



The Probe

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Speakers ...

Our July speaker, **Michael Potter**, had to deal with a family crisis at the time we expected him to be at our meeting. He apologized and offered to re-schedule. We look forward to hearing him in the new year.

We were lucky in that several members and a guest filled the gap with impromptu talks. **Eva Hammond** spoke very briefly on the Rotary International meeting in Salt Lake City. A further report is on page 3.

Who are you?

Three others spoke about their World War II flying experiences. **Harry Kerrison** and **Bill Cosway** are members of the Club and the third speaker was a guest. But who? None of the Management Committee know his name. We would like to thank him in *The Probe*, so would whoever brought him as a guest, please let us know.

The common element in all three was the extreme length of the missions they flew - in the 24 hour range. Differences were in the types of aircraft, Sunderlands, Catalinas and B24s, and the amenities on board. These ranged from a galley and a toilet (regarded as awesome luxuries by two of our raconteurs) to an almost complete absence of amenities. All three chose to skirt any mention of the stresses involved in long flights. Those of us who regard 6 or 7 hours as a passenger in a 747 as hardship, were left with something to reflect on.

A Special Guest

Colin Taylor of the Durban Probus Club was a guest in July. Colin comes to Ottawa every year to visit his daughter.

He gave us a short talk on Probus in South Africa which sounds like the 'standard' for Probus anywhere.

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.

... and more Speakers!

Our July experiment of having five 'In-house' speakers was a success. Without any reflection on the other four, **Morley Craig's** talk on *Beekeeping* was the one most in demand to be expanded into a full talk.

J. L Kraft - Jim Maffre

Jim started us off with a talk about the early days of Kraft Foods. James Kraft was born 1875 and one of eleven children. He worked in grocery stores after leaving school and in 1903 he bought a horse and wagon. His ambition was to become, "one of the best wholesale cheese businesses in the city".

In a few years he decided that being the middleman was not enough and started his manufacturing business. He wanted to offer a product with consistent taste and texture - what today we call 'processed cheese'. World War I brought an upsurge in business as the U.S. Army demanded large quantities of cheese in tins. Several of his brothers joined the company and one invented 'sliced cheese' - which is not really what you would think of as sliced! When made it is like a thick cheese sauce which is poured over a chilled stainless steel sheet. The only slicing involved is to cut the resulting sheet into squares.

In 1921 Kraft bought out a company called McLaren which made 'Imperial Cheese' for sale to the U.K. Kraft kept this line and today it is regarded as the 'Cadillac' of processed cheddar.

Jim started his 40+ year career with Kraft Foods like its founder - selling from a truck. He brought along two cheese boxes, 2lb and 5lb, which were the common sales units. These boxes still turn up occasionally at flea markets.

Beekeeping - Morley Craig

A beekeeper 'manages' bees. On their own they would find a hollow tree or invade the walls of a house so a beekeeper makes things easy for them and they live in the hives he provides. The honeycomb is a meticulously built maternity ward, each cell is exactly the same size as every other cell in its comb and in every other comb built by the same type of bee. The Queen lays one egg in each cell, and, after

(continued over)

(Beekeeping continued)

a gestation period of 21 days the young bees are born. As might be expected, these are either male or female. The males, *Drones*, can't collect honey and can't sting. Their only use is for sex. Once they have served their purpose they are kicked out of the hive and if they refuse to leave they get stung. The workers are 'not-quite-fully-developed' females.

One odd facet of bee behaviour is swarming. Every so often the whole colony will leave its hive and look for somewhere else to live. The Queen is essential to this so the beekeeper, every 14 days, finds the Queen in the hive and clips her wings. Queens live for several years but the hive produces 'queen cells' which the beekeeper destroys so there are no new Queens - until the old Queen dies.

Beekeeping runs in the family. Morley recalled that his grandfather used to sell honey with bits of bees in it. With modern hives and methods, the honey sold is clear and, well, honey coloured.

The Far East - Jim Kingston

Jim told us about a 2½ month tour of the Far East which he and Phyll made in 1978. His story started with a 5-year assignment in Geneva and continued with snowshoeing!

The first stop on the tour was Hawaii for a few days then on to Christchurch, New Zealand, where they met friends and neighbours from Geneva. In Wellington they had dinner with a couple they had met in Ottawa. At the time they met, Ray Sutherland was the Deputy High Commissioner and Beth was one of several ladies who Phyll had taken snowshoeing. The snowshoeing connections continued throughout the tour.

