



The Probe

Volume 2 Issue 2

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ottawa

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Canada Brings Water to the Developing World

Our speaker at the PROBUS March meeting was Christina Lubbock, Executive Director of WaterCan/Eau Vive. In 1987, her late husband, John Lubbock, came to the conclusion that Canada's overseas development efforts were misplaced. They were concentrating too much on large scale infrastructure projects, to the detriment of the real needs of rural people. The projects were also too technology-intensive for the simple skills of rural populations, who mostly need sustainable and affordable access to the basic requirements of life. The most important and urgent need, then and now, is for clean water. He founded WaterCan as a non-government organization (NGO). The mission of WaterCan is, "to help citizens of developing countries build sustainable water supply and sanitation services, and to encourage Canadians to lend support." In other words, WaterCan taps sources of funds in Canada - mainly donations from individual Canadians, plus CIDA matching funds - and uses the money to organize, build and maintain rural water supplies.

When John Lubbock died, the WaterCan board recruited Christina Lubbock. She has had a long experience in Federal Government, and in community work in Canada. Christina is joined by a very small headquarters staff in Ottawa, who search out sources of funds in Canada, and who now focus their overseas aid on three African countries - Ethiopia, Uganda and Zimbabwe. In these countries, WaterCan works with other Canadian NGOs to dig wells, install pumps, build catchment basins and design sewage facilities. These actions



will improve the health and energy of children, and stimulate a more productive use of time by the women and girls who now fetch the water.

Christina Lubbock is clearly motivated and excited by the challenge of filling this basic human need. She spoke passionately about her love of Africa, and her experiences in the rural areas of Zimbabwe and Ethiopia. A pumped water supply not only improves the life of rural families, but also increases the skills, confidence and self-esteem of those who operate the system. After her talk, Christina answered many questions from the floor, and all applauded her mission and presentation. We came away with only one unanswered question - why can't the Federal Government give adequate funding to overseas development initiatives like WaterCan!

Ken Kitching

In this EXPANDED Issue

There was too much material available to fit in our usual 4 page format, so we made a deal with the **Treasurer** - if he would spring for the extra page, we would give him a column to tell us where the rest of the money goes.

Don't give up before reaching the back page or you will miss out on an invitation to a **great picnic at the Raders'**

Our upcoming speakers, **Walter Robinson** and **Dr. Ed Napke** are featured on page 3, followed by profiles of our two new Ontario Directors.

Plus "Origins of Probus" by Allen Taylor (page 5).

Regional Spring Luncheon

Get together with Probeans from the Eastern Ontario Clubs. Kingston, May 15th. Details - John E. Wright.



Skiing to the North Pole

How many of us have travelled to the North Pole? Jack MacKenzie has and he accomplished this feat on skis at the age of 78. Quite an achievement and one that earned him a well-deserved place in the Guinness Book of World Records

Jack spoke about his North Pole trek and other travel adventures at the February 27 meeting of the Ottawa-Alta Vista Club. We sat spell-bound or nearly so (some 100 of us) as Jack described in vivid and colourful language his Travel Adventures on 7 Continents

There were travel adventures in South America where he was assaulted and robbed, in the Gobi Desert where his unforgiving Chinese-made jeep afforded little comfort from the unrelenting bumps and grinds of a rather primitive and uneven roadway, in Africa where he joined a safari in Kenya and on the Serengeti Plain in Tanzania, and in countless other countries around the globe.

The North Pole adventure however was the centrepiece of his presentation. What an undertaking! Why would a 78 year-old contemplate such a thing? Well Jack loves adventure and the excitement of new destinations (never the same destination in more than 20 years of travel). Besides, it was 1999 and Jack wanted to celebrate the International Year of the Older Person. What better way to celebrate than by skiing to the Pole!

So he convinced two world-renowned Arctic explorers (Richard Weber, a Canadian, and Dr. Mischa Malakov, a Russian) to accept him as a member of their 1999 North Pole expedition. There was one important proviso - Jack would have to look after his own skis, baggage and other equipment as well as helping out with housekeeping and other chores. No concessions were to be made because of age. Moreover, his fitness for the undertaking would be assessed by spending two days and nights under canvass in the Gatineau Hills in mid-winter.

