



The Probe

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Joyce Wright assumes the Presidency

Our President for 2003/2004 will be Joyce Wright who takes over from outgoing President, John Kruithof. It was a 2-phase election process where the nominations were presented at the September meeting but the elections were delayed to the October meeting. Nevertheless, Joyce took the chair at the October Board meeting.

Allen Taylor is the Vice-President. The Program Team is Tony Goldsmith and Rod Macleod. Special Events will be handled by Jim Rader, Jean Lupton and Kawsar Kruithof. Rosalie Gelston and A. Fradinger will be on the Hospitality Committee as Greeters - a way of making new members and guests welcome. Ken Kitching (Secretary), Graham Gibb (Treasurer), Bayne & Jeanne Pearen (Sunshine Coordinators), Dorothy McIntosh (Telephone Committee) and John C. Wright (Editor) retain their positions for another term.

In an interview with *The Probe*, Joyce said she was pleased and honoured to be asked to lead the Ottawa - Alta Vista Club and that, with such a strong committee, the President's job should be very easy. She also expressed appreciation for the work of John Kruithof and the members of the Executive who have stepped down, as well as those who are continuing in their current positions.

The rest of the interview with the new President appears on page 3.



Joyce with Tulip - Acrylic on Styrofoam

Tribute to John Kruithof

Mr. Keith's was the venue for a dinner honouring and thanking John Kruithof for his work on behalf of the Club during his term as President.

In presenting a "Memory Book" to John, Joyce Wright noted how well the Club had done in terms of speakers and growth in membership.

The book consists of issues of *The Probe* and the *Flyer* for the past year plus many photographs (courtesy of our archivist, Allen Taylor) and other records of his year.

In his response, John said how much he had enjoyed his term as President and used his diplomatic skill to deflect any praise onto the Executive.

The Guest Speaker was Gib Patterson, a Past-president of our sponsoring Rotary Club. Gib grew up on a farm near the airport and mentioned driving a herd of cows along Hunt Club Road between the farm buildings and the pasture. The thought of driving cows on Hunt Club

in today's traffic gives one pause! If you can't think of a farm in that area, perhaps when you know that he opened Airport Golfland in the early '70s you can get the picture.

Like many entrepreneurs he had difficulty with the banks when he presented his plans. This turned out to be a blessing in disguise as he turned his hand to fund-raising.

Gib has since opened Innes Road Golfland, Emerald Links Golf and Country Club and Cloverdale Golf Club. He was kind enough to give out complimentary passes to the golfers in the audience.

All-in-all a very good evening.

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.

Sharp!

"Mr. King uses language for purposes other than to express thoughts". This was just one of the insights gleaned from over 60 years in the Public Service and politics, and shared with us by the Hon. Mitchell Sharp. As well as Mackenzie King, he talked about four other Liberal Prime Ministers, a Premier and several Ministers - famous Canadians who he knew from his position as a senior Public Servant or as a fellow politician.

Mr Sharp left his native Winnipeg and joined the Finance department in 1942. He rose quickly through the ranks and was part of the negotiations for Newfoundland to join Confederation. A team from the island came to Ottawa for secret discussions with the Mackenzie King government but to the dismay of the Canada team a full report of the discussions appeared in the press. An investigation into the leaks ended abruptly when the reporter said, "Joey calls me every day to say what's happened." There was no unanimity on the Canada side, one government member said it would just be adding another poor maritime province. History shows that there was no unanimity in the opinions of the Newfoundlanders who voted 52% to 48% to join.

Mr. Sharp described C.D. Howe as "one of those who helped convert Canada from a resource based economy to an industrial economy". They had a disagreement over the Trans-Canada PipeLine, which Howe saw as part of the industrial strategy, however the PM, Louis St Laurent liked the idea so it went ahead. Howe asked Mr. Sharp to draft a speech for him for Mr. St Laurent's 75th birthday, which, as an admirer of Mr. St Laurent, he wrote "from the heart".

Gordon Churchill was Mr. Sharp's minister during the Diefenbaker era, and the two did not get along. On one occasion Churchill asked Mr. Sharp to publish a secret report prepared for the previous administration which predicted a rise in unemployment if the Liberals remained in power. Mr. Sharp's counter-argument was to ask if Churchill would want secret reports prepared for him ever to be published. The issue went away.

In 1965 he was a minister in the Pearson government and his parliamentary secretary was Jean Chretien. Chretien campaigned for Mr. Sharp to become leader of the Liberal Party but Mr. Sharp felt that he could not prevail over Robert Stanfield and the only Liberal who could do so was Pierre Trudeau. He gave up his own chance of becoming leader by asking Trudeau if he would run.