Next was Australia, via Fiji. The daughter of Indonesian friends took them to a game preserve to see kangaroos and koala bears. They also visited the Great Barrier Reef and went penguin spotting.

Then on to Thailand, friends from Carleton University, kite flying - dozens of people flying kites in a park - and a Buddhist funeral! The next day, Jim and Phyll met Indian friends who had come from Hanoi for 'R & R'. Ashok took Jim to a tailor who made him a Safari suit for \$28. It was delivered to the hotel by 1 p.m. the next day.

The trip continued to Hong Kong, Jakarta, Penang, Kuala Lumpur and Beijing meeting more friends and doing more sightseeing.

Jim said that his only regret was that he had not taken enough pictures.

House Exchanges - Claude Hannan

Claude and Ann decided that they did not like tours but preferred to stay in one place and take short trips from there. The answer was house exchanges through *Intervac*. The organization, headquartered in Sweden, was started by and for academics and now has 36 representatives around the world and a wide clientele.

The process is to submit an application with "I have ...", and "I want to go to ...". The rest is coded like a 'house for sale' advert - a/c, 4 bed, 2 bath, etc. 'ae' is for auto exchange. Children are also coded - m 10 14, f 8 12.

Most Europeans want to exchange during the school summer break but after retirement May and October are preferred. Some 'selling' is needed - the tulip festival may entice people to Ottawa in May and the fall foliage is the selling point for October.

After 9 successful exchanges, Claude and Ann have adopted a casual approach - "Here are the keys. Rummage around and if you can't find something, look harder."

One family from France came across Ann's bag of old cloths, kept for cleaning and odd jobs. When the Hannans returned they found them washed, ironed, folded and replaced!

You can contact Intervac at 606 Alexander Cr., Calgary AB, T2M 4T3, by email at sc@intervac.ca or at www.intervac.ca

(Editor's note. I took a look at the web site and found it very interesting.)

A Trip to Moldova - John Wright

Joyce and John had been in Moldova in June and John provided an illustrated talk on their visit.

Moldova (pop. 4.3 million) is separated from the Black Sea by a 60 km strip of the Ukraine. Its eastern border is Rumania, with which it shares a common language. Their stay was in the capital Chisinau or КИШИНЕВ (Kishinev). August 31st, 1989 is celebrated as the day when the Cyrillic alphabet was no longer mandatory but many traces of it remain and it is needed by the Moldovans who grew up with it.

As a USSR satellite Moldova was dependant on Moscow for its agricultural exports. Now it is looking to the West to take its produce, particularly wine. The country has recognized that English is the key to commerce and the formation of a branch of the English-Speaking Union is supported by Universities and the Ministry of Education.

A variation on the talk, with some different photographs, is at www.esu.ca

Rotary International Convention



Russ and I attended the annual Rotary international convention in June. This year it was convened in Salt Lake City, Utah. We flew by way of Las Vegas where we enjoyed two of the Cirque de Soleil performances "O" and "Ka". We then drove through very interesting scenery, north to Salt Lake City.

We arrived a day early to attend Rotaract meetings. Rotaract is simply Rotary for 18- to 30-year olds. The Rotary Club of Ottawa sponsors the Rotaract Club in the University of Ottawa. The past-president, **Scott Weatherhead**, was excited to be part of this gathering of over 300 young people from all over the world.

Salt Lake City has sparkling buildings, clean streets, high mountains and a free light rail system as well as a lake full of salt.



*By the final day every inch of the **Peace Wall** in the **House of Friendship** was filled with messages of hope, love and understanding.*

Among the activities planned for the 17,000 Rotarians was an evening of 'Home Hospitality'. Small groups were taken to dinner at many venues. The one we were part of was a barbecue up the Hesper Valley. There, at the Olympic site, Russ excelled with a perfect score shooting on the biathlon range. I amazed the onlookers by winning the tomahawk throw. There were First Nations families in beautiful costumes to sing, drum and dance for us.

There were inspirational speakers at the plenary sessions. Jenny Horton, a nurse from Australia, spoke on her volunteer work in Africa since retirement. Bill Gates senior spoke and his subject was, "Who am I and why am I here?", challenging all to ask themselves the question. Peace scholars and ambassadorial scholars told of their experiences. We heard the dreams and plans for service work in the coming year from the incoming R.I. President, **Wilf Wilkinson, O.C.**, a Canadian from Trenton, Ontario.

