



The Probe

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Club Members in the News

Four members have made the newspapers recently - for very different reasons.

Frank Sorensen's photograph took up the whole front page of *The Sun* on Tuesday, November 12th. The caption read, "World War II veteran Frank Sorensen's gaze crosses an ocean and five decades yesterday as he salutes fallen comrades at the National War Memorial. It was a scene repeated at hundreds of Remembrance Day ceremonies across the country." Frank had a letter in *The Sun* later in the week, pointing out that it was 7 decades.



Joyce Wright was presented with the Queen's Jubilee Medal by John Manley at a ceremony on Parliament Hill on November 8th. Her citation read, "For many years, Mrs. Wright has been active in a variety of capacities with local community associations and advisory panels. She is a co-founder and has served as the President of the Faircrest Heights Community Association. Mrs. Wright has also served as President of the English-Speaking Union of Canada, which forms part of a worldwide educational and social association. In addition, Mrs. Wright is active with the **Probus Club**



of Ottawa-Alta Vista and serves as a member of Greenprint, Greenspace, Neighbourhood Watch and the Canadian Club.

Marge and Lloyd Larson made the pages of the *Citizen* in very harrowing circumstances. Their Virginia Drive house burned down in the small hours and they were lucky to escape with their lives. Not even Lloyd's precious violin was saved so when he plays at our Christmas party it will be with a new instrument. Lloyd and Marge are living in rented accommodation while they try to get things together. We wish them well.

January 22nd - Captain Canada - Jim Watson

Jim Watson was the last Mayor of the real City of Ottawa. He left office before the end of his term to take the position of President & CEO of the Canadian Tourism Commission. Jim is well known around town for his charitable work. This includes a recent "Roast" by Claudette Cain, Merle Nicholds, Allan Higdon and Earl McRae which raised \$27,000 for Easter Seals.

Between this issue of *The Probe* and when he is due to speak to us he will have started a new career as a broadcaster at the New RO.



Merry Christmas!
... and a Happy New Year



President's Christmas Message

Just a few days ago, I was over at a neighbourhood friend for traditional pre-Christmas cheers. Alongside the fireplace hung an enormous stocking, practically stretching from ceiling to floor. It was already filled to overflowing, no doubt to be soon appreciated by its intended recipients, grandchildren. I not only wished a stocking that size for myself, but for all members of Probus. May your holiday season be filled with joyous events. Another case of being filled is the church we meet in. It is encouraging to see an ever-increasing number of Probus members congregate for the excellent line-up of speakers and events. We are blessed to be living in a community of gifted souls who generously bestow their time and talent. As we contemplate the meaning of Christmas, plus the emergence of a new year, let us resolve to play our part in making the world a better place.

John Kruithof

New Members



We are pleased to welcome nine new members.

J. M. Platt	Ed & Cathy Borza
Anthony Goldsmith	Cliff & Margaret Smith
Elizabeth Bowen	Ruth Decosse
Audrey Phillips	

February Speaker - Monica Schiasele

"Ten Thousand Villages" - Monica works through the Mennonite Church in providing an outlet for handicrafts produced in less-developed countries throughout the world. The emphasis is on helping people to help themselves and ensuring that the artisans receive a fair price for their work.

Sunshine Co-ordinators

Bayne and Jeanne Pearen stepped forward when they heard that we were looking for a Sunshine Coordinator. This is a title and function which has been used in several Probus clubs for someone who will try to spread a little sunshine when things are not going well for a member or members.

They work closely with the telephone committee, who report anything they learn about members being unwell, etc. when they make their regular pre-meeting phone calls. To get a little practice Jeanne worked on Bayne's case when he was under the weather recently. It seems she has the right touch.

Goodwill Guides

In September, John and Joan Mackay told us about Goodwill Guides - we asked them to write about their experiences.

First of all let me say that travelling the way we do is not for everyone. Some people like to feel more secure or cannot be bothered to arrange their own travel and sightseeing and that is fine. We have for many years made our own arrangements in various countries and have always been very pleased with the results. Our last trip was a cruise and as usual we tried to find a more interesting and less expensive way of sightseeing. We did find an organization that operates in Korea and Japan called Goodwill Guides. The guides come from all walks of life but in common all have the desire to proudly show their country to visitors. They do not charge any fee but of course it is the responsibility of the visitor to pay for transportation, food and entry fees.