The Trudeau years included some very rough times with

the James Cross and Pierre Laporte kidnappings and Laporte's murder but with the capture of the perpetrators terrorism ended in Canada. One sidelight on the different approaches of PMs Pearson and Trudeau was that Pearson liked memos of not more than 2 pages but Trudeau, to the delight of the paper industry, wanted much more detail and 10 pages was not unusual.

Mr Sharp is now a special advisor to PM Chretien at the princely salary of \$1 per year. On his 90th birthday he suggested that it was too much!

At the end of his talk he changed topics completely and discussed the importance of music in his life. He supported PM Pearson in the building of the NAC and regards Pinchas Zukerman as one of the finest violinists in the world. When he spoke of the reception given to the NAC Orchestra when they go on tours around the world it was with obvious pride.

He took questions and then asked one of his own - do we have problems getting speakers? When assured that we do not he seemed almost surprised as though he thought we must have had difficulty if we had to approach him. A very modest position for a man who has achieved so much.

Mr. Sharp was accompanied by his wife and they have promised to help us find a notable speaker from the music world.

Thank You from the Past-President

Time flies when you are having fun. That is certainly the case in my just concluded presidency of the Probus Club of Ottawa – Alta Vista. One year slipped by so quickly I wonder where it went. The monthly meetings where speakers routinely surpassed the high expectations we had hoped for were constant compensations for the hard work the Executive had put in for bringing the event to fruition. Speaking of the Executive, there never was a finer, more dedicated group of individuals coalescing to get a job done. The number and variety of issues that crop up when conducting the affairs of a club having more than one hundred and twenty members is quite astounding.

My first thanks go to the Executive for attending to all the details. I also wish to thank the members who encouraged me with words and letters of appreciation. The entire membership of our Club demonstrated respect for speakers, decorum, and the welfare of each other. It was an honour being your president. Thank you for the opportunity.

John Kruithof
October 15, 2003

Probe Us - Joyce Wright

Probe: *Congratulations on becoming the 5th President of the Ottawa - Alta Vista Probus Club. You look quite comfortable standing in front of the meetings.*

JPW: I am used to the room. In 1991 I became the founding President of the Faircrest Heights Community Association. Pleasant Park Baptist is the nearest hall to our community so we hold all our meetings there. This gave me the chance to get to know Allan Mac Lennan.

Probe: *What does the community association do?*

JPW: We listen to the concerns of the community and do our best to create a healthy and safe environment for all residents. Traffic and greenspace are major concerns as well as any changes at the Health Complex. At the moment we are working with the City to establish a special park opposite the General Hospital. We hope that people will plant trees there and dedicate them to veterans or other family members.

Probe: *How did you get to hear about Probus?*

JPW: The Bell connection. A group of Bell retirees get together for pizza once a month and Jim Rader often passed around the program. One of the speakers looked particularly interesting so I decided to give it a try. There were several old friends in the group, which made it easy to feel at home so I started to come on a regular basis.

Probe: *Was your whole business career in Bell?*

JPW: Yes, I joined Bell in the Plant Department in Montreal then moved into Engineering and later to Regulatory Matters - where I worked for Jim Coombs. I took a break when Peter was born and returned to Bell until retirement.

Probe: *All in Montreal?*

JPW: No, but always in Quebec. We moved to Ottawa when our son was about 4 months old and, when I went back to work, it was in Hull.

Probe: *What are your other interests, besides Probus and the environment?*

JPW: Politics. Both Peter and I have been President of Ottawa South (Federal) riding association. I have been involved in every campaign at municipal, provincial and federal level for the past 20 years. Recently the prospect of getting a Botanical Garden in Ottawa has intrigued me. I was Secretary of the Ottawa Botanical Garden Society for its first 3 years and I am still a Board member.

Probe: *Tell us about the tulip.*

JPW: It was painted for the Tulip Festival last year. I

love painting but I'm more used to working on flat surfaces so it presented an interesting challenge. Music is another love and we often seem to meet other Probus members at the NAC. I was a member of the Macdonald Club, which supported the arts in Ottawa, and did a term as President.

Probe: *With Probus that makes only four Presidencies, any others?*

JPW: Just a couple, both in the English-Speaking Union. First Ottawa Branch and then National. The organization was formed 85 years ago "to bring together in the bonds of friendship the English-speaking peoples of the world". It has now put the emphasis on education and youth. I have been to several World Member's Conferences and was involved in organizing one here in Ottawa a few years ago. The ESU has branches in over 50 countries, most of the recent ones being in Eastern Europe, South America and the Orient as they have recognized the need for a language in common with the business centres of the world.