The convention was rich in entertainment: The Osmonds; the Mormon Tabernacle Choir - with special features by New Zealand soprano, Dame Malvena Major; the Five Pianos of the Browns - brothers and sisters; the Salt Lake Symphony; and a rodeo.

We shared the week with Russ' sister, Marjorie, and her husband, Bill, a long-time Rotarian who drove down from Abbotsford, B.C. to be with us.

Eve Hammond



Just a Year Away

The Delta and Hilton Hotels in Saint John will start to accept bookings within the next few days. Special rates have been arranged for Probus members. The organizers are contacting other downtown hotels to get special rates for the overflow.

Saint John Probus members have put together a survey which can be accessed from the first page of the Probus Canada web-site (www.probus.org/canada.htm). Anyone intending to go to Rendezvous 2008 is asked to complete and return a copy. The results will be used as a guide in the final planning of the tours and events.

Judging by surveys completed and returned, practically everyone wishes to go whale watching. Historically, September is a great month to see plenty of whales.

The organizers are expecting a contingent of about 40 Australian Probeans!

Calendar

September 26 - Reg Evans

As a Senior ADM in Property & Commercial Law, Reg Evans is in a position to tell us about *Canada's Silent Role Abroad* - our overseas real estate transactions.

October 24th - Rev. Lyman Coleman

For our 'Remembrance' speaker we will have retired military chaplain, Rev. Lyman Coleman who will talk about the Chaplain's role in war and peace.

November 28th - Ed Broadbent, PC, CC, PhD, LLD

Mr. Broadbent's distinguished career extends beyond his role as an MP (1968-1990, 2002-2004). He has been a champion of Human Rights, particularly Women's Rights, both in Canada and internationally. His topic will be *Proportional Representation*.

November 28th - AGM and Elections

December 13th - Christmas Party

Dominic D'Arcy will provide the entertainment and club members are asked to provide the 'goodies'. Details in the October *Probe*.

New Members

Hillary Als and **Elizabeth Doe** have recently joined our Club. Please introduce yourself and make them welcome.

Probus on the Internet

A new kind of Probian Fellowship on the Net!

The Informal Probus Network (IPN) was conceived and formed in July 1996 by **Wilf Beer** of The Woy Woy Probus Club Inc. of Australia. The initial idea was to form a series of Chat Groups, whose members had the opportunity of meeting together on the Internet, and discussing any matter among themselves - excluding political or religious topics. There are now four groups operating, two based in Australia, one in Canada, and one in the UK. By design each Group is international in composition. Now there are about 150 Probians participating who represent over 100 Probus Clubs from twelve countries throughout the world.

Each Group is limited to 40 members plus coordinators, with a limit of 20 from the host country and the balance coming from elsewhere in the world.

If you are interested in extending your Probus experience, the Canadian contact is Jan Hedger, papeon6003@bigpond.com or go to www.probus.org and click on *International Chat - the IPN*.

President's Notes

Everyone has heard of the 'Duck Syndrome' - looking calm and unruffled on the surface and paddling like crazy below - well it sometimes affects Probus!

You can feel a little exposed standing in front of an expectant audience and no guest speaker in sight. Fortunately members and guests came forward to fill the void - for which, my heartfelt thanks. In the opposite direction, we nearly had two speakers in September. As it turned out, Ed Broadbent found that a tentative prior engagement was unexpectedly confirmed and will join us in November instead.

November is our annual meeting and election month. There are no limits placed on the terms for members of the Management Committee, except that the President will normally serve for one year, but there is a recognition that we should have a regular turnover to involve as many members as possible, in keeping with the 'participation in activities' part of Probus' vital purpose. I have asked committee members to try to recruit their replacements - secure in the knowledge that I will have a year as Past-president.

Please consider a 'tour of duty' on the Management Committee and help to make our club even better.

John Wright

Howlers

(From school-leavers exams!)

Ancient Egypt was inhabited by mummies and they wrote in hydraulics.

Socrates was a famous Greek teacher who went around giving people advice. They killed him.

Gravity was invented by Issac Walton. It is chiefly noticeable in the autumn when apples are falling off the trees.

In midevil times most people were alliterate.

How to find us

We meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month (except in December when we meet on the 2nd Wednesday) in the Hall of Pleasant Park Baptist Church, 414 Pleasant Park Road in Alta Vista.

Our meetings start at 10 but members start arriving soon after 9:30 for coffee and chat. Try it - you'll like it!

You can also find us on the Probus Canada web site:
www.probus.org/canada.htm

Or call the Wrights at 613-731-8521.