



Merry Christmas!
... and a Happy New Year



Newsletter of the PROBUS Club of Ottawa Alta Vista

The Probe

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The Group of Seven

"We had commenced our great adventure. We lived in a continuous blaze of enthusiasm. We were at times very serious and concerned, at other times hilarious and carefree. Above all, we loved this country and loved exploring and painting it."

Lawren S. Harris

Ellen McLeod conveyed that enthusiasm and love of the country in her talk on the Group of Seven and with her selection of slides. The Group was formed to exhibit together, not primarily to start another 'school'. Their inspiration was Tom Thomson, who died in 1917, three years before the group was formed (if he is included then the Group of Seven had 11 members!). Most made their living as commercial artists including preparing sketches for advertisements, but they wanted to use their talents to do something bold in pure colour and chose the 'North' as a way of putting Canada onto canvas.

The Group was looking for a new 'language' to describe the North, and based some of their approach on ideas from an exhibition of Scandinavian Art held in Buffalo in 1913. This new 'language' of painting was not without its critics but the National Gallery, in 1928, gave them a 'seal of approval' by sending reproductions to schools across Canada.

The 'North' for artists living in Toronto in the 1920's was Algonquin Park and Georgian Bay, although they extended their canvas to include the Algoma region, using the railway tracks to gain access to the wilder parts; and later to the Rockies, Quebec, the Maritimes, and eventually the true north - the Arctic. Often their approach was to make a series of 8" x 10" sketches and

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Perley-Rideau

Continuing our tradition of a military theme for October and this being the Year of the Veteran, Allen Taylor asked that the Veterans in the audience stand so that we could acknowledge them. We are proud to have had twelve of our number recognized. These included **Joan Howe** who then went on to introduce our speaker, **John Lupton**.



John talked about the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre and the philosophy of 'care and comfort' that is its watchword.

One of the innovations at the Perley-Rideau is a glass case outside every room (each resident has his/her own room) containing the personal memorabilia of the

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spend the winter months painting from the sketches.

Much of Ellen's talk was tied to her slides. On Tom Thomson's *Northern River* she drew our attention to the way the sloping tree trunk leads the eye to the far bank of the river and the way the vertical lines form a protective barrier for the viewer, giving a sense of security. Her description of several slides emphasized the use of light - sometimes light falling from outside the picture, sometimes the use of shadows of trees outside the picture.



Northern River by Tom Thomson

The breadth of the Group's work was amply demonstrated - from the fine detail of *Northern River* to the bold lines of Lawren Harris' *Maligne Lake*. Another complete contrast was provided by Arthur Lismer's (Maritime) *Fishing Village* and Frederick Varley's 1920 *Portrait of Vincent Massey*.

John C Wright introduced Ellen mentioning that last March she had undertaken a 14-day 7 city lecture tour of branches of the English-Speaking Union across the U.S. from Denver to New Orleans. The slides she used to illustrate her Probus talk were the same ones used in her U.S. trip, kindly loaned by the National Gallery. In thanking Ellen, **Joyce Wright** recalled a recent visit to the McMichael Collection in Kleinburg and said how much more Ellen's talk would enable her to gain from another visit.



resident. This serves several purposes; it makes each room unique and more easily recognized than would just a number on the door; it allows browsers to find others with a common background - campaigns, regiments, etc., and it is a source of pride for the resident. A mini-putt could be expected to be a popular item but a baseball diamond? It is not something you might expect to find in a veteran's residence

where most of the residents are well past baseball age, but it brings the community into the grounds and gives the veterans something to watch. The duck-pond is another source of interest. It was not stocked - the ducks found and adopted it. Until they died of being overweight there were two resident dogs at the Perley, probably the fattest dogs in town. Now, there is an animal visitation program. All these things, and others, are there to make life as normal as possible.

The Centre replaced the Rideau Veterans' Home, The Perley Hospital and the NDMC. The move itself took months of careful planning. The people were moved in over a period of two days a few at a time. Staffs were needed at both ends of the move and particular attention was required so that medication and meal schedules were kept. Once the move was completed, there was then the problem of three sets of staff (with several different unions) to be amalgamated, a process which took three years to tidy-up.

Over and above the physical facilities the key item for the centre is - CARE. If you see an obituary notice in *The Citizen* for a resident it always has a line thanking the people of the Perley-Rideau for looking after their family member.

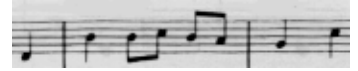
Talking of his own family, John mentioned that his son was married in the Chapel. John invited 30 residents with the proviso that they would behave themselves. They turned out with ties and medals and had a great time. Their presence had a positive effect on the young people at the ceremony.

John is obviously proud of what he accomplished as the Executive Director of the PRVHC and its place as the best in Canada and possibly in North America. Imitation being the sincerest form of flattery, its claim is proved by the way innovations at the Perley-Rideau have been copied in other facilities across the continent.

Graham Gibb, also a veteran, thanked John.



President's Notes



This is my last opportunity to write to you as the President of our Club. I can safely claim to be the longest serving President the club has had in the more than six years of its existence, having served 15 months instead of the usual 12. That was one of the decisions the Management Committee made - to change the financial year to match the calendar by extending the current membership year, incidentally giving everyone 3 months 'free'. Other major decisions were, the purchase of a sound system (which has been a great benefit to members and speakers), the purchase of a Club banner - which was proudly displayed at the Muskoka Rendez-vous and the revision of the Club constitution.

