



# The Probe



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## Making a Difference

Our November speaker was Linda Souter, Past President of the International Federation of University Women. Her main objective while President, was to improve the education and security of women worldwide.

She made keynote speeches at the UNESCO conference on higher education in Paris in 1998, and at a United Nations conference on globalization in 1999. She has also led workshops in Capetown, Fiji and Samoa. In Capetown, the main problems dealt with were AIDS and tribal conflict. In Fiji, it was lack of money for education, and, in Samoa, it was domestic violence. She feels that bringing these issues up for public discussion was helpful, and that good things will result. World wide, women are still largely oppressed, and their greatest need is for education, and for security when expressing their views.

Unfortunately, little progress is possible where the oppression of women is most overt, in Muslim countries throughout the Middle East. The IFUW has members in some of those countries, but organized groups in such places would invite drastic reprisals.

In Canada, the IFUW works with other non-government organizations to check that any agreements they make are done in full awareness of women's concerns. Employment equity world wide is one of their main objectives, and in Canada great strides have been made. World peace is also on their agenda, and the organization is promoting it as much as possible.

*John & Joan Howe*

Members interested in joining the Canadian Federation of University Women (C.F.U.W.) can obtain information from their Head office at:

Suite 600, 251 Bank Street  
Ottawa ON K2P 1X3  
Tel: 234-8252  
Fax: 234-8221

## President's Christmas Message

Christmas is a wonderful time of year and a holiday season for us all. As retired persons, we need more merriment in our lives, and less last-minute rush and stress as we look forward to celebrating once again the joyous Christmas season. Probably at this time we will realize we still have much to do, presents to buy and wrap, goodies to cook, last-minute errands to run. And, we will swear, things will be different next year! (Remember what Donna Horner told us about stress).



*Linda Souter and Jim Kingston*

In our family we believe in keeping Christ in Christmas. Whether Christmas is a holy day or a holiday for you I wish you all a Merry Christmas, joyous holidays, and safe journeys wherever you may travel.

*Jim Kingston*



## ... and from Reg Whynott

As you are no doubt aware, this past year has been one of growth and continued development for Probus Clubs in Canada. Over the past twelve months we have chartered 12 new Probus Clubs and have grown from a membership of 12,360 to 14,155 and this figure changes upward almost daily. It is obvious that membership in Probus does fill a need or desire and, judging by your newsletter, your Club is another positive example of this fact. I truly enjoy reading your excellent newsletter and I especially want to express my compliments on the interview with our National Director, Jim Coombs.

As we approach the Holiday Season, we in Canada have much to be thankful for as we remember the real reason for celebration. On behalf of the members of the Executive and Board of Directors of Probus Centre Canada, I extend very sincere and warm wishes to all your Members for a **"Very Safe and Happy Holiday Season"** and may 2002 be a great year for everyone!

*Reg is the President of Probus Centre Canada Inc. and wrote to us from Qualicum Beach, B.C.*

## Scharnhorst!

December 26th, 1943, off the northern Norwegian coast, heavy seas, freezing cold, a convoy to protect and a German heavy cruiser on the prowl. It took just three and a half hours from the first star shell bursting over the battlecruiser Scharnhorst, to its sinking with the loss of all but 36 of its 1900 man crew. The British fleet had the advantage of radar to find its quarry, but the Scharnhorst had the advantages of speed and more modern armour. It was up to four 1,700 ton destroyers to slow down the 26,000-ton ship so that the battleship Duke of York and cruiser Jamaica could stay within striking distance.

Frank Spiller was on one of those destroyers. HMS Saumarez, "S" Class, with a main armament of two 4.7 inch guns plus some anti-aircraft guns - pop-guns compared with Scharnhorst's nine 11 inch and twelve 5.9 inch guns - but in addition the destroyers had eight torpedo tubes. All the destroyers had to do was to get in close enough to hit with their torpedoes while rolling 45 degrees (close to the limit for turning over) and taking fire from the massive guns. An 11-inch shell went through Saumarez director tower, reducing the ship's fighting capability, and a 5.9-inch shell hit the lubrication system for one of the turbines, drastically dropping her speed. Saumarez was able to fire 4 of its torpedoes, but along with the efforts of her sister ships, Savage, Stord and Scorpion there were enough hits to slow the Scharnhorst down - with fatal results.

Frank joined the Royal Navy as a boy seaman in 1935. In 1938 he joined the RN on minesweepers, mostly engaged in sweeping old British mines. The Saumarez was commissioned in July 1943 and had done two Murmansk convoys before the encounter with the Scharnhorst. Frank came to Canada in 1952 and his career included 17 years with the National Film Board where he became the Director of English Film Production. His research for his book "House on Sonderstrasse" took him to Germany where he met 3 of the survivors. Of these he has become particularly friendly with Helmut Feifer who started in the Hitler Youth movement at about the same time Frank became a boy seaman. Both were in it for the adventure, neither had any thought that they were headed for a war.

