



The Probe

Volume 2 Issue 1

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ottawa

February 2002

Russ Hammond for Ontario Director

The Ottawa - Alta Vista PROBUS Club is proud to put forward Russ Hammond for one of the Director positions for Ontario.

Russ was one of the founders of our club, having previously founded the Ottawa - Rideau Valley club. He also encouraged the formation of PROBUS Clubs in Saint John, Kanata, Perth, Kemptville and Cornwall. Not only that, he has been President of the three PROBUS Clubs he helped form, all of which continue to grow today.

Russ was featured in the June 2001 issue of *The Probe*. Here is an extract:

“Probe: *Russ, how did you get involved in PROBUS?*”

“Russ: We moved to Moncton when Eva was asked to manage the Royal/Lepage office. While she was there she was inducted as their first lady-member in Rotary. One evening, Eva’s rotary sponsor, Stan Steeves, hosted a dinner. I started the dinner never having heard the name “PROBUS” and by the end of the meal I was vice-president of a newly formed Moncton PROBUS Club. By the time we left Moncton it had over 100 members and now has about 240.

“Probe: *How did this lead to a club in Alta Vista?*”

“Russ: As it happened we were invited to Allan’s induction as pastor at Pleasant Park Baptist Church and found we were in an ideal location for a club. I called a few people and we met for coffee. Dan Kelley of the Rotary club of Ottawa was our sponsor and we were delighted that Allan joined the coffee group and has become a very active member. The rest, as they say, is history.”

Jim Kingston and John Kruithof have been in contact (via e-mail) with many of the clubs in Ontario asking them to support our candidate.

“I believe that PROBUS continues to be relevant for mature adults and I will continue to help people through PROBUS.” - Russ Hammond.

Canada - Performance and Potential

Dr. Charles Barrett, VP of the Conference Board, gave a stimulating and well illustrated talk on Canada's Socio-Economic Performance & Potential. Dr Barrett's theme was that there is a very strong relationship between social programs and economic growth, and we cannot maintain or increase our social programs unless we have an expanding economy to pay for those social programs.

By any measure of property such as wealth, possessions, resources, health, education or international standing, Canadians are amongst the richest, most comfortable people in the world but we can not sustain what we have unless we change. Economic potential is only enhanced by greater productivity growth due to greater labour skills and increased technology.

Dr. Barrett identified five key areas for action, namely:

- 1) Education and developing a learning culture must be a higher priority.
- 2) Improve Canada's foreign investment performance.
- 3) Canada must become more innovative.
- 4) Social policy must be sustainable.
- 5) There must be a serious public debate about sustainability of our health care system.

More on these key areas can be found on website www.conferenceboard.ca

Dr. Barrett answered several questions after his talk. One dealt with the need for a “National Business Plan”. Another questioned the lack of emphasis given to Defence and Law & Order in the lists of Canadian priorities. The suggestion was made that North American integration would lead to subordination and that Europe was not a valid analogy. Dr. Barrett argued that integration would still leave lots of choices for Canadians.

There was a large audience for Dr. Barrett’s talk and it was obvious that members appreciated his stimulating and though-provoking presentation.

For the first time, we presented a PROBUS letter opener as a token of our appreciation. We are saddened to report that airport security exercised appropriation rather than appreciation.

Jim Rader

Just a Minute!

We need a Secretary. The job comes with all the many perks of an officer of PROBUS. All it entails is for you to make sufficient sense of the Board meetings to be able to produce a written record of your interpretation. Meetings last about 90 minutes and are held on Wednesdays, two weeks after a regular club meeting, at 1 p.m. in the Church office.

Jottings

We sent our Editor to the UK last week in search of items to fill the odd corners of The Probe.

The Bournemouth Daily Echo advertised the Museum of Electricity with a reproduction of an old poster, "Don't kill your wife with work! Let Electricity do it".



The New Milton Advertiser - "In a daylight rubbery... a quantity of condoms was stolen ..".

The Telegraph quoted the Solicitor General, "I cannot answer my Hon Question's friend."

Clare Short, the International Development Secretary in the U.K. government,

recently announced on a TV show that Africa was "Europe's closest neighbour". This caused a *Telegraph* reader to wonder what had happened to that large land mass attached to Turkey.

Some years ago the *Bournemouth Daily Echo* made the following retraction. "We apologise to D.C. Carter for describing him as a defective in the police force. We should, of course, have said, 'a detective in the police farce.'"

