



# The Probe

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## 66,000,000 Apple Pies

For many of us, Morrison-Lamothe, “The Happy Baker”, was a symbol of Ottawa life. Although the bakery disappeared several years ago and the site on the canal east of Main Street is now a block of upscale condominiums, many of the firm’s products are still part of our lives. As examples, McDonald’s sold 66 million apple pies in one year - all baked by Morrison-Lamothe, and sixty-six President’s Choice labels cover M-L products.

**Grete Hale**, now Chairman Emeritus, took us through some of the ups and downs of the family business, from its very small “cottage industry” beginnings (\$26 to pay for oven bricks and a bag of flour); through the depression years - where the only thing that saved the family home was her mother’s foresight in having the property in her name as a condition of undertaking to restore the derelict farmhouse; the contacts with royalty; the charitable work of the family; and a look at the modern business of baking.

We had been promised the story of “the knife and the hat”. The knife was a kitchen knife used by King George VI on his pre-war visit to Canada. He was to cut a ceremonial cake (baked by M-L) but no-one had thought to provide a suitable knife. A plain ordinary chef’s knife from the kitchen of Government House was pressed into service and retained by Arthur Morrison as a souvenir. The Queen was asked if she would like to use the same knife to cut the 20-foot cake at Canada’s 100th Birthday Party on the Hill. She was delighted with the idea and the knife was taken from its place of honour in the bakery. The hat was part of the same occasion. Secretary of State, **Judy LaMarsh**, asked Grete if she would like to

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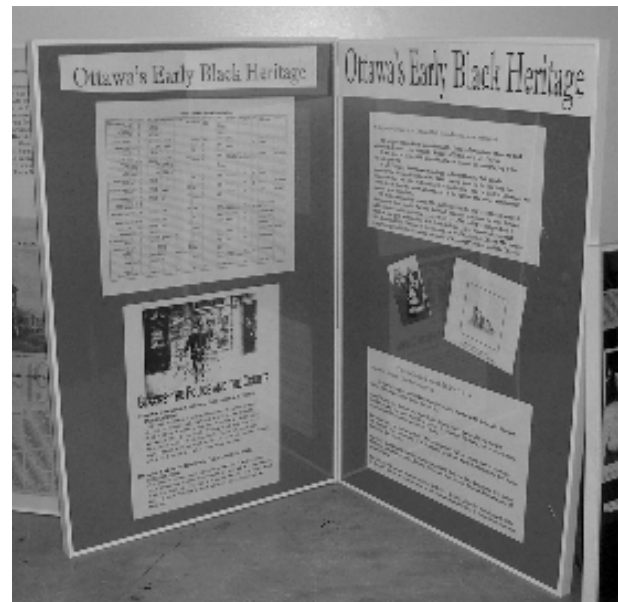
### **PROBUS’ Vital Purpose ...**

**To stimulate thought, interest and participation in activities at a time in life when it is easy to become complacent and self-centred.**

## From Slavery to Ottawa

If you wanted your preconceptions turned on their heads, listening to **Thomas Barber** was a great way to do it. Tom traced his family history from his grandfather, Paul, a former slave in Kentucky, to the 1930’s in Ottawa.

His comment that owners, when there was a rough job to be done, would protect their slaves by hiring itinerant (often Irish) workers pushed thoughts of Simon Legree into the background. **Paul Barber** was the book-keeper for the plantation and more an employee than a slave. Nevertheless, there was a key element missing in his life - freedom, which led him to make the move north.



*“Ottawa’s Early Black Heritage”  
Two of Tom Barber’s display boards.*

Another factor, which was something of a surprise, was that these new immigrants were accepted better in Ottawa than in other parts of Canada. The key factor was that in Ottawa the ability to generate income and to provide for a wife and family transcended other considerations. The Barber family, and others who arrived about the same time, showed their willingness to work and with that came acceptance.

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meet the Queen at the ceremony. A prerequisite was a hat. Grete looked out over the crowd thronging Parliament Hill and saw a lady wearing a big, black hat. A short but long-distance negotiation saw the hat passed through the crowd and afterwards it was returned the same way. Grete had no idea who had provided the hat until fourteen years later. The hat is now in the Nepean Museum. Providing a 20-foot birthday cake was not without its problems. Starting out as an order for a 10-foot cake which was later countermanded by Miss LaMarsh in favour of a 30-foot cake, the 20-foot dimension was a compromise. The width was determined by the width of the gates to Parliament Hill. Grete carefully measured the gap and allowed a few inches for safety. The decorations at the sides widened the cake by 6 inches and the truck driver had little more than the thickness of a few sheets of paper to work with, but the cake came through unscathed! None of the 40,000 cup-cakes made for the occasion were left.

One of the ways the Morrison Family has helped local charities is by opening their house and garden for fund raisers. In 1963 they made a tally of the number of visitors. It was 10,000!

Grete interwove family history, Ottawa history, anecdotes and statistics into a colourful tapestry of Ottawa life.

