



The Probe

Est. September 1999

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ottawa August 2005, No. 27

Probus Centre News

The June edition of *The Probus Letter* includes the election results from this spring.

President **Maureen Huismans** (Newmarket, ON)
Vice-president **Beth Hickerson** (Ancaster, ON)
Treasurer **Allan Lee** (Edmonton, AB)
Secretary **Arthur Buck** (Moncton, NB)
Past-president **Ken Leaney** (Parksville, BC)

Stone Avery (Coburg, ON), who visited us last August, continues into the second year of his 3-year term as the representative for Ontario District #1, which includes Ottawa.

Maureen Huismans was born in Bootle on Merseyside, England in 1931. Merseyside was a heavily bombed area during the second World War and after most of the heavy air raids it was decided that all children would be evacuated to a safe area. For the next two years she lived in Wales. Maureen was married in 1952 and emigrated to Canada in 1957. She lists her hobbies as singing (thank you Wales), quilting, embroidery, sewing and knitting.

In her *President's Message* she says: "What an amazing year to be installed as your President! I joined Probus in 1995 when the Women's Club of Newmarket was formed and offered to be their first Vice President, not dreaming of where that path would lead. In 1998/99 I was asked to serve on the Board of Probus Centre-Canada, Inc. as Assistant Treasurer (non Voting) in charge of regalia (a very fancy title) and looked after all the orders for club pins etc. It was a great opportunity to get to know where all the clubs were located. In 1999 I ran for the office of Ontario Director and was honoured to be elected and the Probus Canada executive also requested that I become the Treasurer. This required taking custody of four or five boxes of records and fitting them all into my 'granny' flat. Somehow the shelves expanded overnight and I didn't have to move.

Currently I am serving in my sixth year as a Director and still enjoying every minute of all the wonderful friendships I have made."

We wish Maureen well in her term of office.

Annual General Meeting

Until this year our AGM and elections have been held in September. This year we have changed our club year to fit the calendar year and the AGM will be in October on our regular meeting day, the 26th.

One of the precepts of Probus is that there should be a regular rotation of Management Committee members so that everyone has the opportunity to put something back into the Club. The Nominating Committee (**Allen Taylor, Jean Lupton** and **Joyce Wright**) are putting together a slate of candidates for your consideration. Once elected, the Board then decides who will do which task. As of now the only position that is settled is that of President because our tradition has been that, after serving one year, the Vice-president becomes President

When the Nominating Committee approaches you, please do not lightly turn them down. The tasks are not onerous and can be a pleasurable addition to your Probus experience.

Constitution and Bylaws

Did you realize that we are a lawless organization? We cannot find a copy of our By-laws, in fact we are not sure that we ever had any!

The Constitution is laid down by Probus Centre. These rules have been established over the years by the elected directors, so we have been represented in the discussions. The only variations allowed are the gender (men, women or combined) and the fees.

Probus Centre also offers a model set of By-laws which we can alter provided that any changes are in line with the Constitution. One of the areas where we propose to strengthen the model By-laws is in the area of safeguarding members' personal information.

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.

Ottawa - What Kind of City?

Ted Fobert gave us some population growth numbers and painted a picture of what the future Ottawa would have to be like to accommodate them. Ted was introduced by **Joyce Wright** who had worked with him on the plans for the Rideau Veterans' Lands.

Today, after amalgamation, we have a population of about 800,000 supported by 480,000 jobs. In 2021 the population will be 1.2 million supported by 750,000 jobs and demanding 190,000 new homes.

Ted knows the problems well. He was a planner with the City and is now using his 25 years of urban planning experience as a partner with Fotenn Consultants Inc. He reduced the statement of the problem to the question: How to deal with growth and maintain the quality of life? The current approach is through reducing land consumption, increasing density in key locations and encouraging infill. The guiding principles are: "Caring and Inclusive", "Green and Environmentally Sound".

The challenges include dealing with the community resistance to intensification; the market realities for growth in areas identified; the consumer preference for housing (as opposed to apartments); and existing community values. The risks include development of an elitist city with difficult entry due to increased land values; leapfrog development to adjacent communities (increases demands without providing tax revenue); unacceptable change; and increased congestion.