Frank responded to the many questions - which cruisers made the initial contact with Scharnhorst (Belfast, Sheffield & Norfolk), the whereabouts of her sister ship Gneisnau (under repair) and the Tirpitz (already disabled), etc.

On its return from Murmansk the Duke of York stopped and laid a wreath at the scene of the battle. The Norwegian navy is now trying to raise the wreck.

## January 23rd - Dr. Charles Barrett

### “Canada’s Socio-economic Performance and Potential”

Charles Barrett is the Vice President, Business Research, at the Conference Board of Canada, the country’s largest independent, not-for-profit research institution, operating in the areas of economics, public affairs and management. Dr. Barrett is responsible for the research programs in the areas of: Corporate Finance, Financial Services, Corporate Taxation, Corporate Governance, Logistics, Strategic Risk Management and International Business. He is also Chair and President of the Niagara Institute for International Studies, the Conference Board’s leadership development arm, and is responsible for strategy and operations.

## February 27th - Jack MacKenzie

### “Travel Adventures on Seven Continents”

Jack MacKenzie earned a place in the Guinness Book of World Records as the oldest man to reach the North Pole on skis! This was in April 1999 at the age of 78. His epic journey gives a whole new dimension to the term “cross-country skiing”. As a warm-up, Jack had previously made a 12-day trek by jeep across the Gobi Desert on the *Silk Road*.

All this and another five continents at our February meeting.



### **PROBUS’ 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.**

## 87 - Count ‘em - 87

We had one of our biggest crowds ever in November to hear Linda Souter. There were 87 people in the room including 14 guests:

Austin Clarke	Georgette Cyr	Phil Guay
Margaret FitzGerald	Ruth & Doug Gray	
Elsie Hawkesworth	Louise Blanchet-Smith	
Lorraine Mackay	Anne & Buck Madden	
Gord Mundle	Franke Lathe	Ruth Taylor

 This was the same number of guests that we  had in October:

Olive Argus	Dave Code	William Howe
Buck Madden	Julia Mills	Bill Murray
Bayne & Jeanne Pearen		
John Platt	Doug Swan	Allen Taylor
Jack Troughton	Ruth Walker	Ron Wade

We hope they all enjoyed their visits and that we will be seeing them again in the near future.

## Probe Us - Allan Mac Lellan

Allan Mac Lellan is the Pastor at Pleasant Park Baptist Church and a member of our Club Executive. We talked to him in his office.

Probe - *So far in this series everyone is either a Maritimer or has strong Maritime connections. Do you fit the pattern?*

Allan - Born and raised in Cape Breton at Reserve Mines, just outside Sydney. Trained as a Stationary Engineer, following in my father's footsteps, and had a career going with Nova Scotia Power.

Probe - *We'll take that as 'yes'. It sounds like a big jump from steam generation to the Ministry. What was the trigger?*

Allan - Reading the Bible and watching Billy Graham. His message to "invite Christ into your life" had a powerful meaning for me. I gave up my job and went back to school.

Probe - *When was this and what was your family's reaction?*

Allan - 1981, when I was 28. They felt I was being foolish, giving up a good job. It was a bit scary, moving on.

Probe - *What was the path from a steady job at Nova Scotia Power to Pleasant Park?*

Allan - I studied for my B. Theology from Acadia, where my wife, Nancy, obtained her BSc in Home Economics. Acadia is known as a Baptist College although there were others in the class. After graduating, in 1984, I went to Glace Bay, more or less 'back home'. A Deacon there was a co-worker at Nova Scotia Power and helped me get started. From there to Digby to Dartmouth for 7 years until I answered Pleasant Park's advertisement in the *Atlantic Baptist* three years ago.

Probe - *Is this how moves are made, by advertising positions?*

Allan - Yes. By advertising and word of mouth. We do not have Bishops. Each congregation is autonomous and chooses its Pastor from the candidates who present themselves. It's a bit like a blind date.

Probe - *Why Ontario?*

Allan - A chance to live in a different part of the country. More job opportunities for the kids - they liked the idea of the move.

Probe - *We haven't talked about Nancy and the kids, how many?*

Allan - We have three girls - Heidi, Suzanne and Alanna, 16, 19 and 21 - and one boy, the youngest, James. Nancy teaches piano in the school system and has private students as well. All of us play musical instruments.

Probe - *Have they settled in Ottawa? Do they get any reaction from classmates because their father is a minister?*

Allan - They adjusted well. Suzanne at 16 had some difficulty with the move and 'yes' they have had some negative reaction.

