



The Probe

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Three Events in One!

Our August meeting was unusual in that we packed three events into one morning. Four if you count the refreshments separately! There was our regular meeting, **Dan Pihlainen** was the guest speaker, we had a visit from **Stone Avery**, our representative on the Probus Canada Board and that was followed by our first Vernissage, and light refreshments.

Stone Avery's Visit

Stone Avery is the newly elected Probus Canada director for Ontario Area #1. This covers Ajax to Ottawa, 22 clubs and 2,500 members.

Stone gave us a little of his personal history - born in Sault-Ste-Marie (and proud of it) - joined International Harvester in sales - ended his career as an executive with GM. While with GM he was driving about 50,000 miles a year so visiting the Probus Clubs in his district is no chore. So far he has visited 14. During his professional career, too much of his time was spent on the road to allow him to belong to any service or curling club. After retirement, he was approached by Rotary and started the Coburg Probus Club with 35 charter members. This club soon reached capacity and so he started another, and another, and another, five in all.

Stone talked about the 'Power of Probus'. It is not only a social group but also a support group for any member who has a problem. He described his Probus philosophy as 'minimalist' - each club is autonomous and has its own profile and personality. Probus Centre is there for guidance and services such as insurance and information.

He left us with two recommendations. The first from his love of north-western Ontario - drive the Trans-Canada

Highway between Sault-Ste-Marie and Thunder Bay. The second was that we should plan on attending **Rendezvous 2005** in **Muskoka** to meet Probus members from across the country. Stone commented that the new plans for Rendezvous 2005 have made it more interesting and more affordable.

What's new?

The man to ask is **Dan Pihlainen**, or you can watch the news on The New RO. Dan probably selected it, edited it and arranged it. The station broadcasts 5½ hours of live programming every day with news segments every hour, more news on *Breakfast at The New RO* and *The New RO at Noon*, and full news broadcasts at 6 pm and 11 pm.

While Dan was talking, a TV showed the raw footage of a 'mock disaster' - an emergency services preparedness test. The test started at 10 am and Dan had to have it as an item on the 12 o'clock news. The cameraman returned with 15 minutes of tape, with good visuals - people screaming for help, paramedics in action, interviews with organizers and 'victims', plus notes of who was involved in which interview with their names spelled out. This had to be edited down to a 1-minute piece that would capture the visual impact and explain what was happening. By the time the cameraman had made the tape, driven back to the Byward Market studio from Lansdowne Park and Dan had looked at the tape, time was getting short.

With the tape as background, Dan took us through a typical day. Morning comes early. To get to work at 3 am, the alarm is set for 1:45! News sources include the wire services, the internet, calls from the public, crime, fire and accident reports. Typically he will have about 60 'stories' vying for 12 slots. Once the selection has been made - balancing local, national and international events - the order of items is the next important decision. Following a report of a disaster or tragedy by pictures of happy kids at a CHEO party would look tasteless to the audience. Each item is on its own tape creating a logistics problem which is handled nowadays by a computer. As one item ends, the computer rolls the next tape.

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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.

(Dan Pihlainen - from page 1)

Dan explained the criteria for selecting items. How visual is it? Does it affect lives? Does anybody care? Money, health and education are usually important but there has to be something to the story that will keep viewers attention. The last part of the jigsaw puzzle is to write the announcer's script. This has to indicate when to stop talking to allow the tape sound to be heard, and when to start again. The news announcers use a teleprompter so that they can appear to be looking directly into the camera and speaking as though they had learned the script. Glancing down at a paper is strictly cosmetic.

Dan ended his talk by showing the broadcast version of the tape we had been watching. Good visuals. High impact. Informative.

The many questions were a good indication of how interested we were.

International news? Feed from CNN.

Breaking news? Can turn everything upside down. Roger Neilson's death meant putting aside a scheduled show at the last minute.

Rehearsals? The announcers need to go through things ahead of time. Change or practice awkward words.

Library? Much comes from CNN. Many obituary packages are stocked. There is a large file of stock video for local items.

Reporting? Usually one person. Can no longer afford to send out a crew of cameraman, soundman, producer and 'front-of-camera' personality.

Tapping experts? Maintain an extensive list of experts at universities, etc.

Internet sources? Stories from the internet may be malicious fiction. Sources must be verified.

Anchor's freedom. Probably someone like Max Keeping can say what he wants. New RO people have less flexibility. The producer is the person with the power.

George Toller thanked Dan on our behalf and promised to look at news broadcasts with a new realization of how complex they are.

Vernissage '04

Our Art Show was an unqualified success! With 17 exhibitors showing works which ranged from the quirky to the sublime, from the very large to the very small and from crafts to hobbies. There were paintings, sculptures, woodwork, needlework and collections.

