



The Probe

Volume 2 Issue 3

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ottawa

June 2002

A GARDEN FOR US ALL!

Our April meeting featured Dr. Ian Efford, President and founder, in 1998, of the Ottawa Botanical Garden Society. The presentation outlined his proposal to the federal government to re-establish the botanical garden at the Central Experimental Farm on land east of Prince of Wales Drive. The new garden is designed to inform and delight Ottawa residents, attract visitors, advance current plant research and our children's education, benefit the local economy and restore a more varied plant habitat to currently unused fields. The garden will also restore the horticultural sciences to the Farm - a lost aspect of its heritage.

100 Years Ago

The Farm was initiated in 1886 with a Botanical Garden in 1887 but the garden faded out in 1918. About every decade since that time, the federal government stated its intention to reinstate the Garden. In 1967, the Minister of Agriculture abandoned the idea but up came the idea again in 1987. It has generated an annual debate by civil servants. The new idea from Dr. Efford is to generate a proposal, independent of government, consisting of interested Ottawa citizens and to be 'not for profit'. This would help override government restrictions and satisfy public demands.

Public Participation

In Dr. Efford's view the maintenance of such a Garden would allow the interested public to contribute to its success - for instance, disabled people could help plant,

etc. The entire project is one to keep our eyes on and he suggests we contact the appropriate government people to let them hear our views.

Dr. Efford was a professor of ecology at the University of British Columbia and was involved with research and teaching at the Universities of California, Oregon and Stanford. In the 1970s he was a science advisor to the Science Council of Canada and Director General of Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy in the federal government. Between 1983 and 1998 he consulted on R & D policy, financing, and management, as well as on business creation in developing countries.

Robert Haughton

(Dr. Efford gave membership forms to several of our members. If you would like one, please see Joyce Wright.)

Editorial Policy

With the angst being displayed in the media of late, we thought that this would be a good time to review our editorial policy.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to find it. We are fairly sure that there is one and that it is around here somewhere, probably in one of these piles of paper.

Anyway, if and when we do find it, we will review it most carefully so that you can be sure that *The Probe* will fearlessly continue to provide news, comment and opinion to the same standard it has demonstrated throughout its existence, now approaching a year and a bit.

Jubilee Quiz

One of our sister Ottawa publications (Sun, or Citizen before cancellation) noted that the Queen has reigned longer than Edward III and is now the fourth longest reigning English monarch of the last millennium.

What it did not say was who were the three longest. Do you know? Answer on page 3.

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 Taxpayer's Movement: Past, Present and Future.

Who would not have had some deep feelings about the May speaker's topic, coming as it did so soon after April 30? Walter Robinson is the Federal Director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation which works to lower taxes, eliminate government waste and to hold politicians accountable to taxpayers. The Federation has had many successes including the elimination of bracket creep. Bracket creep occurs when the limits of each income range are held constant instead of raising them to allow for inflation, resulting (effectively) in a tax increase. It also worked for the introduction of Provincial Budget Taxation Laws which mandated balanced budgets.



After describing the range of the Federation's activities, Mr. Robinson concentrated on Health Care which costs \$102 Billion or 10% of the gross domestic product.

Costs are continuing to escalate as the population ages, the need for more expensive drug therapies grows and there are greater demands for chronic care. He suggested that, in the foreseeable future, these costs could consume total provincial revenue.

When money is allocated for improvements in health care, it is often misapplied because of jurisdictional and equalization payment problems between the Federal and Provincial Governments.

The aims of the Canada Health Act are:

- Universality
- Public Administration
- Comprehensiveness
- Portability
- Accessibility.

Instead, he advocated:

- Quality
- Accountability
- Choice
- Sustainability
- Accessibility.

In short, it should be quality-driven not money-driven.

The goals of the Federation are to persuade governments to control costs without increasing the taxpayer burden while at the same time improving the Health Service. Three guiding principles were identified to reform the Canada Health System:

- Canadians must become accountable for their health care consumption decisions;
- Health Care funding must move from *Pay as you Go* to *Sustainable Pre-Funding* for each generation;
- Governments must act quickly to involve new providers (including the private sector) in all facets of health care service delivery including new technology and major facility construction.

Mr. Robinson's presentation can be summarized as a conviction that a better health care system is possible if the will is there to put real reform before funding increases derived from higher taxes.

