



The Probe

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June 2004

Eastern Ontario Luncheon Cornwall in the Sunshine

The Cornwall Probud Club put its best foot forward on May 19th and the weather co-operated so that the drive and the luncheon made a great day out. All out-of-towners were greeted as special guests and the tables were arranged so that there were two Cornwall members with 6 guests at each one. There was time for coffee and chat before lunch which gave the opportunity to talk to some old friends and to meet some new ones.

The MC put everyone at ease, the Mayor was on hand to give a civic greeting and a prayer was offered by a Grand Chief from the nearby aboriginal community. After the lunch there was entertainment on a grand scale. A troop of 'geriatric' dancers with walkers, crutches, walking sticks, plaster casts and oxygen bottles hoofed their way through their opening number and, once they were warmed up, put their orthopaedic devices aside for a couple of smart tap routines. There were door prizes, an updated version of 'Pass-the Parcel' and the show concluded with a fiddle band which brought back memories of Don Messer's Jubilee.

After the luncheon there was an informal meeting of representatives from each Club. This was partly a 'get to know your counterparts' session but included a discussion on how to ensure that we find a host for these luncheons in future. Next year is a little up in the air as the Probud Canada event will be held in Muskoka.

As we arrived, Herb Gray was spotted among a group in the hotel heading for the main dining room. The events board showed that there was a meeting of the International Joint Commission. Doubtless they were carrying out the work described by Mr. Gray at our March 2003 meeting.

Pat Richardson, Peggy Kitching, the Kingstons, the Howes (and a guest), the Pearens and the Wrights enjoyed the day.

Monday, June 28th

Don't forget to **VOTE**.

Probud Canada President's Notes

I am constantly amazed at the variety of interests that are recognized and responded to by the various committees who initiate and organize the programs and events for their members, and I compliment you for your accomplishments.

Another area which speaks very positively about our organization is the constant growth and development of new Clubs across Canada as well as the continued growth of members in so many of our current Clubs, a large number of whom have waiting lists. Through the co-operative efforts of many.... existing Probud Clubs; Rotary; your national Board of Directors; and interested citizens, our growth of new Clubs continues to maintain a steady pace of an average of **1.5** new Clubs each month. I look forward to the continuation of this high level of interest by non-members of Probud, and the willingness of current members to share their pleasure of belonging with others in their community or neighboring communities. Please remember that this development is one of the primary objectives of Probud Centre-Canada and let us know if you see a need or desire for the start-up of a new Club in your area..... we are here to assist and guide. Since my beginning of active involvement with my election as my Club's representative on the Board of Probud Centre-Canada I have seen a major increase in the number of Clubs across the country, and have also noted the increased demand on our Board Members and part-time staff as we try to maintain this growth and, at the same time, keep the level of service to all Clubs as effective and efficient as possible.

Ken Leaney - President

The full text of Ken's message is on the Probud Canada website, www.probus.org/canada.htm

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.

Marion Dewar - Solving Ottawa

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. She retired in 1985 after having served 3 terms as Mayor. From 1987-88 she served as NDP MP for Hamilton Mountain.

Marion's wealth of knowledge and experience acquired during her more than 30 years as a politician and social activist were well demonstrated in her wide-ranging presentation to a large turnout of Probus members.

Marion described Ottawa as an unusual community. Not only is it the Capital of Canada but, more importantly, it is made up of many small communities which assume responsibility for resolving community issues. She began by describing "Project 4000" an idea she spearheaded soon after she became Mayor in 1978. This project grew out of the need to respond to the plight of Vietnamese refugees who were fleeing their homeland in a desperate search for freedom and safety. At a public meeting she convened to discuss sponsorship, community groups, in large number, came forward, to welcome some 4000 Vietnamese refugees to the Ottawa area. These families are now well integrated and are making an important contribution to the Ottawa economy.

Current problems such as seniors' concerns about safety on the streets and crime associated with street gangs can also be resolved by community action and participation. She cited a youth centre, on Prince of Wales Drive, initiated by a Community Police Officer, as a good example of a community solution to a problem. This idea is now being demonstrated in communities across Canada.

Marion has a keen interest in the provision of health services. She has served on the Boards of hospitals and of the District Health Council and continues to serve on the Board of the Heart Institute. She expressed concern about the erosion of all health services with particular emphasis on the erosion of home care services. She encouraged all of us to ask questions and demand studies of costs in an effort to bring about changes that would result in a more efficient and effective system. She spoke positively about the role of Community Health Centres which provide a multidisciplinary approach to health care with emphasis on prevention.

