



# The Probe

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Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ottawa

February 2006 #30

## Egypt and the Middle East

Our speaker on January 25th was the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Dr. **Mahmoud El-Saeed**. He started out with mentioning the term "Middle East" meant different things at different times, depending on the colonial power defining it. Countries from Turkey to Afghanistan fall within most definitions. Quite often the Middle East is perceived by outsiders as one monolithic entity. It isn't. Each country has its own characteristics. Sudan differs from Iran, Jordan from Iraq. Saudi Arabia is distinctly different. Each country also has unique relationships with others in the area. Syria's ties with Lebanon, Egypt's relations with Israel, and the Iraqi and Afghan experiences all impact the area differently. The ambassador stressed the importance of recognizing these differences and not allowing problems in one area to affect one's outlook on the Middle East as a whole. For instance, Egypt's main industry, tourism, is adversely affected when troublesome issues, arising thousands of kilometres from its borders, are linked to Egypt. Likewise, oil, often associated as a Middle East commodity, is much more abundant in some countries than others.

On the diplomatic front, Egypt is very much involved in trying to improve the area. Current developments in Palestine are of vital concern to Egypt. Egypt's progressive relationship with Israel has been well documented since Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. The ambassador offered insights into the role of diplomats, like himself, in the process. Details on the road map to peace are worked out behind closed doors. Organizations like the Arab League become involved. Public reaction has to be very carefully gauged, as populations in the Middle East tend to respond much more emotionally than, for example, in Canada.

The ambassador, free from the presence of reporters, replied "en famille" to several questions from our members. His response to a question about how suicide



*H.E. Dr. Mahmoud El-Saeed*

bombers can do the things they do revealed that true Muslims and Christians alike abhor the practice. Another question, related to the recent deaths in Cairo of Sudanese protestors, evoked details not reported in the press. Egypt gave Sudan its independence in 1952 but now had 3 million Sudanese in Egypt competing for jobs and housing, and adding to traffic congestion. Recently a group of 3000 held a 'sit down' in the middle of Cairo demanding to be sent to Canada. This totally blocked traffic and the squatters were unable to understand that the desired emigration to Canada was nothing more than a false rumour.

What started as a rowdy protest became violent. The ambassador expressed an impassioned resolve that everything possible should be done to prevent such tragedies from happening again.

The Aswan Dam was the subject of another question. The Ambassador commented that it is not a total success and even with a complex irrigation system only 10% of Egypt's land area is usable. A deterrent to development of more land is the presence of over 20 million mines, left from WW II, which cause a casualty every day.

Dr. Saeed would like Canada to expand its role in the Middle East. Canada is seen as having no ambitions in the area and no hidden agenda. He spoke very favourably of Prime Minister Pearson's efforts and the role of Canadian peacekeepers. He expressed his hope that our newly elected government will take advantage of Canada's reputation.

The ambassador was thanked for his attendance by our President.

### **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.**

## Christmas Party

Our Annual Christmas party was again a great success, thanks to the behind-the-scenes work of **Jean and John Lupton** and their helpers, as well as the front-of-the-house entertainers - **John E Wright, Bob Haughton, Bayne Pearen, Dorothy MacIntosh, Lloyd Larson and George Toller. Aggie Simpson** accompanied the many voices of the Alta Vista Probus Club Choir, led by **Morley Craig. Allen Taylor** was our Master-of-Ceremonies.

The contents of the 'Loonie Bin' were donated to the Ottawa Food Bank and we received a nicely worded letter of thanks, "Your donation today will enable us to put food on an individual's or a family's table. Thousands of people will eat throughout the National Capital Region thanks to people such as yourselves."

## Management Committee - 2006

President:	Jean Lupton (521-1705) (notpullca@yahoo.ca)
Past-president, Vice-president (pro tem) & Secretary	Allen Taylor
President-emeritus	Russ Hammond
Treasurer (pro tem)	Graham Gibb
<u>Committees</u>	
Program	John Kruithof George Toller Tony Goldsmith*
Membership	Paul Stumes John E Wright Audrey Reekie Bayne Pearen Jim Kingston* Gordon Taylor Dorothy MacIntosh
Communications	John Wright (731-8521) (jcwright@sympatico.ca) Gordon Taylor
Special Events	Ada McEwen Audrey Reekie Morley Craig*
Rotary Liaison	Eva Hammond Dan Kelley

\* Co-opted member for a specific committee

### Telephone Callers

Roberta Clark	Bob Haughton
Pat McClenahan	Joan Monette
Elizabeth Haggerty	Roy Dohoo
Dorothy Hubbard	Allen Taylor
Peggy Kitching	Doreen MacKay

## Membership - 2005

Our totals membership for 2005 was 188 consisting of 90 individual and 49 family memberships. What is, perhaps, most remarkable is that since the club was formed, we have only 'lost' 25 members.