The word is getting around

Guests at our January meeting included:

Bryan Boyd	Jean Culham
Maurice Foster	Marg & Lloyd Larson
Jean Lupton	Roger McCullough
Ada McEwan	George Orser
Don Ryan	Barbara & John Todd
Godfrey Tippet	

We hope that they felt welcome at the club and that we shall see them again - soon.

Upcoming Speakers

March 27 - Christina Lubbock

"Water: The Very Beginning of Development"

WaterCan enhances the quality of life for people in developing countries by supporting communities in planning, implementing and managing sustainable water supply and sanitation services. More than 1.2 billion people do not have access to safe and affordable drinking water. More than 3 billion people do not have access to sanitation.

April 24 - Walter Robinson

Walter Robinson is the Executive Director of the Canadian Taxpayers' Federation, a lobby group funded by Canadian Business. He is also a regular columnist in the *Ottawa Sun* on current local affairs - a recent column was on the cost overruns of light rail and a review of a North America wide study on transit systems. He can be heard regularly on CFRA.

Walter has already spoken to several other Probus Clubs. His subject will be chosen to be topical and of pressing interest to taxpayers - does that leave anyone out?

... Flora Macdonald, Robert Knuckle ...

Renewals

It's getting a little past renewal time (**5 months**) so if you have not renewed, please do so as soon as possible.

If you think you have but are not sure, Paul Stumes will be happy to check his list for you.

From the Rotary File

The recent announcement of the retirement of The Most Reverend George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury, brings to mind a story from when his predecessor was inducted as an honorary member of Canterbury Rotary Club. Dr. Runcie - the first Primate for some years to accept the honour - told his hosts how his wife, Rosalind, went into one of Canterbury's leading stores to buy a new dress.

She pointed to the style she wanted and asked if she could have it in green.

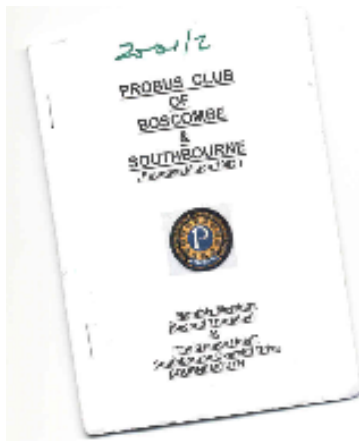
The shop assistant said the dress only came in brown, blue or black and asked why she particularly wanted green. Mrs. Runcie replied: "Because my husband wears purple."

"Oh," said the assistant, "how kinky."

Probe Us

This is a somewhat different column to the others in the "Probe Us" series. Your Editor went on a fact-finding mission to the U.K.* where he met three Probeans.

Tony Harrington (President), Edward Ames (Activities Secretary) and Ray Ackerman (Vice-president) of the Boscombe and Southbourne Probus Club entertained me to lunch. I had been in correspondence with the Secretary, Fred Hill, who unfortunately had a fall and was not able to meet with me. Tony sent me an email just before I left Ottawa and in my reply we set up a contact. This alone was an event, these being the first ever emails Tony had sent and received.



Lunch was at the Grange Hotel on the cliff top at Southbourne, a suburb of Bournemouth, looking out over the English Channel towards the Isle of Wight. This is the location for their monthly meetings, and while it can be a bit blustery on the cliff top in February, it is glorious in summer. A

row of houses just along from the hotel on the other side of the road is getting closer to the cliff-top every year. Some of their neighbours have disappeared despite efforts to shore-up the sandy cliff face.

Meetings start with coffee and biscuits – England has not yet succumbed to the delights of doughnut shops on every corner. The speaker is introduced at 11:30 and a three course lunch is served at about 12:45. We would have been quite at home with the selection of topics which have included, recently, "Chile – North & South", "The Heart" and "Voluntary & Public Services". The March talk is "Travels in Canada" and in November, echoing the Air Force theme in our plans, the topic will be "Spitfires".

Their December meeting is "Ladies Christmas Lunch". This brings out another difference between our clubs, the PC of B&S is "Men Only". There is a "Ladies Only" club in town as well so the distaff side is not excluded. The club will celebrate its 20th anniversary next year and has about 60 members with (typically) 40+ at each meeting. Their program is issued in a handy booklet with lists of founder members, officers, past-presidents, a full membership list including partners names and

birthdays and a copy of the by-laws. Most impressive was the list of topics and speakers which covered the full year.

