



The Probe

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John Kruithof's Nomination

Our Board of Directors has put forward John Kruithof as our nominee for a place on the National Executive. We understand that there are other candidates so members should take every opportunity to promote John's candidacy when talking to Probeans in other local Probud Clubs. This is the resume we sent in:

JOHN KRUIHOF – served as President of the Probud Club of Ottawa – Alta Vista in 2002-2003 and is currently an executive member. Previously he was the Club's Special Events Co-ordinator. In May 2001 he was co-emcee of Eastern Ontario's Annual Spring Luncheon in Ottawa attended by over 300 members from 12 area Clubs. Other services include two years on the Board of the Riverside Park Community & Recreation Association where he co-ordinated the seasonal operations of three municipal outdoor rinks. Another interest is the Association of Former Foreign Service Communicators, of which he is 1st Vice President. During his 35-year career with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, he served at nine Canadians missions abroad. If selected to the Probud Board of Directors, he will concentrate on regional and national priorities, while keeping in mind the international role Probud can play.

New Electoral District

Ontario used to be treated as a single entity electing a total of 6 directors. Over the past few elections there had become a concentration of Directors in the "905" area, which, without taking anything away from the Directors involved, had the appearance of an imbalance. Under the new by-laws, recently voted in by the Clubs across the Country, Ontario is now in 6 regions each of which will elect a Director every third year on a staggered basis.

Ottawa/Alta Vista is in Ontario #1 Region made up of all the clubs east of Coburg. In 2004 (2007, 2010, etc.) we will have an election within our region.

Keep Wednesday, May 19th, open for the Eastern Ontario Spring Luncheon in Cornwall

Managing Director

With over 150 clubs in Canada, Probud has become too big an organization to operate on a strictly volunteer basis. The Board of Directors recommended that a staff position be created to assume much of the load. This was circulated to the Clubs which voted heavily in favour of the proposal.

Reg Whynott of Qualicum Beach, BC, will be the first incumbent.

Oh! What a Party

Our Christmas Party was a great event. Great food, great entertainment and great company!

Master of Ceremonies, John Kruithof, kept things moving along ably assisted by Aggie Simpson at the piano. The entertainment included Bob Haughton in a change of pace from prestidigitation to illusion; Ruth and George Toller reading Stephen Leacock's *Hoodo McFiggin's Christmas*; Lloyd Larson brought along his trusty violin; John E. Wright gave us another extract from *A Child's Christmas in Wales*; Allen Taylor took a historical tack - *Just Who Was Saint Nicholas*; Bayne Pearen added a little more humour and the Alta Vista Probud Choir was in fine voice.

The tables were a beautiful display thanks to some patient work in preparing the arrangements by Jean Lupton. Kawsar Kruithof and Joyce Wright worked with Jean in the kitchen.

As well as being a great morning for club members, some others were able to get some enjoyment from our efforts. The surplus food was taken to the Men's Mission and the contents of the Loonie Bin went to the Shepherds of Good Hope.

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 New Congress Centre

If you stand on Rideau Street between the old Ogilvy building and the Rideau Centre and imagine three stories of retail space and the new Congress Centre on top stretching back to the Mackenzie King Bridge, that will give you an idea of the plans. It will triple the meeting space from 75,000 square feet to 225,000 square feet and will be able to house some of the big conventions that have slipped through Ottawa's grasp.

David Hamilton, chairman of the Congress Centre, presented an enthusiastic view of the expansion plans but tempered it somewhat with his picture of the layers of complexity attending the project. The complexities can be summarised as: the City, the Province, the Feds and the Lawyers - and that is before any architectural and construction considerations.

The basic problem with the existing facility is that it is too small. Since 1996 the loss to Ottawa has been about \$170 million and 420,000 hotel room-nights. Part of the problem is not so much the size of the great hall but the lack of availability of many smaller meeting rooms for conferences which want to break-out into small groups for part of the time.

The Centre is doing well with the resources it has and is helped by having Canada's most successful shopping centre (in sales dollars per square foot) and the Westin Hotel chain's most successful property, being adjacent, but it could do so much more.

David listed Ottawa's advantages as its hotels, its restaurants, the Market and its reputation as "Green & Clean". He pointed out that there have been many improvements since the centre opened 20 years ago - the new gallery, the new photo museum and a build-up of activity in the market. These help to bring in conventions.

The approximate timing is - one year for architectural studies and two years for construction - once the purse strings are loosened.

David's talk was followed by an unusual number of questions.

What is the current capacity? About 1000 with break-outs or 3000 in one group.