Probe - *What are the joys of being a minister?*

Allan - Service to parishioners, visiting people in their homes, working with my hands, being able to show care, the Friday night Youth Group. Since September 11th we have had more visitors to the church and people are thinking more deeply about their lives and their religion.

Probe - *What does the future hold for Allan and Nancy Mac Lellan?*

Allan - We want to see the kids settled in careers and family. Eventually we will retire 'back home', maybe a place on the water. I would like to write a book about growing up in Cape Breton. But first I'm looking forward to several more years as a minister, here at Pleasant Park and maybe another move.

Probe - *Hobbies?*

Allan - Guitar, jogging, water skiing, boating, weight lifting, old cars...

Probe - *That day-glo, lime-green, muscle machine in the parking lot...*

Allan - That's mine.

Probe - *Ahhh!*



## New Members

We are delighted to welcome twelve new members, most of whom we met at either the October or November meetings.

Marlene Brennan	Viola Brennan	George Collins
Doreen Mackay		John & Joan Mackay
John & Linda Nobel		Lenore Ott
Bayne & Jeanne Pearen		Allen Taylor

## Growing Herbs\*

When Spring bursts forth around us the joy of gardening is evident.

For those with much space to garden, or very little, one of the most rewarding types of planting is the cultivation of herbs both for their pleasing scent and their delicious enhancement of every dish.

Herbs can be started from seeds. The easy to grow ones such as dill, sage, and parsley grow well in ordinary potting soil, however, for best results, the soil should be well drained. A good mix is soil, sand and peat moss (one third of each) and about half of that amount perlite.

Since I grow herbs all year, I start seeds in pots marked with date and type on stick-on tabs. The seeds are so tiny, they need careful handling. Place seeds on soil and cover lightly and spray soil with water. I place plastic domes (such as bakeries use) over pots for the first few days. The seeds sprout quickly this way and then I remove the domes in the daytime. When the plants are of a size to be transplanted, I begin putting them out-doors for increasing time to acclimate them. I use Miracle Grow (20-20-20) sparingly as fertilizer.

Some of the easiest herbs to grow are chives, dill, parsley, summer savory and sage.

If you prefer young plants, they can be purchased in Spring and planted outdoors after the danger of frost is past.

Herbs, such as mint, which spread their root systems, are best kept in pots, even in the garden, unless you want a mint take-over.

In the Autumn, herbs can be taken in, in pots for use in Winter. Some annuals will survive the Winter. Seeds can be planted indoors at any time to replace your favourites.

Herbs like thyme, a perennial, can be propagated by splitting the mature plant for replanting, repotting, or given to a friend.

Cuttings put into half sand and half perlite in a clay pot to avoid wet-rot can propagate herbs, such as sage, bay, and rosemary. Herbs can be easily dried for future use.

However, the first time you taste an omelet sprinkled with your flesh-cut basil and chives, you too, may become a year-round cultivator of herbs.

*Judy McGillivray*

\*This article is reprinted, with permission, from *The Rideau Senior Journal*. Judy, a founder member, asked not to be considered for an Executive position this year so that she could devote all her time to writing a book.

## In The News

We had some great publicity in *The News*. They picked up on an announcement by Joyce Wright at the *Faircrest Heights Community Association* AGM and got in touch with Jim Rader. Nevil Hunt wrote the article and touched all the bases - meeting times and dates, Pleasant Park Baptist Church, other PROBUS Clubs in the area, fees and the Rotary connection then ended with a note about our November 28th speaker, Linda Souther.

Most members would have seen the *Alta Vista* edition but the article also appeared in the *Glebe & Ottawa South, Greenboro/Hunt Club Park* and *Hunt Club/Riverside* editions.

## Two helpings of Christmas Pud

We are used to time differences of a few hours and the Concord arriving in New York before it leaves London, but for 170 years it was possible to celebrate Christmas and New Year's in Paris and then dash over to London arriving by Christmas eve. The Gregorian calendar (Pope Gregory XIII) was introduced in Europe in 1582 dropping 10 days. England and its colonies held off until 1752 when the day after September 2nd was called September 14th. When young Georgie Washington chopped down the cherry tree he thought his birthday was February 11th but we know better. It is really February 22nd.

And you thought metric conversion was hard to live with.



## Gelston's Irish Whisky ...

... is advertised on an old poster at Darcy McGee's. If we frequented such places we would have known how to spell Gelston correctly when welcoming Rosalie as a new member in the October issue.

## How to find us

Our meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of every month (December 19th, 2001, being a rare exception) in the Church Hall at Pleasant Park Baptist, 414 Pleasant Park Road. The church is in the second block east of Alta Vista Drive.

“The Probe” is published for the information and enjoyment of the members of the Ottawa Alta Vista PROBUS Club.



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