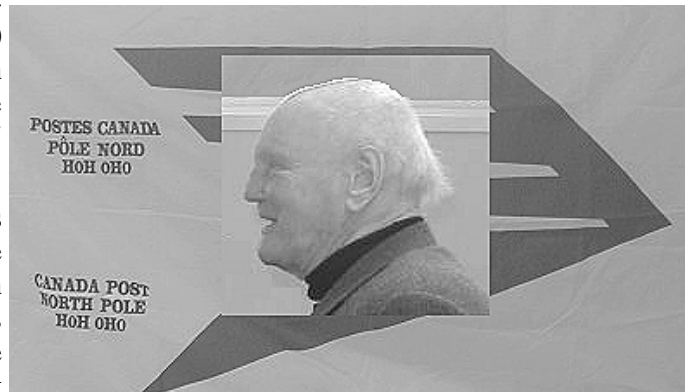
Fitness having been determined, Jack embarked on the expedition as a full-fledged member of the team. They travelled to Moscow, flew north to Khatanga and then airlifted to the ice station named Borneo where they began the tortuous trek to the Pole. Somehow, Jack managed to maintain a daily diary, portions of which he

shared with his audience. Being a patriotic Canadian, he took great delight in placing a Canadian flag at the Pole together with a Canada Post pennant proclaiming the North Pole as Canada's most northerly post office.

Not content to rest on his laurels, Jack continued to make history after his North Pole adventure by joining Weber in an expedition around Ellesmere Island in 2001, an expedition reaching the most northerly point of land in Canada. Later the same year, he embarked on an expedition on a Russian icebreaker which took him close to the magnetic North Pole and then through the Northwest Passage using the most northerly route.

It was a first class presentation. None dozed off, all remained alert - attributes associated with an entertaining speaker and interesting subject matter. Strangely enough though, none present expressed any overwhelming desire to duplicate Jack's exploit by heading north encumbered with skis and generous quantities of Jack Rabbit Johannsen ski wax.

Rod MacLeod



New Members

New members are still flocking to join. In February we welcomed **Peter McKnight** and in March, **Roberta Clarke**. Please look out for their name tags and make sure they feel at home in the Club.

Flora in Ottawa

We are very grateful to Dr. Ian Efford for stepping in at short notice to tell us about plans for a Botanical Garden for Ottawa. He replaces Walter Robinson who found himself caught with flight re-scheduling problems.

Flora in Afghanistan

Flora MacDonald was to be our May speaker but she will be away in Afghanistan. Perhaps when she returns we will be able to reschedule and get an up-to-the-minute picture of conditions there. Meanwhile, we have rescheduled Walter Robinson to replace Ms MacDonald in May.

Walter Robinson ...

...Executive Director of the Canadian Taxpayers' Federation will be our May speaker. He is also a columnist in the Ottawa Sun and a regular on CFRA. Recent columns have been on as varied a set of topics as the "Teddy" awards (for those who best exemplify government waste, over-spending, over-taxation, excessive regulation, lack of accountability or any combination of the 5) and an interim report on where to get the best fish and chips in Ottawa.

Walter topic will be **The Taxpayer's Movement: Past, Present and Future.**

Dr. Ed Napke

In June our speaker will be Dr. Ed Napke, an epidemiologist who introduced Canada's poison control program for Health Canada.

Dr. Napke was recently consulted by a Smiths Falls woman who suspected that she and her family were poisoned by treated lumber being burned by their neighbours. He was quoted in the Citizen (April 3rd) "There is no doubt she has suffered from arsenic poisoning and other things."

The Borgias may come to mind first when poisons are mentioned, but the poison control system is a life-saver.

Ontario Elections 2002

Congratulations to **Betsy Eidt** and **Beth Hickerson** on their election to the positions of Ontario Director.