### ... and 2006

Membership dues have been coming in steadily. Please make sure you have paid - **Paul Stumes** will be happy to check for you - so that we do not have to get into the 'polite reminder' stage. The issue is not so much our desire for your fee but the need to have our insurance in place for active members.

## Valerie Wilson

We are saddened to report the death of one of our members, Valerie Wilson. Valerie was a retired librarian who joined Probus in July 2003.

## Members and Guests

Our crowded December issue omitted the lists of our new members and guests.

We are pleased to welcome:

### September

Ken Harrison

### October

Marie-Neige and Robert Atchison

Gladys Fitzpatrick

### November

Robert & Bernice Rennie

John & Anne Currie

Cathie Galigan

to our growing membership.

Our **guests** in the same period were:

### September

Shirley Laidlei                      Roy Jacyna

Steven Granhum                      Bill O'Hara

### October

Pauline Keenan                      Mary Lefebvre

Anne & Jack Currie                      George & Rochi Anderson

Stephen Knowles

### November

Betty Simpson                      Bernice Rennie

Roger McCullough                      Mary Wilkinson

Kathy Hatherill                      Derry Foreman

Ellen & John McLeod

### January

Julia Mills                      Cec & Elizabeth de Bretigny

Ody Panek                      Lorraine and Erbon Dickinson

We hope that they enjoyed the Probus experience and that we will see them again.

## Probe Us – Jean Lupton

Our investigative reporter discovered that Jean is a member of a regular Kaffee Klatch. Once primed, the other members did the quizzing and all *The Probe* had to do was to sit, take notes and enjoy the coffee.

*Member of Kaffee Klatch: Where were you born?*

JL: Kingston – on the Thames near Kew Gardens and Hampton Court.

*MoKK: When did you come to Canada and why?*

JL: In 1955, my brother, Derek, was recruited by Northern Electric in Toronto. Five years later he came home and persuaded me to try it.

*MoKK: Did you settle in Toronto.*

JL: By no means! On the boat I had met two x-ray technicians on their way to the Montreal General. Their plan was to save like crazy for 6 months, buy a vehicle and then travel around North America. I arrived in November, spent Christmas with my brother and then went to Montreal by New Year's. Six months later, four girls started a six month camping journey through Canada, the U.S. and Mexico. When the money ran out, the others returned to the UK but I decided to stay on.

*MoKK: Where were you working?*

JL: Alcan. That's where I was for the first six months and they took me back again. I liked Montreal but while I was saving for the trip, I had not had much of a social life, and didn't take advantage of being in the city.

*MoKK: When did you meet John?*

JL: We met at a ski cottage. John came to Canada when he was recruited by the Bank of Montreal. He had trained as a hospital administrator but became fed up with the National Health Service. After he completed his commitment to the bank, he took a position at the Royal Vic – this was in 1964, the year we were married.

*MoKK: Family?*

JL: We have two sons, both born in Montreal before we moved to Trenton in 1970.

*MoKK: Was this another hospital job?*

JL: Yes. We were there until 1985 when John moved to the Perley. I did some municipal contract work for a neighbouring municipality. I had several jobs after we moved to Ottawa. I was on the Committee of Adjustment for some time and from '88 to '96 I was at Ellwood House, at St. Thomas' Church, as the Manager/Administrator.

*MoKK: And now?*

JL: I retired when John did in 1996 so that we would be free to travel.

*MoKK: Apart from travel, what are your interests?*

JL: Cooking, reading and gardening and, of course, the dog.

*MoKK: What kind?*

JL: A Lab. We have always had Labradors, even before we had children. John looks after the dog and I look after everything else, except in summer – John cuts the grass and trims the hedges.

*MoKK: Favourite authors?*

JL: I like travel books and biographies – especially political biographies. For fiction, I like Ken Follett and Mary Higgins Clark.

*Probe: The Kaffee Klatch was formed during Allan Higdon's run for City Council. Members, who have been active in several political campaigns since then, include our previous lady president.*



Our Club needs more people to do the jobs that make the Club so successful. The immediate need is for a **Coffee Maker** to come in a little earlier on Club days so that members are greeted by the heady aroma of fresh-brewed coffee.