In Ted's view, urban containment requires a multi-layer strategy. The whole region has to be taken into account, which involves decisions by the Provincial Government. Growth must be allowed in target areas as of right. Federal and provincial funding must be consistent and long term. To go with all these, there has to be a deliberate change in culture - in this context he drew parallels between the future Ottawa and European high-density cities.

Allen Taylor, in thanking Mr. Fobert, noted that the question and answer session had been unusually long, a good indicator of the large stake many members have in the city's future. The questions ranged over development of farm properties (not to be touched); Gatineau as an example of a community benefitting without contributing to the tax base (working with Quebec); underground light rail (Peter Clarke, then the Regional Chairman, came very close to having it passed in 1988, now it is too expensive); the OMB (it is not likely to disappear); market value assessment (may go to an area base - the Glebe is being stressed by high property values).

Ted expressed disappointment over the development of the Rideau Veterans' lands. Much of the agreement between Canada Lands and the local community association, which he helped to broker, has been largely ignored by the developer.

The audience was not convinced that the future Ottawa was going to be as pleasant a place to live as it is today.

An Organizational Necessity

The speaker for July Probus meeting was **Heidi Tucker**, a professional organizer whose promotional flyer offers "Organizing services for home and business."

George Toller introduced Ms Tucker by changing a well-known phrase to suit the occasion - "To clutter or not to clutter, that is the question." He then apprised us of Ms Tucker's background in Rotary (her parents were members of Rotary); and also mentioned Ms Tucker's first profession as a nurse.

First of all Ms Tucker assured us that being disorganized is not inherited. However she did emphasize the positive aspects of being organized in our daily lives. She maintained there would be less stress, more free time for hobbies and for family and friends. Peace of mind would be another benefit.

Ms Tucker did not advocate throwing everything out but simply to organize it. Some questions to ask when

deciding what to do with an item - Does it add value? Can it be found elsewhere? What happens if an item is discarded? To begin organizing, we were told, one should set aside time each day; think of the primary purpose of each room; and work clockwise when clearing a room. Once started, a specific project should be completed as planned.

There were many helpful suggestions and unique methods of recycling odd items by using them as storage. For instance, threading jewelry chains through a straw would keep them from tangling; and using plastic salad keepers to store shoes.

Heidi Tucker appeared to take her profession very seriously. She outlined a comprehensive program which, if followed, should leave our personal environment tidy and ourselves healthier and stress free.

President **Allen Taylor** thanked the speaker and presented her with a gift on behalf of Probus Alta Vista.

A. A. (Tony) Goldsmith

Indoor Picnic

Congratulations and thanks to **Jean Lupton** and her willing staff for organizing our Annual Picnic. **John Lupton** brought in the food from the caterer and did his best to persuade everyone not to leave anything. **Kawsar Kruithof** and **Ada McEwan** tended to the layout and the punch.



With Heidi Tucker's talk being on a domestic theme, arranging the seating at tables instead of theatre style seemed particularly appropriate - and comfortable.

October 26 - John Lupton.

As we are approaching Remembrance Day in 2005, the official Year of the Veteran, we thought members would like to know a bit about The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre (RVHC), which opened a few years ago on Russell Road in Alta Vista. Probus member John Lupton was Executive Director of The Perley Hospital in Ottawa South, the old Rideau Veterans' Home on Smyth Road and, after construction, the new PRVHC. He'll tell us how three separate facilities were blended into one: three facilities because veterans in the National Defence Medical Centre were also included and transferred to the new PRVHC.



Heidi Tucker with some of her space-saving ideas

President's Notes



Our Club's paid-up membership, as of July 31, is 189; one year ago it was 160. Probus is growing throughout Canada - we now have 170 clubs and over 21,500 members!

When the Management Committee changed the Club's fiscal year to coincide with the calendar year, it followed that the annual general meeting should be deferred to November 23. However, for several reasons I intend to ask the Management Committee to change the date of the annual general meeting to October 26:

1) When the decisions were made to change our fiscal year to the calendar year and to defer the annual general meeting by two months, Ruth and I were already booked to be away on an extended cruise, from November 6 to December 9. In my absence, **Jean Lupton**, now Vice-President and next year's President-Designate, would be expected to preside over her own election.