John E Wright

(The CTF is at www.taxpayer.com)

July Speaker - Robert Knuckle "A Writer's Experience - From Plays to True Crime Novels"

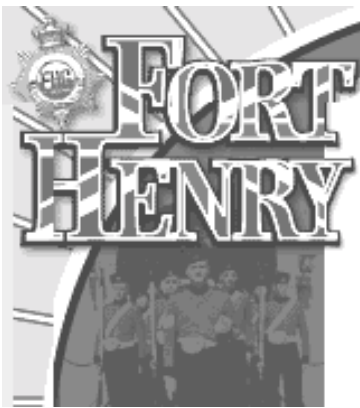
Prior to writing full-time, ACTRA award winner Robert Knuckle was an English and Latin teacher with the Hamilton Board of Education. His 1984 stage play *I am not a Legend* (the story of football's Vince Lombardi) was rewritten for television and produced on ESPN on Superbowl Sunday, 1988. A further version for CBC radio gained him his ACTRA award. He has written *IN THE LINE OF DUTY*, *The Honour Roll of the RCMP since 1873* - a chronicle of all the members of the RCMP killed in the line of duty, and several true crime novels including *THE FLYING BANDIT*, *BEYOND REASON* and *MURDER AT EGLINTON SQUARE*.

Robert comes to us highly recommended by several other Probus Clubs. We will have the opportunity to purchase one of his books.

His web site is www.knuckle.biz

The Hon. Flora MacDonald

When we announced that Ms MacDonald was unable to be our May speaker because she would be in Afghanistan, we said that, perhaps, when she returns she would be able to give us an up-to-the-minute picture of conditions there. She has returned, she has agreed to be our speaker in August and she will tell us about her very eventful month in that war-torn land. Mark **August 28th** in your diary.



KINGSTON ♦ ONTARIO ♦ CANADA

Probus Spring Luncheon

Probus Clubs of Eastern Ontario held their annual Spring Luncheon on May 15th, 2002. Over 300 participants from 16 regional clubs stretching from Port Hope to Ottawa-Cornwall gathered in historic Kingston. The Grand Ballroom of the Days Inn proved an ideal setting. Even the weather co-operated, managing a sunny day in an otherwise dismal Spring.

Two Fort Henry guards in colourful uniform augmented the efficient reception committee in making sure everyone felt at home. Kingston's Town Crier ensured the message of welcome to this auspicious occasion echoed throughout the chamber. The Presidents of the two host Clubs added their appreciation for the supportive turnout. In her speech, the Mayor of Kingston stated the success of Probus stems from its avoidance of controversial action. She added that in today's hectic world there is an obvious need for an organization where members can pause and reflect. The keynote speaker was the Director of Fort Henry, who detailed the important role of the fort in the history and economy of the region. He stressed that participants of the optional tour to the Fort before the start of the Luncheon had encountered less than ideal conditions because it had not yet formally opened after labour unrest. However, things were looking up and improvements would be undertaken.

In keeping with the Fort Henry theme, ballroom tables were decorated with beautifully hand-painted soldier centrepieces, which became prized possessions for those lucky holders of specially marked agendas. An additional draw was held for books on Kingston. Entertainment was provided by an MC never short of quips, old time musical favourites by the "Dixie Six Plus One" band, and the tonal antics of the "Kingtones" barber shop quartet. All of this, plus the delicious lunch itself, marked another milestone in the growth of Probus.

No venue has yet been identified for the 2003 Spring Luncheon. The challenge is for a Club to rise to the occasion and host it.

John Kruithof

The original Fort Henry was built during the War of 1812 (1812-1814), between Great Britain and the United States of America, and bears no resemblance to the existing fort. During the War of 1812, the British anticipated an attack on Point Henry due to its proximity to the Royal Navy Dockyards (at the site of the present-day Royal Military College) and to the mouth of the St. Lawrence River. The loss of this vital trading route would have cut off communication between Kingston and everything to the east of the city.

Members & Guests

Guests at the May meeting were:

Godfrey Tippett	Ada McEwen
Bob Bouchier	John Platt
D. Edelston	

John and Jean Lupton also signed in as Guests but left as members! We welcome them all.

Obituaries

We are saddened to report the passing of two members, Richard (Dick) Patterson and Graham McClenahan. Dick was one of our original members and a Treasurer of the Club. Graham (and Pat) joined last year.

Our deepest sympathies go to the Patterson and McClenahan families.