Stone Avery formally opened the show and most

members took the time to look through the exhibits.

Our exhibitors were:

Anne Bouchier	Charles Cavanagh
Roberta Clark	Roy Dohoo
Jim Fydell	Alan Joyce
Phyllis Kingston	Peggy Kitching
Fran Meredith	Jean Saldana
Gloria Salvati	Carol Shuttleworth
Frank Sorenson	Paul Stumes
Dorothy Valiant	John E Wright
Joyce Wright	

Congratulations to all of them, and to **John E Wright** and **Jean Lupton** for making the arrangements.

Now that we know what we can expect, in future shows, we will look at how we can better display the *oeuvres*. Having seen what can be produced at short notice, we wonder what will be on display when members have a year to plan.

Light refreshments (arrangements by **Jean and John Lupton**) were served while members chewed over what they had seen.

Fall Luncheon

In what is becoming a tradition but also a break with tradition this year, nearly 30 of us met for lunch at Capone's Restaurant. The luncheon was for three purposes; to thank **Joyce Wright** for her work as President over the past year, to hear more about our sponsoring Rotary Club, and to enjoy an excellent lunch in pleasant surroundings with other Probus members.

John Kruithof, who made all the arrangements, acted as Master of Ceremonies. He spoke about the program for 2003/2004 and the special events, including the August Art Show. Joyce responded by saying what a pleasure it had been and, in particular, how much she had enjoyed working with the members of the Executive.

The Guest Speaker was **John Dickson**, the current President of the Rotary Club of Ottawa. John presented Joyce with a Probus pen and Past-President's pin and talked about the activities of both Rotary International and the Ottawa Club. He made special mention of the work of **Eva Hammond** in Rotary's Polio Eradication Program. John also commented that he was very much aware of Alta Vista Probus Club as he gets regular updates from Eva and **Dan Kelley**

The break with tradition was that in previous years, the event had been held in the evening. Changing to a lunch meant that more members were able to attend.

Probe Us - Allen Taylor

Probe: Allen, congratulations on your election as our 6th president. What brought you into Probus?

AT: Thank you. Jim Kingston invited me to Victor Suthren's talk on Captain Cook and again to hear about the *Scharnhorst*. This was enough to persuade me to join.

Probe: There seems to be a strong 'sea' connection?

AT: I served in the Royal Canadian Navy for about 25 years starting as an Acting Sub-Lieutenant when I graduated and completing my service as a Lt-Commander. This was followed by 15 years in the Public Service, including terms in Administration at both the Federal and Supreme Courts.

Probe: What ships did you serve in?

AT: Mostly frigates and much of the time training officer cadets. The ships were HMCS Antigonish, Buckingham (as 2nd in command) and Fort Erie, but before that I had 29 months on HMCS Magnificent, then Canada's only aircraft carrier. One of the most exciting and challenging activities is 'conning' a carrier when launching and recovering aircraft.

Probe: What was the path from seafaring to the legal environment?

AT: While I was Recruiting and Public Relations Officer in Quebec City, I started to learn Russian and studying the *Law of the Sea*. Later, after graduating from the RCAF Staff College and 5 years in the Defence Staff Secretariat, I joined the Plans Division at National Defence HQ and worked on international maritime law. This led to 9 months as the Secretary of the Canadian delegations to *Law of the Sea* conferences for the UN.

Probe: Let's go back a bit. Where were you born?

AT: I am a Montrealer, born in 1929, but my schooling was in London and St Thomas, then Ridley College in St Catherines. I went to Western and studied languages (French, Spanish, German and Latin) and then to UBC.

Probe: Apart from graduating, there was something special about your time in Vancouver...?

AT: Ruth is from Vancouver and we were married there in 1951. We now have 4 children and 9 grand children and for the past 25 years we have lived in the house we built in Village Mont-Cascades. We chose the site for the cross-country skiing. Ruth is a qualified cross-country skiing instructor and I have served as Director, Trail Riders Cross-Country Ski Patrol in Gatineau Park.

Probe: We know that you often go from Probus meetings

to the Museum of Science and Technology. What do you do there?

AT: I started in 1988 as a volunteer researcher and demonstrator in marine transportation and safety. From there I got involved with printing and for 5 years I spent 15 hours a week working with the master printer on the museum's historic printing presses. Almost accidentally I became involved with the railway operations on the Museum grounds. I've been an interpreter on the Division Superintendent's business car (CN 1907), trainman, station agent and conductor on the 3- and 4-unit trains run every Sunday during July and August. I've driven both their diesel electric locomotive and the Shay steam engine - under supervision.

