



The Probe

Volume 3 Issue 4

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ottawa

August 2003

Paul Stumes recognized for Heritage Work



Our Membership Chairman, Paul Stumes, was recognized for his contribution to "Heritage" in a ceremony at City Hall on May 1st.

Paul, who was one of our speakers in 2001 (talking about *Gold Rush* days and his work with Parks Canada on the restoration of Dawson City), received a Heritage Community Recognition Program Certificate of Achievement and an Ontario Heritage Foundation Achievement pin. Councillor Alex Munter, Chair of the Health, Recreation and Social Services Committee, made the presentation. Several members of Paul's Heritage Ottawa Board colleagues attended the ceremony.

Among his activities in Heritage, Paul conducts "Heritage Walks" in the Market area giving tourists and residents alike an historical perspective to this popular area.

Congratulations, Paul, from your Probus colleagues!

The announcement was taken from the Heritage Ottawa website, <http://www.heritageottawa.org/english/frontpage/stumes.htm>

"A question, Mr. Speaker"

Our June meeting had a change of format with the Hon. Lloyd Francis turning it into a 'Question Period' after a brief opening statement. There was no shortage of questions and, when it was quite clear that Mr. Francis was prepared to call it as he saw it with no deference to parties or persons, they became quite pointed.

Dorothy Valliant introduced the speaker (The Speaker) telling us that he had graduated from U of T at 20 and had gone on to take an MA interrupted by wartime service with the RCAF. He worked as a Public Servant with Health & Welfare and entered City politics rising to Deputy Mayor. He served as an MP from 1950 to 1984 and ended his parliamentary career as Speaker of the House. He has since been Ambassador to Portugal.

"As you get older you are supposed to mellow, but I get angry - angry at the Government of Canada. Fifty years ago the Executive were not responsible to the electorate a situation that was reversed - with a struggle. Today it has reverted." He recalled the example of Margaret Thatcher and the way she was dismissed from office by her party then compared that with the situation in Canada
(continued on page 2)

Election Time

No, we don't have inside information from Queen's Park but we do have Probus elections next month. The September meeting is when we choose a new President and other Board members.

There are several positions open (including Editor of *The Probe*). If you would like to join the Board, talk to John Kruithof (739-1335), Jim Kingston (733-3463) or Joyce Wright (731-8521). Even if the position you are interested in appears to be filled, we like to move people around to create openings and make sure that there are always newcomers.

As well as Board positions there are other things you can do to help (e.g. Telephone Callers, chair set-out and pick-up, helping at special events). Let us know!

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.

Lloyd Francis (*cont.*)

Today. The Prime Minister threatened to call an election if his back-benchers opposed his plans for a protracted pre-retirement period.

He then commented on the Radwanski situation and compared the Canadian Executive approval process unfavourably with the US approach of committee approval.

Q. What is the Judiciary's Role on the Charter?

A. The ruling by the Supreme Court that every human being in Canada is covered by the Charter has been bad for Canada. It is now a barrier to getting rid of undesirables as they arrive.

Q. Do you support gay marriages?

A. Not comfortable with it.

Q. Why do back-benchers not assert themselves more?

A. The Executive exercises too much control. They decide the seating in the house and who sits on which committees. The high turnover of MPs means that there are always rookies who are swamped with procedures, rules, customs, etc. Rookies tend to rely on the Executive which, in turn, gives the Executive more power.

Q. What is the relevance of Question Period?

A. Question Period is extremely important. It's intent is to put Ministers on the spot. It's importance is not as much for its immediate effect but as a way of raising key issues. A slick answer may suffice for the moment but it is also a flag to the media that something may be there to be exposed.

Q. Should Parties be required to publish their objectives?

A. Canada has never been governed by a Party driven by ideology. The most important thing in forming a government is to have representation from all regions.

Q. Should Parliament have fixed terms?

A. Yes, but not if the Government loses the confidence of the House.

Q. Will Paul Martin take a different approach when he is Prime Minister.

A. Paul Martin was brought up with a profound respect for parliamentary tradition. Paul Martin Senior had a deep social commitment and has passed on some of his values. Paul Martin is a very successful businessman. One of his ships' captains described him as a determined and ruthless man.

Q. What are your views on an elected Senate?

A. The Senate should be left as it is. Senate committees take time-consuming tasks from the House. Senators provide a continuity which would not be available if they were subject to election every few years. They are constant sources of wisdom and advice.