Sunshine Coordinator

Gananoque Probus Club has a Sunshine Coordinator who looks after the more personal side of membership - checking on members who are ill, remembering birthdays, etc. This fall, when we elect our new Executive, would be a good time to decide if we should create a similar position. Would you be interested? Talk to Jim Kingston.

Jubilee Quiz Answers

The three longest reigning English monarchs of the last millennium were Henry III (1216-1272), George III (1761-1820) and Victoria (1837-1901). Henry got a head start, becoming king at the age of 9. George was 23 and Victoria, 19. Unlike Victoria, neither Henry nor George were effective in their later years.

A Weekend in Montreal

We sent our roving reporter to Montreal to paint a word picture of this vibrant, bustling city for us.

Sitting in the June sunshine. Behind me is the Olympic rowing basin. In front the St Lawrence rushes between île Notre Dame and île Ste Hélène and beyond that, about 250 metres away, is Buckminster Fuller's geodesic dome. To the right of the dome is the Hélène de Châmplain restaurant with its gaily-coloured parasols on the balcony and a white marquee on the lawn. To the left of the dome the whole Montreal skyline is bathed in sunshine - from the Hydro Quebec building in the east to the Teleglobe building in the west, all dominated by Place Ville Marie and against the backdrop of Mount Royal. Below are the spires of Old Montreal and the sun reflects off the silvered dome of the Bonsecours Market.

A scene of peace and tranquillity? Not quite!

Approaching from my left at 260 km/hour is Juan Pablo Montoya in his blue and white Williams BMW, closely followed by 21 other brightly coloured screaming machines. Brilliant red Ferraris, bright yellow Jordans, deep green Jaguars, gleaming white BARs - one with Canada's Jacques Villeneuve on board - blues, oranges, blacks; Toyotas, Mercedes, Hondas. All have to slow to about 70 km/hour to negotiate the Casino hairpin right down below me - for a split second they point directly at me. Each one changes down 4 or 5 gears in about two seconds approaching the bend, each change-down is an explosion. The disc brakes can be seen glowing red-hot for a few seconds. Hit the brakes too early and others flash by. Too hard and risk a fishtail and loss of steering. Too late or too soft and head for the gravel trap. This is where races are won or lost. It's the brake dance not the top speed that makes the difference.

Thirty seconds after Montoya arrives - under challenge from Michael Schumacher - Alex Yoong in his Minardi disappears around the next bend to the roar of his open exhaust and the sound of changing-up as he gets back his lost speed. Fifteen thousand of us surrounding the hairpin let out our breath. In less than a minute the first car will be back again for the second of its 70 appearances. Will it still be Montoya or will Schuey have pressed home his challenge somewhere beyond our view?

This is Formula 1 - sunscreen and earplugs mandatory.

(Michael Schumacher won in a Ferrari. Jacques Villeneuve dropped out after a few laps with engine failure. There were well over 100,000 spectators. The weekend generated about \$2 billion in economic activity.)

Meet the Probus Canada President - Carl Ingebertson

During a very successful career in the insurance industry spanning 50 years, (mostly Mutual Life of Canada) Carl was very involved in service Club work as a volunteer, which led to him becoming the President of the Kinsmen Club of Brampton in 1956-57 and President of the Rotary Club of Brampton in 1974 - 75. He was Charter President of the Probus Club of Brampton in 1993 (Club #32) and in 1995 became a Director and Secretary of Probus Centre-Canada, Inc. In 2000 Carl was elected VicePresident of Probus Canada and just this year, in April, 2002 he was elected President. Carl was the Rotary District 7080 Probus Chairman for 5 years and was most instrumental in the formation of several new Probus Clubs. Carl and Betty were married in September, 1955 and Carl gives credit to Betty for successfully managing the home front for many years while he was travelling broadly in the insurance business. They have two children, daughter Carla and son Clarke, and have four grandchildren with whom they spend much of their spare time. Carl first encountered Probus in Ireland in 1993 and he still feels it is a fantastic organization.



The Loony Bin

A dollar in the "Loony Bin" pays for coffee and Tim-bits, biscuits, etc. One contribution per person provides a bottomless cup of coffee and helps to keep the Club afloat. It also covers as many Tim-bits as you can get to before *you-know-who* raids the box.



Do Drop In

Even if you are not a member you will be welcome at one of our regular meetings. Our 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, Tim-bits and chat.

Allan Mac Lellan, the Pastor at PPBC, will be pleased to take a break from refreshment duties to tell you more about the Church and its services.