Betsy was the Founding President of the Women's Probus Club of Kitchener and is actively involved with the Kitchener Rotary Club in the formation of the Probus Women's Club of Kitchener-Sandhills. After a career in Nursing, retiring as Quality Assurance Supervisor at St. Mary's Hospital in Kitchener, Betsy has become very active in community work holding positions in the Kitchener Waterloo Garden Club, the K. W. Art Gallery and the K.W. Symphony.

Beth is a Bell Canada retiree - something she has in common with several of our members. She is a member of the Women's Probus Club of Kitchener-Westmount and has served in several capacities including President. Her volunteer work includes service on the Advisory Council for the Kitchener Rockway Senior Centre, the Mayor's Advisory Council for Seniors, driving for the local Cancer Society and volunteering at the local hospital.

Ontario will be well served by these two new directors.

Guests

In January our Guests were:

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

And in February:

Roberta Clarke	M. E. Corkery
Betty Freebean	Wilf Gilchart
Mary Harris	Fred Hostetter
Marlene, Hetty and Abe Hur	
Roger & Irene McCullough	
Peter McKnight	Linda Redekop

... we hope they enjoyed their visit and will come back.

Editorial

This issue completes our first year of publication so I am going to take a few column inches to talk about *The Probe*. The first thing I have to say is that it is a pleasure to edit - if it wasn't there would have been full-page ads for a new editor. Part of the enjoyment is in the contributions from many members, some as reviews of the speakers, some as insights into how the club operates, some as articles on items of interest to Probus members. More than anything is the reaction of you, the readers. You have been most generous in your comments throughout the year.

It is axiomatic that nothing fits. There is always white space on a couple of pages and an article that is a sentence too long on another. Then it's a case of, "if I move that to there, add a line to this and maybe nobody will notice if I take out a few words from..." At the end there is a two-inch gap on page three. That means finding something from my files or shamelessly lifting an item from another publication or adding a sketch to pad out an article until - bingo! - it fits. Then it goes to the President for approval with the admonition, "You can change anything you want but the changes must occupy the same space as the original."

In the next year I would like to see 11 different by-lines on the reviews of our 11 speakers so please don't be backward in coming forward. It's your newsletter - it should have your name in it.

John Wright - *Editor*.

(You see what I mean about things not fitting!)

Notes from Other Clubs

Moncton

Russ and Eva Hammond keep in touch with their Probus friends in Moncton and provided this note from their April newsletter:

“The popularity and influence of PROBUS across the country is being witnessed here in the Moncton area. Recently several women, some of whom are wives of members, expressed an interest in forming a Women’s PROBUS club. With the support of our club the formation process got under way. The three women, Roberta bunker, Alberta MacLellan, and Joan Donald reported back within a week that they already had over 100 future members for a founding meeting.”

Congratulations to The Women’s Probus Club of South-East New Brunswick!

Cornwall and Area Club

The Cornwall Club is at capacity (80) and has had to establish a waiting list for new members! As well as their regular club meetings, other recent activities have included trips to the **Akwesasne Casino** (rave reviews on the food) and to Ottawa for a matinée performance of *the begats* at the Great Canadian Theatre Company. Add to those a "**President's Dinner**", a **festive lunch** (in December), a **picnic** and trips to the **Regional Luncheon** (Ottawa last year and Kingston in May) and you get a picture of a busy club.

Probus Grimsby

An article by **Phil Dechman** struck a responsive chord. Phil says, "Most of the things I forget seem to have just happened. Or didn't. My pet trick is to head down to the basement to pick up, oh, call it object A. On the way down, I realize, hey, I can also pick up object B. Which I do. Soon, I'm back upstairs with object B, real proud of myself until I realize what's missing."

It's good to find that someone else does that sort of thing. The upside is all that extra exercise - it keeps us young.

Did you know?

Probus Canada is international. The geographic area encompassed by the Society includes all Provinces and territories of Canada as well as the adjacent areas of the United States included in the Rotary International Districts which **overlap the Canada-United States international boundary.**

(from the constitution of the Probus Centre - Canada)

The Joys of Travel!

Phyllis and I had a wonderful holiday in February and March at El Conquistador Village in Bradenton - northern outskirts of Sarasota, Florida.