Perhaps the best way to introduce you to this wonderful organization is to tell you about our visit to Korea although all the guides we met were informative, gracious and spoke English well. Several weeks before our departure we were assigned a young lady called Kim. We corresponded over the internet whilst deciding which points of interest we would visit. As we docked in Busan, as promised, Kim was waiting with a big welcoming smile on her face. She introduced herself and told us that she was a nurse and had worked in London, England and in India.

After a short walk we were led to the subway for the first part of our trip. During the journey we talked with two young university students who told us about Korean education and university life in general. Next stop was a local bus station where, as before, Kim organized the tickets. During the day several people came over to us and wished us well whilst practising their English. By afternoon we old folks were getting a little weary so we suggested that we take a taxi back to the ship via our last requested stop, the United Nations War Graves. Kim organized the taxi "very expensive" she thought although we thought it very inexpensive. We had a most interesting conversation with the taxi driver about life in Korea, Kim interpreting. As we arrived back the driver was so impressed by our lovely Kim that he asked if she would be willing to act as an interpreter on other trips. Who knows by now she may have a new occupation!!!! Goodwill Guides assisted us in Busan in Korea, Hiroshima and Kyoto in Japan. They were all excellent and great ambassadors for their countries. We feel fortunate that we discovered this organization.

Joan Mackay

An Unforgettable Experience - Our Trip to China -

Rather than try to compress Rod Macleod's fascinating account of his China trip, we have split it into two parts. You will have to wait until the February issue of Probe for the conclusion.

It is difficult to find words to adequately describe our 18-day tour of China this past October.

Awesome comes close but unforgettable seems more appropriate. All went well. We survived the long flights, unaccustomed food, crowded streets, disturbed sleep, and all the other hazards encountered in adjusting to a culture completely different than your own.

Not bad for a couple of ageing Probians exploring the Far East for the first time. But there were predictable effects. Long flight times and frequent time zone changes including those associated with the International Date Line (arrived Vancouver at roughly the same time as when we left Hong Kong). So there was some disorientation, unexpected catnaps, and much sleep for the first week or so following our return to Canada.

We visited many of the better known parts of this vast and fascinating country. Beijing was our first stop with visits to T'ien an men Square, the Forbidden City (home of the emperors, a city within a city), the Summer Palace (a restful retreat for emperors only), and the Great Wall. What an imposing structure - "7,892 miles long with an average height of 23 to 26 feet". We managed but a mile or two together with hundreds of fellow tourists including large numbers of smiling and exuberant school children.

Beijing, the Chinese capital, was a tour highlight but so was Xian. This city of some 7 million also has a rich and colourful past; ancient capital, Marco Polo stop-over, and close neighbour to the mausoleum of Emperor Quin with its 6,000 or so life-sized terra cotta warriors and horses

("the imperial bodyguard to the Emperor on his journey after life here on earth"). Emperor Quin we were told was one of China's greatest rulers and the builder of the Great Wall.

More restful was our 5-day cruise on the turbulent

Yangtze River (close to 4,000 miles in length). Indeed, it was the desire to see the Yangtze and its spectacular Three Gorges before this scenic landscape was changed forever by the massive Yangtze Dam and Hydro Project now nearing completion a short distance downstream. The Three Gorges did not disappoint. The scenery in places was breath taking "a world of steep cliffs, jagged mountain peaks, sparkling water falls, and terraced landscapes".

Each Gorge has its unique features. All three captured our interest and attention. After passing through the Xiling Gorge, the longest at 76 kms, we entered the Wu Gorge which is famous for its 12 beautiful and picturesque mountain peaks including the Goddess Peak. Our tour of the Gorges ended with our cruise through Quilang Gorge at 8 kms the shortest of the three.

Rod Macleod

Chairmen Wanted

If you could arrive a little early or stay for a few minutes after the meetings to help arrange/pick-up the chairs, your help would be very much appreciated. Ideally we would like a Chairman of the Chairmen to arrange a small squad of helpers.