Probe: With your experience driving ships and locomotives, running Probus should be a breeze. We look forward to your year at the helm.

AT: Thank you.

President's Report

When the new executive committee met for the first time, on October 6th, with nine members present/treasurer Graham Gibb told us that Club's end-of-year closing balance was \$1,247.66, an increase of \$85 over the balance he stated at the annual general meeting on September 22nd.

Paul Stumes noted that our total membership is 176 enrolled members, but that many had not yet paid fees for 2004-05. He has collected \$1937.

Tony Goldsmith told us that our November speaker will be David Anderson, curator of the Dr Norman Bethune Heritage Home at Williamsburg, Ont. Tony then tabled a list of potential speakers prepared by George Toller and himself, and asked us for guidance on it.

John Kruithof reported, for John C. Wright on communications, and then on hospitality, the arrangements for the Fall Luncheon on October 20th, and some other events in future.

The committee then voted to approve Graham's budget for 2004-05; decided on revisions to the slate of signing officers; advised Tony (and George) on several of the potential speakers; and agreed to meet in future at 10 am instead of 1 pm.

Allen D. Taylor, President

This review of the Executive meetings will be a regular feature of future issues of *The Probe* as a way of keeping members informed of what their executive committee is doing on their behalf.

AT

Barry Moss - Air Traffic Control

Occasionally or frequently "everyone" becomes an airline traveller - probably never bothering to listen to advisories from the cockpit on route and altitude and never once thinking of the mechanics of getting from here to there. Actually, those details are vastly interesting and informative as proved by our Probus-Alta Vista speaker on September 22nd. Barry Moss shared with us his extensive knowledge of air traffic control and of his participation in the planning of air traffic management for developing countries.

Paul Stumes introduced Mr. Moss who said he was flattered by the positive nature of the introduction.

Air traffic controllers have the task of ensuring safe operations of commercial and private aircraft. They co-ordinate the movements of thousands of aircraft, keep them at safe distances from each other, and, generally, ensure that traffic flows smoothly.

The system is a complex one but Mr. Moss was able to give us an insight into global aviation and users of airspace. He mentioned the FAA, NATS in the UK and our own NAV Canada as operational service providers. For example, we, as airline travellers, are directly affected when NAV Canada raises its fees and an extra charge goes on airline tickets to pass on that cost. Occurrences like 9/11, SARS, terrorism and oil prices also affect air traffic.

There are international aviation organizations such as ICAO, a UN agency which appoints states to control large oceanic areas outside national boundaries, e.g. the North Atlantic area is controlled by Canada and the UK. ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization with headquarters in Montreal) should not be confused with IATA which is the International Air Transport Association whose membership consists of most of the world's airlines. The two organizations represent different interests and, according to Mr. Moss, "do not always see eye-to-eye".

Barry Moss has more than forty years' experience in aviation, beginning his career in the Royal Air Force and recently retiring from ICAO. While working for the UN he planned air traffic management for third world countries; the idea being for those countries to eventually achieve western standards. Mr. Moss spent time in Bangladesh, Laos, Cambodia, Nepal, China, Indonesia (where he found the offshore island people "delightful"), Pakistan, Philippines, Vietnam and Mongolia.

He elaborated on his work in Mongolia and said that in 1989 there was only one English speaker available to

him. Ten years later almost everyone spoke English - a gratifying advancement since English is the language used in matters of air traffic control. Diverse third world cultures took a considerable amount of understanding and other problems included lack of funds as well as low priority sometimes given to air traffic control by governments.

This speaker's in-depth account of his role in air traffic management was well received by our Probus-Alta Vista audience and the way in which he capped his presentation with a note of humour drew hearty laughter. Mr. Moss obligingly answered several questions relating to aviation after which he was thanked by John Kruithof and given a token of appreciation on behalf of Probus-Alta Vista.

Outer space appears to be the next frontier and, who knows, perhaps Barry Moss will be enticed back from retirement to sort out that method of travel?

Mabel Goldsmith



Christmas Party



December 8th

Entertainment, Carols &
Refreshments

Details in the
November Flyer




November 24th - David Anderson

David is the curator of the **Dr Norman Bethune** Heritage Home at Williamsburg, Ont.

Sound Decision

We have made several attempts over the years to set-up a satisfactory sound system - without success. For the August meeting, Duocom set up two systems: one was a podium with a fixed microphone and the other a wireless mic connected to a speaker/receiver combination.

The podium system seemed to suit us best and we were able to purchase the demonstrator as a used system at a price much lower than its original cost.

This is the system used at our September and October meetings.