It has been said that "It takes a village to raise a child" Marion Dewar's philosophy is that "It takes a community to build a city". Let us all continue to play an active part in solving problems in our local communities.

Ada McEwan


Rendezvous Canada 2005

From the Probus Canada Newsletter:

As you will be aware, a group of Probus Clubs from the Muskoka area of Ontario have recently conducted a survey of Probus Clubs in Canada to determine the level of interest in attending a national gathering of Probus members from across Canada at a fellowship event to be held in their region in the fall of 2005. The Committee recently reported to the Board of Directors of Probus Canada on the results of the survey which showed that over 700 replies were received with many comments and suggestions for consideration by the Committee. The responses indicate that there is indeed a fair level of interest in the idea with some modifications required to the original plan of activities.

Following the meeting with the Board and some in-depth discussion, the Muskoka Committee have expressed a willingness to continue working toward a more acceptable program for consideration by the Board and submission to the Clubs across Canada. In the future you will be receiving more information on this event from the Committee or the Board. In the meantime, our sincere thanks to all who did respond to the original survey with comments and suggestions. It is the hope of the Committee and your Board of Directors that this can be developed into an opportunity for Probus fellowship of national scope and enhance the aims and objectives of our organization.

President's Notes

As you pick up this copy of *The Probe* we will be saying "Good-bye" to Rod Macleod.  Rod was one of our original members and has served on the Executive in several capacities, most recently on the Program Committee. Ann and Rod are leaving Ottawa for Bracebridge to be closer to family. We wish them well. Our loss is a gain for the Bracebridge Probus Club.

On the back page there is an advertisement for our "Vernissage" in August. This is a time to showcase your talents in the art, handicraft and hobby areas. I hope everyone will have something to show off.

It is hard to realize that my year as President is well past the half-way mark. The next flyer will have the notice of the AGM and a call for nominees to the Executive. It is essential for any organization to identify and bring forward future leaders. If you have someone in mind who could be President in 2005, 2006 or even 2007 - now is the time to persuade them to join the Executive.

Joyce Wright

Is Canada's Immigration Policy Working?

An interesting talk on the subject of immigration was presented by James Bissett, former Executive Director of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, at the May 26th meeting of Probus, Alta Vista. He stated that for the past 15 or 20 years Canada's Immigration Policy has deteriorated badly and has not served Canada well. It is a neglected area of public policy as it is controversial and subject to accusations of racism. Some of the supporters of the present policy are immigration lawyers, special interest groups, and some church groups.

The current policy aim is to allow entrance of 300,000 immigrants or 1% of the Canadian population. No other country accepts this many --- compare 0.4% in U.S.A. Immigrants go mainly to three Canadian cities, Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver which cannot absorb so many, with consequent economic and social problems. Once here immigrants apply to bring in their relatives and extended family. As job opportunities are limited, many come and go on the dole.

Present immigration policy is based on some false assumptions such as a declining labour force. It is questionable to assume that immigrants are a benefit in filling jobs and replacing an ageing population. Higher populations do not necessarily benefit economic status. Statistics Canada shows that there are declines only in certain sectors, and there is a 25% increase in unemployment of highly educated people here.

Our speaker feels that our Refugee Policy is insane. We are the only country to allow refugee claimants in once they are on Canadian soil. There are 20,000 - 40,000 asylum seekers, some of whom are smuggled into Canada by criminal elements. They are allowed to stay for two years before getting a hearing, all the while receiving free medical and legal help. Recently 700 HIV Refugees have come from Africa which will cost \$150,000 per person per year. Our policy is a security concern for the United States who have tightened their security at the border.

Politics play a large role in immigration policy. Immigration Ministers usually come from high-density ethnic constituencies. These constituents form a solid voting bloc and usually vote for the government in power.

How we can improve our policy:

- cut the number allowed from 300,000 to 80,000 - 100,000.
- narrow the range of bringing in relatives.

-- put a cap on the number allowed from each country in any one year as in the U.S.

-- stipulate that our values are to be accepted - Islam finds it hard to separate church and state which makes it incompatible with some of our values.

After the talk there was some animated questioning:

- Why don't we specify that immigrants move to areas in the country where there is a labour shortage?