However, we had problems leaving Ottawa, and later coming back. On February 1st we had an ice storm in Ottawa, and our flight was delayed three hours, so we missed our connection in Detroit for Sarasota. As all flights for the next three days to Sarasota were completely booked, we accepted the offer to fly to Tampa instead, early next morning. Airlines are responsible when the delay is related to mechanical problems, but not if problems are weather-related. However, after much arguing, the agent gave us a hotel voucher because of my grey hair. We were lucky again next morning when we found we were upgraded to first class en route to Tampa.

When we were leaving Sarasota en route home to Ottawa, I stopped in front of the terminal, and with the help of a sky-cap unloaded the white Corolla I had rented from Hertz. A white Honda stopped behind us to unload, and when the man came back and checked his car he got in my car by mistake and took the keys. After searching all around and inside and under my car for some twenty minutes, and almost having a heart attack, the other man returned my keys when he found his mistake.

We had many happy times in Bradenton: a visit from our daughter Sandy for a week, a week-end visit from Russ and Eva Hammond, a trip to the Ringling Museum and other visits with several American cousins, and much bridge! I hadn't played bridge for years, and really enjoyed it!

According to all reports, our V.P. John Kruithof did a wonderful job during my absence so that the club carried on in style! And I'm glad to be back!

Jim Kingston

The sun never set on the British Empire because the British Empire is in the East and the sun sets in the West.

Gravity was invented by Issac Walton. It is chiefly noticeable in the autumn when apples are falling off the trees.
(from the Probus Canada website)

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.

The Origins of Probus

Allen Taylor has done some research on the origins of “probus”. First the easy part:

probus, -a, -um adj. Good, honest, upright, virtuous, decent, (coll.) real, proper, downright. New College Latin and English Dictionary, ed. By John G. Taupman, New York: Bantam Books, 1966.

Probus et legalis homo. Latin. A good and lawful man. A phrase particularly applied to a juror or witness who was ... competent in point of law to serve on juries ... In the plural form: **probi et legales homines.** Blacks Law Dictionary, 3rd edition, 1933. Black refers to legal texts in both English and American law.

An early example of the word probus being used in a title was the Roman Emperor Probus (Marcus Aurelius/Aurelianus), A.D. 276-282, one of four Roman Emperors named Marcus Aurelius. His only notable achievement in his brief reign was to defend Sicily against Frankish pirates.

Not content with bookish research, Allen’s studies took him into the field – to Grinzing and the Altes Presshaus. Their flyer says, “It was Emperor Probus’ fault that the first vines were planted on the hills around Grinzing as early as A.D. 276.” This is a strange statement for an establishment that has thrived on serving ‘new wine’ since 1527 (now that gives a certain legitimacy to the use of ‘Alte’ or ‘old’ in the name). The original German text does say ‘blame’ but a better translation may be ‘responsible for’. ‘New wine’ has fermented but has not been clarified. With its cloudy appearance it may look like fresh apple juice but it can have a very different effect and may contradict the ‘upright’ part of the probus definition. The flyer continues, “This botanical additional activity of the Roman legionaries brought prosperity to the small village at the gates of Vienna and – much, much later – international fame as well.”

Obviously Emperor Probus has had a longer lasting influence in Austria than in Sicily.

Coincidence

It is strange how these things happen. The Mar-Apr 2002 edition of Diplomat magazine has an article on “Austrian Wine - More than a good drink” by H.E. Wendlin Ettmayer, Ambassador of Austria. In the first paragraph is the sentence: Even today the Roman Emperor Probus, who lived around 280 A.D. is celebrated in many folk songs as “the man who helped us to produce the best wine”. The article also mentions Grinzing and “New Year’s wine”.

A Word From the Treasurer

You have heard a lot recently about paying your membership fees and contributing to the Loonie Bin. A fair question is: What happens to all that money?

First - the Loonie Bin. These donations pay for the tea and coffee, timbits, cookies and other treats that Allan has ready to greet you as you arrive at every general meeting. Recently, the Executive Committee agreed to upgrade the bill of fare above timbits to include cookies that are more than bite-sized. Please let Jim Kingston know if you have other suggestions, but remember, we are not trying to become a gourmet food resource.

