up with him at the Kam Fong Chinese Buffet on Bank Street.

Probe: *Jim, thanks for taking time to talk to us. Can you give us a little of your pre-Probus history?*

Jim: My hometown is London, I spent my mid-teens in Stratford and took Economics and Political Science at Western. My specialities were Econometrics and Statistics, both of which were brought into play during my career at Bell.

Probe: *With your degree Bell probably took you into their Rates or Statistics departments?*

Jim: Not at the start. When I joined in 1952 I installed telephones in Stratford and then went to Construction in Kitchener. Later I moved to a desk job and spent '65 to '76 in Regulatory Matters before leaving to join NB Tel as VP Finance, and from there I joined SaskTel as President, from '86 to '91.

Probe: *When did your Probus activities start?*

Jim: In 1996 with Jack Troughton and Russ Hammond in the Rideau Valley Club.

Probe: *How did you get to be a Board member?*

Jim: Clubs nominate candidates for the Board and I was nominated and supported by the Ontario Clubs. I was comfortable from the start because I happened to know Reg Whynott, the current President, from New Brunswick. He lived just down the street.

Probe: *What does the Board do?*

Jim: We deal with changes to the by-laws, suggestions from clubs, policy issues. One perennial issue is the size of clubs and whether there should be a formal limit. In Beaver Valley, they delivered flyers door to door saying this is Probus, are you interested and if so join us at --- on ---. 337 turned up, which makes it difficult to regulate numbers in the 100 range. We have one face to face meeting a year and for the rest we hold conference calls.

Probe: *Do you get involved in the International aspects of Probus?*

Jim: The interaction is informal. There is some "twinning" of branches and I know of house exchanges for vacations, but there is no big formal International Committee.

Probe: *What do you see in the future for Probus?*

Jim: I don't see any change in the purpose - fellowship, exchange of views and keeping your head working. We want to keep it simple and liveable. I'm sure that some clubs will want to move into more of a service club, but I think Rotary would say no, even if Probus did not. The strongest countries are the U.S., the U.K., Australia and Canada, but there is no stricture that it should be English so there is no reason why Probus should not exist wherever Rotary exists.

Probe: *In summary?*

Jim: Get new people involved, change the executive regularly, stay within the envelope and look after it well.

Probe: *Thanks, Jim. Now tell us about the time you won a football match at Western, 87-0. Did you say there was one of the Oakland Raders on the other team? Jim? Jim? Ah well, back to the buffet!*



Calendar

Speakers for Monthly Meetings

Wed. Sept 26, Donna Horner; Stress - the fastest growing reason to visit doctors.

Wed. Oct 24, Remembrance Day Tribute, Frank Feiller; The Last Great Sea Battle.

November 28 and **December 19** (3rd Wednesday), speakers will be announced as soon as arrangements are made. Please mark the dates.

John Manley regrets that he was not able to be at our August meeting—he was required at a caucus meeting being held in Alberta.

How to find us

Our meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of every month at the Pleasant Park Baptist Church, 414 Pleasant Park Road.

The church is a few yards (even less metres) east of Fairbanks.

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