What is the approval process? Complicated. Meetings with lawyers for all three levels of government appear positive. The City will not part with money until the building permits are signed so one of the other levels will have to provide the up-front money.

How will changes be handled (contractors love

changes)? The same process will be used which brought the new airport in under budget and early.

How will the architect be selected? Looking for 'expressions of interest'. There will probably be about 25 which will be whittled down to 3 or 4. A complication is that it is a combined shopping centre and convention centre and architects tend to specialize in one or the other.

Allen Taylor thanked David and presented him with one of the new Probus pens. Jean Lupton made the introduction.

President's Notes

Travel seems to be a major interest of our members and so we are going to provide some information, with your help, on where to go, how to get there and suggestions on where to stay. PROBUS TRAVEL will soon appear on our notice board with information supplied from all of you who have travelled and extolled the virtues of the places you have visited.

Let us know how you travelled (car, airplane, ship) and your assessment of hotels, restaurants, museums, heritage, etc. Members have given great accounts of trips from short one-day drives across the border to tours of China or cruises to exotic locales. Here is your chance to let others know about your experiences and recommendations.

We are preparing a form that can be filled out giving us details on your trips. If you wish to participate, please pick up a copy and fill it out and deposit it in the TRAVEL BOX that will be at the back of the room. The data will be compiled and a listing of places visited will appear on PROBUS TRAVEL. Our travel booklet will gradually grow as more members participate.

Joyce Wright

April 28 - Marion Dewar Ottawa's Social Problems

Marion Dewar is a public health nurse (BSc Nursing, University of Ottawa) who served as an Ottawa Alderman from 1972 to 1978 when she was elected Mayor of the City of Ottawa and served on several commissions and boards. She retired from the mayoralty in 1985 after serving three terms. Ms Dewar served as NDP Member of Parliament for Hamilton Mountain from 1987-1988.

Known as a social activist, she has demonstrated a deep interest in and commitment to the well-being of the Ottawa community over the years.

John Newton 1921 - 2004

On February 8th, John collapsed on Pleasant Park Road while taking his daily walk. Our sincere condolences go to Joy, her children, Mary and John, and grandchildren.

John went into France with the Royal Engineers a few days after D-Day and campaigned across Northern Europe. When he retired from Cadbury's, after holding senior positions in England and Canada, he took the position of Executive Director with the Canadian Ski Association. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Olympic Association and served the PC Riding of Ottawa South as Treasurer. He was currently the Treasurer of the Faircrest Heights Community Association.

John and Joy joined Probus in January 2002.

March 24th - Christine Sadler The National Gallery of Canada

Christine Sadler is a Senior Project Manager at the National Art Gallery who has been responsible for mounting several major exhibitions. She has a Bachelor's degree in Art History and a Master's in Museology and has worked on exhibitions in the U.K. and the U.S. as well as here in Canada. Her talk will focus on the problems faced by the Gallery in mounting collections and exhibitions, and the successes they have achieved.

From the Probus Canada Newsletter

Club #157 in St. John's, NL, is now underway. There are about 19,400 members in Canada but none of them are in Quebec. However this may soon be remedied as there is a group working to set up a club there.

The plans for Rendezvous 2005 in the Muskoka area are forging ahead. There were 700 responses to their survey with many suggestions for activities and events.

The Probus Club of Edmonton offered some contradictions. Panama hats are made in Equador. The Hundred Years War lasted 116 years. Camel hair brushes are made from red squirrel fur. Cat gut comes from sheep. Chinese gooseberries come from New Zealand.

The Women's Probus Club of Newmarket suggests that if you think gas is expensive you should make a few comparisons:

Lipton Iced tea (16 oz. \$1.19)	\$ 9.52 per gallon
Gatorade (20 oz. \$1.59)	\$10.17 per gallon
Ocean Spray (16 oz. \$1.25)	\$10.00 per gallon
Evian Water (9 oz. \$1.49)	\$21.29 per gallon

They also point out that Evian is naive spelled backwards.

(To convert to metric, multiply by any number add 7, divide by 11, take away the number you first thought of and either add or subtract 32 whichever looks right.)

The Truth about Eating

For those of you who watch what you eat... Here's the final word on nutrition and health, and it's a relief to know the truth after all those conflicting medical studies:

1. The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than the Canadians, British or Americans
2. The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and also suffer fewer heart attacks than the Canadians, British or Americans.
3. The Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than the Canadians, British or Americans.
4. The Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than the Canadians, British or Americans.
5. The Germans drink a lot of beer and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than the Canadians, British or Americans.
6. Ukrainians drink a lot of vodka, eat a lot of perogies, cabbage rolls and suffer fewer heart attacks than the Canadians, British or Americans.