We talked about twinning and agreed that it would be good to keep in touch and exchange news without getting into anything that would tax their, or our, resources.

*If Ottawa city councillors can go on fact-finding missions to Brazil, surely we can go on fact-finding missions too!

Christmas Party

Although there were no little fishes with the several loaves in the mountain of food remaining after the party, Pastor Allan Mac Lellan had to take some good natured ribbing on how this mountain came about. The beneficiary was the Mission for Men on Waller Street who were delighted to take everything we had to offer. But before that there were a lot of murmurs on the lines of "Have you tried the _____ (fill in the blank) from that plate over there? It's delicious."

Turning the December meeting into a Christmas party proved a popular idea. Jim Rader acted as MC for a festival of the spoken word and carols. John E Wright started off with a reading from Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in Wales*. Rochi Anderson talked about Christmas in Peru. Rod McLeod told us about Christmas in Scotland and Paul Stumas described the holiday celebrations in Hungary. John C Wright brought us back to North America with Robert Frost's *Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening* and then off to 'growing up in Yorkshire'. Bob Haughton worked some magic, leaving us unsure whether it was prestidigitation or an illustration of his talk last summer on the omnipresence of matter.

A choir of over 60 voices entertained with carols, led by Julia Mills and accompanied by Agnes Simpson.

The table arrangements, with signs of the Zodiac, printed by Graham Gibb, meant that everyone had the chance to meet several people they had not talked to before, which added to the conviviality.

Our thanks to founders of the feast (YOU) and to the day's kitchen staff, in particular Dorothy Mackintosh, Joyce Wright and washer-up supreme, Allan.

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.

SPRING LUNCHEON - KINGSTON - MAY 15th, 2002

Probus Kingston - Frontenac Club and Probus Club of Kingston will be hosting the Annual Spring luncheon and have arranged an optional tour of historic Fort Henry.

Luncheon

Date: Wednesday, May 15, 2002
 Place: Days Inn, Kingston (just off 401 at Division)
 Time: 12:30
 Cost: \$27.00 per person (all inclusive)
 Lunch will be buffet style (hot and cold) with tables of 10. There will be a cash bar open from 11:00 am.

Tour of Fort Henry (Optional)

Time: 10:00 am to 11:30 am
 Place: Board the bus at Days Inn
 Cost: \$8.00 (includes bus fare, Days Inn to Fort Henry and back)
 Anyone taking the tour should board the bus(es) at the Days Inn at 9:45.

Last Date for Tickets - March 15th - ACT NOW!

Please mail cheques (made out to "Probus Clubs of Kingston") to the Treasurer:

Mr Ray Fantham (Tel: 613-549-0300, email: fantham@adan.kingston.net)

Unit 17, 1098 King Street West

Kingston ON K7M 8J2

Tickets will be mailed to the club, so make sure your cheque has "Ottawa - Alta Vista" written on it somewhere.

NO REFUNDS

We expect that many members will be going to the luncheon and as the ordering will be by individuals and tickets will be coming to the club, we will need to know who. Please keep our Special Events Coordinator John E. Wright informed (at 731-3186 or e-mail jonedwright@sympatico.ca) so that we can give reminders and see what can be done about pooling transportation.

This promises to be a great outing - don't miss it!

PROBUS Products

Rayberts Ltd.* supply our name badges and a whole range of PROBUS products. Some of them – clocks, gavels, plaques, etc. are for club use as gifts or mementos, although they are available to individuals (nothing like a gavel for running a family budget meeting). Some of the other items are coffee mugs (ceramic or glass), ball caps, golf shirts, car window decals and even 10 karat gold rings in both ladies and men's sizes. All items have the PROBUS logo, engraved, sand-blasted or embroidered as appropriate.

Graham Gibb is the keeper of the catalogue and is willing to accumulate orders so as to get quantity discount prices. A 5% commission on all sales is remitted annually to PROBUS Canada.

The item that particularly appeals is a pewter key-ring which would be engraved on the back with the club name and meeting information - very useful!

* Rayberts Ltd.

PO Box 182, 52 Proctor Road, Schomberg ON L0G
 1T0, 1-800-387-7467
www.probusproducts.com

Meetings

We meet in the Church Hall at Pleasant Park Baptist Church, 414 Pleasant Park Road, 4th Wednesdays at 10:00 am. Pleasant Park runs from Riverside to St Laurent. The Church is in the second block east of Alta Vista on the south side. Pastor Allan Mac Lellan would be pleased to tell you about the Church and its services to the community.