We also need a **Treasurer** and then a continual supply of people to take positions on the Management Committee. You do not have to be a charter member to take on any office. Our current president, **Jean Lupton**, was a guest at the February 2002 meeting - as was **Ada McEwen** who has just completed a term as Secretary.

A firm policy is to have a new President every year. Your turn is going to come up sooner or later. Why not take the 'sooner' option. Please give it some thought.

## The Financial Picture

In looking at these numbers, please bear in mind that the 2004-2005 membership year was 15 months, and that items such as pins and gifts are bought for more than a year at a time.

	03/04	04/05
<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>1, 289. 55</b>	<b>1, 162. 36</b>
<b>Recei pts</b>		
Memberships	2, 125. 00	2, 175. 00
Loonie Bin	594. 75	765. 18
Other		14. 71
<b>Total</b>	<b>2, 719. 75</b>	<b>2, 954. 89</b>
<b>Expendi tures</b>		
Probus Fees	375. 00	400. 00
Probus Pins		200. 00
Pleasant Park Ch.	700. 00	875. 00
Copying, etc.	195. 53	138. 00
Refreshments	622. 58	798. 27
Bank Charges	10. 50	24. 72
Speaker' s Gi fts	104. 50	298. 80
Sunshi ne Cttee.	21. 74	15. 70
Hi stori an	19. 09	
Membershi p Cttee.	96. 17	94. 30
Speci al Projects	126. 82	119. 21
Sound system	575. 00	
Banner		200. 00
<b>Total</b>	<b>2, 846. 94</b>	<b>3, 164. 25</b>
<b>Closi ng Bal ance</b>	<b>1, 162. 36</b>	<b>953. 25</b>

## Graham Gibb

Graham has served as our Treasurer for longer than I have been a member and has kept the books in exemplary fashion but at this time he would like to step down.

I have accepted his decision with great reluctance and offer our thanks to Graham for his work on behalf of our Club.

*Jean Lupton*

## Spring Luncheon, May 24, 2006

The Probus Club of Ottawa-Rideau Valley is pleased to host the annual Spring Luncheon at the Orchard View Reception and Conference Centre, on the outskirts of Manotick. There will be good food, select entertainment, a minimum of speeches and lots of time for socializing and enjoying the picturesque surroundings.

Ottawa-Rideau Valley has asked us to provide an early count for planning purposes by the beginning of March. Formal registration will be by May 5th. The cost will be under \$30.

In the past 3 years the Spring Lunch has been in Kingston, Cornwall and Kemptville with up to 20 attendees from our Club. It makes for an enjoyable outing, so make a note in your diary.

## March 22nd, Graham Sibthorpe

Graham will talk to us about the art of canoe building. He is an avid outdoor enthusiast who is particularly fond of canoeing and has owned and restored a number of canoes. As a labour of love he built a traditional cedar strip Prospector canoe as an enduring wedding present for his son and daughter-in-law and he will explain what was involved in the process. His talk will also include some history of the canoe and the Chestnut Canoe Company, builders of the original Prospector.

## April 26th - Each Morning Bright

Doug Fischer is a senior writer with the Ottawa Citizen. He is a co-editor of the book *Each Morning Bright - 160 Tears of Selected Readings* from the Ottawa Citizen.

Quoting from the jacket: "In this very special collection of excerpts from the finest journalism produced by the *Ottawa Citizen* over 160 years, you will be taken on a journey from 1845 to the present day, from the flowery prose of the earlier editions, to the leaner writing of modern times."

Mr. Fischer will talk about the making of the book and some of the most notable pieces.

## Probus Centre Canada

The most recent Newsletter introduces 4 new clubs:

- #171 The Community Probus Club of Tilsonburg
- #172 The Probus Club of Applewood (Mississauga)
- #173 The Evergreen Probus Club of Guelph
- #174 The Probus Club of Milton

It seems that Ontario is leading the way with new clubs.

The 174 Chartered Clubs have a combined membership of over 21,600. There are still areas which are not served and there are 'waiting lists' of people who want to take part but have no Club in their vicinity. The President has a GROWL - **Get Rid Of Waiting Lists!**

An item taken from the **Probus Club of Woodstock** may strike a responsive chord with several of our members: "To the optimist, the glass is half full. To the pessimist, the glass is half empty. To the engineer the glass is twice as big as it needs to be."

## Meetings

We meet in the Pleasant Park Baptist Church hall on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Come just before 10 am for coffee, cookies and Tim-bits. Meetings start at 10.

**Beware the ides of March**