Q. What do you think of the new funding rules?

A. It is the beginning of a very undemocratic practice. One of the obvious problems is that it becomes almost impossible to start a new Party.

Q. Should capital punishment be reinstated?

A. This is a difficult issue. Mr. Francis sensed a strong "pro" sentiment in his own Riding. He quoted a psychologist in the prison system who said that there are about 40 incorrigible murderers who disrupt and corrupt the prison system. For these (a quarter of 1 percent of killers) the death penalty is a sensible approach.

Q. Should third party advertising be allowed?

A. Yes, provided there is some way of weeding out irresponsible people.

Q. Can we retain independence from the US?

A. There is a huge economic force of gravity. Although many Americans do not realise it, US-Canada trade is the largest in the world and for the US is bigger than the next 10 combined. We have to have close economic ties. 30% of Quebecers want to leave. If they are ever successful, Canada is not viable.

Paul Stumes thanked Mr. Francis while the rest of us pondered the questions and answers and thought up a few more to ask afterwards.

September 24 - Jim Mountain

We had advertised that the September speaker would be Deborah Scott but Deborah has changed jobs and, instead, Jim Mountain will talk to us about Museums and Heritage in the City of Ottawa. In fact we will get a "twofer" as Jim will be joined by Rick Strong, Chairperson of the Friends of the Billings Estate Museum who will talk about the 175th anniversary celebrations next year.

Jim joined the City of Ottawa this year from a position with Commonwealth Historic Resource Management in Perth. Amongst his accomplishments, Jim was named *Tourist Person of the Year* in 2000 by the Ontario East Tourism Association. He led the successful creation of an historic district in Fort Macleod, Alberta and has been involved in similar projects overseas.

Tofy Mussivand, Engineer/Doctor, Develops Artificial Hearts



Dr. Tofy Mussivand, FRSC, Director, Cardiovascular Devices Division, of the Heart Institute and the World Heart Corporation's chief scientific officer, was our club's guest speaker on July 27th. Trained as an engineer and then as a medical doctor, he is now a world-renowned leader in the development of

artificial heart technologies.

During his illustrated talk on Emerging Treatments for Heart Failure, Dr. Mussivand told us about WorldHeart's Novacor LVAS and the "next-generation" HeartSaver VAD heart pumps. The Novacor has been approved by medical-devices regulators in several countries for patients awaiting a natural heart transplant. WorldHeart is also seeking approval for its use as a long-term device for heart patients. It is implanted in place of a diseased heart and requires a continual source of power that is external to the body. The smaller HeartSaver device, currently a research and development project, is implanted beside and supplements the diseased heart. It will (in one version) be recharged several times a day from its external power unit or (in a much less expensive version) be continuously powered by a battery worn at the patient's waist.

Dr. Mussivand's talk was very timely as we were able to announce that a CBC-TV program on his life was to be broadcast the following night in the *Ontario Stories* series. The program took us from when he was a Kurdish shepherd-boy in his native Iran to his current work on medical devices at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute.

Allen Taylor

Volunteers Wanted

This is just one of life's coincidences. About the time we were arranging for Dr. Mussivand to speak to us, a notice appeared in at least one downtown apartment building - "Heart Failure Study, Volunteers Wanted". Now that's volunteerism!

All we ask is for some help putting the chairs away.

President's Dinner

As a way of saying "Thank you" to outgoing President, John Kruithof, we have arranged the Second Annual President's Dinner. John and Kawsar will be the guests of honour at Mr. Keith's on October 8th. Last year's event was very enjoyable and we will keep to the same format except that we have asked Eva Hammond to arrange for a senior member of our sponsoring Rotary Club to speak.

Mr. Keith's is on Old Innes Road midway between St Laurent Blvd and Highway 417. There will be a cash bar from 6:00, dinner at 6:30. The cost will be \$30 per person including all taxes and gratuities. Tickets are available from John Wright at the October meeting or by mail (either 731-3186, 1933 Illinois Avenue, K1H 6W5 or 731-8521, 1882 South Haven Place, K1H 5B2).

More details and a map will be in the September Flyer.

October 22nd - Col. Richard Williams

Colonel Williams, OMM, CD, will continue our tradition of having a Remembrance Day connection at our October meeting. As it is also close to the 100th anniversary of the first manned flight, it is appropriate for us to call on the Air Force this year.