2) We have booked the **Ambassador of Egypt** as our guest speaker in November, but we are arranging for one of our own members, **John Lupton**, to speak to us at our October pre-Remembrance Day meeting, in this Year of the Veteran, about the Rideau Veterans' hospital unit of the Perley Hospital.

3) A draft Constitution and By-laws will be ready before October for members to approve at the annual meeting .

Allen D. Taylor

Guests

Our guests in June were **Bill Jeans** and **Cliff Brow** and in July, **François & Nadia Behmann** and **Kathryn Parchello**. "Come again soon - stay longer"

Coincidences

I had not seen **François** and **Nadia Behmann**, two of our July guests, since the late 60's when François and I worked in Bell Engineering in Montreal. Soon after François arrived in Canada he said that his fiancée was on her way here and invited me to their wedding.

The Behmanns were invited to Probus by **John** and **Kawsar Kruithof** and, in chatting, we found that all three couples were married in 1967 - it must have had something to do with Expo!

Nadia has a connection with Pleasant Park Baptist Church - she was the organist here for several years. François' brother Fikri and I were members of Canadian delegations at meetings in Geneva in the 70's and 80's.

John C Wright

September 28 - Garth Hampson

Garth recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of the day he joined the RCMP. He had two distinct careers in the Mounties, starting as a constable in remote northern hamlets and finishing as a singer with the RCMP band. He has become well known in Ottawa for his singing and his baritone voice can be heard regularly at Christ Church Cathedral.

We have asked him to tell us a little about his early days in the RCMP as well as his recent visit to Saskatchewan for the '50th' celebration. Knowing Garth, we can expect a diversion into song at some point.

New Member

In July we were delighted to welcome Craig Morley as the newest member of our Club. Please make him feel "at home".

Down Memory Lane

In mid-July Phyllis and I visited our home town, to participate in the 200th Anniversary of Saint John High School. This is the oldest publicly-funded high school in Canada. While it was an all-classes reunion, we only met a few of the people with whom we graduated. However every-one was very friendly and we had a wonderful time.

The highlight of our trip was meeting several members of both the Men's and Women's Probus Clubs of Saint John. The meeting took place over lunch at Shadow Lawn in Rothesay. I must thank my cousin Ed Farren for arranging for us to meet such wonderful people!. While Ed is not a Probus member, he knows many people in Saint John where he was a senior executive in City Government.

In attendance was Bill Brydges with his wife Mildred. Bill is a past president of the Men's Club, and a former National Director. Then there was David Lester, and his wife Marilyn. Dave is vice-president of the Club and Marilyn is past president of the Ladies Probus Club. Another past president was Gordon Moulard with his wife Mabel, and George McCaughey and his wife Nan. George is the current President of the Men's Probus Club. All the ladies are members of the Women's Probus Club.

It was a joy to meet all these fine people! I expect Bill and his wife might visit our club sometime, as they have family in Ottawa. I know we will greet them with the same kindness Phyll and I received in Saint John.

Jim Kingston

Poetry Corner

George Toller provided poems with an Autumn theme by six different poets. These included 'local boys' Archibald Lampman and Wilfred Campbell but the final choice is a poem by John Keats (1795 - 1821)

To Autumn

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
 Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
 Conspiring with him how to load and bless
 With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
 To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
 And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
 To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
 With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
 And still more, later flowers for the bees,
 Until they think warm days will never cease,
 For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
 Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
 Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
 Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
 Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
 Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
 S pares the next swath and all its twined flowers:
 And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
 Steady thy laden head across a brook;
 Or by a cyder-press, with patient look,
 Thou watchest the last oozings hours by hours.

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?
 Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,--
 While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
 And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
 Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
 Among the river shallows, borne aloft
 Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
 And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
 Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft
 The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;
 And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

Oscar Wilde wrote "The Grave of Keats" in 1877 on a visit to Rome. Over a century later, the UK representative and I slipped out of an international meeting for an hour to visit the Protestant Cemetery where both Keats and Shelley lie.

In Wilde's words:

Rid of the world's injustice, and his pain,
 He rests at last beneath God's veil of blue.
 Taken from life when life and love were new
 The youngest of the martyrs here is Iain.

Keats met and fell in love with Fanny Brawne just before the first symptoms of consumption began to show.

JCW