The reference to the *Management Committee* may sound a little strange to some ears. This is the standard form prescribed by Probus Centre Canada and was included in our revision of the Constitution and By-laws which conform closely to the Probus Centre template.

In July we passed a major milestone - **Marsha Dreyell** became our 200th person to join the club. We rarely lose members and we are able to report a current membership of 189 in our annual return to Probus Centre.

When I look over our list of speakers, I realize how fortunate we have been to have been able to persuade them to inform and entertain us. I have asked our Editor to print the list as an *aide-memoire* so we can recall them and their talks.

I must express my appreciation, with a big "thank you" to all those who have made possible everything we have done as a Club. None of what we may have accomplished was the work of any single person; it was truly a 'team effort'. And thank you, also, to all our members for making our tasks or duties carried out on your behalf, so pleasant!

I would like to end by repeating my seasonal message of last December. How fortunate we are, as Canadians, that we can enjoy the pleasures of this – or indeed any – holiday season with our families and our friends, certain that we need not fear for our very lives or our health, or wonder where clean water and our next meal can be found – if at all.

Our thoughts at this season are rather well expressed, I believe, in the words of my late father's favourite mealtime grace:

For **food** in a world where many suffer famine
 For **faith** in a world where many live in fear
 For **family** and **friends** in a world where many live alone,
 We give thee thanks, O Lord.

On behalf of the Club's Management Committee, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, or simply Happy Holidays.

Allen Taylor

Allen Taylor - Train Conductor

The photograph of Allen is taken from the Donor newsletter of the Canada Science and Technology Museum. The text reads:

"Allen Taylor, a volunteer at the Canada Science and Technology Museum since 1988 has been involved in the Shay Locomotive since that first day, in July 1995 when the Shay transported visitors in the Bytown Railway Society's two car train on a short ride from the

Museum's replica station to the railway restoration bay behind the Museum and back. He has volunteered almost every Sunday during each summer operating period, from his initial assignment 'to keep children off the tracks', to becoming the train's conductor for the past five years. As conductor, Allen's main responsibility is safety. He also directs Museum personnel in assisting passengers on and off the train, and in providing onboard interpretation of the vintage cars."

February 22nd - Sue Raven

Sue Raven is the Principal of a Physiotherapy Clinic on Main Street. She is a 1971 graduate of the University of Toronto Physical and Occupational Therapy program. Her work has provided experience in rehabilitation therapy and treatment of orthopaedic, arthritic and neuromuscular conditions as well as injuries of all kinds. Sue will give us a look at physiotherapy - what approaches are used and what benefits can be expected in the areas of comfort, function and mobility. Three Probus members we know of have benefited from her treatment.

Speakers - 2005

January - **George Toller** - Early Canadian History of Ottawa Valley.

February - **Tom Barber** - Black Month in Ottawa - Early Memories.

March - **Grete Hale** - 66 Million Apple Pies - the Morrison-Lamothe Story

April - **Joan Finnegan** - Along the Opeongo Line.

June - **Ted Fobert** - Ottawa's New Official Plan.

July - **Heidi Tucker** - Controlling Clutter. Also our annual picnic.

August - **John Flood** - Penumbra Press.

September - **Garth Hampson** - In the RCMP from Sundrift (NWT) to Government House.

October - **John Lupton** - The Perley & Rideau Veterans Health Centre.

November - **Ellen McLeod** - The Group of Seven.

December - **Christmas Party**

Seven Eleven

The 11 members of the Group of Seven, including Tom Thompson, are:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Franklin Carmichael | A.J.Casson |
| L.L.Fitzgerald | Lawren Harris |
| Edwin Holgate | A. Y. Jackson |
| Frank Johnston | Arthur Lismer |
| J.E.H MacDonald | Tom Thomson |

Frederick Varley
Knowing this could make you a winner if you are playing *Trivial Pursuit* after Christmas dinner!

Copies of Thomson's *Northern River* (15.25x17.75 in.) are available from www.groupofsevenart.com at a sale price of \$150. They carry a full selection of prints.

January 25th - Dr. Mahmoud El-Saeed

Dr. El-Saeed is the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt and a member of our sponsor, the Rotary Club of Ottawa. He studied economics and political science at Cairo University in 1967 and then joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 1987 he has served in Egypt's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York; the Secretariat of the UN (6 years); Ambassador to Pakistan (4 years); before being posted to Canada in September last year.

Dr. El-Saeed will address the complexities of Middle East affairs and the role Egypt plays in the area.

PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON

To celebrate **Allen Taylor's** term as president we have arranged a luncheon in his honour at Capone's Restaurant (831 Industrial Avenue - ample free parking)

Date: **Wednesday 22nd February** (following the regular meeting)

Time: 12 for 12:30

Cost: \$29.00 (soup, light main course, dessert)

All members are welcome. Tickets are available from **John Kruithof** or **John Wright**.

Management Committee - 2006

The members of the Management Committee, elected at our October meeting, are:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Graham Gibb | John Kruithof |
| Jean Lupton | Dorothy MacIntosh |
| Ada McEwen | Bayne Pearen |
| Audrey Reekie | Paul Stumes |
| Allen Taylor | Gordon Taylor |
| George Toller | John C Wright |

Russ Hammond continues as President Emeritus.

Eva Hammond and Dan Kelley are our liaison with the Rotary Club of Ottawa.

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.