Col. Williams has served in some highly technical positions - he has a Master of Engineering degree from Carleton - and, more recently, in some important defence strategy posts. He received the Deputy Minister Commendation for his work negotiating the Canada-US Enhanced Military Cooperation Agreement earlier this year. He has also served as the Director of Western Hemisphere Policy, responsible for relations with the rest of the Americas.

Indoor Picnic

Last year we decided to beat the heat with an "Indoor picnic". This worked out so well that we went for the same format again in July. After the regular meeting (Dr. Mussivand) the set-up was quickly changed from meeting style to tables. An ad hoc kitchen staff looked after the food and presented the "pot luck" salads, main courses and desserts in fine fashion. With about 60 members and guests tucking in, everything disappeared. There were no Oliver Twists, so it was a case of "not too little, not too much but just right".

Thanks go to all the volunteers who did the set-up, serve-up and tidy-up, allowing the rest of us to enjoy a longer period of socializing than our regular meeting format allows.

The Survey Says ...

The numeric items were easiest to deal with. We rise at 7:30 (average), have our main meal at 6 (almost unanimous), watch 12.5 hours of TV per week (range from 1 to 24) and go to the dentist every 7 months (most people go every 6 months but one or two wait a little longer between visits).

We are definitely pro-Monarchy. Most take the Ottawa Citizen with the Globe & Mail a distant second and the Sun hardly shining at all.

Some of the other questions were more difficult to categorize. Our taste in magazines is eclectic, few getting more than a couple of votes (Time, National Geographic). Authors were spread even wider, but if anything could be discerned it was a tendency to mysteries. Our Parliament gets a C but there were more E's than A's.

It is easy to sympathize with those whose pet hates are phone solicitations, loud music, advertising flyers, cold weather and tailgaters but "dirty shoes on a clean floor" sounds like a long standing issue in one household. Going from pet hates to pets, very few of us keep them! I made an arbitrary decision that the raccoon, snowshoe hares, groundhog, skunk, squirrels and chipmunks which feed off our plants, compost and the spillage from the bird feeders don't count as pets, even though some of them showed signs of wanting to become part of the household (until I fixed the torn shingles).

"Do we treat criminals too softly" and "Do you have a computer/word processor" had a similar division of responses. They are probably not statistically related. The "Yesses" just lead in both cases. "Do you feel less safe and secure" went the other way, but only by a small margin. We were split on the "slapping children" question and on the adequacy of our transportation system.

Churchgoers are in a clear majority. The war in Iraq has claimed our attention much more than either SARS or "mad cow".

There were several suggestions for speakers and topics. These will be given to our new Program Director.

Food seems to be one of our main preoccupations. In both question 22 (Main social activities) and question 24 (Probus events) we have references to "dining out", "supper club", "monthly dinners", "lunch club", "picnics", "Christmas party" and "President's dinner". Perhaps food is the means to an end and the main reason is the social contact it brings with it. And that is what Probus is all about.

What else did we learn?

The first thing we learned was that, in any future survey, we must be more careful to avoid ambiguity. In the question on Parliament it should have been made clear that it was Federal, not Provincial and that A meant faith and E meant a lack of faith. We have assumed that this would be the general interpretation. In the question on drugs it should have been made clear whether it was prescription or non-prescription drugs. Because of this the answers have not been reported. We kept the wording of the original survey from the UK where it may be less ambiguous. Perhaps we should have asked about legalization of marijuana.

Question 26 was added to the original. The Minehead Club is a men's club so the question was not needed on their survey. There was a temptation to put it as "Sex?" but the members who answered "Yes" to "Are you male or female?" would have had a field day with it.

Guests - June & July

In June we welcomed:

Evelyn Clue	Beryl & Harvey Kerrison
Valerie Wilson	Sheila Collins
Alice Kautz	Helene Mayer

And in July:

Alice Haughton	Anne & Bob Bouchier
C Taylor	Margaret Robbins
Ruth & Gary Suter	

We hope they all enjoyed their Probus experience - Valerie Wilson must have enjoyed it, she is now a member.

Deep Thoughts from the Maritimes

The July Newsletter of the Probus Club of Greater Moncton included some lesser-known proverbs:

He who laughs last, thinks slowest.

Everyone has a photographic memory - some don't have film.

A day without sunshine is like - night.

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't. (see *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*)

We meet at the Baptist Church, 414 Pleasant Park Road on the 4th Wednesday of every month at 9:30 for 10 a.m. Guests are very welcome.