Second - membership fees. These are payable each fiscal year (October 1st to September 30th), and amount to \$15 for an individual and \$25 for a couple. Each year, \$2.50 of your membership is paid to Probus Centre to help finance its oversight activities and, more importantly, to provide very necessary insurance coverage for misadventures that might occur at one of our meetings. Based on a membership of 100 members, another \$5.00 of your fee is paid to Pleasant Park Baptist Church in return for the use of its facilities for general and executive meetings and a snowplowed parking lot. Other expenses include the cost of printing our excellent newsletter *The Probe*, flyers in the intermediate months, Probus letter openers for presentation to our guest speakers, and other miscellaneous stationery and supplies.

I hope this helps. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me at 828-1923 or by e-mail at gcgibb@magma.ca.

Graham Gibb, Treasurer

From Boscombe & Southbourne

Fred Hill, the Club Secretary, had had a fall just before my visit. I sent him a copy of *The Probe* and assured him that I had been well looked after by his colleagues. Fred replied: “So pleased and grateful for your letter also appreciative for your kind wishes on behalf of my welfare. I am approaching 86, hobbling like a penguin, rather stymied and lacking the stamina of yesteryear. Your article in *The Probe* apropos your visit and the Boscombe and Southbourne Probus Club establishes the link between our two clubs. Most gratifying. Many thanks.”

Fred included their Newsletter which says:

11 April 02 Chicken Chasseur, 9 May 02 Roast Pork with Apple Sauce, 13 Jun 02 Roast Beef, Yorkshire Pudding - well worth another visit! JCW

Alta Vista PROBUS Club June Social



What: You and spouse/friends are invited to a PROBUS Lunch.

Over 50 PROBUS people said they enjoyed last year's similar social.

When: After June monthly meeting, Wednesday, June 26th., rain or shine. Jim has a cover rigged over the back garden.

Time: Noon to mid/late afternoon (after June monthly meeting).

Where: Peggy and Jim Rader's, 2206 Alta Vista Dr (near Kilborn). [on Alta Vista Dr 1/2 way between Smyth (General/CHEO Hospitals) and Heron]

Dress: Casual (bring bathing suits for pool).

Hosts: Supply plates, cutlery, coffee, decorations, etc.

Guests: Please bring your drink of choice and favorite food:

Last name starts with:

A to C - Salad

D to L - Sandwiches

M to R - Dessert

S to Z - Cheese and Crackers

Based on telephone directory size, we should have 1/3 sandwiches and 22% of others.

Note: All surplus food will be donated to the Shepherds of Good Hope.

Men's Duties: Last name starts with:

A to L - men help serve

M to Z - men help clean up



Note: We have invited/hosting the Cornwall PROBUS Club.

Questions: Contact Jim Rader 733-6851 E Mail jrader@sympatico.ca

As people's plans change, it is not necessary to confirm. For large group averaging balances food and numbers.

In true PROBUS Spirit, we hope you have a good time.

Missing links

The Encyclopaedia Britannica follows the entry for Scottish king Malcolm IV with one for Malcolm X. Whatever happened to Malcolms V, VI, VII, VIII and IX?

Drop us a Line

Our meeting place is now our address! Whether you want to come to a meeting or write to us, the address is:

PROBUS

414 Pleasant Park Road

Ottawa ON K1H 5N1

If you are looking for us, that's the Pleasant Park Baptist Church, a long block and a bit east of Alta Vista. We meet on the 4th Wednesday of every month at 10 am. Come a little earlier for coffee, timbits and chat.

The End

We usually try to end *The Probe* on something of a high note, but today we go to the other extreme with a pair of epitaphs. The first is for Charles II:

Here lies our mutton-eating king,
Whose word no man relies on;
Who never said a foolish thing,
Nor ever did a wise one.

The second has a very curious last line:

Sacred to the Memory of
Captain Anthony Wedgewood
Accidentally shot by His Gamekeeper
Whilst out shooting
'Well done thou good and faithful servant'

Both were taken from *Awful Ends*, the British Museum Book of Epitaphs, collected by David M. Wilson.