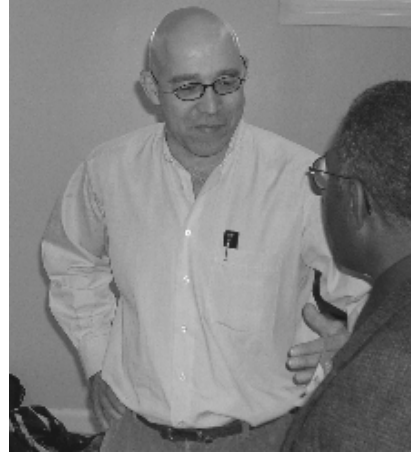
**George Toller** introduced Mrs. Hale. **Joyce Wright**, in offering our thanks admitted to being “blown away” by the magnitude of the Morrison family’s contribution to Ottawa. She also commented that hearing from Grete about all her activities would make anyone say, “What can I do?”

## May 25th - David Goldsmith

David Goldsmith has an eclectic background. Growing up on the East coast of Canada he completed his undergraduate degree in business at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton and worked briefly as a Chartered Accountant. He then joined the Canadian Air Force as a pilot and flew Sea King helicopters for a number of years. During this period he traveled extensively throughout Europe, coastal North America and the Caribbean. Moving to Ottawa in the early 90’s he completed his MBA at the University of Ottawa. He is currently nearing completion of his Ph.D. in Management of Information Systems at Queens University in Kingston specializing in Information Technology governance. Major Goldsmith is currently working on the Information Management Strategic Plan for the Department of National Defence

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Tom brought with him several display boards of family photographs and newspaper cuttings, as well as a



*Tom Barber chatting after the meeting.*

fascinating video.

His talk was also well illustrated with anecdotes and vignettes of Ottawa life in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s.

It was a rare insight into the courage and the success of black people who settled here to escape the hereditary hardships of their previous lives.

## June 22nd - Ted Fobert

Ted Fobert is a Registered Professional Planner (RPP) and Partner of Fotenn Consultants Inc., an Ottawa-based urban planning consulting firm. Ted has over 25 years of planning experience, representing both private and public sector interests.

Mr. Fobert will discuss the implications of Ottawa’s new official plan - to accommodate significant growth in housing and jobs to the year 2021 without expanding the current urban boundary. What kind of city can we expect in the future and what changes are inevitable?

## Guests and New Members

Our guests in **January** were **Milton & Miranda Sealey, Al Saldanha, Mary Harris, Anne Williams and M. McKenna.**

In **February** we were pleased to welcome **Daphne Raven, Pat Forbes and Lynne Bond**, who came as a guest and left as a member!

And in **March**, Al Saldanha and Anne Williams came to see us again and were joined by **Jim Maffre and Ray Jacyna. Daphne Raven**, on her second visit, signed up as our 199th member.

## Small World

**Allen and Ruth Taylor** recently traveled to Tunisia as part of a group tour. While waiting for the plane in Montreal Allen was chatting with another of the group who had joined from the Maritimes. She mentioned that she was a Baptist and Allen said that he went to a Baptist Church twice a month. In explaining that it was for our Probus meetings he mentioned **Pastor Allan Mac Lellan** and that he had now been called to a church "down home". Not only did she know of Allan but she had been teaching Allan and his wife to play the card game "Tarbush".

## A Scam

I received what looked like an official e-mail from CIBC. It was a scam.

### Dear CIBC Valued Customer,

Due to a recent security breach in the CIBC computer systems, we are asking all customers to immediately login and report any unnoticed password changes, unexplained funds depletion or the likewise. Rest assured that we have the safety and privacy of our customers as our top priority but please help us by following the instructions below:

DO NOT SHARE YOUR PASSWORD WITH OTHER USERS  
LOG OFF AFTER USING YOUR ONLINE ACCOUNT  
UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION WITH CIBC EACH TIME WE REQUIRE FOR THIS ACTION

Please click the following link, to verify your account activity & update your account information: (link deleted)

*CIBC Security Advisor,  
Joe Darwin*

I checked with CIBC and they confirmed what I had suspected - that it was a scam to learn account numbers and the passwords to go with them. They advised me not to click on the link; a little unnecessary at that stage, but a nice thought.

*John C. Wright*



We may have missed out on the "Evening to Honour Joan Finnigan" at Christ Church Cathedral but we were fortunate to engage her as our April Speaker!

## Ken Leaney

### President - Probus Canada

Well Friends, for many of us winter has come and gone and we are well on the way to Spring. Others will still experience one or two more occasions of shoveling snow or scraping ice and others will soon start to think about returning from sunny climates and getting back into the swing of things with their own Probus Club. It's worth mentioning, especially for those who have been wintering elsewhere, that during your absence the various meetings and other events and functions of your Probus Clubs have been going on steadily.