Probe: *We had your picture on the front page receiving the Queen's Jubilee Medal from John Manley. What was that for?*

JPW: More or less the activities outlined above. The main emphasis in the citation was working for the betterment of the community.

Probe: *You haven't mentioned your husband?*

JPW: You can interview him sometime. He often talks to himself.

Probe: *Yes, dear.*

Regional Rendezvous 2004

We have received word of a spring luncheon from Cornwall Probus Club.

"As you are aware there was no 2003 Spring Luncheon in our area. The Probus Club of Cornwall and Area would be happy to host the 2004 Spring Luncheon. A tentative date of Wednesday, May 19, 2004 has been chosen. The cost per person would not exceed \$30.00 and would include the lunch and entertainment."

Carol Potts, who is heading the Organizing Committee asked us to estimate how many O-AV members would attend. We guessed about 24, based on the Kingston trip last year. We will be asking for a commitment in the early the Spring, but meanwhile, if you would let a member of the Executive know your intention it may enable us to give a better indication to the Cornwall club.

President's Notes

The Editor assures me that this is the normal amount of space allocated to the President. Just enough room to assure **you** that I will work with the Executive so that our club continues to flourish.

Joyce Wright

New Members

We are delighted to welcome 6 new members:

Clair & Nancy Gleddie
Robert & Anne Bouchier
Gordon & Joan Taylor

All of whom joined at our September meeting.

November 26th

Eva Hammond will relate some of her experiences with Rotary International, particularly her recent trip to the Camerons as part of Rotary's "Eradicate Polio" campaign.

December 10th (2nd Wednesday)

"'Tis the season to be Jolly!" Our annual Christmas party is one of our two annual social events Talent scouts are out there. Let us know if you have a 'party piece' to offer. Don't forget the shift from the 4th Wednesday. Details in the November *Flyer*.

Budget 2003/2004

Graham Gibb, the Treasurer, presented the year-end figures for 2002/2003 and the budget for the upcoming year. Our main expenses continue to be rent (\$700 - a modest increase), Probus Canada membership and insurance (each \$1.25 per member), gifts for speakers (\$200), communications (photo-copying, etc. \$350) and stationery and miscellaneous (\$250). The loonie-bin covers the cost of comestibles. Graham projects an operating surplus of about \$400 for the year.

Muskoka Rendezvous 2005

"The four Probus Clubs in Muskoka are thrilled to be your hosts for the first Probus Canada Rendezvous being held September 27, 28, 29 & 30th in 2005. Probus members from across Canada will have an opportunity to come together in central Ontario in an area commonly known as 'Cottage Country'. Here beautiful lakes and a kaleidoscope of Fall colours will surround you."

We will keep you posted as plans firm-up.

Ottawa's Museums

September brought us two speakers for the price of one! Jessie Weldon-Gibb introduced Jim Mountain from Ottawa's Museums Department, who in turn, introduced Rick Strong, President of the "Friends of Billings Estate Museum".

Jim has been involved in heritage matters for 30 years, literally from coast to coast. He described himself as a 'front line activist' willing to stand in front of machinery. Jim obviously feels very strongly about the lack of attention to our heritage, and worse, the deliberate destruction of heritage in the name of urban renewal. He put aside his law degree to get involved in the work.

One of his experiences as a Ranger in Algonquin Park, a summer job for 5 years, was when he was partnered with an older man and spent 4 months in camp with him. His partner was full of lore of the Ottawa Valley and every night around the campfire they talked about the valley, its communities and its history. This was very much in the oral tradition mould - his partner couldn't read or write and it helped set Jim on his life's course.

The City has 3 people working in Heritage Development, 6 in museums and 6 archivists. For everything else it relies on volunteers. Museums are considered by many to be non-essential services and always risk budget cuts.

Rick Strong told us about the Billings Estate and the activities planned for its 175th anniversary, next year. Billings was an American who exported wood to Europe. A shipwreck cost him a cargo and threw him into debt to the tune of \$50,000 (2003 dollars). He moved to Canada in 1812 and established his farm. His wife, at 17 years old, did the cooking (in very primitive conditions) for the 14 people who worked on the farm. By 1827 his business had prospered again in the lumber trade and by selling groceries and food to the canal builders. At that time, he built the house for about \$4,000 (1827 dollars). One of the anniversary projects is to try to recreate the original log cabin.

Both Rick and Jim made the point that the Billings Estate represents an incredible fund of Canadian history, yet it is so little publicised that most visitors to Ottawa come and go and are never made aware of it.

Jim commented that one of their objectives is expressed as "We want to leave a better place for our children and grandchildren." Perhaps this is something we should be asking our would-be councillors about, particularly on the role of the 20-year plan.

Paul Stumes, who had worked with Jim at one time, thanked the speakers.