Guests - October

Harry Kerrison	Margaret & Cliff Smith
Ruth Decosse	Audrey & Bill Crawford
Les Rodrigues	Tony & Mabel Goldsmith
Fred Thompson	E. Peter Edwards

... and November

Lucille Muldoon	Ann & Claude Hannan
Elizabeth Doe	Elizabeth Bowen
Jim Coke	Audrey & Bill Crawford
Les Rodrigues	Ann & Bob Bouchier
W. Neal	Buck Madden

Guests are always welcome and we are especially pleased to see their names repeated in the "New Members" section.

Peggy McGillivray

We are saddened to note the passing of Peggy McGillivray. Peggy was one of the original members of our club and a staunch member of the telephone committee.

Merchant Navy

Our Club continued its tradition of having a war veteran as our guest speaker at the meeting preceding Remembrance Day by inviting Harold (Hal) Roberts, who served from 1941 to 1946 as a radio officer on board ships of the British merchant marine, the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, and the Norwegian merchant navy. Since his retirement in 1992 from the National Research Council and the Canadian Space Agency, Hal has been active in seeking recognition and compensation for Canada's merchant mariners who served at sea in World War II.

Recently, with two wartime officers of the Royal Canadian Navy, he began visits to high schools across the country, on behalf of the Dominion Institute. In the schools, they tell the story of the navy and the merchant marine in the War at Sea often inadequately called the Battle of the Atlantic - waged from 1939 through 1945.

Hal began by showing us a 10-minute naval video, "Valour at Sea," and then answered our questions about his wartime service, first as a radio officer on British ships, and, after qualifying ashore in Britain for the higher rank, as the chief radio officer of a Norwegian tanker.

Because Hal had not served with Canada's merchant navy, he invited an associate in the campaign for recognition/compensation, Thomas H. (Tom) Brooks, to answer questions on that subject. Tom, an officer of the Company of Master Mariners of Canada, retired in 1993 from the Department of Transport where he had served for more than 20 years as Manager of the Marine Navigation Safety Office.

Responding to the question, *Why were Canadian merchant mariners not given the same or equivalent benefits after the war as members of the armed forces?*, Tom explained that it was because the government [of Mackenzie King, in the person of Lionel Chevrier, Minister of Transport] wanted and expected most of the wartime merchant seamen, and their ships, to continue in peacetime trade.

Tom noted that five years of hard work led to the recognition of the merchant navy as a war service and the payment of almost \$100 million to merchant navy veterans or their surviving spouses in "compensation for lost opportunities."

Our speakers on October 23rd were introduced by Allen Taylor, a volunteer-specialist at the Canada Science and Technology Museum in marine transportation - history, law, and technology.

A.D.T.

Dispute Resolution

The Honourable Mr. Justice Francis Muldoon, who recently retired after 18 years as a judge in the Trial Division of the Federal Court of Canada, spoke at the Club's November meeting.

Frank Muldoon's talk was on the evolution of our judicial system from the 16th century, with an overview of the general principles of practice and procedure in our courts and arbitration tribunals.

He told us that the resolution of disputes, criminal or civil, by reasoning and argument rather than judicial combat - such as "trial by battle" that came to England in 1066 - started in 1519 with the Leipzig Disputation, the famous debate between two German theologians, Dr. Martin Luther and Dr. Johann Eck. Luther defended the 95 "theses" he had posted on the door of his Wittenberg church on October 31, 1517 - the act that marks the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

Since the 16th century it has been a principle of the judicial system that he who alleges must prove his case. This means that in a criminal trial, the prosecutor must prove the case against the accused beyond a reasonable doubt; and in a civil case, the plaintiff must establish the case against the defendant upon a balance of probabilities - which side is more likely to be right?

Frank Muldoon mentioned the role, in modern times, of arbitration tribunals for settling some types of disputes, and noted that resolving disputes by arbitration, when the parties choose the "judges", rather than by the regular courts, has some major disadvantages as well as advantages.

He answered questions on a wide range of topics, including his view on the life sentence of Robert Latimer, convicted of murdering his disabled daughter, and his own role, with Justice Max Teitelbaum, also of the Federal Court, as plaintiffs against the Crown to obtain the right of judges to vote in federal elections.

Allen Taylor