Throughout these past months Probus has continued to grow in numbers right across the country and we have now issued 168 charters and have 164 active Clubs with 21,500 Members. My thanks to each and every one of the Probus Clubs or individuals who have helped initiate the start up or development of a new Club, either on your own or in co-operation with your local Rotary Club. As many of you will be aware, Probus in Canada was started under the auspices of Rotary and new Probus Clubs are still being sponsored by them. We in Probus owe a great deal to Rotary Clubs and their Members, many of whom are also members of Probus, who do so much in the way of service to their respective communities and this year, as Rotary celebrates their "100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary" I extend to Rotary everywhere, on your behalf, our very sincere, "Thank You for the accomplishments of the past and best wishes for continued success in the future."

"I wish you well in your Club activities in the months ahead and I hope I have the opportunity to meet many of you in September at Rendezvous 2005".

*(from the Probus Centre Canada newsletter)*

## Insurance, Members and Guests

Probus Centre Canada has a blanket insurance policy covering all clubs for the normal business of Probus - from a guest slipping on a coffee spill to a traffic accident while transporting a speaker. For this we pay an annual charge per member.

This raises a potential problem - what to do about "members" who have not paid their annual dues. They are not guests but are they members? We do need everyone to pay their dues so we can make a correct return to Probus Centre Canada and be sure our insurance coverage is in place. However, none of the Board members like the job of asking someone to pay. If there is the slightest question in your mind that you just might be in arrears, please check with Paul Stumes or John E Wright at the membership desk.

## Poetry Corner

O joy! that in our embers  
 Is something that doth live,  
 That nature yet remembers  
 What was so fugitive!  
 The thought of our past years in me doth breed  
 Perpetual benediction: not indeed  
 For that which is most worthy to be blest;  
 Delight and liberty, the simple creed  
 Of Childhood, whether busy or at rest,  
 With new-fledged hope still fluttering in his breast:-  
 Not for these I raise  
 The song of thanks and praise;  
 But for those obstinate questionings  
 Of sense and outward things,  
 Fallings from us, vanishings;  
 Blank misgivings of a Creature  
 Moving about in worlds not realized,  
 High instincts before which our mortal Nature  
 Did tremble like a guilty thing surprised:  
 But for those first affections,  
 Those shadowy recollections,  
 Which be they what they may,  
 Are yet the fountain-light of all our day,  
 Are yet a master-light of all our seeing;  
 Uphold us, cherish, and have power to make  
 Our noisy years seem moments in the being  
 Of eternal Silence: truths that wake,  
 To perish never:  
 Which neither listlessness, nor mad endeavour,  
 Nor man nor Boy,  
 Nor all that is at enmity with joy,  
 Can utterly abolish or destroy!  
 Hence in a season of calm weather  
 Though inland far we be,  
 Our souls have sight of that immortal sea  
 Which brought us hither,  
 Can in a moment travel thither,  
 And see the Children sport upon the shore,  
 And hear the mighty waters rolling evermore

This is Stanza IX of *Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood* by William Wordsworth (1807) as read by **Timothy West** at the service of prayer and dedication for **Charles, Prince of Wales**, and **Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall**, in St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle on April 9th.

There is a minor variation from a printed version. The line, *Are yet a master-light of all our seeing* is *The master-light ...* Did Timothy's eye slip back a line? (If so, he made a masterful recovery.) We may never know.

## President's Message

When our editor, John C. Wright, asked me to write a President's Spring Message for the PROBE, I realised that I am doing so at almost the mid-point in my extended (15-month) one-year term of office. (The extra three months came from changing our fiscal year to the calendar year.) Isn't it wonderful that time passes so quickly when we are enjoying what we are doing?

At the July 27th meeting, following our speaker (at the usual time), the Club will have its picnic on the church grounds - at the back of the parking lot, under the trees, or inside the church in case of rain. We will have details for you as they are developed.

In future meetings of the Management Committee we will be developing a constitution and by-law, to be based on the formats suggested by Probus Centre Canada, our national governing body.

*Allen Taylor*

## Rotary Centennial Playground

Attentive readers of "The Probe" will notice the seven words accompanying our newsletter logo: "Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ottawa".

By design, once a Probus club is organized, it becomes fully autonomous and not committed to any particular obligations to Rotary. This informal structure is beneficial to our members who may belong to a variety of organizations. Nevertheless, while appreciating the structural autonomy afforded Probus, we should not necessarily lose sight of the many other worthwhile endeavours our sponsoring Rotarians are involved in.

One of these projects is to fund and build, in Ottawa, an accessible and inclusive playground incorporating features designed for aiding individuals with disabilities, because existing playgrounds generally fall short in this regard. To be known as the "Rotary Centennial Playground", it will be located in Brewer's Park, across from Carleton University. Construction is to be phased in over a two to three year period.

As we follow the progress of this venture, it is worth remembering that it is being built by the very same people who brought us Probus.

*John Kruthof*

The Ottawa Citizen, April 25, page B3, announced that the project will get a funding boost from the **Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion Foundation**. Seven local Rotary Clubs have a combined target of \$250,000.