Answer: This cannot be done under the Charter of Rights which specifies free movement of people.

-How does the Province of Quebec differ?

Answer: They are more selective regarding skills and language.

Mr. Bissett was asked to print his speech for distribution to Probus members to enable them to pressure our elected representatives.

Rae Finley

Lost or Stolen Credit Cards?

The Probus Club of Qualicum Beach added a new thought to the list of things to do if you lose your credit cards or have them stolen.

"Here's what is perhaps the most important: Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit. By the time I was advised to do this, almost two weeks after the theft, all the damage had been done. There are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert. Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw my wallet away this weekend (someone turned it in). It seems to have stopped them in their tracks."

The numbers are:

Equifax Canada: (Your Credit File): 1-800-465-7166

Experian: (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742

Contact Trans Canada Credit: 1-416-465-7166

In Canada contact: Human Resources Development Canada: 1-800-206-7218

Mug Shots

If they put the pictures of the 10 'Most wanted' on stamps instead of the Post Office wall, letter carriers would probably spot them!

July 28th - Prof. John Sigler - “Turmoil in the Middle East”

Dr. John Sigler of the School of International Affairs at Carleton University is an expert on Middle East affairs. He has appeared regularly as a television commentator and has written and spoken extensively on the Arab/Israeli conflict as well as other flashpoints in the region. In a presentation to the Group of 78 (May 2002) he said, "A massive propaganda campaign by both Arab and Israeli partisans has made the task of finding, let alone building upon, the efforts at serious peacemaking all the more difficult. These efforts are certainly there, however, and deserve careful attention by all those interested in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict, which has poisoned international relations for over 50 years." Perhaps there is still hope.

Recent Guests

In April we welcomed **Marion Atwell** and **Glenna Roberts**, and in May we had four guests. These were **Jean Aslin**, **Al LeFrancois**, **June Coke** and, again (we must be doing something right), **Glenna Roberts**.

We were pleased to greet you and hope to see you all again.

August 25th - Dan Pihlainen - “Putting the News Together”

With its great bulk, the New York Times may be able to cover “All the news that’s fit to print”. A TV or radio station with much less “space” has to be much more selective. Is it important to the audience? Are there compelling images? Does an item need explanation from the anchor? Which items go first? Which are held back to entice the viewer to stay tuned?

This is Dan Pihlainen’s world. As the News Director of the New RO, he has to make the choices that end up as our news viewing. It’s a job that keeps him running (but that’s another story).

Finding Us

Our meetings are held at :

Pleasant Park Baptist Church
414 Pleasant Park Road
Ottawa ON K1H 5N1

The church is a long block and a few metres east of Alta Vista Drive. We get together in the morning of the 4th Wednesday of every month at 9:30 for coffee, Timbits and chat. Meetings start at 10. Guests are welcome - come along and introduce yourself!

New Members

We are delighted to welcome Evelyn Clue and Elizabeth Doe to our membership rolls.

Ottawa-Alta Vista “Vernissage” Probus Art & Craft Show

On August 25th, following our regular meeting, we will hold our first Art & Craft Show. This is a chance for all our members to put their handiwork on display. Please let us see what **YOU** can do with paintbrush, palette knife, hammer and chisel, carving or turning tools, potter’s wheels, stained glass, needlework, macramé, etc., etc.



Let Jean Lupton (521-1705) or John E. Wright (731-3186) know by August 10th what you will be exhibiting so that they can arrange tables and wall space. Make sure your work is identified and labelled. Nothing bigger than 2 m or 100 kg, please.

Instead of our usual pot luck picnic this year, light refreshments will be served at the *Vernissage*. These will be provided by the club instead of asking you to contribute. However if your craft specialty happens to be edible, it certainly will not be turned away.

Poetry Corner

Our venture into poetry (February issue) was well received, so, as we have this corner available at the extremity of the issue, here is a poignant poem.

In Extremis

I saw my toes the other day.

I hadn't looked at them for months.

Indeed, they might have passed away.

And yet they were my best friends once.

When I was small, I knew them well.

I counted on them up to ten

And put them in my mouth to tell

The larger from the lesser. Then

I loved them better than my ears,

My elbows, adenoids, and heart.

But with the swelling of the years

We drifted, toes and I, apart.

Now, gnarled and pale, each said, *j'accuse!* --

I hid them quickly in my shoes.

John Updike (1932 -)