CONCLUSION:

Eat and drink what you like.....

Speaking English is apparently what kills you.....

(From the Internet via the Probus Club of Saint John)

A Word in your Ear

There has been a considerable *brouhaha* these past weeks, about the latest government *boondoggle*. Nothing new in that, but what is the etymology behind those words? *Brouhaha* appears to have an Old Testament background in that Baruch was the faithful secretary of Jeremiah. He wrote his master's prophecies on a scroll that ultimately was confiscated and taken to King Jehoiakim, who destroyed it as it was read out to him. There is also a Book of Baruch that is included in the Apocrypha. As a name, Baruch represents the Hebrew word for 'blessed'. It is the phrase *barruk habba*, frequently used in Hebrew liturgy and meaning *blessed be he that cometh* (in the name of the Lord) that gave modern French and English our word *brouhaha*. *Boondoggle*, on the other hand, is much more modern. Robert Link, a New York Scoutmaster, coined the word in 1925. We may use it to describe a wasteful or impractical activity usually involving graft, but Boy Scouts know it also refers to the braided lanyard. At the 1929 World Jamboree of Scouts in England, *boondoggles* were presented to both the Prince of Wales and Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of the Boy Scouts. The word excited interest, and articles in both *Punch* and *Scouting* magazine attributed the coinage to Robert Link. It took a few years for *boondoggle* to develop a place outside scouting. In 1935, a witness in an investigation of welfare used *boondoggle* to describe the crafts taught to relief recipients. Opponents of the New Deal were quick to adopt *boondoggle* for money-wasting, unproductive projects, and stories about the word's origin sprang up.

The Modern Politician

Archibald Lampton, Ottawa's poet, wrote this prescient piece in the late 19th century.

What manner of soul is his to whom high truth
Is but the plaything to a feverish hour,
A dangling ladder to the ghost of power!
Gone are the grandeurs of the world's iron youth,
When kings were mighty, being made by swords.
Now comes the transit age, the age of brass,
When clowns into vacant empires pass,
Blinding the multitude with specious words.
To them, faith, kinship, truth and verity,
Man's sacred rights and very holiest thing,
Are but the counters at a desperate play,
Flippant and reckless what the end may be,
So that they glitter, each his little day,
The little mimic of a vanished king.

(Both items prepared by *Martin Wickham*)

A Latter Day Canute

What do Carribean hurricanes pounding Galveston have to do with committee meetings? One man brought order to both!

Henry Martyn Robert (1837-1923), an officer in the United States Army Corps of Engineers, 1857-1901, was one of his country's most distinguished river and harbour engineers in his time. In 1901, the year he retired from the U. S. Army in the rank of brigadier-general, he was the principal designer of the Galveston Island Seawall. In the Great Storm of 8 September 1900 (a hurricane with wind velocities up to 150 knots) a 15-foot-high surge wave destroyed a third of all properties in the then-prosperous industrial and port city of Galveston, Texas, and drowned about 6,000 people. The Galveston Island Seawall that General Robert designed rises 17 feet (5.2m) above mean sea level and is 10.4 miles (16.75km) long - almost the entire length of Galveston Island. Fourteen rock piers jut out perpendicular to the Seawall into the Gulf of Mexico to break up and reduce the surge waves from hurricanes. In 1961, Hurricane Clara was powerful enough to cause extensive damage to the seawall but there were few casualties.

Unless you live in or visit southern Texas - in particular, by going to the Great Storm Theater at Pier 21 in Galveston's port area or the Galveston Island Visitor and Convention Bureau on Seawall Boulevard - you will probably never hear his name mentioned for his professional work as a military/civil engineer. The name General Henry M. Robert is very well known to this day, however, for his legacy - his manual on parliamentary law and procedure titled *Robert's Rules of Order* - which he prepared entirely in his free time!

General Robert explained in a lecture he gave in Cincinnati in 1915 or 1916 how his *Rules of Order* came to be written. His notes for that lecture, which are in the Henry M. Robert's Papers at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., are the basis of a full 1500-word article; this is just an appetizer.

Canute, of course, failed to turn back the waves.

Research by *Allen Taylor*

You're Welcome!

We meet on the **4th Wednesday** of each month in the Hall of Pleasant Park Baptist Church, **414 Pleasant Park Road**, a long block and a bit east of Alta Vista. Meetings start at 10 am, but we start arriving about **9:30** to enjoy coffee, cookies and chat. Why not join us?